

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 7th February 2021



So are you going 'stir crazy' yet? Is lockdown getting you 'down'? Or are you one of the lucky ones who has received their first dose of vaccine and have a renewed hope? I suppose it's quite possible to be both, or neither.

Most people I talk to, online as I seem to very rarely see anyone otherwise, seem to be finding lockdown harder this time around. The wet weather and the longer hours of darkness seem to have led to feeling imprisoned in your home. For those who live alone the television, the phone, the internet become all the more important as means of connecting with the rest of the world. Pets have never known so much attention as their company feeds our well-being.

Then there are those who might wish they were alone, as there has been an uplift in domestic abuse during the past year. Situations that were bad enough when you could get out the house to go to work, or the abuser might go to work, are made so much worse when you're left feeling there is no escape. In a forthcoming webinar organised by the Methodist Church, one speaker reflected on the abuser who, as lockdown was announced, said to their battered partner "now the fun really begins." How chilling. In the book 'The Bible Doesn't Tell Me So' we are reminded that it does not have to be this way, and certainly it is not what God wants for people. If you find yourself in such a situation, or know someone who is, please get in touch with Rev Patrick in confidence, call 0808 2000 247 or visit www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk

On a more cheerful note, following on from our own Covenant Service last weekend, did you know that one is held in the Houses of Parliament each year for Methodists and others who live out and serve their faith as Members of Parliament? As they pray the covenant prayer, along with us all, may we all remember we are no longer our own, but God's. May we pray that God will use us, and we will be willing to be used, for service in God's name.

Our thanks to Howard Wilson

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 7th February will be led by Dottie North, Local Preacher and a Circuit Steward.

Joint Service on 14th February will be led by Peter Jones. Local Preacher and a Circuit Steward.

St Peter's, Pilning, joint with Almondsbury Parish Church. Sunday 7th 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).

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 7th February at 1.15 on BBC1. Mark De- Lisser hosts the final of Gospel Singer of the Year Competition 2021.

The Bible Study group continues this Wednesday 10 February at 7.45pm with our study of Ecclesiastes, following on from (amongst others) the book of Esther which we read last autumn. Thank you to Ken Luxon, who has recorded the story of Esther for the Jewish Festival of Purim which comes around at the end of February. You are invited to listen to the story for yourselves via youtu.be/8VXjtpjrRqY

Ash Wednesday Service. February 17 at 7.45pm on Zoom (link below). Please join us for a short service to mark the beginning of Lent.

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's lots of interest in this month's newsletter from the **Methodist Church Learning Network** for the South-West, including book reviews, details of courses and plenty more:

methodist-news.org.uk/BVI-77RAS-6FEB09971C9E29B8KTAWAVOA549EB5C96AE71B/cr.aspx

Children's Mental Health Week David Alderman has compiled some resources for parents who are home teaching to his blog for Children's Mental Health Week that started on 1 February.

<https://chirpymethodist.wordpress.com/2021/01/31/childrens-mental-health-week-2021/>

How did John Wesley speak out against the slave trade? The New Room invite you to the next in their series of 'Wes talks' on Monday 15 February between 7.30 - 8.30pm. The event is online for an entry price of £5, and features Rev Dr Catherine Okoronkwo (Bishop's Advisor on Racial Justice, Diocese of Bristol), Gary Best (Author of 'Slavery and Bristol,' New Room historian) and Dr Madge Dresser (Honorary Professor in Historical Studies, University of Bristol). Book online at: newroombristol.org.uk/events where you can also find details about other forthcoming events.

The New Room. Free online activities for families to enjoy. Look on the website and social media to join between 15 and 19 February.

Make Music Day Meet Up, South West. On Wednesday 17 February at 4.30 for everyone who would like to perform, lead or host a music event in the South West. Make Music Day is on 21 June.

Lent 2021 - Touching the Earth Lightly: Supporting the Circuit's desire to become an Eco Circuit, this year's Lent materials aim to help us reflect on our relationship with God's creation - how we might both live well in it and encounter God through it. They will include;

Weekly resources based on the lectionary to help local preachers and worship leaders prepare (including a Lenten liturgy, weekly prayers, sermon pointers, and suggested hymns).

