

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 churches serving communities across the local area.

God's table is open to all

Sunday 4 September 2022



Reflection on a visit to St Paul's Cathedral

Many years ago, when we were in London, we visited St. Paul's. After going around the Cathedral, we went up into the "Whispering Gallery". From there you could go up more steps and through another door which took you to the outside, where you could walk around the outside gallery. You could then re-enter and proceed up a spiral staircase (over 300 steps!) and come out on to the top balcony. There were lovely views of London and we photographed all we could see. On re-entering, we went down to the main body of the Cathedral. Every day, at mid-day, they hold a "World Communion". A circle is formed in the space between the choir stalls, in front of the altar. Holding hands, we were able to join in the prayers, then the bread and wine was passed around, from neighbour to neighbour. I found it a very moving service and a lasting memory I recall whenever I see St. Paul's. I don't know if this Service still takes place.

Prayer.

Thank you, Lord, for our, "special memories", of people and places. In the rush of everyday life, it does us good to stop and think back to where we have been and who we have met. Thank you for being there for us- just a prayer away. Bless all who are ill and alone at this time- let us be there with them in prayer. Amen

Our thanks to Hazel Thorn for this introduction.

WORSHIP DETAILS FOR SUNDAY 4 September and the week

Horfield at 10.00. Joint All Age Worship with Bishopston in person and on Zoom led by Revs Patrick Stonehewer and Thea Oliver including Baptism and Holy Communion.

Christian Believers Fellowship at 12.30. Led by William Carey.

Circuit Welcome Service at Horfield at 4 p.m. in person or on Zoom.

Meeting ID: 932 7391 3640 Passcode: 238544

Bishopston at 10.00. Joint Service at Horfield.

Shirehampton at 11.00. Conducted by J. Gardner.

St Peter's, Pilning and Easter Compton at 10.00. Conducted by the Anglican Team.

Easter Compton. Wednesday 7 September at 3.00. Reflective Space led by the Ark Team.

OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS for 4 September and the week

Sunday Worship. Radio 4 at 8.10. SPIRITUAL FRIENDSHIP. Fr. Andrew travels across the North York Moors.

Songs of Praise. BBC 1 at 1.15. CHRISTIAN UNITY IN HEREFORD

Daily Service at 09.45. BBC Radio 4, Long Wave.

Every Wednesday, 2.30 to 4.30pm Open Garden/Drop-in for tea and cakes at Fulligrove House, Woodwell Road, BS11 9UG.

St. Peter's, Pilning Open Café Church on 5 September, 10.00 - 12.00, for coffee, tea, cake and chat. Join us in daily prayer: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-andworship/joinusservice-daily-prayer>

You will also find a **service of Morning Prayer** to cover each day of the week, available from first thing each Monday. More details at <https://westburyparkchurch.org.uk/worship-service>

WORSHIP DETAILS FOR SUNDAY 11 September and the week

Horfield at 10.00. Rev J. Emmet with All Age Worship.

Christian Believers Fellowship at 12.30. Led by William Carey.

Bishopston at 10.00 conducted by Rev. P. Stonehewer with Holy Communion.

Shirehampton at 11.00. Local Arrangement All Age Worship.

St Peter's, Pilning and Easter Compton at 10.00. Conducted by V. Davies.

Easter Compton. Wednesday 14 September at 3.00. Reflective Space led by the Ark Team.

GENERAL NOTICES. Please send items to Eurfron by Tuesday, eurfron@blueyonder.co.uk or 0117 969 1908

We are pleased to welcome Rev. Patrick back with us after his sabbatical.

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: Arthur and Chantal Lewis, Little Fishes, Sandra Lloyd.

Horfield. The Methodist Prayer Book is available at a cost of £4.15. Please contact Audrey at church or phone Linnette on 0117 951419 if you would like a copy.

Horfield. September Messy is turning into Eco Messy. (Saturday 10 September) We will be looking at God's love for the planet through the story of JOB and the challenges He gives him.

Make yourself a mask of your favourite animal face, a world sun catcher, a shoe rack, a yummy biscuit of the world, help construct a giant world, seed bombs so that we can encourage bees and butterflies in our gardens. We will be trying to use as much junk/ recycled materials as we can. There will be the usual lunch to finish.

Horfield. Please place any donations for the Bristol Methodist Centre in the box at the back of the church. A list of requirements will be found on the Crush Hall notice board. Thank you. (Audrey and David Bainbridge)

Horfield. All submissions for the Photographic Exhibition to be handed in by the 6 September please.

Horfield AV Desk at the back of church. Unfortunately, there have been a few issues with the desk recently. Some sensitive settings have been changed, which have led to technical issues before worship. Please be aware that the controls on this desk are set and under no circumstances should these be changed. If you haven't been authorised or trained in its use, please don't touch. Many thanks.

Dates for your diary: September 14, Circuit Meeting. September 15, Leadership Meeting (Bishopston and Horfield). September 24, Eco Photographic Exhibition. (Horfield).

Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust are recruiting! We are looking for fabulous people to join us as Trustees. To find out more contact: Maria Perrett, Community Activator, Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust, Work mobile 07708 471569 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

VANS is recruiting for a number of paid roles including roles to support the mass vaccination programme and roles to support refugees in the community. I have posted the advert below; this is the link to our website <https://www.vansweb.org.uk/volunteering/paid-for-vacancies-in-vcse-sector/> (you need to scroll down a little to find the VANS roles). Any questions please do get in touch: volunteering@mail.teamkinetic.co.uk

**Eco Coffee Morning
& Photographic
Exhibition**

Sat 24th Sept, 10 - 12

Featuring photos by
people of all ages from
the local community,
highlighting the
beauty of the
world around us

and issues
relating to
climate change

www.horfieldmethodist.org.uk

**We're calling all Bristol Faith
Groups and Churches**

**BLACK
HISTORY
Month**

What are your plans for Black
History Month in October?

We'd like to hear about it, so
others can benefit.

Please email now!

Contact us
keyboardnetworker@gmail.com

**HONOUR YOUR PAST
TREASURE YOUR PRESENT & FUTURE**

**KEYBOARD
TRUST** **CHURCHES TOGETHER
IN GREATER BRISTOL** **together4
bristol**

All Gods Children. Portrait Exhibition
by ~ Gee Photography.
External exhibition on College Green from
Monday 22 August to Thursday 29 September
2022.
Internal digital version in Cathedral
from Monday 22 August to end of October.

Saturday 17 September at 10.30.

The Methodist Peace Fellowship has undergone a relaunch
and is hosting an online open meeting for both members and
those who might be interested in becoming members to
talk about peace. Explore what peace means and how we can
work together to create it.

[Register here](#)

**EAT WELL
SPEND LESS** **the trussell trust** **Bristol North
West foodbank**

**Learn how to cook
and eat healthily
on a budget**

A six week free course
Starts: Tuesday 20th September
9.30am-12noon

At: Bristol North West Foodbank
Social Justice Hub
St. Andrew's Church
Avonmouth
Bristol, BS11 9EN

To book your place call: 0117 9235343
or email: office@bristolnwfoodbank.org.uk

Registered Charity in England and Wales No 1136930

Reflection on the Lectionary Sunday 4th September (Ordinary 23)

Psalm 139 : 1 - 6, 13 - 18; Jeremiah 18 : 1 - 11; Philemon 1 : 8 - 21; Luke 14 : 25 - 33

This reflection is provided by Local Preacher, Tim Lansdown (Hanham)

Reflection on Philemon

History has seen many great letter writers but one man has had a hundredfold more influence with his letters than all the rest combined. That man, of course, is Paul. I doubt if he ever realised when he was writing his letters that 2000 years later people would still be poring over them, scrutinising every word.

Most of Paul's letters are a mixture of theology and ethics. Three are pastoral but only one is personal and that is Philemon. This short letter is a request to a friend of Paul's, Philemon, to take back a runaway slave. Philemon, a Gentile Christian, lived in Colossae and it seems that his slave Onesimus had gone absent without leave. The best place to go if you don't want to be found is to a large metropolis. So Onesimus goes to Rome and here he meets up with Paul. We are not told how this happened but Paul probably knew Philemon from his time in Colossae and would have met the young slave whilst there. Now they are reacquainted and the young man becomes a Christian under Paul's guidance.

The early church, whilst not directly challenging slavery created a community in which slavery had no place even though the concept of slavery was embedded in the psyche of the first century Mediterranean world.

Paul is happy to have Onesimus with him (v 10-11) but in his wisdom would know that the situation was unjust. Paul would know that Philemon was a good master who had been wronged by Onesimus and it needed to be put right. The young slave needed to seek forgiveness and reconciliation with his master- without which he could never be at peace with God or himself.

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus tells his disciples that if you come to offer a gift to God and you have wronged another then leave the gift aside and make peace with your sister or brother first. My regret still stays with me over falling out with a fellow church member who died before we were ever reconciled.

It was a big ask for Onesimus to go back, own up and accept his punishment. Paul couldn't go with him as he is imprisoned, so the best he can do is to write a letter begging Philemon to have Onesimus back. We don't know what Philemon's reaction was when Onesimus turned up clutching Paul's letter but the fact that the letter survived and was included in the New Testament canon suggests that Onesimus was forgiven and welcomed back.

This reconciliation is brought about by Philemon's willingness to forgive, Onesimus's courage to own up and Paul's wisdom to play his part in this healing ministry.

So, this little letter brings together three widely different characters, a wealthy gentile, a Jewish Rabbi and an African slave. I'm reminded of a painting in the museum at Lords of a disparate group of individuals - smiling Asians, hard-nosed Australians, joyful Caribbeans with their steel band and the stiff upper lipped M.C.C. members in their blazers and straw boaters. They have only one thing in common, their love of cricket. For our three individuals the commonality is their love of Jesus

So, this lovely short epistle has much to teach us about how as a community we can bring people of diverse backgrounds closer together by offering the forgiving love of Jesus.

Prayer

*Together met, together bound, by all that God has done
We'll go with joy to give the world the love that makes us one. (Singing The Faith 588)*

Our thanks to Tim for this reflection