



The Methodist Church

Bishopston, Easter Compton, Horfield, Shirehampton Methodist Churches and 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 over forty churches serving communities across the local area.
These notices are also posted on <http://www.horfieldmethodist.org.uk>

"The best of all - God is with us." (John Wesley).

Sunday, 24th January 2021

'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing' (John 15:5)

Our online worship on 31 January will take the form of a Covenant Service, something which is at the heart of Methodists' devotion, discipleship and dedication in working for social justice. In the service the Church joyfully celebrates God's gracious offer to the people of Israel that "I will be their God and they shall be my people," (Jeremiah 32:38) extended to us all through Jesus Christ, the supreme example of living in such a relationship with God. That relationship is focused on the life of the community of God's people, but is equally concerned with us as individuals.

What God offers is a loving relationship, freely and graciously made possible, which we can accept and seek to sustain. So it's not so much about getting into a loving relationship with God, as about staying in the one that God has already offered. In response to that generous and gracious offer, it is also a challenge. If God is committed to us, can we accept that and commit ourselves in return?

The Covenant Service usually concludes by gathering around God's table in Holy Communion. As we will be gathering online, we're going to do things a little differently and share in a Love Feast. More about that next week, but in summary it is a Christian fellowship meal recalling those Jesus shared with his disciples during his ministry. It expresses the sharing, belonging and fellowship enjoyed within the body of Christ, echoing many of the themes of Covenant Service itself. Do be ready with your own food and drink on the day, a cup of tea and a biscuit will be fine! The Zoom link for the service, including how to dial in, is included below.

With prayers for you all Rev Patrick

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Bishopston, Easter Compton, Horfield and Shirehampton

During the current period of lockdown our services will be held on Zoom only. Please see the last page of these notices for details of Zoom, including how to dial in. If you would like support with accessing these services online or via the phone, please make contact with a Church Steward or Rev Patrick.

Sunday 24th January at 10.00. Joint Zoom service only, led by Rev Patrick Stonehewer.

Sunday 31st January at 10.00. Covenant service on Zoom, led by Rev Patrick Stonehewer.

St Peter's Pilning, joint with Almondsbury Parish Church, Sunday 24th January at 10.00 via Facebook live www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Church-Almondsbury-730715950415825/

Evening prayer, 4.00pm each Monday afternoon, led by members of St Peter's Pilning, using Zoom (link below).

Video reflections. Our online worship videos will continue to be available via church websites. Thank you to those who have contributed to these.

All Age devotions. Free materials for everyone available via www.rootsontheweb.com.

Afterzoom tea - each Sunday at 3.30, to share news informally and see friends. Please see the last page of this news sheet for the details for Zoom, including how to phone in.

OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS

Sunday 24th January - BBC2 at 1.15. Marking 'Songs of Praise' 60th Year. Aled Jones recalls special moments with fellow presenter, Pam Rhodes, including the Queen's celebrated appearance on the programme in 2018.

Circuit Coronavirus Worship resources and resources for reflection are available on the Circuit website, including a daily prayer, using the Methodist Prayer Handbook, for use at 12.00 noon.

Dial-a-Prayer A free phone service to hear prayers and news from the Methodist Church. This is updated each Thursday evening. Dial a prayer: 0808 281 2514, listen to news: 0808 281 2478.

Methodist Church prayer meeting. 12.45 to 1.00 each Tuesday. Available via: www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/evangelism-growth/year-of-prayer/

Bible study. The weekly Bible Study will continue on Wednesday 27th January at 7.45 and we shall be looking at Ecclesiastes. Zoom link below.

Covenant Service. Patrick will be leading a joint Covenant Service on 31 January. If you would like to take part in one before then, please visit the Circuit YouTube Channel.
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjPdHk7wmFsEelPy2hRf6nw/videos>

Lent Resources 2021. The Circuit will be preparing a range of resources for use during Lent and Holy Week. More information to follow next week.

WEEKLY NOTICES - please send items to Eurfron Parry by Tuesday eurfron@blueyonder.co.uk or notices@horfieldmethodist.org.uk or 0117 969 1908.

