



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 30 October 2022

Each week I scan through the internet trying to find a suitable image which represents the theme of the introduction. Since Covid we have seen images used more often during the Services with pictures illustrating the words of a hymn or videos telling stories. They say that a picture is worth a thousand words. The point is with a picture, you can convey so much more information than you can with words. In fact, it can take a thousand words just to describe what is in one picture. Pictures can convey abstract and complex concepts such as facial expressions. In the early Churches, because so few people could read or write, the Bible stories would be illustrated on the white-washed walls.

"During the 13th and 14th centuries Religious Art was used in a number of ways. Churches were huge patrons of the arts and purchased tremendous amounts of art to create awe and respect. Making this art available to the public helped many people who could not read the scriptures by allowing them to envision the stories and relate to the subjects. Churches also hoped to inspire greater devotion to religion and arouse more desire for salvation. Early Renaissance artists began using more humanistic looking subjects and naturalistic settings to achieve those goals. By placing viewers in the scenes with the religious icons, the allegories became more relevant to everyday life. Throughout the Renaissance, artists continued to develop new styles and techniques that appealed to and inspired the masses." (John Webb, Kelsey, Jordan)

The Greek Orthodox Church has Icons (from the Greek eikons) which are sacred images representing the saints, Christ and the Virgin, as well as narrative scenes such as Christ's Baptism and Crucifixion.

Many art historians will look at pictures in a gallery and can tell you in detail the hidden meaning of some of those works of art or they can tell you the story behind the image and the circumstance in which it was created. Pictures are universal- you don't have to understand a foreign language to appreciate them. Images keep you engaged longer. It is much easier to look at a picture than it is to pour over pages of written texts. It is said that the human brain can process images 60,000 times faster than words.

At our recent photo exhibition, one could not help but be enthralled by the beautiful images of animals, plants and scenery which helps us develop an awe of our wonderful world. Images (and all forms of visual arts) can often evoke rich nuance and meaning that cannot be replicated in words. Similarly, art can bring another dimension to prayer- prayer through art: meditating on art as a starting point and creating art as an expression of prayer.

Dear God

You created everything in all its beauty! You created an array of colours for our eyes to enjoy. Thank you for such beauty. We ask for You to impart creative skills, experiences, ideas, solutions, and surprises for us, in order to grow in Christ personally and to grow your kingdom. We Praise You Lord, for your creation. Amen

WORSHIP DETAILS FOR SUNDAY 30 October and the week

Horfield at 10.00 conducted by C. Sledge

Horfield. Christian Believers Fellowship at 12.30, led by William Carey.

Bishopston at 10.30 conducted by Rev. J. Emmett.

Shirehampton at 11.00. Local Arrangement.

Pilning and Easter Compton at 10.00 conducted by Rev. P. Stonehewer with Holy Communion

Easter Compton. Wednesday 2 November at 3.00. Reflective Space led by the Ark Team.

OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS for 30 October and the week

Sunday Worship. Radio 4 at 8.10. Transfigurations on Ben Nevis.

Songs of Praise. BBC 1 at 1.15. Sean Fletcher's Faith Journey.

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 on 31 October, 10.00 - 12.00, for coffee, tea, cake, and chat.

WORSHIP DETAILS FOR SUNDAY 6 November and the week

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

Horfield. Christian Believers Fellowship at 12.30. led by William Carey.

Bishopston at 10.30. Local Arrangement.

Shirehampton at 11.00 conducted by R. Clews.

Pilning and Easter Compton at 10.00. Conducted by the Anglican Team.

Easter Compton. Wednesday 9 November 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

Introductions to the Notices. We would like to include others to share their views on their faith and a variety of topics when we provide introductions to these combined notices. A number of people have written interesting articles over the last few months, and we would like that to continue. If you would like to contribute, please contact Eurfron using the details given above.

