



Bishopston, Easter Compton, Horfield, Shirehampton Methodist Churches and St Peter's Pilning. Minister: Patrick Stonehewer T: 0117 924 8407, 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.

God's table is open to all

Sunday 2 October, 2022

This Sunday I will have the privilege of baptising Nathaniel in the name of God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It will be a first for Nathaniel, but also for me as he will be baptised by full immersion, a practice more regularly associated with other church traditions. It is an option within our own Methodist practice, although most baptisms are carried out with just a handful or sprinkling of water. However, the baptism is conducted, this sacrament marks entry into the Christian community, the Body of Christ, in response to God's freely offered gifts to us:

For you Jesus Christ came into the world; for you he lived and showed God's love; for you he suffered death on the Cross; for you he triumphed over death, rising to newness of life; for you he prays at God's right hand: all this for you, before you could know anything of it. (Methodist Worship Book)



In baptism we signify our participation in the death and resurrection of Jesus, through which our sins are washed away, and we are reborn with Christ, renewed by the Holy Spirit. That same Holy Spirit works in the lives of all believers, drawing us together to witness that we are members of Christ's body, called to share our faith in the world. We join together to pray for Nathaniel as he makes this step in his journey with God.

Seeing or hearing about another person taking such a key step in their life can prompt us to think about our own journey with God. Perhaps you haven't been baptised and would like to think about it, were baptised as a child but want to accept a relationship with Jesus for yourself through confirmation and becoming a member of the church, could God be calling you to serve the church in ministry or other ways, or do you want to talk with someone about something on your mind. Do contact me, a church steward or your pastoral visitor if you would like to explore any of these. *Rev Patrick*

WORSHIP DETAILS FOR 2 October and the week

Horfield at 10.00. Conducted by Rev. P. Stonehewer with Holy Communion and baptism of Nathaniel Sittler. Shirin and Chris would love to invite all members of the congregation to coffee and cake after the service to celebrate the occasion of Nathaniel's baptism.

Horfield - Christian Believers Fellowship at 12.30 Led by William Carey.

Bishopston at 10.30 a.m. Local Arrangement. Harvest Festival.

Shirehampton at 11 a.m. Conducted by J. Gardner.

St Peter's Pilning and Easter Compton at 10 a.m. Conducted by the Anglican Team

Easter Compton. Wednesday 5 October at 3.00. Reflective Space led by the Ark Team

OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS for 2 October and the week Sunday

Worship. Radio 4 at 8.10.

Songs of Praise. BBC 1 at 13.15. 900 Years at Carlisle Cathedral.

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

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

St. Peter's, Pilning Open Café Church 3 October, 10.00 - 12.00, for coffee, tea, cake and chat.

WORSHIP DETAILS FOR SUNDAY 9 October and the week

Horfield at 10.00. conducted by J Barnett. All Age Worship

Horfield - Christian Believers Fellowship at 12.30. Led by William Carey.

Bishopston at 10.30 Conducted by Rev. P. Stonehewer with Holy Communion

Shirehampton at 11.00. Local Arrangement with All Age Worship.

St Peter's, Pilning and Easter Compton at 10.00. Rev. T. Kalongo

Easter Compton. Wednesday 28 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

Horfield - providing a Warm Space - there will be a meeting in the church after morning worship this Sunday (2 October) for those interesting in supporting setting up a 'Warm Space'

ALFA Christian Community - Garden Art Friday 7th October, 10am-12noon - a time to enjoy the garden and relax doing some craft with plants. Suggested donation £5 - tea, scones and cake provided. Drop-ins continue every Wednesday, 2.30-4.30pm at Fulligrove House, Woodwell Road, BS11 9UG.

Horfield. Messy Church The next session will be on Saturday 8 October, 11 a.m. - 1.30 p.m.

Both **Homeless Sunday** and **Prisons Sunday** fall on 9 October this year - with Prisons Sunday marking the start of a week in which we are invited to think about those impacted in many different ways by the criminal justice system.

Horfield. Afternoon Tea will be on Tuesday 11 October from 2.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. Cost £ 2.50.

Horfield. Brass Band Concert. Saturday 15 October at 7.30 p.m. sees the much welcome return of the City of Bristol Brass Band. Tickets will be available soon. Please put this date in your

diary. Prices start from £6, with under 16s free. (Apologies for the incorrect information given in the notes handed out last week, if you're over 16 you will have to pay!)

