



The Methodist Church

Bishopston, Horfield, Shirehampton Methodist Churches & 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.

Sunday 15 October 2023

A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z.

When I was a child attending Sunday School in Wales, one of the things we did was learn an alphabet of verses.

Many of those verses are still imprinted on my memory.

A soft answer turneth away wrath.

Bare ye one anothers burdens and so fulfil the Law of Christ.

Children obey your parents in the law for this is right.

Do to others what you would have them do to you.

Encourage one another and build each other up.

For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind.

Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

No one can serve two masters. You cannot serve both God and money.

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

Pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances.

(be) Quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you. Matthew 6:33

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.

Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life.

We love him, because he first loved us.

eXamine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

Zeal for your house will consume me.

This is a good aid to memorising 26 Biblical verses. There is a wealth of good advice and guidance in these verses. Perhaps you could make up your own list of favourite verses using the same method?

I pray Lord Jesus Christ, my creator,

Please help me to recognize Your wisdom.

Help me to understand how to apply Your Word.

Give me understanding about myself and others.

Teach me how to live out Your principles. Amen.

WORSHIP DETAILS for 15 October.

Horfield at 10.00 conducted by D, Bainbridge. Justice Seeking.

Bishopston at 10.30 conducted by C. Sledge.

Shirehampton at 11.00 conducted by Rev. P. Luxton with Holy Communion.

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

OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS for 15 October and the week.

Sunday Worship. Radio 4 at 8.10. HARVEST FESTIVAL from St. Mary's ,Warwick.

Songs of Praise. BBC 1 at 12. 10. NATIONAL ADOPTION WEEK with Aled Jones and Fatima Whitbread.

Daily Service at 9.45. BBC Radio 4, Long Wave.

You will also find an online service of Morning Prayer to cover each day of the week, available from first thing each Monday at <https://westburyparkchurch.org.uk/worship-service>

Every Wednesday afternoon, 2.30-4.30pm Drop-in for cream tea and a chat at **Fulligrove House/Garden**. All welcome.

WORSHIP DETAILS for 22 October.

Horfield at 10.00 conducted by Rev. M. Briggs - Justice Seeking.

Bishopston at 10.30 conducted by A. Smith.

Shirehampton at 11.00. Local Arrangement - Coffee and conversation.

St. Peter's, Pilning at 10.00 conducted by Rev. M. Slocombe with Holy Communion.

Westbury on Trym Methodist. Church Circuit Service for Black History Month at 4 p.m.

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

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: Sandra Lloyd, Brian Lomas, Sheila Lomas, Hortence Lukaso, Pauline Lush, Lucy Manners, Josie Mather, Katherine Matthews and all carers of people within our church.

Horfield. Bible Study following the Justice Seeking Topic. Meetings start from Friday 13 October from 7.30 p.m. Books and Zoom details are obtainable from Lou or via - mail@horfieldmethodist.org.uk.

Circuit Meeting Report. Accompanying this issue of the notices is a report of the last Circuit Meeting.

The Bristol and South Gloucestershire Methodist Circuit invite members and friends of Horfield/Bishopston Methodist Church to join them for a Circuit Service and Celebration of Black History Month to be held at Westbury on Trym Methodist Church on Sunday 22nd October 2023 at 4pm. Come dressed in your own national dress and join us for a very relaxed service of celebration of the contributions of black peoples' cultures and foods to British society. Food from Africa, the Caribbean, Asia, the Middle East and the Americas will be served after the service. We would greatly appreciate if you could identify and encourage members of your church to contribute some of these food stuffs for our service. Black History Month recognises and celebrates the contributions which black people have made throughout history within the worlds of science and politics, education and the arts, sport and community building. It gives us an opportunity to spend time enjoying the creativity, beauty, challenging history, and uplifting journey of God's very good creation. Come join the celebration.

Horfield and Bishopston. Dates for your diary.

Eco Art Exhibition. 21 October.

