

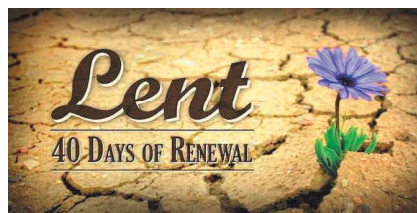
The Methodist Church

Bishopston, Easter Compton, Horfield, Shirehampton Methodist Churches and St Peter's Pilning.
Minister: Rev Patrick Stonehewer T: 0117 924 8407, E: patrick.stonehewer@methodist.org.uk

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 21st February 2021



During Lent, I will be inviting you to join in prayer each week using materials which have been produced for use across our Circuit, tying in with the work already started in some of our churches to become eco-churches and a desire to become an eco-Circuit. All this helps us reflect on our relationship with God's creation and how we might both live well as part of it and encounter God through it, inviting us to respond to the call to care for all God's creation.

Creator God - we pray for those who work and campaign for a better stewardship of the earth's resources. Help us to support them by doing what we can, to live within our means, and to live sustainably.

Creator God - we pray for those who make decisions about the generation of energy, may they be guided by your Spirit to make wise decisions about sustainability.

Creator God - we pray for those whose lives are affected by our greed. For those whose rivers are polluted, whose land is barren. Help us to live in a sustainable way, that we might live in harmony with all of your people and respect the diversity of your creation.

Creator God - we pray for your church. Help us to stand up and speak to safeguard the integrity of your creation, that our lives reflect the glory of your creation and mirror your wisdom.

We offer our prayers in the name of our creator, redeemer, and sustainer. Amen.

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.

Joint Service on 21st February is All Age Worship and will be led by Matthew Forsyth, Churches and Volunteer Officer for "All We Can". Please have a sheet of A4 paper handy.

Joint Service on 28th February will be led by our own minister Rev. Patrick Stonehewer.

St Peter's, Pilning, jointly with Almondsbury Parish Church. Sunday 21st February at 10.00 via Facebook live www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Church-Almondsbury-730715950415825/

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

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

Bible Study. Wednesday 24th February at 7.45 p.m. Please see Zoom details on the last page.

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 21st February, Songs of Praise at 1.15 on BBC1. Katherine Jenkins visits L'Arbri Fellowship in Hampshire to explore Christian Faith and hospitality

Sunday Worship. BBC Radio 4 LW on 21st February at 08.10 - Lent 1 - 'Jesus and the Father: United'
28th February at 8.10 - The Archbishop of Wales leads a Service marking St David's Day.

Daily Service. Each weekday on BBC Radio 4 LW at 09.45.

Start the week with a coffee and chat from 10.00am on Monday, by joining (virtual) Open Church Cafe, hosted by St Peter's Pilning. If you would like to join, please contact Jonathan and Olwen, Churchwardens St Peter's Pilning via churchwardenpilning@gmail.com for the online link.

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/

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

There is now an opportunity for people, from all parts of the Circuit, to join our team of Circuit Stewards. Our aim is to have as wide a representation as possible to form a strong and well-balanced team. If you would like to know more please contact Dottie North, seniorcircuitsteward@bsgc.org.uk or any one of our current team

We live in tough times. The pandemic continues to highlight the inequalities that sweep too many people into poverty. But we have also been reminded of the values that matter most: mutuality, compassion and community. As we journey forward together, we have the chance to do things differently. If we are to build a society in which everyone can live a full life, free from poverty, we must ensure the voices of people who are struggling to make ends meet are heard. Join people around the UK in prayer, giving and action at a special online event for Church Action on Poverty Sunday, 21 February at 6pm. Register at www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/

Safeguarding Foundation Module. There are vacancies for virtual Safeguarding training on 1st March from 9.30 to noon. To book your place please follow this link; <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/foundation-module-safeguarding-creating-safer-space-tickets-135969336947> For more information please contact Bridget Down (LDO) downb@methodistchurch.org.uk or phone 07799 902564. Please let your church safeguarding officer know when you have completed the training so they can keep records up to date.

Bishopston. On behalf of everyone at Bishopston, I would like to thank Elaine Hopper for all her hard work for us as Treasurer. We always celebrate our Church Anniversary in March each year and use it as a Gift Day: we are holding this on March 7th and would welcome your gifts by cheque - please send it to the church or my home. Thank you. Jenny McLaren (new Church Treasurer).

