

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.

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul and with all your mind.*

Sunday 16 October 2022

We live in a time of change. For most people and organizations, the idea of change is both hopeful and terrifying. We all hope for a better future, and that things that are difficult or problematic now will improve. But the idea of change can also be troublesome, especially if the change involves risk or leaving your personal comfort zone to embrace something new. Recognizing the need for change, casting a new vision of the future, and engaging others in an organized process toward a new destination is the definition of leadership.



Change can be easy to embrace in the abstract. Many leaders are strong advocates for change when they are the ones who get to inflict change on others and insulate themselves from the consequences of change. Tolstoy observed that, "Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself". The truth is that all meaningful change starts with changing yourself first. Gandhi said it best, "Be the change you wish to see in the world". Start with yourself, and almost any change is possible. Leaders must model the change they expect from others. But leaders often fail to understand that even the most straightforward and logical change can have very personal consequences for someone else. "Change always has a personal dimension, both to the leader and to everyone on his or her team." (Steve Proctor)

The Bible reveals that change is a significant part of the Christian life. Some aspects of spiritual transformation are effortless and beautiful, while others are painful and laborious. Change is also a natural part of the cycle of life, but many people resist or fear it because navigating the unknown can make our lives feel out of control.

Joshua 1:9 ESV Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Jeremiah 29:11 ESV For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 ESV For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

Philippians 4:6-7 ESV Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Lord, we pray that in this period of change, we will remember that You have a plan for our life that outweighs what we see right now. Thank you Lord for remaining with us in this transition of change, Amen.

WORSHIP DETAILS FOR SUNDAY 16 October and the week

Horfield at 10.00. Led by members of the congregation

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

Bishopston at 10.30 Conducted by D. Carter

Shirehampton at 11.00. Conducted by Rev. P. Stonehewer: Harvest Festival and Holy Communion

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

Easter Compton. Wednesday 19 October at 3.00. Reflective Space led by the Ark Team.

OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS for 16 October and the week

Sunday Worship. Radio 4 at 8.10. Wholeness and Hope, from Lancaster Priory, exploring St. Luke's Gospel in the week of his feast day.

Songs of Praise. BBC 1 at 13.15. Greater Manchester Milestone Moments.

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 10 October, 10.00 - 12.00, for coffee, tea, cake, and chat.

WORSHIP DETAILS FOR SUNDAY 23 October and the week

Horfield at 10.00. Conducted by Rev. Patrick Stonehewer & Dawn Nadim with Holy Communion.

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

Bishopston at 10.30 Conducted by D. Carter

Shirehampton at 11.00. Coffee and conversation

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

Easter Compton. Wednesday 19 October 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

Dawn Nadim a local preacher in the Tiverton and Wellington Circuit, will be working alongside Rev Patrick between 19-23 October as part of her candidature for presbyteral ministry. She will mostly be at Horfield-based activities during that time, but please do pray for Dawn as she prepares for this placement and completes the reflection and follow up work over the coming weeks. We look forward to welcoming her to morning worship at Horfield on Sunday 23 October.

The Night Shelter just a reminder that you can now sign up to help with Bristol Churches Shelter this year, either as part of the Horfield team (contact Rev Patrick) or directly with BCS, who are looking to fill gaps on Tuesday lunchtimes in Phase 1 (Nov/Dec), over Christmas, Fridays in Phase 2 (Jan/Feb) and Tuesdays/Fridays in Phase 3 (Feb/Mar). If you have any questions in general, please contact Amanda on bristolchurcheswintershelter@gmail.com.

Keynsham Eco-Festival Come and join us at the Keynsham Eco Festival running from the 12th - 16th October (this week) Showcase stalls, workshops, and talks - practical and inspiring events to help bring about the changes needed for future generations to be able to survive and thrive. Details here - <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/keynsham-eco-festival-2022-1213299>

Horfield & 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: Linnette Nelson, Neighbourhood & Mission Group, Richard & Indira Norton, Novel Group, Hazel Richardson.

Horfield. The next film club will be on the 20th October 2022, at 19:00. An enchanting, moving and emotional film based, inspired by one of the most loved British family films of all time. Set in 1944. As life in Britain's cities becomes increasingly perilous, three evacuees are sent to a Yorkshire village where they discover an injured American soldier, hiding out in a rail yard at Oakworth Station, they are thrust into a dangerous quest to assist their new friend who, like them, is a long way from home". Everyone welcomed.

Horfield & Bishopston. Thank you for returning the questionnaire about our life and worship. Your responses will help in planning the way forward for our church.

