



The Methodist Church

Bishopston, Easter Compton, Horfield, Shirehampton Methodist Churches and St Peter's Pilning.
Minister: Rev Patrick Stonehewer T: 0117 924 8407, E: patrick.stonehewer@methodist.org.uk

We are part of the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit (www.bsqc.org.uk),
a family of over forty churches serving communities across the local area.
These notices are also posted on <http://www.horfieldmethodist.org.uk>

God's table is open to all

Sunday 28 November 2021



This weekend marks the start of Advent, the season in the Christian year which runs up to Christmas. It's not just about preparing for one of the key festivals in the Christian year, celebrating a moment in time when a baby was born, but Advent also looks beyond to a time when the Bible tells us that Jesus will come again, not as a weak and vulnerable baby but in power and with authority. The traditional Scripture readings for this time emphasise both the First Coming (in Bethlehem) and the Second Coming (wherever that might be) of Jesus Christ, and our accountability for faithfulness at His coming, judgment on sin and the hope of eternal life.

Advent is also a spiritual journey that Christians take, through the truths of Scripture that point to the birth of Messiah, to a reaffirmation that he has come, is present in the world today and will come again in glory. It mirrors the journey of faith that Christians make after that moment of realisation and acceptance of who Jesus is, in that we take that first step of faith in commitment, continue hopefully to walk the road of faith and increasing understanding, and look forward to our destination, which is to be in his presence forever!

Your people - A particular people - Chosen and cherished - From the beginning of time - Lavished and loved - Sheltered and shepherded - Through sunshine and storm - Restore us O Lord - Make your face shine upon us - Amen (based on words from Isaiah 64:1-5)

With best wishes
Patrick

FORTHCOMING SERVICES on 28 November

Joint Service at Horfield and on Zoom at 10.00. Local Arrangements led by one of our house groups. For those attending Horfield in person: please arrive in good time for the service so you can register your details for Covid-19 purposes. Please enter via the left-hand doors from Gloucester Road, with the side (red) door in Churchways Avenue solely for those needing level access. Please wear a face covering whilst in the building (unless you have a medical exemption) and follow other Covid-19 arrangements within the building including maintaining two metres social distancing at all times. Do not attend worship in person if you have any symptoms of Covid-19. Please understand that if 40 people have arrived before you then we will not be able to let you in. You will continue to be able to join the service via Zoom.

Bishopston at 10.30 led by C. Jones.

St Peter's Pilning with Easter Compton at 10.00 conducted by Rev Patrick Stonehewer with Holy Communion.
Shirehampton at 11.00. Coffee and conversation led by members of the congregation.

OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS for 28 November

Sunday Worship. Radio 4 at 8.10. The First Week of Advent

Songs of Praise. BBC 1 at 1.15. Aled Jones presents the Young Chorister of the Year - Boys' Semi-final from Salisbury Cathedral.

Daily Service at 09.45. BBC Radio 4 Long Wave.

Open Café Church on 22 November from 10.00 onwards hosted by St Peter's, Pilning. Please contact churchwardenpilning@gmail.com for the joining details.

Evening Prayer every Wednesday at 4.00 hosted by St Peter's, Pilning, using the Church of England "Join us in Daily Prayer - <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-andworship/joinusservice-daily-prayer>.

You are all invited to join our **weekly Bible Study** on Zoom, on Wednesdays from 7.45-9.15pm including some time for prayer. We are looking at the book of Daniel at the moment, which includes some well-known stories, equally some interesting insights. Zoom link details on last page.

WORSHIP DETAILS for 5 December

Joint Service at Horfield and on Zoom at 10.00. It will include the baptism of Avery Renzo Kobi Simpson. The Service will be conducted by Rev Patrick Stonehewer and include Holy Communion. We will be joined by friends from Eden Grove.

Bishopston at 10.30 led by Rev. P.J. Jackson.

Shirehampton at 11.00 led by J. Gardner.

St Peter's Pilning with Easter Compton at 10.00 led by Rev. P Rowe with Holy Communion.

Circuit Evening Service at Horfield at 18.00 in person or on Zoom led by Rev. Simon Edwards.

WEEKLY NOTICES. Please send items to Eurfron by Tuesday, eurfron@blueyonder.co.uk or 0117 969 1908.

GENERAL NOTICES

Bristol Methodist Centre. Do you have a passion for social justice? Are you aware of the increase in poverty and homelessness as a result of the Covid pandemic? The Bristol Methodist Centre provides sanctuary and support for those affected by homelessness in Bristol. We are looking for volunteers to help with IT, Finance, Fundraising and Marketing as part of our management team. If you have the time and skills to offer, we would like to hear from you! www.methodist-centre.org.uk To find out more please email Janet George: george_janet@hotmail.com

The One City Plan was launched in January 2019, and describes a vision for Bristol by 2050, and how city partners will work together to create a fair, healthy, and sustainable city. It brings together a wide range of public, private, and third sector partners within Bristol. They share an aim to make Bristol a fair, healthy and sustainable city. A city of hope and aspiration, where everyone can share in its success - churches and other faith communities have been directly invoiced in this - if you would like to know more and possibly sign up for the newsletter, please visit <https://www.bristolonecity.com/about-the-one-city-plan/>

A webinar entitled "**Making Our Churches More Dementia-Friendly**" for Tuesday 30 November from 11 - 12:30. Register in advance for this webinar:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9uRme4ukTHCOZxKQLjuq3A The webinar will be going up on the Safeguarding pages of our Methodist Church website after the event for anyone to watch.