Horfield. If you have changed address, e-mail address, phone number in the last couple of years, let Maureen know the details. Please e-mail to secretary@horfieldmethodist.org.uk or alternatively, please let your pastoral visitor know. Your personal data is held in accordance with the Methodist Church Privacy notice.

Horfield Fundraising. We have now started to add more items for sale on the church website (www.horfieldmethodist.org.uk/fundraising) with Mothering Sunday and Easter in mind, plus general gifts including Teapot 'Thinking of You' cards which are available again. More will be added over the coming weeks. If you have any handmade items which you would be willing for us to sell for church funds, please contact Helen to discuss (email: treasurer@horfieldmethodist.org.uk)

Horfield. The funeral of Margaret Jones will take place at lunch time on Friday 26 February: the cortège will pass Horfield Methodist Church at approximately 12.20pm, and you are invited to stand near to the church building from 12.15pm. If you choose to attend, please wear a face covering at all times, observe social distancing arrangements throughout and leave promptly after the cortège has departed.

Horfield- Bring back the Pen Can you remember the good days when we wrote letters by hand and sent them with a stamp? If you can, then we need your skills to help cheer some residents up in a care home and spread God's love. If you would like to be part of this, please contact Bob via notices@horfieldmethodist.org.uk or Bring back the Pen c/o Horfield Methodist Church, Churchways Avenue, Horfield BS7 8SN

Horfield. The group working towards an award for an eco-church will meet again on Monday, 1st March at 7.30 p.m. We encourage you to join us.

Horfield. Eurfron and John are pleased to announce the safe arrival of their great grand-daughter, Isabella Rose, born on February 14th. Congratulations to Jenny and Keith on the birth of a grand-daughter, Lyla Dorothy. Parents and babies are doing well.

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; Samuel, Veronica, Efua, Nana & Oswald Mensah, Nancy Murombedzi, The Musicians, Carol Nelson.

DEVOTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

Reflection on the Lectionary - February 21st (Lent 1)

Genesis 9 : 8 - 17; Psalm 25 : 1 - 10; 1 Peter 3 18 - 22; Mark 1 : 9 - 15

This week's reflection is by Naomi Sharp (Lay Pastor, Badminton Road and Winterbourne Down

Reading: Mark 1.9-15

Sometimes I read a familiar passage in the Bible and am struck with a question that had not occurred to me before. Is this true for you?

The story of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness is one such familiar passage. Mark's account is short. Very short! The question which strikes me is this: Why, when Mark writes so little about Jesus' temptation (29 words in Greek), does he bother to mention that Jesus was with the wild beasts? (verse 13). I have some suggestions, but you might like to pause your reading right now and ponder for a while.

Here are some possible reasons:

- Perhaps the wild beasts show the danger Jesus faces in his time of temptation?
- Maybe Mark mentions the wild beasts to emphasise Jesus' human vulnerability and "creatureliness", to underline how Jesus identifies with the earthly world?
- We should notice that Mark follows mention of the wild beasts by saying: and the angels waited on him. Wild beasts plus angels; they draw together the universe from bottom to top. Maybe we are being reminded of Jesus' critical position bringing together earth and heaven? As we have mentioned the angels, it is worth reflecting that their presence does not prevent Jesus from being subject to this gruelling test at Satan's hands; they remind us of God's watchful presence through the ordeal.
- It maybe that the wild beasts are a reminder of creation and a prompt to think back to the garden of Eden where Adam was with the animals. In Jesus we have a new Adam, coming to renew Eden.

Of course, I may just be getting too bogged down in a detail! However, that may be, I think this mention of Jesus being with the wild beasts serves as a useful reminder that the over-arching Biblical story is not about God only in relation to human beings, but in relation to the whole of creation. The Old Testament reading for this Sunday is God's Covenant with Noah after the flood, or as I should properly say - God's covenant with Noah, his descendants and every living creature, a phrase mentioned four times lest we should overlook it (Genesis 9.10, 12, 15 & 16). When Mark relates how Jesus commissions the disciples to share the good news, he records Jesus saying, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation' (Mark 16.15).

Seeing how important creation is in the big picture of the Good News, perhaps it should not have surprised me in the first place that Mark mentions the wild beasts in his brief account of Jesus' temptation?

Prayer

*We praise you, God, for the riches of your written word and how it speaks to us,
may we know your grace to listen, learn and live its truths.*

*We praise you for Jesus, who overcame temptation,
may we know his grace and strength in the temptations that we face.*

*We praise you for your Spirit, at work in all creation,
may we know her grace and courage to be Good News to the earth. Amen*