



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 14 January 2024



The Green Grass Under The Snow

Poet: Annie A. Preston

The work of the sun is slow,
But as sure as heaven, we know;
So we'll not forget,
When the skies are wet,
There's green grass under the snow.

When the winds of winter blow,
Wailing like voices of woe,
There are April showers,
And buds and flowers,
And green grass under the snow.

We find that it's ever so
In this life's uneven flow;
We've only to wait,
In the face of fate,
For the green grass under the snow.

The symbolism of winter is more than just the cold season that follows autumn. Winter as a time symbolizes deeper spiritual meanings, the search for rest and reflection amid the winter season. Winter can also encourage us to slow down and appreciate the calm. As the world gets quieter, it's a good time to think and rest, like the trees waiting for spring. Winter reminds us to take a break and prepare for what comes next.

During this time, trees have no leaves, nothing grows, and no flowers are in sight. In the animal kingdom, many animals hibernate, while others hunker down, feeding on what they collect during autumn. In a nutshell, nature is dormant, but it's more like a break before rebirth that will happen in spring.

Dear Father, as the winter season enfolds us in its icy embrace, we humbly turn to you in prayer, seeking the calm and composure that only you can bestow. Please endue us with the courage to accept the things that are beyond our control, the fortitude to transform the things that we can, and the sagacity to distinguish between the two. Amen

WORSHIP DETAILS for 14 January

Horfield at 10.00 conducted by Rev. P. Luxon. All Aged Worship.

Bishopston at 10.30 conducted by Rev. M. Slocombe with Covenant Service.

Shirehampton at 11.00. Local Arrangement with All Aged Worship.

St Peter's, Pilning at 10.00 conducted by C. James.

- Please note that Zoom details have changed this week - see last page.

OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS for 14 January and the week.

Sunday Worship. Radio 4 at 8.10. CALLING from St. Olave's Church, York.

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

Songs of Praise. Sunday BBC1 at 1.15. GOSPEL CHOIR OF THE YEAR.

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>

Cotswold Christian Community. Songs of Praise Café, 14 January, 4.45-5.30pm at the Community Centre, Dursley Road, BS11 9XH. All welcome.

ALFA Christian Community. *Quiet Garden Morning*, Monday 15 January, 10.30am-12.30pm, at Fulligrove House, Woodwell Road, BS11 9UG. The theme is "My sheep hear my voice". All welcome.

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

Coffee Morning, on Saturday 20 January, 10am-12noon, at Fulligrove House. All welcome.

WORSHIP DETAILS for 21 January

Horfield at 10.00 conducted by Rev J Pye - Church Anniversary followed by "bring and share" lunch.

Bishopston at 10.30 conducted at Horfield.

Shirehampton at 11.00 conducted by Rev. M. Slocombe. Covenant Service.

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

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: David Chandler, Mary Chandler, Nicholas Chivers, Jenny Cornell, Keith Cornell, Linda Cox.

Church Anniversary Service, Sunday 21 January at Horfield.

Hopefully as many of you as possible will be able to join us for this service. To mark the occasion we will be having a 'bring and share' lunch after the service. So if you are able bring something along, it can be savoury, sweet, nibbles - anything you like. Hopefully we'll have something for everyone 😊

If you do have any questions ask Lou, Donna or Jenny.

Horfield Messy Church on Saturday 13 January.

Carrying on...

WorSHIP

FellowSHIP

StewardSHIP

We will be making ships - discipleship.

Putting the Orang-utan back in the jungle - stewardship.

Stained glass windows - Worship.

Could you be in the secret police? - Fellowship.

In our celebration we will be dramatising the story of the Wooga-Wooga people and their ships...

We will finish by sharing a lunch of hotdogs ships!!

Safeguarding Training. All volunteers who have an active role in the life of the church must complete the Methodist Safeguarding Foundation Training every four years. If you work with children or vulnerable adults or have a position of responsibility, it is mandatory that you take this course. The Methodist Church insists that all volunteers must be trained. The next Foundation Course will be at Horfield on 27 January, at 2 p.m. If you have not attended a course for 4 years you must attend this course. Please give your names to your safeguarding officer as soon as possible. Safeguarding officers are Pauline, Jo, and Eurfron. If you need to apply for the on-line Advanced Training, which also has to be revised after 4 years, please notify Eurfron so that she can enrol you on the Course.

Horfield and Bishopston Food Safety. If you are involved in preparing food in the church kitchens, please make sure that you record the meal in the diary which can be found in the container on the wall. The inspectors will look at this when they visit. All clothes should be taken home and washed after each use and returned as soon as possible. There seem to be some red and white drying clothes missing. If you have these at home and forgotten about them please return them to the appropriate drawer.

