



## 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](http://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 3 April



*'Real love is expensive. So it should be: it demands part of us.'*

(Peter Owen Jones in *Small Boat, Big Sea*, Lion Publishing, 2001.)

One of the readings set for worship this weekend is an act of great passion, when Mary anoints Jesus' feet with perfumed oil. Judas criticises it as a lavish waste of money that could have been spent on the poor, but Jesus defends it as a prophetic sign of his imminent burial.

There is a sharp contrast between the wild extravagance of the pouring out of the expensive perfume and the mean-spirited Judas counting the cost and taking even what does not rightfully belong to him. In the end, it does not matter how little you have; what really matters is what you chose to do with what you do have. It is not only a moment of extravagance that counts, but also the discipline of cultivating an attitude of gratitude so that when the moment comes for a sacrificial action, we know in our hearts how to respond.

This bible story also prompts us to think more about our worth in God's eyes: even if we are weary and tired, with feet dirty from our life's journey, Jesus is asking 'What can I do for you?' In various ways, all our church mission statements speak of sharing God's love - how can we do that with extravagance? Rev. Patrick

#### **WORSHIP DETAILS for 3 April and the week**

**Horfield and Bishopston** at (NB) 10.30 at Horfield in person and on Zoom conducted by Rev. Patrick Stonehewer with Holy Communion, including the Annual Church Meeting. If you are planning to join online and would like to share bread and wine where you are, please have some bread and 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.

**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, including maintaining two metres social distancing. 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

**Shirehampton at 11.00** conducted by C. Sledge.

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

**Circuit Evening Service at 6pm.** at Horfield in person and on Zoom conducted by Rev. R. Howard

**Easter Compton.** Wednesday 6 April at 3pm. Reflective Space led by the Ark Team.

### **OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS for 3 April and the week**

**Sunday Worship.** Radio 4 at 8.10. A Passion for Hospitality- 'I was in Prison'. On Passion Sunday the Service comes from St. Peter ad Vincula in the Tower of London.

**Songs of Praise.** BBC 1 at 1.15. "God's Help in Herefordshire" The Rev. Kate Bottley visits the historic city of Hereford.

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

**Open Café Church** on 4 April in person from 10.00 until 12.00 for coffee, tea, cake and chat hosted by St Peter's, Pilning.

**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 until 19 April at 7.30 to 8.30pm. To book a place contact Richard Sharples, [richard.sharples@methodist.org.uk](mailto:richard.sharples@methodist.org.uk) or 0117 962 9679; Wednesdays until 20 April at 7:45 to 8.45pm. To book a place contact Rev Patrick Stonehewer, details above.

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

### **WORSHIP DETAILS for 10 April and the week**

**Horfield at 10.00** in person and on Zoom conducted by F. Maisokwadzo.

**Bishopston at 10.30** conducted by R Shaw.

**Shirehampton at 11.00.** Local Arrangement and All Age Worship at 16.45 at the Cotswold Centre.

**St Peter's Pilning and Easter Compton at 10.00** conducted by Rt Rev. Vivienne Faull, Rev. Novette Headley, Rev. P Rowe and Rev. P. Stonehewer.

