



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 2 January 2022

Happy New Year!



I imagine it is with mixed feelings that people reflect on the year 2021. For some, the words of Solomon (Ecclesiastes 7:8) may best describe their year. "Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof". For despite the virulence of Omicron we are in a much better place than a year ago thanks to the skills of scientists in vaccine development and the amazing work of the NHS. There are many however for whom it has been a year of great challenges, struggles, pain and loss. As Christians we take comfort in the festival we have just celebrated, that God in Jesus came to share in the pain and messiness of our world to bring light into its dark places.

Yet when we experience personal darkness, it can be difficult seeing any kind of light to give us hope. Being told that God loves us and suffers alongside us isn't really enough, we need something more tangible. Perhaps that is why God has also chosen to work through his human creation. His love expressed in human acts. The giving of time, the outstretched hand, being there for someone, those acts of kindness that say you matter, you are important to me. We give thanks for those who are there for us. May we be there for others who are struggling. And so, as we journey through this New Year may we all have that assurance that the message of Christmas brings, that God is with us, in the ordinary events of life he comes and shares our joys and sorrows, our defeats and victories. In the troubled places of our world, he is there seeking to bring hope where there is despair. So, we pray, may God's light enter the dark places in our lives, bringing that hope which is life affirming and may we too be lights in the dark for those who are struggling with their own personal darkness, mindful, in the words of Howard Thurman that,

"When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone, When the kings and the princes are home, When the shepherds are back with their flocks, The work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among people, to make music in the heart".

We thank David Bainbridge for these opening words

FORTHCOMING SERVICES on 2 January

Horfield at 10.00 in person and on Zoom led by C Blenkinsopp. There will be no Junior Church on this Sunday.

Bishopston at 10.30 led by J Gardner.

Shirehampton at 11.00. Local Arrangement.

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

Circuit Service at Horfield in person and on Zoom at 18.00 led by Rev. D. Willis.

Horfield. We have recently reviewed the arrangements for attending worship in person in light of the current guidance about Covid-19. The strict limit on numbers attending is removed, but 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 2 January and the week

Sunday Worship. Radio 4 at 8.10. The Rev Canon Ann Easter reflects on the theme of Wonder.

Songs of Praise. BBC 1 at 1.15. Rev. Kate Bottley joins runners and dancers to explore connections between faith and fitness.

Daily Service at 09.45. BBC Radio 4 Long Wave

Open Café Church on 3 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, open to all, each Wednesday evening, 7.45-9.15, on Zoom. Please do join an informal chance each week to look at a particular book of the Bible and share in fellowship and prayer. Zoom Links on Page 5.

WORSHIP DETAILS for 9 January

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

Bishopston at 10.30 led by Rev. Patrick Stonehewer with Holy Communion.

Shirehampton at 11.00. Local Arrangement with All Age Worship.

St Peter's, Pilning. with Easter Compton at 10.00 conducted by K. Luxon.

Circuit Evening Service at Horfield at 18.00 in person or on Zoom led by S. Holliday.

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

GENERAL NOTICES

Oasis Academy Brightstowe (Shirehampton). There is a small chaplaincy team that has been supporting Oasis Academy Brightstowe for the last five years or so. A few of the youth workers from the local churches currently go into the school weekly, to help in the school's wellbeing unit. They help to facilitate small groups supporting students who are referred to the unit. Alongside this, Highgrove's youth pastor, Robyn, has also pioneered reading support for some year 7s, together with the school's librarian. Before summer 2021 some volunteers were also giving one-to-one reading support to the children. Our friends at Highgrove Church are hoping to widen the volunteer pool from other churches in the area. Volunteers will go to the school between 11.00 and 12.00 each Thursday to sit one-to-one with the year 7 students, to listen to them read, give encouragement and help when they get stuck. There's a short training video to watch for anyone who volunteers (who would also need a DBS checks). Contact robyn.coleman@highgrove.church for more details.

Horfield. Help required - We are looking for volunteers to come and be the '2nd adult' in Junior Church to enable one of us to sometimes stay in church for the service. It won't involve any preparation or leading of sessions, it's just that we need to have a 2nd adult in the JC sessions. Ideally, we would be looking for this to happen once (or twice!) a month, with volunteers being on the rota approximately once every two months. Please let us know if you'd be willing to do this. Thank you. Helen and Shirin.

