



## The Methodist Church

Bishopston, Easter Compton, Horfield, Shirehampton Methodist Churches and St Peter's Pilning.  
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We are part of the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit ([www.bsqc.org.uk](http://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 7 November 2021



The story of creation shows us what an incredible, complicated and beautiful place the earth is. We are asked to care for it, to make sure that natural balance is maintained, but climate change is a result of our failure to do this: affecting the make-up of our atmosphere, the temperature of our waters, the ecosystems and demand for certain foods putting pressure on the natural world. We need to nurture this fragile balance, rather than upset its equilibrium with the way we live our lives. Science has shown us that there is now an urgent need to respond to the crisis created through climate change.

The COP26 Conference is an important moment in this as world leaders meet to make progress towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. For me this is an important moment of hope for the future of God's creation, akin to stepping over a threshold into something significant.

As the Israelites embarked on a journey that took them to the threshold of the promised land, they hear the commandment: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.' Those ancient words remind us about what it is to live in the presence of God, where life will flourish, in 'a land flowing with milk and honey,' in which successive generations will flourish as the commandment is received and embraced. (Deuteronomy 6: 1-9) The generation of which we are a part has the responsibility of passing to those who come after us the commandment to love God with heart and soul and strength, and we have a similar responsibility entrusted to us to pass on a place that will sustain the flourishing of human life.

*Lord our God,  
We turn to You as the maker of heaven and earth  
And as the One who sustains all human life:  
Hear us as we seek to love You  
With heart and soul and strength.  
Hear us and our prayer for all Creation.  
Lord, in Your mercy, Hear our prayer. Amen*

**FORTHCOMING SERVICES on 7 November**

**Joint Service at Horfield at 10.00 with Bishopston and Easter Compton** led by Rev. Patrick Stonehewer with Holy Communion. We welcome Mandy Stone and Mitch Gardner for their baptisms, along with members of their family and friends.

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.

**Shirehampton at 11.00** led by J Gardner and at **4.45** at the **Cotswold Centre**

**St. Peter's Pilning at 10.00** conducted by Rev. R. Rowe with Holy Communion

### **OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS for 7 November**

**Sunday Worship. Radio 4 at 8.10.** A Service for COP26 from Glasgow University Chapel.

**Songs of Praise. BBC 1 at 1.15.** God's Planet. Claire McCollum meets Christians raising awareness of climate change.

**Daily Service at 09.45.** BBC Radio 4 Long Wave.

**Open Café Church on 8 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 14 November, Remembrance Sunday.**

**Joint Service at Horfield at 10.00** led by members of Horfield Congregation.

**Bishopston at 10.30** conducted by Rev Patrick Stonehewer with Holy Communion.

**Easter Compton at 3.00.** A short Act of Remembrance conducted by Patrick Stonehewer.

**Shirehampton at 10.50.** All Age Worship led by Jo Hill.

**St. Peter's Pilning at 10.00** conducted by the Anglican Team.

**WEEKLY NOTICES.** Please send items to Eurfron by Tuesday, [eurfron@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:eurfron@blueyonder.co.uk) or 0117 969 1908.

### **GENERAL NOTICES**

**ALFA Christian Community:** Drop-ins (for tea/coffee/cake and chat) continue on Mondays 2.30-4.30 at Fulligrove House, Woodwell Road, BS11 9UG but there will NOT be one on 8th November. There will be a coffee morning here on Saturday 20th November, 10.00-12noon. All welcome.

**Cotswold Christian Community.** The prayer course continues on Sunday 14th November at 4.45pm in the Cotswold Community Centre, Dursley Road, Shirehampton. We watch a 20 minute video, have a brief discussion and time of prayer and then have refreshments together. On Sunday 12th December at 5pm we will be holding a Christingle Service in the Community Centre.

**Meaningful Worship and Dementia.** Tuesday 16th November 10.30-12.00 An opportunity to meet on Zoom to explore how we can enable those living with Dementia to engage in worship which is meaningful to them. For more information and booking details, please see the publicity poster

[https://mcusercontent.com/bcf1bde8bc4a29dae7362b02a/files/9dcce5a5-1546-c026-35d2-3525fd72b2ec/DFC\\_Webinar\\_16\\_November\\_poster.01.docx](https://mcusercontent.com/bcf1bde8bc4a29dae7362b02a/files/9dcce5a5-1546-c026-35d2-3525fd72b2ec/DFC_Webinar_16_November_poster.01.docx)

**Good News Story.** Work is progressing in transforming the former caretaker's house at Westbury Park into a home for a refugee family. Read the latest newsletter to find out more.