**Easter Compton.** Wednesday 13 April at 3 p.m. Reflective Space led by the Ark Team.

**Circuit Evening Service** at 4 pm at Hanham, in person only- Leaver's Service for Rev. D. Willis.

**Sabbatical.** Patrick will be taking a sabbatical from the start of May, a time for him to step aside from day-to-day responsibilities to allow space to re-equip, refresh and renew his ordained ministry amongst us. He is planning to spend most of this time walking - starting at Cape Wrath in the far NW of Scotland and ending up at Dover (about 900 miles in total). To read a bit more about why he's doing this, and some reflections on it, please visit <https://walkingcapewrathtodover.blogspot.com/> which will be updated whilst Patrick is away so that you can share some of the experience! A small group has been supporting Patrick with the preparations for this, including providing cover for his absence. The church contacts in this group are Pauline Harris (Bishopston), Olwen Murray (Pilning and Easter Compton), Colin Sleath (Shirehampton) and Asmin Taylor (Horfield), with the group being led by Patrick's colleague Rev Emma Langley, the ecumenical minister at Westbury Park Church. Patrick's last services before his sabbatical will be on Easter Sunday, after which he has a week's family holiday, then a few days to tie up any loose ends before he heads north. He'll be taking some leave once his sabbatical is complete, so he will return to day-to-day responsibilities towards the end of August - all that seems like a long time away but will disappear in a flash.

**YouTube services** whilst Patrick is on sabbatical will continue to be available thanks to our friends at the Church of Westbury Park on [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnfVvJ4Thf84rwaBF9K\\_Nkw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnfVvJ4Thf84rwaBF9K_Nkw) (use the same link each week). You will also find a service of Morning Prayer to cover each day of the week, available from first thing each Monday. More details at <https://westburyparkchurch.org.uk/worship-services>

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

We are saddened to share the news that **Mollie Spry**, who started worshipping at Horfield after the closure of Christ Church, Cotham, died suddenly last weekend. We give thanks for her faithful service and remember her and her family in our prayers. *Loving God, we hold Mollie before you, thanking you for all we shared together. Be close to us, and to all those people who knew and loved Mollie. May we all know the peace and joy of your presence. Amen*

**The New Room.** There are several initiatives at the New Room this Easter

- 7 to 16 April. A tour around Charles Wesley's house in Charles Street.
- 6 April from 12.00 to 1 pm. Ways in which singing can improve your physical health.
- 9 to 23 April. The Meerkat Trail around Broadmead.

**VIGIL for UKRAINE** on College Green this Sunday April 3 at 2pm. This will be an opportunity for the Church to lead the City in remembrance and prayer for the victims of the war in Ukraine and also pray for peace. Churches Together for Greater Bristol are facilitating this event and there's a strong desire that no one is excluded and that it be seen as a city event rather than an exclusive Church event. Please encourage people to wear Blue and Yellow items.

- The event is designed to be inclusive so any banners which are not in tune with this key point will not be allowed.
- Stewards will wear yellow tabards and be identifiable by a Churches Together identity badge.
- There will be no PA or music.

**Horfield. Collection for Ukraine.** We are giving our support through, "All We Can". If you would like to contribute you can give through the collection plate, by the card machine in church or directly by logging on to: <https://www.allwecan.org.uk/donate/ukraine>. This collection will close in the church on the 10 April.

**Bristol Methodist Centre.** Our thanks to Audrey and David Bainbridge and Vic Crane for volunteering to be Ambassadors to the Centre. Please give them your support while they encourage everyone to help continue the work with the vulnerable and homeless.

**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: - George Otoo, Philip Parr, Alima and Tom Parkes/Oyebanji, John and Eurfron Parry, Reg and Betty Payne.

**Horfield.** The next **afternoon tea** will be on Tuesday, 12 April at 2.30 pm to 3.30 pm. Everyone welcome. Cost £2.50. Please let Eurfron know if you are coming (Tel: 0117 9691908)

**Horfield.** The next **Messy Church** will be on Saturday 9 April from 11.30. Everyone welcome.

### **Reflection on the Lectionary Sunday 3 April (Lent 5)**

Psalm 126; Isaiah 43 : 16 - 21; Philippians 3 : 4b - 14; John 12 : 1 - 8

This reflection on the Gospel reading is provided by Local Preacher, Adam Biddlestone.

This is one of my favourite passages in the gospels, although I much prefer the versions of the story in Matthew (26: 6 - 13) and Mark (14 : 1 - 9). There are two reasons for this. Firstly, the woman is unnamed, anonymous, and secondly, Jesus affirms the woman and the significance of her action by saying, 'I tell you, that wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.'

