



Bishopston, Easter Compton, Horfield, Shirehampton Methodist Churches and St Peter's Piling.

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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 15 January 2023

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18 to 25 January

Calon Lân in Welsh	Calon Lan translation to English
Nid wy'n gofyn bywyd moethus, Aur y byd na'i berlaun mân; Gofyn wyf am galon hapus, Calon onest, calon lân.	I don't ask for a luxurious life, the world's gold or its fine pearls, I ask for a happy heart, an honest heart, a pure heart.
Chorus Calon lân yn llawn daioni, Tecach yw na'r lili dlos: Dim ond calon lân all ganu Canu'r dydd a chanu'r nos.	Chorus A pure heart full of goodness Is fairer than the pretty lily, None but a pure heart can sing, Sing in the day and sing in the night.
Pe dymwnn olud bydol, Hedyn buan gando sydd; Golud calon lân, rinweddol, Yn dwyn bythol elw fydd.	If I wished for worldly wealth, It would swiftly go to seed; The riches of a virtuous, pure heart Will bear eternal profit.
(Chorus) Hwyr a bore fy nymuniad Gwyd i'r nef ar adain cân Ar i bduw, er mwyn fy Ngheidwad, Rodd i mi galon lân.	(Chorus) Evening and morning, my wish Rising to heaven on the wing of song For God, for the sake of my Saviour, To give me a pure heart.
(Chorus)	(Chorus)

Calon Lan, with the exception of the Welsh National Anthem, would surely be the song that would most spring to mind when discussing Wales' most popular national songs. It would be difficult to imagine that anybody wouldn't be moved by a stirring rendition of the song, such as sung by Bryn Terfel and the Orchestra of the Welsh National Opera. With the lyrics expounding the thriving for a pure heart and the music comprising a beautiful emotive melody, for many Welsh people it is difficult to keep the tears at bay. With this in mind it is amazing that the song is rumoured to have been written on no more than the back of a cigarette packet in a pub. How could such an important song, to so many, have started out with such humble beginnings?

Daniel James spent his life living in poverty. Born in 1848, with four siblings James lost his father, a stone mason, at a young age. With no income coming into the household, the responsibility of bringing money into the family fell on his shoulders. With little education, he started one of many manual labour jobs at Morriston Dyffryn Steel works at the young age of thirteen.

Bringing the generations together. These 45 minute sessions aimed to help participants think about how their church could become a more intergenerational community. All three sessions are now available to watch as a playlist on The Well Learning Hub YouTube channel.

Messy Church on Saturday 14 January from 11.00 to 13.30

Luke 5:12-16. Jesus heals the leper.
How does it feel to be sidelined/ left out?
In Jesus time people with leprosy had to live outside their community and thought to be unclean, but Jesus was willing to help the Leper who approached him and touched him.
How can we reach out and touch those around us who are on the margins like the homeless?
We will be exploring reasons to be thankful.
Making sad and happy gingerbread people.
Create our very own diverse community using lego/duplo.
People with leprosy often had problems with their hands, can you eat chocolate buttons while wearing thick gloves?
Help us make a retreat where people in need of a rest can be comfortable.
Think about stories we hear and read about in the news, help us make a collage board of these stories to remind us to pray for them.

We have a **free training opportunity for women** who work or would like to feel more confident to work, including volunteering, in group settings, from starting women's circles to outreach in the community. If you know of women who would benefit from this opportunity, please extend this invitation to them and contact us so that we can share details about the day and answer any questions they might have. It will be a group of 12 women and we still have 3 places available. We will confirm a place on the 16 January 2023. We will reimburse travel costs if that is a barrier. The training and venue are fully accessible. The non-profit organisation BeMagnificent.org.uk will offer a training day for us on the 27 January, 10.30 - 4.30, at the Vassall Centre, Gill Avenue, Fishponds, Bristol BS16 2QQ. Dahlia van Carolath, Community Organiser, Bristol Women's Voice, Charity No. 1170110 + 0781 8807981, www.bristolwomensvoice.org.uk