Jean Doddrell. Shirehampton and Sea Mills friends were saddened to hear of the death of Jean Doddrell on 17 October. She was well known around Bristol as an organist and piano teacher, and will be much lamented, not least for playing hymns over the phone during the lockdown for people who couldn't get out. Her funeral will be at Westbury Park Methodist Church (North View), conducted by Rev David Alderman as she wished on Monday 14 November at 11.45. We pray for her brother and sister, and Jean's wider circle of friends.

Horfield. It is with great sadness we heard of the death of Jean White, who was a faithful worshipper at Horfield for most of her life, and Rita Fairchild, mother of Alison Young, who was a member of Eden Grove before it closed. We send our sincere sympathies, love, and prayers to both families. We shall treasure their memories in our hearts.

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: Pastoral Group, Chris and Anna Pawlik, Jim Pocock, Margaret Postlethwaite and the families of Jean White and Rita Fairchild.

Horfield. Baptism at Messy Church. A member of our Messy Church is going to be baptised during our session on Saturday 12 November. It would be great to see members of our wider church community join this special day for Marnie England - everyone is invited to the whole Messy Church session which runs from 11.00 onwards, or from about 12noon for the baptism itself.

Saturday 3 December. Carols and Steam, 6.45 for 7.00 until 9.00 at Bitton Station.

Ride the Avon Valley Railway and sing carols on the platform. Full details including prices and booking information available via Adam Biddlestone - circuitengagement@bsgc.org.uk or phone 078096 20074.

Tickets : £8 adults, £4 for 5 to 16 year olds and under 5's free.

What is the Spirit saying to the Church? Bible Study on the Book of Revelation. Six study sessions on Wednesday afternoons from 9 November to 14 December led by Rev. Richard Sharples at Parkway Methodist Church.

Horfield. This year's Christmas Fayre is on 26 November from 10.30 to 12.30. 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 and 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 13 November. Thank you.

Horfield. Christmas photos. Anyone who attended the recent photo exhibition will know that we have some great photographers in our midst! On the day, the cards we had produced from some of the photos proved to be very popular. We would like to try this again with Christmas cards and sell them at our upcoming Christmas Fayre. If anyone has any photos (they don't have to be recent!), which can be sent digitally, of winter scenes, robins, Christmas trees etc, that they think could be made into cards, then email them to mail@horfieldmethodist.org.uk and we'll choose a few to make into cards. To give us time to get cards produced etc, all submissions must be received before 31st October 2022.

Could you share knowledge about your community? The Community Resilience Fund is a one-off pot of £4 million available to charities and community groups based in and working with the most deprived areas of the city, with support also available for city-wide equality groups. Would you like to take part in making decisions about where this money goes?

We are looking for Bristol residents to join a group to decide which projects are most needed to benefit communities. You'll help decide how money is spent on community buildings, accessibility, sustainability, technology and equipment. You will be paid for your time. If you would like to get involved, register your interest by Thursday 3 November: [LINK](#) We will offer participants money or vouchers in return for their time, equivalent to £10.90 an hour (based on the Real Living Wage)

Horfield - PLEASE TREAT OUR EQUIPMENT WITH RESPECT We are very fortunate at Horfield to have good quality audio visual and lighting installations, built up using top quality equipment over a long time. Inevitably it needs a lot of looking after, but we do need help with this. This also includes the Dona card machine

1. If you are not trained to use/handle our technology equipment, please do not touch it.
2. If you don't understand what it is, or how it works, please do not touch it.
3. If you think you need to touch/move/know about tech, please ask for instruction.

We have recently had USB plug sockets broken, microphones removed and put in wrong places with resultant damage, microphone connector sockets broken, microphones incorrectly connected or not reconnected after moving lecterns (meaning there was no sound on the Sunday morning), our radio mics need repair due to cables being strained and the PAT test machine which was on charge in the kitchen was moved with the result it was not charged and available for use when needed. Apart from making a lot of extra work to repair all of the above - several weeks due to other things also needing repair - the cost to us will potentially run into hundreds of pounds of unnecessary expenditure. We are always looking for volunteers to be taught to use the equipment, but until you have been trained please leave it alone.

