



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.bsgc.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 16 January 2022



Parables aren't only linked with Jesus, nor his chapter of history. Whether from the ancient or contemporary world, parables come in a variety of forms, including poems, stories, speeches, even sermons! Whether they are modern versions of older stories, or completely new tales, they are found in many cultures and religions across the world. Whatever their background, they prompt us to think more deeply and shift our perspective beyond conventional wisdom.

Between now and the beginning of Lent, the themes explored in our worship often focus on the teachings and parables of Jesus, particularly those in the early part of his ministry. They have a particular way of inviting us into God's story: rather than tell us, they generate questions rather than answers, and help us to explore and be part of the same life-stream that flowed through Jesus. In the spirit of those teachings and parables, rather than tell you which one to go and read now, can I invite you to think about which parable of Jesus is your favourite - why? - and what is it inviting you to do in 2022?

May God's wisdom be the store from where our thoughts are gathered. God's love be a flowing river bringing peace to heart and soul. God's whisper be a word in time breaking through this world's clamour. God's faithfulness be our strength and hope within the storms we face. Amen

Rev Patrick

FORTHCOMING SERVICES on 16 January

Horfield at 10.00 in person and on Zoom conducted by Rev P Stonehewer - Church Anniversary, Covenant and Holy Communion followed by a short church meeting to talk about potential work on the church premises.

If you are planning to join the Covenant Service online and would like to share bread and wine where you are, please have some bread and some grape juice ready to use. Once the service is finished, please consume or dispose of any remaining bread and wine reverently, in common with our usual practice. Equally, just because you can, doesn't mean that you must share the elements at home - that decision rests with you. The words of our communion prayers will continue to acknowledge that we join together in God's name, however we do that.

Bishopston at 10.30 led J. Creech.

Shirehampton at 11.00 led by C. Stones.

St Peter's, Pilning with Easter Compton at 10.00 conducted by the Anglican team.

Circuit Evening Service at Horfield at 6.00 in person and on Zoom led by Rev. Aboseh.Ngwana.

Current guidance at Horfield about Covid-19. The stewards on duty will use their discretion to decide when the building is full. Please continue to arrive in good time so you can register your Track and Trace details, entering

via the left-hand doors from Gloucester Road, with the side (red) door in Churchways Avenue solely for those needing level access. You must wear a face covering whilst in the building unless you have a medical exemption, and follow other Covid-19 arrangements whilst inside, including maintaining two metres social distancing. Do not attend worship in person if you have any symptoms of Covid-19. You will continue to be able to join the service via Zoom

OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS for 16 January and the week

Sunday Worship. Radio 4 at 8.10. Service of Choral Matins from St. Mary le Tower, Ipswich.

Songs of Praise. BBC 1 at 1.15. Aled Jones is in Bristol visiting Brunel's ship SS Great Britain and the city's Christian street art, and Gemma Hunt joins HM Coastguard's first ever chaplain on a mud rescue.

Daily Service at 09.45. BBC Radio 4 Long Wave.

Open Café Church on 17 January 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>

Weekly bible study is taking a break until the end of February. The next session will be on Wednesday 23 February when we will be linking with the Circuit bible study sessions for Lent, focusing on Luke's Gospel.

WORSHIP DETAILS for 23 January

Horfield at 10.00 in person and on Zoom conducted by J Creech.

Bishopston at 10.30 Local Arrangement.

Shirehampton at 11.00 conducted by Rev. P. Stonehewer with Holy Communion and Covenant Service.

St Peter's, Pilning with Easter Compton at 10.00 conducted by Rev. D. Hardy.

Circuit Evening Service at Horfield at 6.00 in person and on Zoom led Rev. H. Cooke.

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

GENERAL NOTICES

'Speaking Truth: Voices of Survivors of childhood abuse' webinar series. Two informative and thought-provoking webinars are being planned by the Methodist Survivors' Advisory Group members for an audience across the Methodist Church:

Wed 19 January, 11 - 12:30, Webinar 1 - Hearing Reality: Voices Crying in the Wilderness

In this Webinar we will hear something of the history and prevalence of childhood abuse in this country. We will learn of the impact of abuse upon survivors, both how it affects them throughout their childhood but also the long-term effects of abuse throughout the life course of the survivor. We will also hear firsthand from survivors of abuse, sharing their stories and how they found hope. We will hear the history of the Methodist Church's response to survivors of abuse and our ongoing work to improve and learn from the voices of people who have experienced abuse. *Register in advance for this webinar:*

These webinars are aimed at a broad audience from Safeguarding Officers and those in leadership roles to anyone wishing to learn how to be more welcoming and inclusive towards survivors of abuse within our church. Details of the next session will be in next week's notices.

