



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 24 November 2024

WORSHIP DETAILS for 24 November

Horfield at 10:00. Helen Harrison from Bristol Street Pastors (*see below*)

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

Lectionary readings. 2 Samuel 23: 1-7, Psalm 132: 1-12, (13-18), Revelation 1: 4b-8, John 18: 33-37

Bristol Street Pastors - we hope as many of you as possible can join us this Sunday, when we are welcoming Helen Harrison from Bristol Street Pastors. This is a great opportunity to hear about their important work listening, caring and helping. Check them out at www.streetpastors.org

OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS for 24 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 01 December

Horfield at 10:00 conducted by C Jones

Bishopston at 10:30 conducted by K Luxon

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: Brian and Sheila Lomas, Pauline Lush, Lucy Manners, Josie Mather, Katherine Matthews, Jennifer McLaren, Efua, Oswald, Samuel and Veronica Mensah.

Dates for your Diary

- 14 December Messy Church - Horfield, from 11.00 to 1.00
- 21 December - Carol Singing on Gloucester Road, Bishopston from 11.00
- 22 December - Carol Service at Horfield at 6.00pm and Bishopston at 10.30am **2025**
- 7 January - Horfield and Bishopston Worship Group, 7.30, Horfield □ 29 January - Leadership team, 7:30, Horfield

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



CLINT EASTWOOD
THE GOOD
AND THE BAD
AND THE UGLY

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 Joseph in Christmas

What sort of man do you think Joseph was? What did Jesus learn from him?

Read: Matthew 1: 18-25, 2: 13-15, 19-23

The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and

said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'²²All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.'²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Escape to Egypt

13 Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.'¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

The Return from Egypt

19 When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.'²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

Some Background

- Joseph was a quiet man. Not a single word is recorded in scripture as having come from his mouth. But his role was indispensable. He didn't say anything to us but must have said much to Jesus. How did he influence Jesus' thinking? □ A man of integrity.
- He listens and acts immediately – obedience. Mary and Joseph obeyed all the civil rules and religious customs without question. He must have been a man of great faith.
- Always in the background.
- Do not hear about Joseph again after Jesus was lost and found in the Temple. What happened to Joseph? Did he die when Jesus was a teenager? Was he much older than Mary or did he die very young? We don't know! Did Jesus have to support his family until his siblings were old enough to do so?
- Nazareth was a small village of about 150 people. Everybody knew everybody.
- Was Joseph a carpenter? The Hebrew work tekton, literally means artisan, builder, stone mason. King James Bible described him as a carpenter. A meticulous tradesman who could mend things and build things.
- Four miles from Nazareth was the city of Zippori. It was the capital of Galilee, where Herod served as district governor. After Herod died, it was rebuilt. Did Joseph and Jesus go there to work? What did Jesus experience in this large city full of gentiles?
- How far did Joseph influence Jesus' understanding of God as Father? **What does Joseph represent in the Christmas story?**

Questions to Consider and Discuss

1. What kind of man do you think Joseph was? What traits do you see in him that you admire?
2. Did you have a Father-figure in your life as a child? What did they do or say that influenced you?
3. Do you have children in your life? Do you teach them about faith, or guide them in a positive way?
4. Churches often include people who are educated, socially prominent or middle class, but can struggle to welcome those who are poor, lacking education or are low-income workers. How can the church reach out and include more people?

Let us pray

O God, thank you for Joseph, for his willingness to listen to you and to respond promptly. Thank you for his simple virtues and for his steadfast loyalty.

Lord, help us to be people of integrity, at home, in school, at work, in politics. Help us teach our children the deep spiritual truths as they encounter a complex, secular world. Make us open to all people, including those who are different from us. In Jesus' name. Amen

Next week – The Shepherds