



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 28th March 2021



Palm Sunday

Loving God, on this Palm Sunday we remember again Jesus' last journey into Jerusalem,
the crowds who lined the route, shouting hosannas, laying down their cloaks and waving palm branches.

Loving God, our love and praise for you is too much to keep us silent.

For all the amazing gifts of Creation, the beauty and mystery of nature surrounding us,
For the potential partnership between humanity and Creation in which we all have a part,
For all that we read in Scripture of an amazing love story unfolding through its pages,
For the life and ministry of Jesus, teaching and healing, challenging and transforming,
For the suffering of Jesus, for all that he endured so that he may die and rise again,
For the Spirit-filled creativity inside each one of us enabling to respond to your love and live life in all its
fulness,

Hosanna, hosanna, in the highest!!

Forgiving God, there is so much richness and diversity in our world to praise and thank you for that we often
fail to notice,

so much to stand up and campaign for and speak out against that we often remain silent about,
so much pain and suffering that Jesus endured for us that we take for granted,
so much drama, mystery and power in the passions stories that has become too familiar.

In this week, of all weeks, help us to be assured of your amazing, transforming and forgiving love,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 28 March, Palm Sunday will be All Age Worship led by Rev Patrick Stonehewer.

Worship during Holy Week. There will be a 30 minute act of worship on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and
(Maundy) Thursday in Holy Week, starting at 7.30pm. Good Friday worship will start at 10am, led by Adam
Biddlestone from the Circuit Team. Please join using the Zoom links below.

Joint Service on 4 April, Easter Sunday led by Rev. Patrick Stonehewer and Dottie North.

St Peter's, Pilning, jointly with Almondsbury Parish Church. Sunday 28 March at 10.00 via Facebook live www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Church-Almondsbury-730715950415825/

Junior Church sessions continue online every Sunday at 10:00 after Easter Sunday. 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 - the Wednesday group will continue until Holy Week, following material provided by All We Can. After Easter, you are all invited to join with colleagues across the circuit to study the book of Acts, looking at the whole book with companion passages from Luke's Gospel. This will journey into deeper discipleship through engaging with the Methodist Way of Life and alongside the contemporary mission and ministry of the Church today, with contributions from people across our Circuit. Please do consider joining this - for more details contact David Bainbridge or Rev Patrick.

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. We're thankful for the opportunities that many of us have had to meet informally over the last year, each Sunday afternoon. As we are now opening up Breakout Rooms after the joint morning service on Zoom, it has been agreed to stop AfterZoom tea - the last meeting will be today, Sunday 28 March.

OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS

Sunday Worship - BBC Radio 4, March 28 at 8.10. A sermon from the winner of the "Theology Slam " Competition and led by Methodist minister Rev Dr Calvin Samuel.

Sunday Lent Worship - BBC1, 28 March at 11.15. Introduced by Rev Kate Bottley from All Saints, Hale Barns

Songs of Praise - BBC1 on 28 March at 1.15. Finding Hope. Aled Jones visits Oxford and meets a leading scientist behind the vaccine.

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

Start the week with a coffee and chat from 10.00 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. Join our Touching the Earth Lightly Facebook group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/275195130693427> A resource pack, containing all these resources, is available through the Circuit website and by e-mail

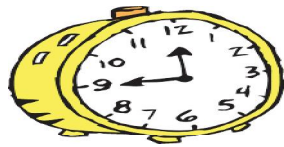
Circuit Coronavirus Worship resources and resources for reflection are available on the Circuit website, including a daily prayer, using the Methodist Prayer Handbook, for use at 12.00 noon.

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.



The clocks move forward an hour this week-end

GENERAL NOTICES

The Ark. This year's Easter trail is called 'Emerging Hope' and we have groups of young people drawing pictures which illustrate for them the mix of feelings which they have experienced in the last year. These pictures will be collaged onto giant hearts and we shall **add** a little extra into each heart by hiding butterflies within the pictures. These hearts will be put up round the Galleries and the aim is to run the trail throughout April and maybe into early May. We are also aiming to provide 'bags of love' that will go to schools and groups. We really want to reach out to families and give a sense of support, care, love, and joy after a tough time. We were wondering if you lovely folk could join us in this venture by giving a donation via The Ark's Stewardship account to help us buy all the necessary materials needed! To donate via Stewardship please follow this link; <https://www.give.net/20330561>

Horfield. I am saddened to tell you that Desmond Reid died on Thursday 18 March, following a few days in Southmead Hospital. 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 Ruby and their wider family. In our loss and sorrow be our refuge and strength, and enfold Desmond and us all in your everlasting arms; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Rev Patrick

Horfield. David and Anne Baverstock have decided to retire as our Bookings Secretary. On behalf of the whole church community, and all those who hire our premises, I'd like to thank them for their commitment to this role over the last couple of years, a period which has had more than its fair share of challenges, as you can imagine. Rev Patrick [We have a volunteer to take on this role - more details will follow once Church Council members have confirmed the appointment]

