



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 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 6 March



Inevitably thoughts of what is going on in the Ukraine will be foremost in our minds, and in our prayers. How can we best help and support each other when we have different levels of understanding about the complete picture, equally those for whom the talk of war is frightening, whether due to experience of previous conflicts, or general fear stirred up by media coverage? As with so many things in life the key has to be good, clear, communication. Hiding what is going on, or denying it, will only make things worse.

Older people may be fearful due to their memories of the last world war, and the talk of the current situation risking a third. This may come from the lived experiences, or memories inherited from family. Either way, we can all be encouraged and supported to name our fears, to share how and what we are feeling. For some this may trigger memories of experience in previous conflicts, whether as members of the armed forces or through other connections. We can all be alert to the impact this might have on mental health and be ready to support one another informally or to help access professional help. Children and young people will take in more than we might expect, picking up on others' worries and things in the news. We can all talk openly with them, explain what is happening and put it into language we can all understand. Don't dismiss fears, but don't add to them either. No one knows what is going to happen. Reassure them that whatever happens they have family and friends surrounding them.

In many parts of the South West there are communities from all over the world. We may have Ukrainian families who are fearful for friends and family at home: think how we might support them. Just knowing we care and are there will be a big help; it might be as simple as offering access to internet to keep up to date on news, or to try to contact people at home. As fear grows people may start to target other communities, including those who 'look' or 'sound' foreign. We need to be alert to such things and be ready to challenge them. Some of us may have difficulty processing what is going on - due to learning difficulties or language issues. We need to be willing to help each other understand without adding to our concerns. We also need to remember those directly impacted - our Methodist Chaplains working in the forces, equally friends and relatives who serve in the forces, or in allied areas.

Above all we need to remember that we are all in God's hands; *For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything*

else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39, NRSV) Howard Wilson

[From the Learning Network SW Newsletter, which includes lots about what is happening across the Methodist Church in the SW. Please do subscribe via: www.methodist.org.uk/subscribe-sw/ Rev Patrick]

Our President (Revd Sonia Hicks) and Vice-President (Mrs Barbara Easton) have issued the following statement. "We are horrified and heartbroken as we witness the violent assault on Ukraine by the Russian military. This devastating action and ensuing loss of life have rightly been condemned across the world. It is a very clear violation of the UN Charter and as such imperils the foundation upon which international security is built and on which we all depend. We regret the failure to build an understanding with Russia and we pray for the Ukrainian and Russian peoples, including the Methodist church leaders in the region and the Methodist communities across Ukraine. Christians are called to 'pursue peace with everyone' (Hebrews 12:14); this mandate is clear and requires courage, perseverance and understanding. We ask you to pray for all politicians, that there may be an end to aggression and that dialogue, justice and peace may be established".

WORSHIP DETAILS for 6 March

Horfield at 10.00 in person & on Zoom. All Age Worship, with Holy Communion, led by Rev. Patrick Stonehewer.
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, 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. Hymn Books will be available at the back of the church. 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

Bishopston at 10.30 conducted by D. North.

Shirehampton at 11.00. conducted by Rev. J. Emmett.

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

Circuit Evening Service at Horfield at 6p.m. in person and on Zoom, led by Rev. Aboseh Ngwana.

Easter Compton Wednesday 9 March at 3.00. Reflective Space led by the Ark Team.

This weekend's pre-recorded YouTube Service is available at <https://youtu.be/IFRXoh8DqEU>

OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS for 6 March and the week

Sunday Worship. Radio 4 at 8.10. The Passion of Hospitality. The launch of a Lent series from Bath Abbey led by Dr. Krish Kandiah.

Songs of Praise. BBC 1 at 1.15. Sunderland's sacred Glass. Claire McCollum discovers the links to the glass industry stretching back 1,300 years

Daily Service at 09.45. BBC Radio 4 Long Wave.

Open Café Church on 7 February 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>

Luke for Lent - Zoom Bible Study. There are two opportunities to engage with a bible study series during Lent, arranged by the Circuit: Tuesdays 1 March to 19 April from 7:30-8:30pm - to book a place contact Richard Sharples, richard.sharples@methodist.org.uk or 0117 962 9679; Wednesdays 2 March to 20 April starting 7:45-8.45pm - to book a place contact Rev Patrick Stonehewer, details above.

