



The Methodist Church

Horfield and Bishopston Methodist Churches

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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 17 November 2024

WORSHIP DETAILS for 17 November

Horfield at 10:00 conducted by C Stones
at 10:30 conducted by L Parker

Bishopston

Lectionary readings. 1 Samuel 1: 4-20, Hebrews 10: 11-14, (15-18), 19-25, Mark 13: 1-8

OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS for 17 November and the week

You will find an online service of Morning Prayer, from first thing each Monday at www.westburyparkchurch.org.uk/worship-service. This is renewed each week.

Details of broadcast worship from around the country are available through your preferred TV and radio guide.

WORSHIP DETAILS for 24 November

Horfield at 10:00. Local Arrangement

Bishopston at 10:30 conducted by Revd M Slocombe with Holy Communion

Please send items for the Notices to secretary@horfieldmethodist.org.uk by Tuesday.
(Always allow at least 11 days before the date of the event.)

GENERAL NOTICES

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: Maureen Hyde, Philippa Hyde, Jane Kimber, Winnie Leaning, Julie Leeming, Arthur and Chantal Lewis, Joan Lewis, Sandra Lloyd.

Church Christmas Fayre - Saturday 23rd November

How to help:

- in the team to set up on Friday (22nd) afternoon from 4.00 pm and clearing up at the end on Saturday after 12.30 pm
- on the stalls and in the cafe (including washing up rota!)

(Please let Cherry, Donna, Shirin or Helen know if you are happy to help.)

Bring along:

- items in good condition to sell on the following stalls: white elephant, books (fiction), toys, handmade, and Christmas.
(Please bring to church from 16th November.)
- homemade cakes/biscuits/preserves to sell on the cake stall (bring on 22nd and 23rd)

Finally, sign up to donate items for the hamper raffle or see Helen if you would prefer to give her a monetary donation to go towards buying hamper items.

Thank you

Dates for your Diary

- Christmas Favre - Horfield 23 November from 10.30 to 12.30
- Messy Church - Horfield 14 December from 11.00 to 1.00

A four-week Advent study of the men in the Christmas story

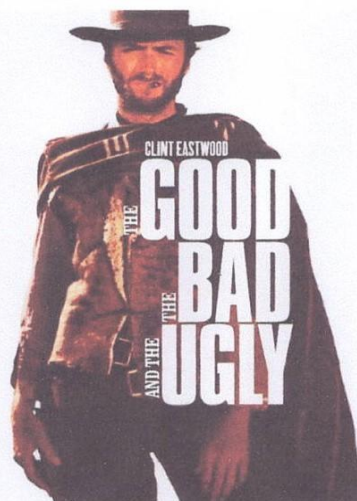
**Shirehampton
Methodist Church
Fridays at 2.30pm**

Friday 15th November
Herod

Friday 22nd November
The Wise Men

Friday 29th November
Joseph

Friday 13th December
The Shepherds



**Horfield
Methodist Church
Wednesdays at
7pm**

Tue 5th November
Herod

Wed 20th November
The Wise Men

Wed 27th November
Joseph

Wed 11th December
The Shepherds

All are Welcome

(Sorry, Clint Eastwood can't make it!!)

Also see the following two pages for the meetings next week

Let's keep the Wise Men in Christmas

King James Version & NRSV refer to Wise Men; NIV refers to Magi; The Message refers to a band of scholars – they were not Kings!!!!

Where can Wisdom be found?

In the Old Testament, wisdom can mean a skilled worker, someone who knows what they are doing or rulers who govern well. Proverbs 2: 9-11 describes wisdom as a life of prayer and godly ethical conduct. “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (Proverbs 9: 10)

Read: Matthew 2: 1-12

The Visit of the Wise Men

2In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ “And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.” ’

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Some Background

- Secular wisdom circled the Mediterranean – engineering in Egypt; philosophy in Greece; astronomy in Mesopotamia, Babylonia and Persia
- A strong religious philosophy grew up in Greece and Persia called Gnosticism, who's followers believed in two Gods, the god of all physical matter and the god of all spiritual matter. The Wise Men may have been gnostics.
- We know little about them. They were not Jews but foreigners, possibly from Persia who paid particular attention to the movement of the stars. □ We don't know how many wise men there were, but tradition says three, as they brought three gifts. By the 4th Century, they were named as Gaspar, Balthazar and Melchior.
- The symbolism of the gifts is important; Gold for a King, Frankincense used in prayer, Myrrh used as an embalming spice.
- The Wise Men came to represent the entire Gentile world; Gaspar an old man, Balthazar a man of middle age, Melchior a young man; Europe, Asia and Africa (Balthazar portrayed as having black skin).
- At Epiphany, the Western church celebrates the visitation of the wise men to the manger.
- Judaism always struggled with being identified as a “Holy People” with their strict laws, but believing in a God for all people on the other hand.

- The Wise Men did not know the Jewish scriptures, and therefore knew nothing of the prophecies about a new king being born in Bethlehem, and so they logically arrived to ask Herod about this new king.
- They must have been men of wealth and prominence and would have travelled with a large entourage. The gifts were extravagant.
- When we give our hearts to Jesus Christ, we go home “by another way”

Let's keep the Wise Men in Christmas as they represent the people of the entire world. No one is so far away that they cannot travel to Bethlehem, even the wealthiest and most powerful among us.

Questions to Consider and Discuss

1. Who do you know (or know of) who is wise, wealthy or powerful and yet also truly humble? What is it that characterises their humility? Why do you feel that they exhibit humility?
2. What does humility look like? Do you show it yourself?
3. What great lengths are you willing to go to, what great distances are you willing to travel, or what great gifts are you willing to give to Jesus right now?
4. Do you make room for outsiders, help them find the Saviour and include them in the life of the Church?
5. Are you walking a different way from the ways of the world?

Let us pray

O Lord of all wisdom and God of the wise and the foolish, we praise you, for you are the fountain of all knowledge and the source of all truth. Save us from stupid folly, but also save us from thinking that we know all the answers. Cause us to be humble. Help us to walk in his way. Through him who is the way, the truth and the life. Amen

Next week – Joseph

