



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 churches serving communities across the local area.

Sunday 31 July 2022

God's table is open to all



Ever since I was a child at Tonypany Grammar School, I loved taking part in Athletics. Most of the summer months during games lessons I would be busy training - long jumping, hurdles and track events while most of the girls in my class played rounders. Since that time, I have been glued to the TV, when large athletics events take place and I think back to how things have progressed. I remember when Roger Bannister broke the 4-minute mile when everything was measured in feet, yards, and miles. Memorable times, when Dick Fosbury, changed the method of high jumping, when he won a gold medal in the Olympics of 1968, with the "Fosbury Flop".

This week sees the beginning of the Commonwealth Games. The Commonwealth consists of 54 countries, including the United Kingdom. These Games are underpinned by the core values of humanity, equality and destiny. The Games aim to unite the Commonwealth family through a glorious festival of sport. Often referred to as the 'Friendly Games', the event is renowned for inspiring athletes to compete in the spirit of friendship and fair play.

Sports, as we well know, have been a vital part of human life throughout history. It has helped inspire and bring communities, cities, and nations together through times of victory and defeat.

Besides providing great entertainment, sports instil many important values like perseverance, hard work, discipline, and fair play, which are important for our Christian journey. It also provides much needed exercise for our bodies, often advocated as vitally important to overcome most of today's health issues.

It is interesting to note that the Bible carries many images of sports, often relating them to our Christian life. Looking at the New Testament, I can't help but believe that the Apostle Paul was an avid sports fan. He seemed to appreciate sports, or he was at least familiar with them, using athletic metaphors such as running the race (1 Cor 9:24), fighting the good fight (1 Tim 6:12), and training in righteousness (2 Tim 3:16).⁴ He referred to sports images many times in his writings and, through them, highlighted the important principles for our Christian journey.

Almighty God, You have created us in your image and blessed us with diverse gifts: give us grace in these Commonwealth Games to celebrate the sporting talents bestowed by you; grant discipline and purpose to competitors and teams, a grateful heart to those who win, and grace to those who do not gain the prize, that in all our dealings with one another, the fellowship of nations may be strengthened in bonds of peace and love; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Every blessing- Eurfron

WORSHIP DETAILS FOR SUNDAY 31 July and the week

Horfield at 10.00 in person and on Zoom conducted by the Church Eco Group.

Horfield at 12.30 to 14.30 Christian Believers Fellowship conducted by William Carey.

Current guidance at Horfield about Covid-19. Please enter via the left-hand doors from Gloucester Road, with the side (red) door in Churchways Avenue solely for those needing level access. Please do not attend worship in person if you have any symptoms of Covid-19. You can join the service via Zoom. You are asked to maintain social distancing and are reminded that wearing masks/face coverings protects other people.

Bishopston at 10.30 conducted by K. Bolton.

Shirehampton at 11.00. "Thank you for the Rain ". The second half of a film.

St Peter's, Pilning and Easter Compton at 10.00 conducted by Rev. P. Rowe with a baptism.

Easter Compton. Wednesday 3 August at 3.00. Reflective Space led by the Ark Team.

OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS for 31 July and the week

Sunday Worship. Radio 4 at 8.10. GRATEFUL IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES is the theme taken from Psalm 32.

Songs of Praise. BBC 2 at 1.15. FAITH AND GARDENS - A visit to Springfields Festival Gardens in Lincolnshire.

Daily Service at 09.45. BBC Radio 4 Long Wave.

Every Wednesday 2.30 - 4.30pm Open Garden/Drop-in for tea and cakes at Fulligrove House, Woodwell Road, BS11 9UG. (Not 3rd or 24th August)

Open Café Church on 1 August, 10.00 - 12.00 for coffee, tea, cake and chat at St Peter's, Pilning.

Join us in daily prayer: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-andworship/joinuservice-daily-prayer>

YouTube services whilst Patrick is on sabbatical will continue to be available thanks to our friends at the Church of Westbury Park on https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnfVvJ4Thf84rwaBF9K_Nkw (use the same link each week).

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>

Bible Month-Bible study will meet on Zoom on the 29th July at 7.30pm. We will be looking at passages from Isaiah. <https://zoom.us/j/95461422014?pwd=NXViUONJTUNPanZxR3RGelJ1NzR2Zz09> Meeting ID: 954 6142 2014 Passcode: 311973

While Patrick is away.

1. If you require a minister urgently, please contact Rev Emma Langley on 07974 658619 or the Circuit Office on 0117 951 7044
2. For church matters, please contact the following as appropriate:-
3. Easter Compton: email circuitengagement@bsgc.org.uk
4. Horfield and Bishopston: email mail@horfieldmethodist.org.uk
5. Shirehampton: via <https://shiremethodist.org/contact/>
6. St Peter's Pilning: email churchwardenpilning@gmail.com
7. For Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit matters, email circuitproperty@bsgc.org.uk
8. For Bristol District matters, email Rev Leigh Maydew: leigh.maydew@methodist.org.uk

WORSHIP DETAILS FOR SUNDAY 7 August and the week

Horfield at 10.00 in person and on Zoom conducted by Rev. P. Luxon, with Holy Communion.

Christian Believers Fellowship at 12.30 led by William Carey.

Bishopston at 10.30 conducted by C. Sledge.

Shirehampton at 11.00 conducted by D. Head.

St Peter's, Pilning and Easter Compton at 10.00. Led by the Anglican Team with Holy Communion.