Daily short prayerful Facebook reflections

A downloadable calendar of practical daily environmental challenges

A list of related books suitable for reading as a group or individual

We hope to publish these as soon as possible - watch this space for further information!

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. Two dates have been arranged in March for virtual Safeguarding training. Wednesday 17 March @ 9.30 am. Monday 22 March @ 7.00 pm. *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.*

Horfield - I am saddened to tell you that Margaret Jones died in the early hours of Sunday 31 January. Margaret had been living with dementia for several years and had moved several months ago into a care home where a suitable level of care could be provided. She had contracted COVID19 recently and been moved to hospital a couple of days before her death. In this moment of sorrow the Lord is with us and consoles with these words: 'Blessèd are those who mourn; they shall be comforted'. God of all grace, we pray for one another, especially for Roger, Nick and Gareth. In our loss and sorrow be our refuge and strength, and enfold Margaret and us all in your everlasting arms; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Rev Patrick*

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. A group of members met on Monday 11 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, 8 February at 7.30, to assess the carbon footprint of the church. Zoom link on last page.

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; Brian & Sheila Lomas, Maggie Lovell, Lunch club, Hortence Lukaso

DEVOTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

This week's lectionary readings; Isaiah 40 : 21 - 31, Psalm 147 : 1 - 11, 1 Corinthians 9 : 16 - 23, Mark 1 : 29 - 39

The reflection is provided by our Communication and Engagement Officer and Local Preacher, Adam Biddlestone.

Our Gospel reading begins with Jesus leaving the synagogue and heading to the home of Simon and Andrew. I wonder what he was hoping for when he arrived there? Maybe, food, rest, relaxing company. This was not to be, Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, so Jesus healed her (verses 30 - 31). After sunset the whole town gathered at the door and Jesus healed many (verses 33 - 34). Hardly the relaxing evening that he hoped for or needed.

Very early, the next morning, Jesus got up and without telling his hosts went off to a solitary place, where he prayed (verse 35). It was not long before Simon and his companions tracked him down, 'everyone is looking for you!' they tell him (verse 37).

Living in Thornbury, there are a number of solitary places that I can escape to. One of my favourites is St. Arilda's Church at Oldbury-on-Severn. It is set high on a hill, a peaceful place with beautiful views, perfect for reading, praying, thinking, eating a picnic lunch. Words from today's Psalm remind me of what I experience there, 'he covers the sky with clouds, he supplies the earth with rain and makes grass grow on the hills' (147 : 8). The grass on the hills, a result of rain falling from cloud covered skies, is visible in every direction. I imagine it to be like the place Jesus escaped to that morning.

The seventh day of creation is the Sabbath, the day of rest, a holy day, 'a day to enjoy the other days of creation,' as the Godly Play Creation story describes it. We all need Sabbath rest, often a whole 24 hours is not possible, so times of Sabbath need to be part of our routines. 'Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning?' proclaims Isaiah in today's reading (40 : 21). Although, not the focus here, surely that you need regular periods of rest in your life applies. We are later told, 'The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary.' (40 : 28) Even though we are created in the image and likeness of God, unlike him, all of us, even Jesus, grow tired and weary. We need to follow the example of Jesus and find solitary places for times of prayer and refreshment.

Jesus' response to Simon and his companions was, 'Let us go somewhere else - to the nearby villages - so that I can preach there also. That is why I have come' (verse 38). That time in a solitary place, that time of prayer, strengthened and renewed Jesus, gave him energy for the tasks that God had sent him into the world to complete. Let us build times of rest and solitude into our lives, so we may be more productive in the work He calls us to.

Let us pray,

Lord, in the midst of our busy and hectic lives, help us to seek out those solitary places. Lord, in the midst of the many demands placed upon our time, help us to find time for rest and prayer. Amen.

Our thanks to Adam