Neighbourhood and Mission Meeting at 7.30p.m, 23 November on Zoom.

Christmas Fayre. 18 November. Christmas Journey. 4 December.

Church Anniversary service (with Jonathan Pye). 21 January 2024.

Regular Church Meetings. Little Fishes Toddler Group every Friday morning from 10 to 11.30.

Art Group. Every Friday afternoon from 2p.m.to 4p.m. everyone welcome.

Bishopston Coffee Morning. First Saturday of the month.

Messy Church. Second Saturday of the month.

House Groups, Eco Group and The Fundraising Group meet at varying times.

Horfield. Thank you to everyone who supported the Quiz and Fish and Chip Supper and the Brass Band Concert. The proceeds, (well over £300) will be used for financing Church expenses.

Horfield. GOOD NEWS. We are pleased to announce that following our application for a grant, the National Churches Trust have awarded us £2,000. This money will help with the costs involved with the tower removal and repairs to the roof. Thank you to the National Churches Trust!

St Peter's Hospice. On December 9, the Hospice is inviting you to an evening of remembrance and celebration with carols, music and refreshments. More details to follow.



Methodist News

Generate takes place this weekend at the NEC in Birmingham. The event aims to create an inclusive and diverse space for the prophetic voice of Methodist children and young people to emerge and be heard. It enables them to speak courageously, and listen to God and each other. Keep an eye on our social media for updates from the weekend!

As part of Black History Month, the Revd Novette Headley, Chair of the Birmingham Methodist District, shares this reflection on the legacy of the Windrush generation and its influence on the Methodist Church.

The Methodist News - info@methodist-news.org.uk

There is a new series called *Exploring Digital Lunchtime Learning* which will be starting on Wednesday 15 November 12:00-13:00pm where Fiona Fidgin and Ali Johnson will be unravelling the mystery of AI. You can register for your place [here](#)

Lectionary Readings:

Isaiah 25 : 1-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4 : 1-9; Matthew 22 : 1-14.

Actions have consequences.

Matthew's telling of the great banquet story contains some verses that are difficult to reconcile with a God of love.

"Many are invited, but only a few are chosen". (Matthew 22, v14).

"Some of the invited guests grabbed the king's servants, then beat them up and killed them. This made the king so furious that he sent an army to kill the murderers and burn down their city". (Matthew 22, v 6b,7).

If Jesus wants us to think of the king in the story as God, why does he make the king so fearsome?

I think the key to understanding this story is contained in the verse just before this story starts.

In Matthew 21, v45, we read, *"When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard these stories they knew that Jesus was talking about them".*

In the story of the great banquet, God is inviting everyone to enter the kingdom, but some ignore the invitation, others are actively hostile to God's messengers, and some attend with the wrong attitude (wrong clothes).

Their negative response to God's invitation has consequences, personally and for their community. It is easy for us today to read the destruction of Jerusalem by the Roman army in AD70 as fulfilment of verse 7 in the story.

In contrast to this, the prophet Isaiah offers up a prayer of thanksgiving to God, who shelters the poor in times of trouble and invites all nations to feast with him. *A God who will "destroy the power of death and wipe away all tears". (Isaiah 25, v8).*

God will not let the 'bullies of this world' win, God will triumph over all forms of evil.

Paul is encouraging the Philippians to live out their lives in the light of Jesus' teaching.

"Don't worry about anything, but pray about everything with thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God". "Always be glad because of the Lord". (Philippians 4, v4).

"Then because you belong to Christ Jesus, God will bless you with peace that no one can completely understand. And this peace will control the way you think and feel". (Philippians 4, v7).

So, our actions, both bad and good, have consequences. When it comes to deciding which course of action to take, we have a choice, it is always ours to make. God has granted us free will.

God has also issued us an open invitation to join him at the kingdom banquet.

N.B. The dress code is a heart motivated by love.

Bible quotations are taken from the Contemporary English Version.

From the Ipswich Circuit.