Horfield. This year's Christmas Fayre is on 26 November, 10.30am - 12.30pm. We shall be pleased to receive offers of good quality, saleable items for: the Christmas and gift stall; handmade items for the craft stall; fiction and up-to-date non-fiction books; homemade cakes (list of ingredients required); toys & games; and bottles (non-alcoholic). There will be a list of items which you can sign up to contribute towards raffle prizes. This list will be available in church alongside the sign-up sheet for volunteers. All contributions can be brought to church from Sunday 13th November. Thank you

Horfield & Bishopston. Dates for your diary. Tuesday 15 November - Church Council on zoom.



**Lockleaze Strollers-
Wednesday
Wellbeing Walks**

Keep Active, Make Friends, Connect with Nature

Free guided gentle stroll led by Jonathan and Maria for adults of all abilities in lovely Stoke Park.

WHEN & WHERE?
Weds 12th October - Stoke Park
(incl. mindful photography using your phone camera.)
Weds 9th November- Stoke Park
Weds 14th December- Stoke Park

WHAT TIME?
Meet at the Hub at 10.25am.
Stroll lasts until 12:00pm

WHAT SHALL I BRING?
Please bring suitable shoes and clothes for the weather and water.

HOW DO I JOIN?
To book contact Jonathan on wellbeing@lockleazent.co.uk, 01179141129 or just pop into the Hub.

Join us for a cuppa after at The Hubhub!

#ActiveLockleaze
#WellbeingLockleaze

wesport INSPIRING ACTIVE LIVES
Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust
LOCKLEAZE NEIGHBOURHOOD TRUST



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PEACE OF MIND SESSIONS

FREE GROUP GUIDED PEACE OF MIND SESSIONS TO HELP YOU FEEL MORE POSITIVE AND RELAXED.

Thursday 3rd November
Thursday 10th November
Thursday 17th November
Thursday 24th November

**ALL SESSIONS RUN FROM 2-3PM
@ THE HUB, LOCKLEAZE, BS7 9FB.**

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE PLEASE CONTACT JONATHAN ON WELLBEING@LOCKLEAZENT.CO.UK, 01179141129 OR POP INTO THE HUB

Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust

Reflection on the Lectionary Sunday 16th October (Ordinary 29)

Psalm 119 : 97 - 104; Jeremiah 31 : 27 - 34 ; 2 Timothy 3 : 14 - 4 : 5; Luke 18 : 1 - 8

The reflection on the Gospel Reading is provided by Local Preacher, Naomi Sharp.

Do you shudder when you remember writing essays at school? Or marking them? I recall being glad when the title was, "compare and contrast" which seemed a bit more "doable."

Today's lectionary reading features a widow who is vulnerable but persistent in seeking justice, and a lazy judge with the power to put things right for her but no heart to do so. Finally, the judge is so fed up with the widow's persistence that he gives her justice to stop her bothering him. The passage goes on to talk about God's justice towards his people.

There is a danger that we take a "compare and contrast" approach with this reading when really, there is no "compare" at all, only "contrast." The parable is not sketched to say, *God is a bit like the judge, you can keep asking for ages, but God isn't really interested.* On the contrary, the parable is saying, *if even such a terrible judge will eventually do the job he is appointed for, even though he doesn't care, how much more will God, who DOES care be ready to respond!* The trouble is that various factors may nudge us towards thinking that God is like the judge after all. Perhaps our experience of people in authority in our lives has been negative - they have ignored us, belittled us, shown little care towards us. This may shape our expectations so that we subconsciously expect God to treat us like that too. Or perhaps the image of God we have grown up with has emphasised distant authority more than fatherly compassion, also leading us to lower our expectations of God's responsiveness. Maybe we have prayed and prayed about an issue and it begins to feel like God is a little bit like the judge after all.

The story is our gift for just such a moment. Take a look at the judge - what an irresponsible, uncaring individual... The story reminds us, God is nothing like that!

... will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. (Verses 7-8)

But as so often, the "punchline" of the parable contains a challenge: *And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?* What are we to make of this? Perhaps it is a reminder that though God is nothing like the unjust judge, neither is God like a slot-machine into which we put our quick requests and receive an immediate response. Faith is needed on our part - a degree of wrestling, perhaps, in the face of injustice? Maybe some commitment to personal involvement in the requests we present to God?

Listening God, help us, we pray, as we hold the tension between your promise to hear and act quickly, the many injustices in the world and what we see as justice delayed. Give us faith to pray, to work and to wait. Do not delay long, O God! Amen.