

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 20 November 2022



COP27 Climate Justice Rally and March 2022

On Saturday 12th November Monique and I made our way into the city centre to take part in the Climate Justice Rally and March. Events like this bring lots of people together and seeing that there are many others who feel the same as you, can be empowering.

We are extremely fortunate to live in an electoral democracy. We are able to vote and have many opportunities to have our say. Despite this, many people can feel on the outside, isolated and do not believe their voice will be heard. Those who think differently can be marginalised and feel powerless. History shows you can make a difference. People in power will listen if enough voices shout loudly. Large protests can start the debate and can lead to change. Not always immediately, but over time. There are lots of examples of where protest movements have made a difference eg, Suffragettes, Abolitionists, Anti Hunt movement, Kinder Scout mass trespass (1932), The Bristol Bus Boycott (1963), Pride.

It was good to see the Christians Climate Action Bristol at this rally. I also marched with Christians at Pride at the Bristol Pride march back in July. I believe Jesus would want us to be vocal. He took his message to the masses; he spoke out when he saw injustice. He confronted leaders, advocated for the oppressed. He put himself front and centre even though he was mocked and ridiculed.

On Saturday there were lots of speakers at the rally, including Jonathan Dimbleby who spoke about his first-hand experiences seeing the effects of climate change. The effects on the poorer nations of the world are devastating. People are losing their lives and governments and those in power must act now. The more pressure we can apply and the more vocal we will make a difference. We are stewards on this earth and should manage the environment and live in harmony with nature. If our actions are hurting others, then surely, we must stop them?

Proverbs 31:8-9

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.
Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Our thanks to Lou for her experience on the march.

WORSHIP DETAILS FOR SUNDAY 20 November and the week

Horfield at 10.00 conducted by K. Thomas. All Age Worship and Gift Sunday - gifts of money for Bristol families with Social Services support.

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

Bishopston at 10.30 conducted by J. Creech

Shirehampton at 11.00 conducted by Rev. Patrick Stonehewer. Church Anniversary.

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

Easter Compton. Wednesday 23 November at 3.00. Reflective Space led by the Ark Team.

OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS for 20 November and the week

Sunday Worship. Radio 4 at 8.10. The Perfect Gift of Charity from St Edmund Hall, Oxford.

Songs of Praise. BBC 1 at 12.15. All Creatures Great and Small from Worcester Cathedral.

Daily Service at 9.45. 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 21 November, 10.00-12.00 for coffee, tea, cake and chat.

WORSHIP DETAILS FOR SUNDAY 27 November and the week

Horfield at 10.00 conducted by A. Biddlestone.

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. Coffee and conversation.

St Peter's, Pilning and Easter Compton 10.00 conducted by C. Jones.

Easter Compton. Wednesday 30 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

Announcement for all Churches. I am pleased to announce that Rev Martin Slocombe, a presbyter in in the Bath and North East Somerset Circuit, has provisionally agreed to join us from September 2023 and will have responsibility for Horfield and Bishopston, Shirehampton and St Peter's Pilning. Rev Patrick Stonehewer will be remaining in the Circuit but taking on new responsibilities for Bethesda (in Redfield), Parkway and Victoria Methodist Churches. These moves are subject to the agreement of the Methodist Conference next summer.

Pete Jones, Circuit Steward

Donate Blood. With fewer people donating blood last year, the NHS is calling on the nation to do something amazing. Give blood and you could save up to 3 lives in an hour. Click on the link provided to register or book an appointment to donate. Thank you. <https://www.blood.co.uk/>

Roger Jones's funeral will take place at Horfield this coming Tuesday, 22 November, starting at 2.30 followed by the service of committal at Canford Crematorium at 3.45. We continue to hold Roger in our prayers, with his sons Nic and Gareth and their wider family.

Horfield. The funeral of Jean White will take place at Horfield at 11.00 on Monday 28 November. The family and friends will then depart to Canford but will return to meet with everyone over refreshments later.