'Mental Health Friendly Church Training Day' in Bristol on Saturday 29th October. Please see this short video from Lynette Brooks, for information: <https://youtu.be/DXhjLlWbpI> This is for leaders and church members to encourage and equip us as to become churches where everyone feels safe and supported and can grow and flourish. See <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mental-health-friendly-church-training-day-bristol-tickets371966912047> to book or <https://kintsugihope.com/mhfc>

After 3 years pause from running **CAP Money Courses**, our friends at ebe church are starting this up again as part of our response to cost-of-living crisis. Three consecutive Wednesdays from Wednesday 23 November, 7-9pm at Ebenezer Church (286 Filton Avenue, Horfield, BS7 0BA). Full details about the course and how to sign up here - www.ebe.org.uk/capmoneycourse

Thank you to those who have volunteered to help form a team for the **Bristol Churches Winter Night Shelter** which will be running again this winter, from November to the end of March. Once again, this will be hosted in B&B accommodation in South Bristol (this is likely to be the continuing pattern in the future too). We will be providing a small team to support this on Tuesdays for a six-week period in the New Year. We are still looking for volunteers to prepare cold/sandwich-type lunches and evening meals to be re-heated on site. Please contact David Bainbridge (dbainbridge38@live.co.uk), Jenny Cornell (jmkmc80@hotmail.com), Asmin Taylor or Rev Patrick (patrick.stonehewer@methodist.org.uk) if you would like to volunteer or know more

There is Room is the Methodist Church's 2022 Christmas campaign. It seeks to demonstrate the Methodist Church as an open, welcoming and inclusive place for all. Through the lens of a Methodist Way of Life, it will offer content relevant for today's world, aiming to encourage and support anyone who wants to find out more about Christian faith and the Methodist Church.

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: Pauline Lush, Lucy Manners, Jim Marshall, Amanda McGlade, Rachel Owen.

Horfield. If you are willing to join a rota to help out with the serving of tea and coffee immediately after Sunday morning worship. Please let Rachel Tan or Lou Carias know or email mail@horfieldmethodist.org.uk

Horfield. ECO COFFEE MORNING A big thank you to everyone who came along and supported our eco event last Saturday. The photographic exhibition was a huge success, and the photos will remain on display in the church over the coming weeks. We raised over £270 - THANK YOU!

Horfield. Thank you to everyone who donated so generously to the Bristol Methodist Centre and Grow Wilder at our Harvest Service. Audrey and David (Our ambassadors for the BMC) took our gifts to the Centre on Tuesday where they were gratefully received. A box will remain at the back of the church so that we can donate non-perishable goods to our Methodist Charity on an ongoing basis. Please pick up an extra tin etc when shopping and place it in the box.

Horfield. Church Christmas Fair on Saturday 26 November (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE).

This is one of our major fundraising events for the church so we very much hope you will support us in whichever way you can. Details of help needed will be available in October.

Horfield & Bishopston- Have you filled in our questionnaire, which will help us plan the way forward? If you need another copy, please ask a steward. Please send it back by 2 October
Reflection on the Lectionary Sunday 2nd October (Ordinary 27)

Psalm 137; Lamentations 1 : 1 - 6 ; 2 Timothy 1 : 1 - 14; Luke 17 : 5 - 10

The reflection this week is provided by Local Preacher, Adam Biddlestone.

I write this reflection having just watched the Queen's Funeral and listened to the words Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, spoke in his sermon. In Paul's second letter to Timothy, his opening words pay tribute to Timothy's sincere faith and how that has been passed on within generations of his family. In his tributes to the Queen and his mother, King Charles III paid tribute to her faith, a faith in Jesus Christ, which he shares. No doubt for our new King, as for Timothy, witnessing so powerfully his mother's faith, has played a significant part in the faith which now lives in him also.

Paul goes on to remind Timothy of the need to 'fan into flame the gift of God.' He encourages Timothy, 'do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord,' reminding him that we have all been saved and called to a holy life by God's grace, a grace which has existed from the beginning of time but only revealed in its true power and glory through the person and life of Christ himself.

In the gospel passage, the apostles ask Jesus, 'Increase our faith!' His reply to them begins with the words, 'if you have faith as small as a mustard seed...' This is how faith begins for all of us, it is the faith lived out in service to others that encourages and enables that smallest seed of faith to grow within us. Whoever we admire for the extent of their faith, a faith that cannot be measured, they too will have experienced that growth in faith from something the size of a mustard seed.

Jesus goes on as part of his reply to the disciples to tell the parable of a servant and master. Many translations mislead us by referring to a servant rather than a slave, which the person Jesus refers to clearly is. The gift of faith calls us to be servants to Christ and to each other and not slaves, slaves who are mistreated, exploited and receive very little or no reward. Paul's words to Timothy remind him that God's grace and salvation stem from his love for each one of us, his willingness to be a servant to others, so beautifully portrayed when he washed the feet of his disciples.

We like Timothy, his grandmother Lois, his mother Eunice, Paul, the Queen and all who have encouraged that mustard seed of faith to grow in us need to commit ourselves to lives of Christian service so we too may encourage and enable that mustard seed of faith to grow in others. We too hope that at the end we may see ourselves as, 'unworthy servants, who have only done our duty,' our duty of service to others, or as Jesus says in Matthew's gospel, 'well done, my good and faithful servant.'

As we continue to remember our Queen, we join others in saying to her, 'well done, good and faithful servant,' whose sincere faith has 'fanned into flame the gifts of God' for so many enabling mustard seeds to grow and grow.

Prayer We thank you God for all those whose faith has inspired our faith to grow, help us to commit ourselves to lives of service enabling the faith of others to grow. Amen.

Our thanks to Adam for this week's reflections