The first online 'Wes Talk' of 2022 organised by John Wesley's New Room. 'Welcoming the Stranger' - how can we positively welcome refugees and asylum seekers into our communities - is being held online on Monday, January 17 at 7.30pm. It features Dot Jenner from Westbury Welcome, a project which has been set up in Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, to provide a welcome for a family from Syria, plus Susanna Revolti from Borderlands, based at St Nicholas of Tolentino RC Church in Bristol. Booking details can be found here www.newroombristol.org.uk/events (tickets cost £5)

The Quiet Garden at Fulligrove House is available by arrangement for personal or group use and we can offer accommodation if one or two people would like to spend a little longer away for peace and reflection/prayer. (We cannot offer 24/7 peace and quiet but do contact us to discuss if you are interested). Tel: 0117 9826455

or email info@alfacc.org.uk . Drop-in sessions for a cuppa and chat resume on 17th January and will be each Monday 2.30-4.30pm at Fulligrove House, Woodwell Road, Shirehampton BS11 9UG

Voices from Bethlehem. The Methodist Ecumenical Office Rome and the Methodist Liaison Office Jerusalem invite you to the webinar "Voices from Bethlehem: Christian Unity in the Birthplace of Jesus" on Friday, 21 January 2022 at 08:00 UK time. The webinar celebrates the theme of the 2022 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - "we saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him" from Matthew 2 - which was selected by the Middle East Council of Churches. In this webinar Christian leaders from Bethlehem and environs will discuss the importance of Christian unity in contemporary times in Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus. The webinar is free and will last 90 minutes - registration via <https://meorome.org/2022/01/05/webinar-voices-from-bethlehem-christian-unity-in-the-birthplace-of-jesus/>

Horfield and Bishopston. We are reviewing the circulation of postal notices, and, so, unless you confirm you still wish to receive them by 28 February, we shall cease sending them. The notices will still be available online. You may wish to give us an e-mail address if you have one. You can contact us in three ways. 1) by email to secretary@horfieldmethodist.org.uk; 2) by text message to 07552780740; (this is the Church mobile phone). 3) in writing to Church Council Secretary, Horfield Methodist Church, Churchways Avenue, Bristol. BS7 8SN.

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 :- The Eco Group, Mrs Margaret and Rev. Dilwyn Edwards, Oliver Fairman, Finance & Property, Betty Franklin, Pam Gannon, John Gard.

Dates for your diary.

Horfield Sunday 23 January at 4 p.m. on Zoom. Neighbourhood and Mission. New members welcome.

Horfield. Thursday 27 January at 7.30 on Zoom, Eco Church.

Horfield and Bishopston. Thursday 3 February at 7.30. Church Council (Reports in by 21 January)

Horfield. Wednesday 9 February at 7.30. Property Meeting.

Horfield Thursday 10 February at 7.30 p.m. at Church. Stewards +

Horfield Tuesday 1 March at 7.30 on Zoom. Leadership Meeting.

Special days in the next week

Jan 16 Religious Freedom Day. **Jan 17** Martin Luther King Jr. Day. **Jan 22** Celebration of Life Day.

Jan 23 National Handwriting Day.

Reflection on the Lectionary for Sunday 16 January (Ordinary 2)

Isaiah 62: 1-5; Psalm 36: 5-10; 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a; John 2: 1-11

This reflection is provided by Howard Wilson. John 2:1-11 (NRSV)

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' ⁴And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' ⁵His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' ⁶Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. ⁹When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' ¹¹Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Reflection

I have always had a strange relationship with this passage.

When I was at secondary school, I was the president of the school Christian Union. A fellow member brought me a copy of a new Bible they had received and as I flicked through I came upon this reading. What struck me at the time was that the passage read "On the *second* day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee." Second day? My recollection was third day. This troubled me and I re-checked that I had read it correctly. I cross referenced it in other Bibles available in the room.

Being a son of the manse, when I got home I queried the text with my father and asked him to check his Greek New Testament to see if there was any explanation for this difference in the text. No, he assured me, there was no room for error - it should read 'on the *third* day'.

Subsequent editions have corrected this error, but it left me with an enduring suspicion and distrust of the New International Version. I apologise to those reading who might love this particular translation, but as they say 'you never get a second chance to make a first impression'.

There are no 'accidental' comments in John's gospel. Why tell us it was the third day? The third day from what? At the end of the first chapter Jesus was in Galilee, presumably in the Capernaum area because we know that was where Simon (Peter) lived and had just started gathering disciples to follow him. Then suddenly he's at a wedding, three days later and 16 miles away in Cana. But John is here alluding to the three days Jesus will spend in the tomb - God's definitive work of love. In John's gospel, miracles are always a proclamation of God's love in the middle of ordinary lives.

As we reach the third Sunday of the New Year, how many of us are still keeping to our resolutions (assuming we made any)? Have our good intentions already died away and become a memory as we get back into 'ordinary' life?

'A Methodist Way of Life' is a resource that has been produced to help Methodist people to try to follow a pattern of worship, learning and caring, service and evangelism - and to support one another as we do so. You may have received a commitment card with your last membership card (if you're a member). You can find out more online at <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/a-methodist-way-of-life/>.

Whatever we make of the miracle element of the story of the Wedding at Cana, it shows a Jesus who was 'ordinary', who related with the people around him, and when there was a crisis stepped up to help. Jesus was, and is, relatable.

Using the resources available in 'A Methodist Way of Life' we can seek to follow the example of Jesus by living a *Christian* life, within the challenges of the *ordinary* world.

Prayer

*God of transformation,
who can change water into wine,
fishermen into disciples,
and disciples into evangelists;
speak to our hearts and help us to see your way for us.*

*As we are at the start of another year,
with all the prospective challenges that might bring;
help us to live lives focussed on you and your way of life
that we might worship you more fully,
learn and care about you and with you,
serve one another in your name,
and proclaim that name to those around us. Amen.*

Howard Wilson

Howard is a local preacher, and a member at Horfield Methodist Church. He is also the Regional Learning and Development Coordinator (South West) for the Learning Network of the Methodist Church

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