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: The families of Jean White, Roger Jones, and Rita Fairchild. Donna Sharpe, Jehlani and Danikka, Mark Shipton, Chris and Shirin Sittther and Nathaniel.

Christmas Trees. The 62nd Scout group again this year will be selling Christmas trees to the local community. They will be on sale on the 3 and 10 December, outside the Parish Church. Please support them.

Horfield Church Fair on 26 November from 10.30 to 12 noon. We need good saleable items- bottles, cakes (with listed ingredients), unopened toiletries, books, Christmas items, and as new goods. Please bring them to church and give them to Lorraine. We shall also be pleased to hear from anyone who can help on the stalls or serving food.

Reflection on the Lectionary for Sunday 20 November (Sunday before Advent)

Psalm 46; Jeremiah 23 : 1 - 6; 2 Colossians 1 : 11 - 20; Luke 23 : 33 - 43

The reflection is provided by Local Preacher, Clare Campion-Smith (Victoria).

This Sunday is the final Sunday in the liturgical year. Next Sunday is the start of Advent, when we prepare ourselves for the birth of a baby who changed the world through his life, death and resurrection. The readings for today describe events in the final week of Jesus' earthly life and this Sunday is celebrated as the feast of Christ the King by many Christians.

Yet, Christ never claimed temporal powers. He never sought to command and control as kings and queens throughout history have done. His leadership was one of example, his followers chose to follow and although they often failed to understand him, they sensed that here was life in fullest measure.

Nevertheless, the religious establishment saw the title as a political weapon against him – the Roman governor, Pilate, must surely bring down the iron fist of Rome on anyone who dared insurrection. Pilate was wise to their tricks. When Jesus was brought before him for judgement, he saw no terrified, incoherent supplicant, no zealot ranting political slogans. 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Pilate asks. We can only surmise Pilate's impression of Jesus but Jesus' quiet, assured response may well have surprised him. He accepts the title of King but declares his kingdom is very different from the worldly power that Pilate dealt in. And when Jesus declares he comes to testify to truth, Pilate shuts the conversation down. He deals in political expediencies, not truth. He finds no fault in Jesus but prefers not to exercise the power he has in favour of truth.

At his crucifixion, Jesus is taunted by the leaders and the soldiers 'Why don't you exercise your power as a King and save yourself?' How little they have understood of the ministry and teachings of Jesus.

Jesus was a reluctant king, and the title was used as a weapon against him at the end. So why a feast day to celebrate Christ the King?

In his first encyclical in December 1922, Pope Pius XI observed that while there had been a cessation of hostilities after WW1, there was no true peace. He deplored the rise of class divisions and unbridled nationalism and held that true peace can only be found under the Kingship of Christ as Prince of Peace. "For Jesus Christ reigns over the minds of individuals by his teachings, in their hearts by His love, in each one's life by the living according to His law and the imitating of His example. The Methodist Way of Life?

The world seems deep in turmoil. We face the climate emergency, a huge global refugee crisis of great suffering, massive inequality between countries and individuals. Responsible politicians struggle to find ways of balancing complex forces to the benefit of humankind. Selfish and power-hungry leaders exploit fear and greed. As Christians, we are called to be engaged in this world, so we need to understand the sharp contrasts between God's power and truth and the exercise of secular and state power. Being citizens of the kingdom of God, acknowledging Jesus as our leader is powerful. It unites us across national boundaries, racial and sexual differences, class and financial divisions. The tensions will not go away but we choose to live as Jesus did. As a community of faith let us honour the kingship of Christ, be proud to be his subjects and courageous in being his heralds.

Prayer *Creator God, As COP27 comes to an end, help us to move forward together caring for your planet and for each other. We are all your beloved children, help us to treasure that unity and respond with hope. In the name of Jesus. Amen*

Our thanks to Clare for this reflection