

# 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](http://www.bsgc.org.uk)) a family of churches serving communities across the local area.

Sunday 22 October 2023.



## Evangelism

What does Evangelism mean to you? I think it's fair to say that a lot of people would say Evangelism isn't for them. It's the one aspect of our life as a Christian that we can find very challenging. The thought of knocking on doors or standing on a street corner would make a lot of us run for cover or find lots of reasons to not do this. But what if Evangelism isn't about standing on a street corner or knocking on a door? Maybe we should think about it differently.

I recently attended the circuit Evangelism, Growth & Discipleship Day. I didn't really know what to expect, but it turned out to be thought provoking, challenging and fun.

We focused on A Methodist Way of Life and in response to God's gift of love, the twelve things that we do individually and as a church to help us worship God, serve others, be evangelistic and learn care together. Pray, Worship, Notice, Care, Learn, Open, Serve, Flourish, Challenge, Tell, Live, Share.

You will in the coming months hear much more on this, but the thing that struck me was that we each evangelise in different ways, you may even be doing it without realising. Our actions often speak louder than our words.

When you are listening, giving practical help, reaching out to someone or showing them that you care, you are touching them. Being Christ like, being your authentic self, can draw people to Jesus. Sharing, Serving, Practising Hospitality can all be ways in which our actions speak for us.

So if talking about your faith is hard or sharing your faith makes you uncomfortable, that's Ok. There are other ways in which you can do this. We all have different strengths and qualities and we can all learn and grow.

Lou Carias

MARK 16:15. And he said to them, *"Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation"*.

### 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.

### OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS for 22 October and the week

**Sunday Worship**. Radio 4 at 8.10. FAITH MUSEUM at Auckland Castle.

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

**Songs of Praise**. BBC1 at 1.15. Sean Fletcher marks Black History Month.

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.

**ALFA Christian Community.** *Coffee Morning*, this month will be on Saturday 21 October, 10am-12noon, at Fulligrove House/Garden, Woodwell Road, BS11 9UG.

**WORSHIP DETAILS for 29 October.**

**Horfield** at 10.00 conducted by R.Shaw - Justice Seeking.

**Bishopston** at 10.30 conducted by L. Parker.

**Shirehampton** at 11.00 conducted by Rev. M. Slocombe with Holy Communion.

**St Peter's, Pilning** at 10.00 conducted by D. North.

**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; Amanda MaGlade, Jennifer McLaren, Efua Mensah, Oswald Mensah, Samuel Mensah, Veronica Mensah, Amanda Nancy Murombedzi.

**Horfield.** Eco Arts Exhibition on Saturday, 21 October, 2023 from 10 o'clock to 12 noon. Please come and support.

The photograph shows Kim with the colourful blanket she has knitted at church. It is made up with 50 squares.



**ECO News.** The Which? consumer group publishes a monthly free **Sustainability Newsletter**. It includes tips to make positive changes for the planet and your pocket. It is very informative and useful.

<https://signup.which.co.uk/wlp-sustainability-newsletter>

**Bristol Churches Night Shelter.** Hello! It's been a wonderful first few weeks at the Bristol Churches Shelter. All 9 guests arrived on Monday 2nd October and since then have been settling in well. God has been so kind in how He has already been answering prayers and so clearly providing for each of the guests. Please keep the clients, volunteers and staff in your prayers.

**Methodist News.** Fun was to be had at 3Generate 2023 which took place at the NEC, Birmingham. Up to 1,300 young people between the ages 4-20 all came together in celebration, worship and fellowship along with 400 adults who accompanied them. Not forgetting the 220 amazing volunteers who also helped out.

As the violence in **Israel and Palestine** continues, we may feel helpless in the face of such death and suffering. The Methodist Church has published resources, prayers, background information and reflections to help us pray for all those affected and for peace in the region.

[Find the resources here](#)

**Horfield and Bishopston.** Dates for your diary.

Eco Art Exhibition. 21 October

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

Christmas Fayre. 18 November.

Christmas Journey. 4 December.

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

**Regular Church Meetings at Horfield and Bishopston.**

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.

## Reflection on the Lectionary Sunday 22nd October (Ordinary 29)

Psalms 99; Exodus 33 : 12 - 23; 1 Thessalonians 1 : 1 - 10; Matthew 22 : 15 - 22

The reflection for this week is by Local Preacher, David Carter (Watley's End).

The four passages for reflection this week are all interesting, but I intend to concentrate on the two New Testament passages.

Matthew 22 : 15 - 22 gives an account of a trick question, designed to trap Jesus. It is followed by a sequel, which strangely does not feature in the lectionary.

The Pharisees hope to trick Jesus into saying something which will either discredit him with his fellow Jews or will bring him to the notice of the ruthless Romans as a potential revolutionary. If he says paying tax to the Emperor is lawful, it will discredit him with his own people, who pay the hated foreign taxes because they have to bow to superior force and will see Jesus as betraying any hopes that he might be a liberator. If by contrast he denies the lawfulness of paying tax to the emperor, then it will not be difficult to make him a marked man in Roman eyes.

Jesus cleverly gets round the question, leaving people to puzzle out his answer and posing a question that we need to answer in the very changed conditions of today. Jews and all other subject races had no alternative but to pay the hated conquerors or face consequences far more serious than a modern tax letter from the Inland Revenue. We live in a country where we have to pay tax but through the democratic process, we can have a say on what the Government should ask us to pay and on what it is spent. This gives us a responsibility to speak up and to allow for what the Bible quite clearly teaches about the responsibility of those in power to see that the power they exercise and the revenue they extract from us are used for purposes of which God can approve as well as the community. We know that God's will is justice for those who lose out in this life. It is his preference for the poor and that should determine Christian attitudes to all aspects of taxation and expenditure by the powers that be. We are in a more favourable, but also more responsibly demanding situation, than were the Jews within the Roman Empire.

At the beginning of 1 Thessalonians : 1 - 10 Paul is writing to one of the first churches he founded and his tone is more benign than it was in some of his other letters. By and large, he is very encouraging and tells the Thessalonians that they are respected for their welcome to Paul's mission and their progress in growing in faith and Christian witness since. It represents Paul doing something all Christian ministers should do, encouraging their people in everything good that they are able to do in Christ's name.

*Prayer. Father, as we seek to live the Christian life in our churches and local communities give us grace to see what your will is for us in each situation. May your Holy Spirit lead us into all the truth that you wish us to receive in guidance. Amen*

Our thanks to David for this reflection.