Launching in January, Everyone an Evangelist is a course designed to help groups from local churches and circuits explore the ways you and your church community are called to share your faith and to grow in confidence as evangelists. The Methodist Church is committed to being an evangelistic church, it's one of the core parts of our calling. All Christians - not just some - are called to listen for, speak of, and live out the good news. And yet, as a Church, we can often lack confidence with evangelism. So, we need a tool to help us grow in confidence and make the most of our opportunities for sharing our faith.

Horfield. Dear A Rocha Friends,

This year has been a year of real growth and blessing and I didn't want it to end without saying a huge thank you for being a part of our story. In 2021 we marked A Rocha UK's 20th year and we want to celebrate all that has been achieved over the past two decades, and to thank you for your continued support and prayers as we seek to scale up our work in response to the very real environmental emergency. Andy Atkins, Chief Executive of A Rocha.

Stats and Facts

- There are 40,000 premature deaths in the UK each year linked to air pollution.
- 12 million tonnes of plastic ends up in the world's oceans each year.
- 97% of flower-rich meadows have been lost since the 1930s, meaning that bees, other pollinating insects as well as a variety of other species have lost their homes and source of food.

Horfield. Afternoon tea is served on Tuesday 11 January, from 2.30 to 3.30. It is open for anyone who wishes to come. Cost £2.50. Please contact Eurfron on 0117 969 1908 or eurfron@blueyonder.co.uk

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: Keith and Jenny Cornell, Church Council, Linda Cox, Cubs, and the "Horfield Team" volunteering at the night shelter.

Dates for your diary.

Horfield and Bishopston. Sunday 16 January, Covenant Service and Church Meeting.

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

Horfield and Bishopston. Thursday 3 February at 7.30. Church Council.

Horfield. Wednesday 9 February at 7.30. Property Meeting

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

Special days in the next week

Wednesday 5 January, Twelfth Night. Thursday 6 January, Epiphany.



Reflection on the Lectionary, Sunday 2 January

Jeremiah 31: 7 - 14, Psalm 147: 12 - 20, Ephesians 1: 3 - 14, John 1: 10 - 18

Our reflections this week are provided by theworshipcloud.com

In this New Year, look around you or search around your house to find something new, perhaps something you've recently bought or been given, perhaps a winter flower that has just started to bud, or something that arrived in your house during the Christmas season.

If you can, hold this new thing. If you can't, just picture it in your mind, and hold it there.

Lord, as we look upon that which is new, we hold the new year of 2022 in our hearts and minds too.

Living God, who is making all things new, help me to seize the opportunities this new year presents.

Help me to start afresh, with a renewed energy and commitment to learning more about you and your call on me.

Gracious God, may I commit to more than meaningless resolutions, and enter into new and deeper relationship with you, transforming my life in the process.

Lord of all things, help me to be inspired once again by stories from the Bible, by music, by prayer, by reflection and in conversation. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

You may now wish to say The Lord's Prayer in a version most familiar or comfortable to you.

Reading: John 1:10-18

In the famous passage from John 1 that is our reading for today, we read that the 'word' that is Jesus the Christ becomes 'flesh'. This is the miracle of Christmas, but it's also an invitation to you today. How do the 'words' about what we believe and what we claim to believe affect our lives and the way we live? How do you take the words you stand by, and put them into action? In this Christmas season, and as we celebrate the New Year of 2022 dawning around us, can you and your community also be a people of justice, a people seeking a better kind of world.

The Vine resources, which you are using today, are pleased to partner with two organisations - the Joint Public Issues Team and All We Can - who both play their part in helping the church respond to issues of injustice. If you have not come across them before, or would like to find out more, please do look up their website details or get in touch with them to see how you can support. Perhaps you can give financially, perhaps you can pray, perhaps you can join a campaign or learn more about an issue. Find out more at jointpublicissues.org.uk and allwecan.org.uk or look them both up on social media.

What are the causes and injustices that most motivate you to action?

What, in the news or in your local community makes you most angry?

Is that a way you might be being called into action or a response?

What, in your life and your story gives you hope and gives you energy?

Is that a way you might be being called into action?

Let us pray,

God of Justice, forgive us when our Christmases become more about what we can get than what we can give.

Forgive us when our Christmas stories eclipse the Christ child from the centre.

Forgive us when we indulge at Christmas with little thought for those who are going hungry.

Forgive us when our Christmas trees are dressed more extravagantly than our poor neighbours.

In all the ways our celebrations miss your heart for your world, forgive us.

[Pause]

As we conclude this Christmas period, loving God, we know the remarkable nature of your forgiveness, evidenced in your commitment to living alongside, suffering with us, becoming human - an extraordinary gift indeed. Amen.