GENERAL NOTICES

Bristol City Council is urgently looking for Long Term Foster carers for at least five sibling groups. If carers cannot be found to welcome these children into their families until they are independent, brothers and sisters will have to be split up. Home for Good, the Christian charity which works alongside BCC has provided a film which talks about how churches could help with this;
www.homeforgood.org.uk/bristol

A large number of jobs are currently being advertised for the **2021 census**, including area manager, communal establishments team leader and officer, census officers, mobile officers and others. All current openings are available, with information, via censusjobs.co.uk

Prayer Request. To all our partner churches in North Bristol and South Gloucestershire. The prayer team at Horfield Methodist Church invite you to join them in prayer at 10 p.m. each evening (in spirit). The focus of the prayers is the Coronavirus and its effects on hospital personnel, bereaved families and friends. (For further information contact Linette: 0117 9514919)

Shirehampton Congratulations to the team from Shirehampton who won last weekend's CAPtivating quiz raising funds for the Bristol NW Debt Centre. The quiz as a whole raised £1180 and also recruited some regular monthly donors. In the words of our local Christians Against Poverty Centre Manager, "This is awesome. Praise God!"

Horfield Junior Church. Junior Church sessions continue online every Sunday at 10:00. Email Helen (treasurer@horfieldmethodist.org.uk) before Saturday midday, for the Zoom access details.

Horfield An Extraordinary General Church Meeting will be held on Sunday 31st January. The Meeting is open for all members of the Congregation and will be held after the Afterzoom Tea at 3.30. One of the items on the agenda will be appointing three new stewards.

Horfield A group of members met on Monday 11th January to embark on the journey to becoming an Eco Church. The group assessed our starting points and agreed actions for the way forward. If you are interested in becoming a member of this group, we shall be meeting again on Monday 8th February at 7.30, to assess the carbon footprint of the church

Horfield An important part of our discipleship is to pray for our community and each other. This week you are asked to pray for the following people and their families; Ray Leamon, Winnie Leaning, Julie Leeming and Joan Lewis

This week's lectionary readings are: Jonah 3:1-5, 10, Psalm 62:5-12, 1 Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20

Reflection on the Lectionary for Sunday January 24th is provided by Local Preacher, Alison Smith from St. Andrew's.

RESPONDING WITHOUT HESITATION

We can take parts of each of today's readings to show that; Jesus calls, we obey, He will protect us and we look to His return.

Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news, He said the time had come and the kingdom of God was near. Repent and believe the good news!

Later, Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two fishermen and He asked them to follow Him and He'd send them out to fish for people. At once they left their nets and followed him. When he had gone a little further, he saw two others preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father and followed him.

Jesus had called four of His disciples who had dropped everything and followed Him without hesitation. Jesus has called each one of us, have we done the same?

Jonah Goes to Nineveh, the Lord has already called him once before but the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time. God told Jonah to proclaim the message he'd been given, this time Jonah obeyed and went to Nineveh proclaiming, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown." The people of Nineveh believed God. A fast was proclaimed and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth and when God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

When God calls, we must be obedient. If we falter, then He keeps calling until we listen. If Jonah had continued to ignore God, the people of Nineveh may never have had the news to enable them to repent and gain God's forgiveness.

Do we listen when God calls? If we do, are we obedient or do we try to do things in our own way and our own time?

Psalm 62 tells us, *'Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from Him,*

He is my rock and my salvation,

He is my fortress and I will never be shaken.

My soul find rest in God; my hope comes from him. My salvation and my honour depend on God, He is my mighty rock, my refuge.

Trust in him at all times, you people, pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.

One thing God has spoken, two things I have heard:

Power belongs to you, God and with you, Lord, is unfailing love

You reward everyone according to what they have done.

Put your trust in God and have confidence in His protection.

When He calls you and you obey, He will watch over you. He will protect you and He will reward you.'

Brothers and sisters, the time is short, this world in its present form is passing away.

Paul's response to questions turn to the expectation of our Lord's return. The old world will disappear and a new world will come into being. We as Christians watch and wait for such a time. We must remember to be awake to God's calling, we must be obedient to His will, having confidence in His protection and looking to the future with expectation, awe and joyful praise - Hallelujah!

Let us pray *In our devotion Lord, help us not to ignore your calling.*

Make your voice loud enough for us to hear. Let us not ignore your voice but heed your words and take them to our hearts.

Make us obedient to your requests and to carry them out without question, in the knowledge that we are acting on your behalf and you will look after us, protect us and keep us safe.

Holy Spirit help us to proclaim Christ in all we do and say today and always. AMEN.

Our thanks to Alison