Planting native trees helps to reduce our carbon footprint and increase biodiversity. Bristol City Council plants trees around the city as part of its One Tree Per Child programme. Trees in cities are important to provide shade, wildlife habitats and support mental wellbeing. One Tree Per Child is planting trees locally in Horfield, Lockleaze and Henleaze. Follow the link for more information about One Tree Per Child and volunteering to plant trees. www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/museums-parks-sports-and-culture/parks-and-open-spaces/trees-and-meadows/one-tree-per-child

"So That You May Have Life", a series of eight studies in John's Gospel. Online via Zoom, Tuesday evenings, January 3 - February 21 led by Rev Sally Spencer and Rev Richard Sharples. [Zoom link](https://www.zoom.us/j/90564973356) ID 905 64973356 Passcode 837309

On 22 April 2023, it will be 30 years since 18 year old Stephen Lawrence was fatally stabbed at a bus stop in Eltham, south-east London, for being black. Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) reflect on this event for the 2023 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18-25 January), which uses materials prepared by the churches in Minneapolis, the American city in which George Floyd was murdered in 2020.

Health Promotion. Community Health and Wellbeing fair is an opportunity for individuals, who are ready to commit to improving their health and wellbeing for 2023. This is a free drop in community health event, supporting the South Asian and Afro-Caribbean population but is open to all adults to attend. The event is on Sunday 15th January 2023, from 11.00 to 17.00, held at Gloucestershire County Cricket Ground in Bishopston, and is in collaboration with Accure Health Consultancy, Wespout, Gloucestershire Cricket Club and Wellspring Settlement.

When not earning, he started researching and devoting his energy to poetry. He was also guided by D.W. Thomas, a member of Mynyddbach Chapel. He worked in a tin mine and later was renowned for his heavy drinking and for beer money would write songs for the general merriment of local public house crowds. So much so that he became known locally as the 'bad boy of Mynyddbach Chapel'. James first began to write poems under the pseudonym Dafydd Mynyddbach. It is claimed that Daniel James wrote the words to Calon Lan in 1891 whilst living at Blaengarw. Moreover, it has been rumoured that the first public performance of Calon Lan was at the Blaengarw Hotel. Calon Lan was initially put to music written by Thomas Bedford Richards and it has been sung to four different compositions over the centuries. It was later that the words were put to John Hughes's tune. This is the music we in Wales are all familiar with today. From Welsh gifts with heart.

WORSHIP DETAILS FOR 15 January and the week

Horfield at 10.00 conducted by D. Carter.
Horfield at 12.30, Christian Believers Fellowship led by William Carey.
Bishopston at 10.30 conducted by J. Creech.
Shirehampton at 11.00 conducted by Rev. Patrick Stonehewer with Holy Communion and the Covenant Service.
St Peter's, Piling and Easter Compton at 10.00 conducted by the Anglican Team.
Easter Compton on Wednesday 18 January at 3 p.m. Quiet, reflective Space.

OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS FOR 15 January and the week

Sunday Worship. Radio 4 at 8.10. Shared Traditions and treasures with Stephen Wigley.
Songs of Praise. BBC 1 at 1.15. **Faith and Grief.** The Rev. Kate Bottley is in Leicestershire.
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 Piling. Open Café Church, 16 January, 10.00-12.00 for coffee, tea, cake and chat.

WORSHIP DETAILS FOR 22 January and the week.

Horfield at 10.00 conducted by Rev. P. Stonehewer with Baptism, Holy Communion, Covenant Service and Church Anniversary. We will welcome Catherine Ravn Wigen and her family for a service of baptism. Members of Catherine's wider family will also be joining us from across the world using Zoom. This will be our All-Age Covenant Service this year, on the occasion of our Church Anniversary.
Horfield at 12.30, Christian Believers Fellowship led by William Carey.
Bishopston at 10.30 conducted by D. King.
Shirehampton at 11.00. Local Arrangement, Café Church.
St Peter's and Easter Compton at 10.00. Conducted by J. Creech.

GENERAL NOTICES. Please send items to Eurfron by Tuesday, eurfron@blueyonder.co.uk or 0117 969 1908

Combined Notices. It has come to our attention that some people, who use the BT Network, are not receiving our notices. If this happens to you, please contact us and we shall try and send you another copy. It may be worth complaining to your network to rectify the problem.