Shirehampton. Cotswold Christian Community. will be holding a Christingle Service in the Community Centre on Sunday 12th December at 5pm.

Horfield. A big thank you to the Brownies and their leaders, for decorating the church, with garlands of ribbon and poppies for Remembrance Sunday. Your kind thought enhanced our worship on a special day.

Horfield. Wow! - what a success our Christmas Fayre was! A wonderful total of £1196.75 was raised! Many, many thanks to all those who delivered flyers, baked cakes, donated items to sell, contributed to the raffle, set up the church and hall, helped during the fayre, attended the fayre, and cleared up afterwards. It was an amazing effort by all concerned. In spite of restrictions and worries due to COVID-19, we were really impressed by the number of volunteers who WILLINGLY offered to help. A massive THANK YOU from the Fundraising Team. (If you missed the Fair but would like to contribute please see the stewards)

Horfield and Bishopston. Best wishes from John and Elaine Hopper, who have been in touch recently with news that they have settled into their new home in Haverfordwest and are now worshipping at Albany, a united Methodist/URC church in the middle of town. They wish to be remembered to friends at Horfield and Bishopston.

Horfield and Bishopston. An important part of our discipleship is to pray for our community and one another. This week you are asked to pray for the following and their families: - 4:12 Group, Hannah and Sam Williamson, Pam Williams House group, Howard Wilson, Alison Young.

Horfield. For the last three years we have supported Parkway Methodist Church, in providing gifts and vouchers for Social Services, who provide Christmas gifts for vulnerable families. At our Gift Service, last Sunday, £277 was raised. Thank you to everyone who contributed. (If you could not contribute on Sunday you may like to give a donation to a Steward)

Horfield. Advent Service on Sunday 5 December. We have been invited to join our friends at Horfield Parish Church (Holy Trinity) at 6pm for an Advent service of music, reading and prayer.

Horfield. In case of fire or need of a quick evacuation from the premises, please keep calm and follow the directions of the stewards (wearing arm bands) to exit the church. Congregate on the pavement at the junction of Gloucester Road and Wellington Hill. Please wait there until you are dismissed.

Horfield. News about The Ark and their activities can be found on the noticeboard outside the kitchen at church.

Horfield. Please look out for Winter events advertised in "Love Horfield". Leaflets will soon be available in the Church as well as on Facebook'

We are bringing opportunities to THIS area.

When:
Tuesday 23rd November
Thursday 2nd December
Tuesday 14th December
10:30am - 12:00 Noon

Where:
Shirehampton Methodist Church, BS11 0DL
(Opposite the Job Centre, white door on Penpole Avenue)

Please contact Steph: 07305 066 478
ProjectCoordinator@JTEhubshire.org

Please come & join us for a coffee & chat, to see what we can do for you!

Dates for your diary.

Horfield and Bishopston

- Tuesday 30 November. A Special Church Council Meeting at 7.30 on Zoom.
- Tuesday 7 December. Eco Church at 7.30 on Zoom.

Special days:

- 30 November. St. Andrew's Day
- 1 December. World AIDS Day.
- 2 December. International Day of Abolition of Slavery.
- 3 December. International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Reflection on the Lectionary, Sunday 28 November, (Advent 1)

Psalm 25 : 1-10; Jeremiah 33 : 14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3 : 9-13; Luke 21 : 25-36

This reflection is provided by Adam Biddlestone.

Here we are again, in the run up to Christmas. Bristol Christmas Market is open again, adverts for booking Christmas parties and meals are displayed outside pubs and restaurants, decorations are appearing in homes, shops and streets. Soon, cards will be dropping on doormats, presents will be wrapped and opened. Due to restrictions last Christmas, there will be an additional focus on gathering and celebrating this year, bringing joy to some but additional pressures to others.

As Christians, we make our preparations during the season of Advent. The Circuit resources this year are encouraging and exploring connections between Advent and homelessness, and the wonder that God moved into our neighbourhood at Christmas (John 1: 14, *The Message*) as we journey towards Christmas.

In all our preparations, worship and celebrations we need to be mindful of those for whom this Christmas period will bring additional stress and pressure, including those living with mental health issues, the lonely and isolated, the unemployed and those on low levels of income, those living in abusive relationships, the bereaved, the homeless.... We need to be mindful of those for whom the pressures of this season will result in worsening mental health, relationships becoming more abusive and strained, some will sink further into addiction, debt or loneliness and some will become homeless. Many of these issues are interlinked and people will be living with more than one, each issue having a negative impact on others. How can we bring words and signs of hope to the most vulnerable?

Jeremiah's words brought hope to God's people, living in exile, that His promises to His people will be fulfilled, that they will be saved and live in safety once again.

In the Gospel reading Jesus talks about signs of the end times, reminding us that the Kingdom of God is near. 'Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with the anxieties of life and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap' (v 34).

There is also a warning, signalling hope, 'Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen...' (v 36).

Advent prepares us to look back at Christ's coming as the Bethlehem baby and forward to His coming again in glory, to the time Jesus speaks of, 'to that time when they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.'

What signs of hope can we offer through the Christmas story? What issues may those we will gather alongside be living with?

In our preparations and giving how can we support the work of The Methodist Centre and other organisations, as churches and individuals, this Christmas? How can our action and generosity be transformed into signs of hope for those who are homeless, lonely and in need this Christmas?

Our thanks to Adam for this reflection