The Bristol Methodist Centre. From Epiphany, 6 January, to Candlemas, 2 February, Bristol Methodist Centre together with our colleagues at inHope invite you to join in a month of prayer seeking to bring light to homeless, marginalised and vulnerable people in Bristol. We have put together a prayer diary with a short prayer for each day. Please use this as you are able at home, in fellowship groups and in worship settings. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this. [Prayer Diary \(Ctrl & Click\)](#)

Domestic violence and rape. The Methodist Church Domestic Abuse Planning Group continues to work hard to try and ensure that this issue is highlighted and that those who victims and survivors confide in, respond sensitively and appropriately. We have many plans in the pipeline and I will update you on these at a later date. Please do get in touch if you have any thoughts or ideas to help us in our plight. **Karen Allen**, Safeguarding Casework Supervisor and Domestic Abuse Lead.

Good Practice. A leaflet outlining good practice and systems should be given to everyone who works with children, young people and vulnerable adults. This leaflet should be reviewed annually. *(see part d) under good practice guidelines)* The Methodist Church have now produced two new leaflets adapted from the Safer Working Practice in the wider policy for churches to use.

The Horfield and Lockleaze Community Awards is open for nominations!

Do you know someone who deserves recognition for their contributions? (Maybe that someone is you or your community group!)

Do you run, or know someone that runs an amazing community group?

Maybe someone you know attends or runs a young people's group that is great?

Do you know someone who is an excellent volunteer?

Or maybe someone who has made some great achievements?

All of these, and more, are the sorts of things you can nominate people for with the Horfield and Lockleaze Community Awards. (See attached).

Nominating just takes a few moments and could mean the world to those nominated and the winners too!

Find out more information and show your appreciation and thanks by nominating

here: <https://www.lockleazeandhorfield.co.uk/>

If you want paper copies, swing by The Hub and we can supply you with them.

Night Shelter and SWEP. Some people have been helping with hosting and cooking for those who have been sheltering during the poor weather this winter. Their support is greatly appreciated. There is a way that we, who cannot give physical help can support by contributing to the cost of food. If you can contribute please contact Jenny, Donna, or a steward. Thank you.

Dates for your Diary

Horfield Property and Finance-Wednesday 17 January at 7.30.

Eco Group Meeting on Zoom-Thursday, 18 January.

Foundation Safeguarding Training- Saturday, 27 January at 2 p.m.

Horfield & Bishopston Church Council-Wednesday, 7 February, at 7.30 p.m.

Lectionary Readings:

1 Samuel 3, v1-20.

The Lord speaks to Samuel.

Psalms 139, v 1-6, 13-18.

The Lord is always near.

1 Corinthians, 6 v12-20.

Honour God with your body.

John 1, v 43-51.

Jesus chooses Philip and Nathanael.

'The Nearness of You'

A line from a popular ballad or a statement about God?

All the lectionary readings this week suggest that our God is not a distant and disinterested 'god' such as those worshipped by non-Jewish people in Biblical times. Throughout the Old Testament period, God speaks to Patriarchs, Judges, Prophets, Priests, Kings and ordinary mortals; some directly, some via angels, and some via his prophets. God enters into covenants with his people, pledging his love to us. A love that does not negate our free will. A love that invites us to work with him in bringing justice and mercy to bring about the healing of relationships between individuals, and within families, communities and nations. (*What does God require of us? Micah 6 v8*).

God calls Samuel by name and Samuel responds by asking "*What do you want me to do? (v10)*". How would you respond if God called you by name?

The Psalmist reflects on God who knows each of us intimately.

"You have looked deep into my heart Lord and you know all about me." (v1)

"You notice everything I do and everywhere I go." (v3)

"Nothing about me is hidden from you!" (v15)

"And when I awake I will find you nearby." (v18b)

What difference does the knowledge that God knows all about you make to your day-to-day life?

Paul, talks again of God's spirit dwelling within us. "*You know that your body is a temple where the Holy Spirit lives. The Spirit is in you and is a gift from God" (v19)*.

Paul argues that if we acknowledge that God is so very close to us, how can we act as if God doesn't exist?

John recalls Jesus choosing his first disciples, Andrew and Simon Peter, then Philip and Nathanael.

'Philip then found Nathanael and said "*We have found the one that Moses and the Prophets wrote about. He is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth.*" Nathanael asked "*Can anything good come from Nazareth?*" Philip answered "*Come and see.*" (v 45,46).

How would you react if your friend said that he/she had found the Messiah?

Would you accept the invitation to "*Come and see,*" out of love for your friend, for God, or just plain curiosity?

I doubt whether God minds too much, He simply delights in the nearness of you!

Bible quotations are taken from the Contemporary English Version.

From the Ipswich Circuit of the Methodist Church.

NEW ZOOM LINK WITH EFFECT FROM 14TH JANUARY.

<https://zoom.us/j/93799088079?pwd=Y1ZqeHJVZ2I2UXoxU2o5dUgySUpEZz09>

To dial in please use 0203 901 7895 or 0208 080 6591 and follow the prompts for Meeting and Passcode.

Meeting ID: 937 9908 8079 Passcode: 560542