Piling. We are delighted to celebrate that Connie Gregory reaches her 100th birthday this month! Congratulations Connie, along with our best wishes. There will be a centenary birthday tea on her birthday, 31st January at 3pm in Mafeking Hall, Piling. Please contact Jonathan Edwards if you are planning to attend (to help with numbers for catering).

Walking from Cape Wrath to Dover. Rev Patrick will be sharing some experiences from his sabbatical on Saturday 4 February, 10.30 onwards, during the coffee morning at Bishopston Methodist Church, 245 Gloucester Road BS7 8NY. All are welcome

Safeguarding Training. All people who volunteer for jobs in the church, where they meet with others, must attend a Foundation Awareness Course. There are vacancies on the next course at St. Andrew's, Filton on Saturday 28 January at 10.00. If you wish to attend, please contact Pauline or Eurfron to book a place.

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: 4:12 Group, Hannah and Sam Williamson, Pam Williams House group, Howard Wilson, Alison Young.

Dates for your diary: January 19 at 7.30 on Zoom, Horfield and Bishopston Leadership Meeting.
Wednesday February 15, Horfield and Bishopston Church Council. 'The Noise 2023' event will be taking place from the 29 April - 1 May.

Reflection on the Lectionary Sunday 15th January (Ordinary 2)

Psalms 40 : 1 - 11; Isaiah 49 : 1 - 7; 1 Corinthians 1 : 1 - 9; John 1 : 29 - 42

The reflection for this week is by Local Preacher, Adam Biddlestone (Zion).

There is a clear thread in our readings this week about individual call. Isaiah echoes words from the more familiar Psalm 139 about the Lord calling us into the plan he has for our lives, 'before I was born the Lord called me; from my mother's womb he spoke my name.'

The Psalmist speaks of the desire to do God's will, respond to his call and to live life, recognising the new purpose and direction that responding to God's call offers, like having a new song to sing. He is realistic about the enormity of the task, 'were I to speak and tell of all your deeds, they would be too many to declare.' (verse 5)

Throughout my time in the Circuit, one of the questions I consistently get asked, is 'are you a Minister or are you ordained?' So, I tend to offer a clear answer by explaining my role and specifically which part of that role puts me in contact with the people asking me 'who are you?' John the Baptist had a similar experience.

In the verses that lead into our Gospel reading, there is a conversation about John's identity, about his exact calling and purpose (John 1 : 19 - 28). Priests sent by the Jewish leaders want to challenge John's right to offer Baptism, a right linked to identity. Following his confession, 'I am not the Messiah!' they question John further to discover who he really is, discovering he is neither Elijah nor the Prophet. 'Why then do you baptize?' they ask him. This makes way for John to be clear with them, stressing again that he has come to prepare the way for the one who will come after him, whose identity they do not yet know.

In the reading this week, John then takes the opportunity to point Jesus out to them, 'Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!' It is the Lamb of God who makes John's words and actions necessary, the one he came to prepare a way for and baptize with water, so that the Holy Spirit may be prompted to descend in the form of a dove and God's voice declare, 'this is my Son, my beloved, with whom I am well pleased.' John's Gospel doesn't include the Baptism story but it is recounted as part of John distinguishing between himself and the Messiah and making his calling and purpose clear, so explaining his presence among them. John testifies Jesus is God's chosen one because of what he has been called to do and in living up to that calling his testimony becomes clear.

The following day John testifies again in a similar way, prompting his own disciples to follow Jesus and commit to the life of discipleship.

At this time of year, we, like Methodists of every generation, renew our Covenant, 'I am no longer my own but yours...' and commit to 'willingly offer all I have and am to serve you, as and where you choose.' The words can be very easy to say because we read them from a page or screen. Hopefully, each year they prompt us afresh to think about the focus of our calling as individuals and the gathered body of Christ. Which areas of mission, witness and service, within and beyond the church, are we called to focus on this year?

Our thanks to Adam for this reflection.