There are important parallels between the three accounts, most notably the reaction of the disciples and Jesus' response to them. They are very critical of the woman, of her waste of perfume, of the use of the resource and

opportunity the perfume presented. *'Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor?'* In Matthew and Mark, the question is asked by the disciples or those present presumably out of genuine concern for the poor. However, in John's account the question is asked by Judas, whose motive John links to his life as a thief who wanted to help himself to some of the proceeds of the sale.

If the story stopped here and that, 'what happens next?' question was asked, you could imagine Jesus agreeing with the woman's critics, but he defends her and put her actions above the needs of the poor or the complaints of his own disciples. He explains his reaction by pointing out, *'You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.'*

The actions of the woman are linked to an anointing in preparation for his burial. She has saved her perfume for this moment, Matthew and Mark include Jesus describing her action as a *'beautiful thing she has done for me.'* Clearly this is an act of loving devotion from a woman who has clearly had first-hand contact with and experience of Jesus. It demonstrates her belief in Jesus and awareness of who he is and what is to happen to him in the days and weeks ahead. John's account doesn't go as far as Jesus saying *'I tell you, that wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.'* However, the inclusion of Mary's actions in the gospel means it continues to be told in her memory. Whether you believe it was the actions of an anonymous woman, or his dear friend Mary, sister of Lazarus or the sinful woman at the heart of the story in Luke, it is an important story to have written down and to share in our telling of the gospel and modelled in our living of the gospel.

What acts of devotion and generosity can we share to tell others who we believe Jesus to be? What resources can we use to demonstrate our love and belief in Jesus?

Whichever version of the story you choose to use, the one set in the lectionary year or your favourite out of the four accounts, why not act the story out. I know of a Local Preacher who got rather wet when choosing the acting out the story approach at Pilning!!

Don't forget to make use of Sydney Carter's hymn, 'Said Judas to Mary,' as first published in Hymns and Songs [https://www.hopepublishing.com/Images/HymnodyPDF/hm\\_4696.pdf](https://www.hopepublishing.com/Images/HymnodyPDF/hm_4696.pdf) specifically based on Luke's account.

Our thanks to Adam for this reflection

### **Evening reflections for Holy Week**

Mon 11 April. 7.30pm. Evening reflection on Zoom using BIBLE STUDY link.

Tue 12 April. 7.30pm. Evening reflection on Zoom using BIBLE STUDY link.

Wed 13 April. 7.30pm. Evening reflection on Zoom using BIBLE STUDY link.

#### **Horfield**

Thu 14 April. 7.30pm. Holy Communion for Maundy Thursday. Revs Novette Headley and Patrick Stonehewer on Zoom using Evening Worship Link

Fri 15 April. 10.00. Good Friday worship on Zoom using Morning Worship Link.

Sun 17 April. 10.00. Easter Worship led by Chris Sledge with Communion and Zoom using Morning Worship Link.

Sun 17 April. 6.00pm. Easter Evening Worship led by Rev Simon Edwards and Zoom using Evening Worship Link.

#### **Bishopston**

Thu 14 April. 7.30pm at Horfield. Holy Communion for Maundy Thursday. Revs Novette Headley and Patrick Stonehewer.

Fri 15 April. 10.00 at Horfield. Good Friday worship.

Sun 17 April. 10.30. Easter Worship led by Rev David Hardy with Holy Communion.

#### **Shirehampton**

Thu 14 April. 3pm. Holy Communion for Maundy Thursday led by Rev Patrick Stonehewer.

Fri 15 April. 11.00 at Shirehampton Baptist Church. Good Friday worship.

Sun 17 April. 11.00. Easter Worship. Rev Patrick Stonehewer with Holy Communion.

#### **Pilning**

Mon 12 April. 7.30pm. Music for Holy Week

Sun 17 April. 10.30. Easter Worship led by Rev Paul van Rossum with Holy Communion.