The Noise - run by churches across the city to support local outreach projects - will soon be looking for volunteers to support small outdoor activities over the May Bank Holiday weekend. We are hoping to join an outdoor community trail event at Horfield - if you would like to help with this please contact Jenny Cornell or Rev Patrick. Volunteer registration is now available via bristolnoise.org.uk

Working in partnership with **Christian Aid**, the Circuit is launching a campaign where you can donate as an expression of thanks for your vaccination. The money will be used by Christian Aid to fund clean water, hygiene kits and PPE facilities in communities to enable COVID vaccinations to be distributed safely. For more details and a fundraising link please visit giving.tapsimple.org/online/christian-aid/giving-thanks-for-our-vaccines-across-bristol-south-gloucestershire-methodist-circuit We are hoping to raise £2,000 across the Circuit.

Easter Offering. The money raised through the Easter Offering goes to the World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church in Britain for work in our partner Churches around the world. It is used to fund work such as: the training of women in nursing and midwifery, work with vulnerable women and children and developing women's leadership roles. To donate please make cheques out to Horfield Methodist Church with a note to say it is for the Easter Offering and if you wish it to be Gift Aided. To be sent to: Helen Wallbridge, The Treasurer, 20 Cransley Crescent, Henleaze BS9 4PG. You can also donate via the Church website. Just scroll down the Home page until you see Offering on the right-hand side. Below there is a link to make a card payment. Click on the Charity you wish to donate to, then enter amount and follow instructions on the screen.

Bristol Remembers. The last twelve months have been so very difficult for all of us. We have faced challenges, and sadly, many of us have lost loved ones, opportunities, jobs, and many other things that are important to us. A new short film '**Bristol Remembers**' marks the anniversary of the first lockdown. Featuring reflections from leaders and key workers from across the city, it's a chance to come together and remember those who have died, to acknowledge and speak into grief and loss, and to share in the hope we have for the future. Visit www.wearebristol.co.uk to watch

Horfield Fundraising. Items for Easter are now available. Please look for further details at <http://www.horfieldmethodist.org.uk/fundraising/>

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; Kenneth Reid, Miriam Reid, Scrabble group, Scouts.

Horfield. The next meeting of the Eco Group will be on Monday 29 March at 8:00 p.m.

DEVOTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

Reflection on the Lectionary. Palm Sunday Isaiah 50 : 4 - 9a; Psalm 31 : 9 - 16; Philippians 2 : 5 - 11; Mark 11: 1 - 11. This week's reflection is provided by Local Preacher Jenny Clark (Yate)

Mark 11: 1-11 Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

It hasn't taken us long to realise, I am sure, that no one is an expert in this Pandemic. I like to think that everyone involved is doing their best, especially the developers of the vaccines! In recent weeks the conflict between the freedom to protest and even to move about as we might wish has been a cause for concern. The response of authorities who have to protect us from another outbreak of the virus and its variants is under pressure and it illustrates how a crowd can change, react and totally change its nature.

The entry of Jesus into Jerusalem was a celebration of the impact that He had made but it was also a flashpoint for beliefs, control and above all the culmination of God's mission through Jesus in the world. Jesus came in peace. He seemed to manage events, from the collection of the colt, to inspiring the welcome of 'Hosanna' by seeming to fit into the picture of King David, restoring the Kingdom as it did for the Israelites. The mission of Jesus was very different though.

During the days that follow Palm Sunday, the Passion of Jesus will unfold as He continues to question the use of the Temple, speak out for the vulnerable, heal and ultimately challenge the misplaced authority of those entrusted with leading God's people. The Political authority, the Romans, reacted to quash yet another troublemaker! Jesus paid the price!

Jesus did not march into Jerusalem and immediately challenge the Roman Authorities, he went to the Temple, to the centre of God's domain. His enemies were within and Jesus continues an ordeal of faith and witness. When we focus on the Palm Sunday events we see how quickly the crowd turned from praise to condemnation a few days later. How quickly people condemn the things they believed were the answer to a problem because it did not fit with their expectations.

As Christian believers, we are often challenged by the things of this world and try to find easy answers. Jesus showed us how to look beyond the things we expect into a world where faith in Jesus, our Saviour, prepares us to overcome our own disappointments and respond to others with love in action.

To focus on a message for today, we know that crowds are not allowed at the moment. How does Jesus come to us? Where do we see Him in our daily lives? Is His face the kindly NHS worker or the Police Officer trying to keep the peace during violent encounters? Does He call us to become involved in the lives of the lonely or those who have given up? He knows us so will give us a challenge we can accept. Let us not be afraid but pray, that whatever challenge lies before us in the weeks, months and years ahead we will draw on His strength and see the face of Jesus in all His glory raised up before us. Let us immerse ourselves in this troubled world with joy and prayer for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Prayer. Lord Jesus, as we pray for understanding and resilience, may we share your pain and transform into people who can mend the broken and comfort all in need. Amen

Our thanks to Jenny for the devotions.