



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 29 October 2023

Music



Music is an integral part of our lives. We hear it as background to films and television programmes, many supermarkets play background music as we shop and we sing carefully chosen hymns, which augment the message of the service at church. Charles Wesley knew how important music was when he adapted folk tunes to his lyrics. We usually have a favourite piece of music or preferred composer. Each country has a National Anthem which is used to stir up spectators at sporting events or at auspicious occasions. Music entertains us in our leisure hours and helped workers such as fishermen, who sang shanties to help with the heavy hauling of sails, and miners often sung underground to help with hewing the coal seams. Black slaves sung spirituals while they worked in the fields.

Music creates social cohesion, it speaks to all when words can fail, and wherever you go in the world, it is understood. Music is a universal gift and its power to connect people is without question. It is an art form with human interaction at its centre.

Music stimulates the brain which in turn helps with pain relief, reducing stress and memory. A study from Harvard has shown that relaxing music may lower blood pressure and heart rate after physical exertion. It can also improve mood and reduce anxiety and through bringing people together, can be an antidote to loneliness and social isolation. Music can have an effect on people with dementia, allowing them to communicate with loved ones when all other communication is lost.

In a digital age where many services and products are instantly available with the click of a button, learning a musical instrument provides a platform for people to achieve through discipline and perseverance. There are many skills required in order to learn how to play a musical instrument: technique; reading music; expression; listening; and as you continue to perfect these skills, you build resilience.

It provides an opportunity for people from all social and cultural backgrounds to express themselves. The joy you can get from music will help lift your spirits and those of everybody else involved. Whether it's learning your favourite tune, performing on stage or a good old singalong with your mates, music brings fun! Both the Old and New Testaments address music and strongly support its use in worship. The extensive anthology of actual songs found in the Old Testament indicates the importance and value God places on creative musical expression. Music's use in worship in the church today is valuable and can honour God in a special way. Music is a communication tool. There are no New Testament instructions on the type of instruments to be used (or not used), and no particular "style" of music is recommended or forbidden. The simple command is to sing "to God with gratitude in your hearts" ([Colossians 3:16](#)).

God our Father, we give you thanks for the talents you have given to mankind, and for the blessings received through those who use their gifts well. Amen

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. Harvest and Church Council conducted by Rev. M. Slocombe. St Peter's, Pilning at 10.00 conducted by D. North

OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS for 29 October and the week. Sunday Worship. Radio 4 at 8.10. SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER FOR ALL SAINTS from St Gabriel's Church, Pimlico.

Daily Service at 9.45. BBC Radio 4, Long Wave. Songs of Praise.

Sunday BBC1 at 1.15. EDINBURGH'S RELIGIOUS TREASURES .

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 5 November

Horfield at 10.00 conducted by Rev. M. Slocombe with Holy Communion.

Bishopston at 10.30 conducted by A. Biddlestone.

Shirehampton at 11.00 conducted by A. Smith,

St Peter's, Pilning at 10.00 conducted by Rev. P. Rossan with Holy Communion.

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; Annamma Nagilla, William Nagilla, Carol Nelson, Linnette Nelson, Indira Norton, Richard Norton, George Otoo, Rachel Owen.

Horfield, A big thank you to all who came along to the art exhibition and coffee morning on Saturday.

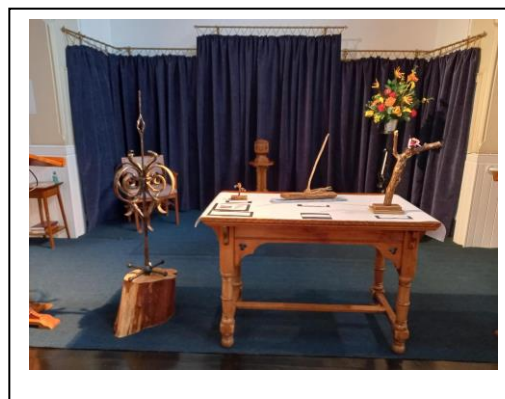
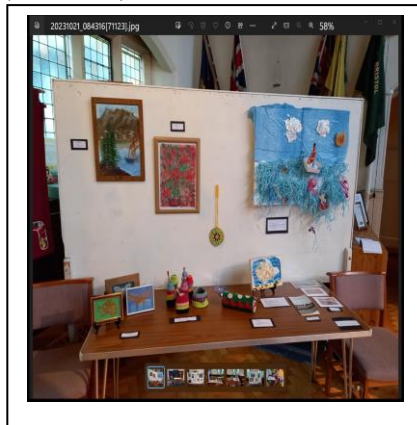
Everyone seemed to enjoy it and we raised £200 on the morning!