Howard Wilson, on behalf of the Property and Finance Group

Horfield. Key/Fob Holders. Following a system fault last weekend, we have had to replace the fob reader at the back door. We have emailed instructions to fix this to everyone who is registered to have a fob and who has an email address. Anyone still unable to gain access must contact Howard and arrange to have their fob reprogrammed.

New Viscount Opera Organ at Horfield. The more observant of you will have noticed that we have a new organ by the piano. It is a Viscount Opera, donated to us following the closure of Summerhill Methodist Church earlier this year. It is a digital organ, meaning that every individual note has been digitally recorded from real pipes in real pipe organs. As a result it presents the best possible sound reproduction, without the ongoing maintenance costs of a 'real' pipe organ. It is considerably lighter and more responsive to play (which on a personal note means it doesn't hurt my hands in the way our mechanical instrument does).

As with all our instruments, we welcome people who would like to share the enjoyment of playing it, hence at present it is kept unlocked. All we would ask is that anyone wanting to play it arrange a quick introduction to the instrument before doing so. There are a few settings that if not respected will prevent it playing properly. This will spoil the enjoyment not only for the player, but also subsequent players who, if not properly inducted, will not know how to fix the issue. It could also result in damage to the instrument as not all installation has been fully completed yet. Thank you, Howard.

Panto. Do you remember in years gone by when we used to hold a pantomime in our church hall every year? Do you want to be involved in a local panto? The 'Bartholomites' need you for their pantomime in April 2023. Do you want to be in the spotlight or prefer to be off-stage, we've got a role for you! We need actors for speaking roles (both big and small) or provide on-stage support in our singing and dancing chorus. Behind the scenes, we need help with front of house, scenery, stage management and lighting. No experience necessary. Join us at our planning meeting to find out more on Monday 7 November at 20.00 at Horfield Methodist Church Hall, or contact the Bartholomites@gmail.com if you can't make it.

Lectionary readings for 30 October. Habakkuk 1:1-4; Psalm 119:137-144; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10; Isaiah 1:10-18; Psalm 32:1-7. Dramatized version from Luke 19 : 1 - 10 'Zacchaeus the tax collector' The reading is a monologue from Zacchaeus following his encounter with Jesus.

It had been a very long time since anybody had wanted to share food with me or be a guest in my house. I only have myself to blame, I guess you could call it taking advantage of my position. Being a tax collector makes you unpopular with others, nobody wants to pay their taxes, especially when they know we collect more than we need and then pocket some for ourselves. I was no different, this life as a tax collector has its rewards but can make you an outcast.

I'd heard lots about this new teacher and healer, Jesus who was due to visit Jericho. I wanted to find out more about him, hear what he had to say, rumour has it that he has a lot to say about tax collectors.

As well as being an unpopular tax collector I'm also rather short, so seeing Jesus through the crowds was going to be a problem in more ways than one. Then I saw it, just in the right place, a sycamore-fig tree, the right height and enough leaves for me to hide, see and hear everything but be unseen, or so I thought!!

Just as Jesus drew level with the tree, he stopped, looked up at me and said, 'Zacchaeus, come down from that tree. I must stay at your house today.' How did he see me? How did he know my name? Why did he want to come to my house?

As I jumped down and led Jesus to my house, I heard them all muttering, 'he's gone to be a guest in the house of a sinner!' 'He should be eating with us, not that tax collector.'

We made it to my house and sat together at the table. I knew why he'd chosen to come to my house. I was tired of being so unpopular, I wanted to change but the habit of dishonesty was too hard to break.

I talked to Jesus and made an on-the-spot decision to change, it was now or never. So, I told him I was going to give back half of all my possessions to the poor and repay four times the amount of what I'd cheated people out of.

Jesus said to me, 'today salvation has come to this house.' He called me a Son of Abraham, the very person the Son of Man came to seek and save. I wonder who will be willing to be my guest now?

© Adam Biddlestone, September 2022. This version of Luke 19 : 1 - 10 has been prepared by Adam Biddlestone for use in public worship or private devotions.

Our thanks to Adam for this dramatized version of the story