WORSHIP DETAILS for 13 March and the week

Horfield at 10.00. Local Arrangement

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

Shirehampton at 11.00 - Local Arrangement and All Age Worship and also at 4.45 at the Cotswold Centre.

St. Peter's and Easter Compton at 10.00 conducted by Rev. D. Deeks.

Easter Compton. Wednesday 16 March at 3 p.m. Reflective Space led by the Ark Team

Circuit Evening Service at Horfield at 6p.m. in person and on Zoom led by Rev. Patrick Stonehewer.

GENERAL NOTICES

Daily Prayers for Lent. Please look on Horfield Church website for a booklet of *Daily Prayers for Lent* compiled by Circuit Staff members.

The Bristol Methodist Centre provides shelter, sanctuary, and support for homeless and vulnerable people. Methodists in Bristol and the surrounding district have supported the homeless and vulnerable for approximately 100 years, from the time, when the Methodist Central Hall first opened in Old Market in 1924. This is a mission programme of which the Circuit is proud. It has helped hundreds of people over the years and encouraged individuals to turn their lives around. We hope that every Methodist in the Circuit will look upon it as, "their mission", and support the Centre in whichever way they can. The Centre continues the work, and the Management Committee is exploring strategies to move forward so that the Centre can continue meeting its objectives. We are seeking the support of all our Methodist Churches in Bristol and South Gloucestershire. We are looking to appoint one person from each church to be an **Ambassador for the Centre**. This would be a person who would receive news, raise awareness of the work that goes on at Lincoln Street and encourage the congregation to support this essential work. If you are interested, please talk to Rev Patrick or a steward.

Christian Aid are launching the first episode of a podcast, *Walking Humbly*, and partnering with Operation Noah, Eco-Congregation Scotland, the Church of Scotland, Young Christian Climate Network and The Quakers in Britain. The first episode is called 'Dust' and includes song, story, bible reading, reflection, prayer and call to action. There will be ten episodes in total. The first was released on Ash Wednesday with the following episodes being released on each Monday of Lent, then Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. It is offered as a meditative journey through Lent with the question 'what does it mean to walk humbly with our God while doing justice and loving kindness?' (Micah 6:8) which ties in well with the Methodist Church's 'Walking with Micah' project <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/social-justice/walking-with-micah/> You will be able to download each episode from; <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/walking-humbly> or wherever you get your podcasts.

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: - Brian and Sheila Lomas, Maggie Lovell, Lunch club, Hortence Lukaso, Katherine Matthews.

Horfield. The next **afternoon tea** will be on Tuesday 8 March 2.30 - 3.30 p.m. Everyone welcome. Cost £2.50.

Horfield Messy Church will be celebrating Communion on the 12th March.

We will be putting together all the ingredients needed for this special feast. Please come and help us to crush grapes, make flat bread. Write prayers asking for forgiveness and wipe them away in one Swipe. Design your own special meal, what would you choose to put on your plate? Could you make a jigsaw out of a piece of bread or could you put someone else's puzzle back together? It is good to say grace at the beginning of a meal. We have our own special Messy grace. Could your family put together a cube of graces, to use at home to thank God for all the food and blessings we receive? What do you talk about during meals at home? What do you think Jesus and the disciples talked about at the last supper?

Horfield. We are committed to becoming a Fairtrade church. We will be making the switch to Fairtrade coffee and tea this year, we obviously have existing stocks to finish up, but going forward any tea or coffee purchased for the church will be Fairtrade. Why are we doing this? When you choose Fairtrade tea and coffee, not only can farmers build a better quality of life for their families and communities, they can invest in their business too. Behind your brew, real people face low wages, discrimination and the hard choices living in poverty can bring. Fairtrade can change that. For more information check out www.fairtrade.org.uk

If you are buying coffee, tea for the church, make sure you look out for the Fairtrade logo. Check with the eco team if you are unsure.