The artwork will remain on display for a few weeks at church so if you missed out, just come along on Sunday.

For those unable to get to church here are some pictures of the displays.

Shirehampton. Harvest Festival and Church Council- 29 October.

The New Room. We are holding a Volunteer Information Day on Wednesday 1st November - a drop-in day for those interested in volunteering to meet the team and find out more. Please come to learn more and hopefully join this wonderful team.



Methodist News. The President and Vice President have released a statement on the situation in Israel and Palestine. They have written to the UK Government to ask them to work for peace in the region and are asking you to join them in praying for those affected by the attacks. The Methodist Church has published resources, prayers, background and reflections.

Link [here](#).

Around 270 people have come together for the launch of the Let's End Poverty movement. It was hosted online by Hannah Freemont-Brown, the Anti-Poverty Movement Methodist Coordinator, and Ali McMillan, a Deacon at Central Hall Westminster. Find out more about what the movement is planning and how you can get involved. Link [here](#).



Horfield and Bishopston. Dates for your diary
Neighbourhood and Mission Meeting. 23 November at 7.30p.m on Zoom.
Christmas Fayre. 18 November.
Christmas Gift Day 19 November- in aid of Bristol Social Services' Christmas Gifts for children.
Christmas Journey. 4 December. Also during the week
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 29th October (Ordinary 30)

Psalm 90 : 1 - 6, 13 - 17; Deuteronomy 34 : 1 - 12; 1 Thessalonians 2 : 1 - 8; Matthew 22 : 34 - 46 The reflection for this week is by Local Preacher, Jenny Clark (Yate).

I don't know how many of you enjoy quizzes but TV is full of them and the testing of knowledge is no longer reserved for a school examination, it is a leisure activity! We are told that using our memory is a great way to keep it active so when we look at today's lesson, like the many examples already presented in Matthew's gospel, we have the kind of question that was carefully fashioned not to just test Jesus' knowledge but to catch Him out!

Jesus is able to give very solid answers to the Pharisees and Sadducees because he is a scholar but the actions that support these words are the real challenge which Jesus takes forward with the parables and the teaching He gives. It is active and practical, not weak or placatory! Jesus then poses His question to the Pharisees about the lineage of David and while the answer they give is accurate, it is not adequate! Jesus opens up the wisdom of love in kindness and in suffering.

My mother-in-law was lovely but she often asked difficult questions like, "what do you keep in the back room as the door is always closed?" or "Shall I help you put those things away in the cupboard?" I am sure she knew that I threw things in a vacant room to appear tidy and all my cupboards were full of things I needed to discard! Unfortunately keeping things out of regular sight means that they clog up the smooth running of important things and I am now still working through countless items I should have processed.

We are confronted by a world where politics and ideologies are tearing humanity apart. Jesus came to bring the understanding that love is hard and needs to be diverse and encompassing, but we do have a solution to bring peace and harmony.

As I write this reflection, Israel and Gaza are in conflict fuelled by a group who has a very different agenda. There is still a huge need to confront the most difficult issues and questions in a way that will bring lasting solutions. Jesus knew that solutions were possible and not built on power and fear but on love and forgiveness, one person at a time. War zones abound with sacrifice, care and love, so should a world at peace.

The hard questions Jesus asked the Pharisees were about the roots of their faith. David was a warrior but he knew the demands of a loving God and certainly fell short on occasions. Salvation shows that it is within the capabilities of us all. How many of us like to hide our troublesome thoughts and anxieties, our wobbles of faith, our complacency or our lack of focus and ability?

No one asked any more questions after Jesus challenged the Pharisees as they knew the power of God demands absolute obedience. Jesus showed impossibilities could become possibilities with absolute faith through miracle and resurrection. Do we still look in the right place for our strength and understanding?

Prayer

Lord, help us not to turn away from the uncomfortable truths of life but recognise that there is direction and comfort in bringing ourselves to you in prayer, where all of our unasked questions will be answered and challenges issued! Amen

Our thanks to Jenny for this reflection.