Easter Compton. Wednesday 10 August 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

Part-time, paid opportunities for a chef and a gardener (1 day per week for each) to train adults with learning difficulties in these skills are available with a local Christian charity - **ALFA Christian Community**. See www.alfacc.org.uk or email info@alfacc.org.uk



Winifred on her 90th. birthday

Saturday 23 July was a special day for Winifred Leaning. It was her 90th Birthday! Lots of friends and family gathered in the Church Hall, from many parts of the country, to celebrate this significant occasion. It was kept as a surprise for Winifred, right up until the last moment, when the gathered assembly greeted her at the door and sang "Happy Birthday". With delicious food and pleasant company, it was a very memorable afternoon. Winifred wishes to thank everyone who came and thanks them for their donations to her chosen charity.

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: Judith Gardiner, Ehsan Ghasemi, Jane Gosh, Denise Gordon, Geoffrey and Ursula Hale and the Christian Believers Fellowship as they begin meeting at our Church on Sunday afternoons.

Old Mother Hubbard was not alone... Here at the Bristol Methodist Centre the cupboards are looking bare! Please can you help us with the following *tinned* items so we can make tasty lunches for our guests?

Corned Beef	Stewing Steak	Minced Beef
New potatoes	Carrots	Peas
Sweetcorn	Baked Beans	Rice Pudding
Custard	Fruit	Evaporated Milk

Items can be dropped off at the Centre Mondays to Thursdays between 9.00 and 3.00.

Please place any donations in the box at the back of the church. Thank you. (Audrey and David Bainbridge)

Photo Exhibition- If you are submitting printed photographs for the exhibition on the 24 September, it would be lovely if you could add a little note telling us where the photo was taken, or maybe even a little description. Thanks, from the Eco Group.

Christian Climate Action training day in Bristol. Saturday 3rd September, 10 am to 4 pm, at St Werburgh's Community Centre (Horley Road, St Werburgh's, Bristol BS2 9TJ)

The extreme hot weather that we have experienced this summer has probably made us all think more about the climate crisis. If you feel you'd like to get more involved in encouraging the church and the state to act as though the climate crisis is real, Christian Climate Action might be the group for you. Come along to our training day in Bristol to find out more about CCA, and the kind of peaceful protests that we take part in. As well as providing first time training for new members, this event will also act as a useful refresher for established members, with the opportunity to go deeper into the Biblical basis for non-violent protest and to reflect on the challenges of staying non-violent in action.

Free, although donations welcome to help cover costs. Book here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christian-climate-action-training-day-bristol-tickets-342581820447>

And here is the Facebook event, which you can share, or use to invite your friends:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/759154655246280>

Dates for your diary: August 24, Eco Group meeting on Zoom. September 4, Circuit Welcome Service for the new Superintendent. September 14, Circuit Meeting. September 15, Leadership Meeting (Bishopston and Horfield). September 24, Eco Photographic Exhibition. (Horfield).

Reflection on the Lectionary Sunday 31st July (Ordinary 18)
Psalm 107 : 1 - 9; Hosea 11 : 1 - 11; Colossians 3 : 1 - 11; Luke 12 : 13 - 21

This reflection is provided by Local Preacher, Ruth Marshall.

Luke's story is of a person in the crowd asking Jesus to instruct his brother to share his father's estate with him. Jesus replies that he is not an arbitrator and rebukes the person by telling him to be on his guard against every kind of greed reminding him that life is not measured by how much you own.

However, in today's society it rather seems that success is measured by what you have managed to amass; house, car, professional qualifications bringing in a good salary, etc, etc. Paul in his letter to the Colossians also warns against greed "don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshipping the things of this world." (Colossians 3 vs 5b) What was the person's motive for asking for a share in his father's estate? Was it to have better standing within his community, to appear to have a higher profile so to speak?

We can be concerned about what others think of us and our status in life, it might help us to define who we think we are. Even Jesus wanted to know what others thought of him, asking the disciples what people thought, and what the disciples thought, 'Who do you say I am?' (Matthew 16 vs 13-15). I often wish I could be a fly on the wall at my own memorial service, to see what my children really think about me! I once told them that they would need to write their epitaphs prior to my passing so that I could edit them! They just laughed because they said they could edit them again after my demise and I wouldn't be able to do thing about it!

Today July 12th Mo Farrah has revealed the real story of his childhood and how he was trafficked to the UK, and reported that, "I'm not who you think I am." What makes me "Me?" Our upbringing, our early life, our place of residence, even our ancestral heritage, can have a big influence on our development and ultimate identity. Jesus tells the story of the rich farmer who having gained a bumper harvest, built bigger barns to stash the cache and then sat back to indulge in his wealth. However, his very life was then taken away from him. So, his earthly standing and wealth had no real value.

Paul in his letter to the Colossian Christians reminds them that they have been raised to a new life, with Christ and therefore they should set their sights on Heaven, not on earthly things. In this new life, we have a new identity and a new home, in which we will share in a heavenly heritage. So what is our standing, who are we? We're children of God! What are we worth? We are heirs to the King of Kings, and the Lord of Lords! Let's rearrange our perspectives, to where our hearts are, to be identified with Jesus, and to be sure of our inheritance. Nothing can change that, not the place we live, not the church we worship in, nor where we happen to move to, whether we remain independent, or if we have to rely on others for help, no, we are still children of God, and heirs to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, no earthly wealth can surpass that!

Our thanks to Ruth for this reflection