Safeguarding- Every Church has a Safeguarding Officer, to whom you can refer if the need arises. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their time and efforts in keeping our churches safe. There have been some recent changes and the officers are as follows: **Bishopston & Horfield**. Pauline Harris and Ursula Hale; **Shirehampton**. Jo Hill;

Easter Compton. Cynthia Reynolds; **Circuit Safeguarding Officer**. Eurfron Parry Tel: 0117 969 1908

District Safeguarding Officer. Kevin Maidment Mobile: 07925 894649. Our thanks to Maureen Hyde, who was the Safeguarding officer for Horfield for several years, for her thoroughness and commitment in keeping our church safe.

Dates for your diary

Horfield. Thursday 10 March, Eco Group Meeting at 7.30 pm. Thursday 24 March, Children and Young People's Group.

Special days this week. Tuesday 8 March. International Women's Day

Reflection on the Lectionary Sunday 6 March (Lent 1)

Psalm 91 : 1 - 2, 9 - 16; Deuteronomy 26 : 1 - 11; 2 Romans 10 : 8b - 13 : 2; Luke 4 : 1 - 13

Reflection on Deuteronomy 26.1-11 - with our thanks to Tim Lansdown (Hanham)

Some time ago, I was encouraged by my cousin, who is into ancestry, to have my DNA tested. The result was interesting. I am 9% Irish and 10% African which is accounted for by my Great Grandparents but where my 22% Scandinavian comes from I haven't a clue. Maybe that explains why I like ABBA!

Many people are interested in their ancestry today. Maybe it is because we live in a far more diverse world than our parents and grandparents did. Also, there is much written and spoken today about identity. Who are we? What nationality are we, where do we belong? Do we refer to ourselves as English, British or European or for many a far wider choice is available? Andy Murray once complained that when he won the media referred to him as British, but when he lost, he was Scottish.

We are asked for our ID many times. You can't seem to buy anything or view anything online without a password. Try opening a bank account and you will be grilled to the nth degree. People report that they have had their ID stolen so that criminals can raise loans in their name.

The Old Testament lesson today on the surface is more normally read at Harvest Festival as it speaks of an ancient ceremony very similar to what we enact each Autumn - the bringing of gifts of produce as a thanksgiving to God. But at Harvest time we usually just read the first four verses which relate to the offering of the gifts to the priest. The passage, however, continues with the donor required to recite words, retracing the history of his nation as a discipline to remind him and his people who they are and where they come from and what God has done for them.

They are asked to recall how their ancestor Jacob who, when famine struck went down to Egypt with his family and lived there as asylum seekers. Latterly they were treated harshly as slaves but under God's great hand they were rescued by a mighty act of power and released. They would then recall the journeying in the wilderness over all those years and they would rejoice that in his time God brought them into the Promised Land

So, the passage isn't just about giving thanks for a good harvest but a liturgy to remind them of whom they are and where they come from. It is a discipline of memory and of identity.

Lent is not just a time to give up things but a time to reflect on who we are. To ask where we have come from and what has brought us to this day and what part God has played in our lives. Are our lives just a random series of happenings or something more? I read recently about a film which ran two parallel stories of the life of one person. On a certain day in London, the man missed his train by seconds and the film then followed him on two different paths- one on what happened had he caught the train and the other had he missed it. Being fiction, the two accounts were totally different.

I am sure that we are tempted to look back and see what chance encounters and whims of the day have led us to where we are. Or do we, like those ancient Hebrews, see God's hand in our lives guiding us and steering us through all the unpredictability we encounter. Although my DNA plays a massive role in my ID, I am also sure

that my identity is also determined by the people I have met and the places I have been in all my 79+ years. My aunts who brought me up, one particular teacher and the many Christian people I have encountered on my journey.

This passage in Deuteronomy reminds us that God has called us as individuals and as a people, his people. And in a formal way the people remind themselves of how God has led them and what they have become. For, God is working his purpose out.

O Lord and master of us all whate'er our name or sign we own thy sway, we hear thy call we test our lives by thine. (Hymns & Psalms 717)