[https://mcusercontent.com/bcf1bde8bc4a29dae7362b02a/files/9ef43afe-cce5-5ba3-e5e3-17678db9dd63/Refugee\\_House\\_Newsletter\\_171021.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/bcf1bde8bc4a29dae7362b02a/files/9ef43afe-cce5-5ba3-e5e3-17678db9dd63/Refugee_House_Newsletter_171021.pdf)

**Horfield.** The Church Fair is planned for the 20 November from 10.30 to 12.30. Volunteers are urgently needed to help on the day. We shall be pleased to receive the following: - toys in good condition, books (Fiction only), cakes (with listed ingredients) and white elephant goods. We would also appreciate money or items for the raffle hampers. Please bring items to Church or contact Helen (0117 9624257) or Lorraine (0117 3738581).

**Horfield.** Red and white poppies along with other small items are on sale at the back of the church. Please donate generously.

**Horfield.** Our **next afternoon tea** will be on Tuesday 9 November from 2.30 to 3.30. Cost £2.50. Please let Eurfron (0117 9691908) know if you are coming.

**Horfield.** **Next Film Club** is Thursday, 11th November 2021 starting at 7pm.

**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: - Hazel Thorne, Marilyn Tighe, Trish Thompson, John Turkson, June Threlfall.

**Horfield:** Advent Sunday, 5 December, (the date has been changed from last week's notices). 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. If you would like to sing in the choir, you are invited to join rehearsals beforehand. They are on Thursdays 11/18/25 November at the parish church from 7pm.

**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.

#### **Dates for your diary. Horfield and Bishopston**

Thursday 11 November at 7.30. Eco Church on Zoom. Speakers: Pauline & Mike Culshaw and Janet George

Saturday 20 November from 10.30 to 12.30. Church Fair.

Thursday 25 November. Stewards + at 7.30 at the church.

Tuesday 30 November. Church Meeting to discuss our Mission Statement at 7.30 on Zoom.

**Special days this week.** 11 November- Remembrance Day. 13 November- World Kindness Day.

## Reflection on the Lectionary, Sunday 7 November, (Ordinary 32)

Psalm 127; Ruth 3 : 1 - 5, 4 : 13 - 17; Hebrews 9 : 24 - 28; Mark 12 : 38 - 44

This reflection is provided by Local Preacher, Ros Sledge, Potters Wood.

### Reflection on Mark 12 : 38 - 44

Mark's passage is focusing on the issue of truth. Not whether we are telling the truth verbally, but on being true to ourselves; being true to who we are.

In this passage, it would seem that some of these Scribes may have been posturing and posing in order to grab the attention of the many; to be seen as someone who should be respected; who expected to be in the best seats and invited to the best banquets. But because they were a type of lawyer who interpreted the meaning of the Old Testament, vulnerable people, such as widows, would confide in them and ultimately risk being defrauded as a result.

We all know someone who thinks much of themselves and seem to always be boasting.

Indeed, in this day and age, it seems as if more and more people are obsessed with image. It seems as if everyone is worried about what others think about them; what they look like; and whether people like them. It's very easy to fall into that trap, especially if all those around you are doing just that.

There are people - like the widows mentioned in this passage - who give generously but without the pomp and ceremony; who give willingly and humbly. As with the widow who gave all she had, there are those who give their lives for the love of others, and we don't often hear about them.

In the programme - the One Show - such people have been given the thanks and recognition that is due to them for the work they have been doing quietly and humbly to help people during the pandemic. There have been thousands more, just doing as much as they are able to help

However, this passage is one that lends itself to self-appraisal. And that's hard to do - to be really truthful about yourself

I think about myself. I was always told at primary school that I wasn't any good. I suppose that's how it was in those days. However, because I was always told it, I believed it and this, in itself, made me doubt myself. I lost confidence in myself. Even now, I find it difficult to go into a room full of people - if someone's with me I push them in front of me! And I need to feel confident in myself before I can go out, and, therefore, I need to dress nicely.

A friend was going to an interview for a new job. She dressed in attire that was suitable for the occasion together with her high heeled shoes. Now she felt confident to go to the interview. But her husband laughed, "Why have you got your high heeled shoes on - the meetings on Zoom!?" But I totally appreciated why she wore these shoes because she would not have had the confidence to be at the Zoom interview in her fluffy slippers! When doing a self-appraisal, perhaps we need to recognise whether we're posing or whether we need re-assurance of confidence - like my friend. We need to delve deeply within our consciences to find out whether we are truly humbly generous in time or money. And, as I said before, that's hard to do - to be really truthful about yourself.

So, after 18 months of more isolation than usual during this pandemic, whoever we are, perhaps now is the time for that self-appraisal; remembering that we may have changed during that time; how do I really feel now; am I being true to myself?

Prayer:

*Lift up our hearts, O Christ, above the false shows of things, above laziness and fear, above selfishness and covetousness, above whim and fashion, up to the everlasting Truth that you are; that we may live joyfully and freely, in the faith that you are our King and our Saviour, our Example and our Judge, and that, so long as we are loyal to you, all will ultimately be well.*

Charles Kingsley (1819-1875)

Our thanks to Ros for this reflection