



Bishopston, Easter Compton, Horfield, Shirehampton Methodist Churches
& 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 5 February 2023



This week I wish to tell you a little about the *ALFA Christian Community*. ALFA CC is a small charity with a base in Shirehampton, Bristol, which supports adults with learning and other disabilities and offer training in cooking, gardening and woodwork. They also welcome people to their house and garden for tea, cake and a chat - or the opportunity to get away from it all! They hold activities at Fullgrove House (including Garden Art and woodwork and gardening training), a Training Lunch Club (in Redland), celebration events (at the Tithe Barn, Shirehampton) and a Quiet Garden.

Lyn and Chris write the following : Thank you for the various encouragements we have had over the last few weeks including a very good time of fellowship and prayer on 1st January. Also, we welcome Vick Crane who has very kindly agreed to become a trustee. She brings a wealth of personal and professional experience and skills and we look forward very much to having her on the team. The Christmas Celebration at the Lunch Club was very enjoyable singing carols and having readings, poems and prayers before an excellent Christmas dinner! Everyone is enjoying this with new friendships being developed particularly amongst the older guests, two of whom have started coming recently. In Garden Art we made Christmas wreaths, much enjoyed although it was a very cold day! On Friday 3rd February we will be having our next Garden Art session on a bird theme (following the RSPB "Big Garden Birdwatch" which was last weekend). Gardening training is going very well. Bea is a wonderful gardener and trainer and we have one enthusiastic trainee every week and another one who has visited a couple of times and may start to come regularly. Woodwork continues to go well with a range of projects. One coming soon is to make a large welcome sign for the entrance to Fullgrove House. Chris, with some help from Lee, has now completed the first stage of the dining room table - seating 10 comfortably (the final version will seat 18). The Quiet Garden Morning in January was also encouraging (the next one is on 13th Feb, 10.30-12.30) and we have had some good times at Wednesday drop-ins as well as the coffee morning last week. Respite is also going well, our most frequent guest loves helping Chris with all things concerning bees!

around a golf course? Please come and join us from 11:00 to 1:00pm. There will be loads of activities to do, a short celebration thinking about the unconditional love of the Good Samaritan, followed by scrummy lunch.

Horfield and Bishopston. One Tree Per Child, planting trees locally. (From Monique)

Several people have spoken to me about planting trees. Here is the link for more information about One Tree Per Child and volunteering to plant trees all over Bristol. www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/museums-parks-sports-and-culture/parks-and-open-spaces/trees-and-meadows/one-tree-per-child Today I put up 2 bird boxes at the side of the church. They are boxes suitable for robins and wrens and are hidden amongst the brambles and scrub away from predators. We have seen a robin there so hopefully they might get used.

Horfield: We're delighted to announce that 4:12 (our youth group) is making a comeback! 'Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.' (1 Tim 4:12, NRSV) Please pray about this, and if you know of anyone in year 6 or above who would like to join, please talk to Donna Sharpe, Helen Wallbridge, Shirin Sitter or Rev Patrick for details. First meeting (with pizza!) planned for Sunday 26 February, 5:30-7:00 pm in the 4:12 Room. Where else?

Every Saturday in **Lent at Holy Trinity, Horfield**. (In the Church) at 12:00 noon. Stations of the Cross followed by LENT LUNCH (for Christian Aid) with Soup, Rolls, Coffee, Tea. ALL WELCOMED. The Churches Together Lent Lunches have been extremely popular over many years. Fellowship together. A nourishing mid-day feed supporting Christian Aid. Why not come and tell your friends?

Lockleaze Community Trust. Do you know an individual, couple or family that needs financial assistance with their energy bill? We are one of 5 anchor organisations in Bristol taking referrals for Bristol Emergency Winter Fuel Fund. The first 10k target has been reached meaning referrals are now open. For more information about how to refer someone to us for financial help with their energy bill, how much they can expect, which of the 5 organisations covered their area of Bristol and more, please see the Just Giving page here: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/bristolemerywinterfuelfund> We aim to get the money transferred to the resident within a couple of days of the referral being received. Please spread the news to your community links.

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: Lou & Carolina Carias, Rachel Canning, David & Mary Chandler, Sarah Chard, Nicholas Chivers, Joshua Cottam.

Dates for your diary. Wednesday Feb. 8, Horfield and Bishopston Church Council. 'The Noise 2023' event will be taking place from the 29 April - 1 May. Healing Services at Horfield on 5 March and Bishopston on 14 May. Stewards Plus on 23 March at 7.30 at Horfield.

Circuit Dates: Tuesday 21 February 10.00 to 1:00, 'Preaching the gospel in the season of Lent' led by Rev. Dr. John Emmett at Victoria. Thursday 9 March at 9:30 to 5:30, accredited first aid course at Horfield. Saturday 18 March, Circuit Quiet Day for Lent at the Elsie Briggs Prayer House, Westbury-on-Trym.

Our next prayer meeting will be via Zoom on Monday 20 February, 7.30 to 8.10pm <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2541870619?pwd=aHdRYUlc1NOSkhoMk5jYTkwVmhm6dz09>
Meeting ID: 254 187 0619 Passcode: 456956

Points for prayer are: * Praise God for many encouragements over the last couple of months including our new trustee, Vick * Praise God for all the people involved with ALFA. The trainers/facilitators, Anna, Paul, Caroline, and Bea (who are all wonderful), the trainees and all our visitors and supporters. * Please pray for safety and continued good times in all the activities. * Please also pray about the hospitality- that more people would come and enjoy some company and refreshment here. Thank you all again for your faithful support, it is very much appreciated. God bless.

WORSHIP DETAILS for 5 February and the week

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

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

Bishopston at 10.30 conducted by D. Bainbridge,

Shirehampton at 11.00. Local Arrangement.

St. Peter's Pilning & Easter Compton at 10.00. Conducted by Rev. Paul Van Rossum with Holy Communion.

Easter Compton on Wednesday 8 February at 3 p.m. Quiet, Reflective Space.

OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS for 5 February and the week

Sunday Worship. Radio 4 at 8.10. BELONG, BELIEVE, BECOME from Alive City Church, London.

Songs of Praise. BBC 1 at 1.15. HIDDEN GEMS. Exploring the fascinating hidden gem churches in London

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, 6 February, 10.00-12.00 for coffee, tea, cake and chat.

WORSHIP DETAILS for 12 February and the week

Horfield at 10.00 conducted by C. Stones. All Age Worship.

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

Bishopston at 10.30 conducted by Rev. M. Briggs with Holy Communion.

Shirehampton at 11.00. All Age Worship and Local Arrangement.

The Cotswold Centre at 4.45.

St. Peter's Pilning & Easter Compton at 10.00 conducted by C. Jones.

Easter Compton on Wednesday 15 February at 3 p.m. Quiet, Reflective Space.

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

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.

Horfield Messy Church. Saturday 11 February. **The Good Samaritan.** Jesus tells us a story of unconditional love. The Samaritan showed love to a complete stranger, someone who he could even count as an enemy. How can we show love? Making gifts to give to people. Making promises to help people. Making things to put around for strangers to find, letting them know that people care. Could you bandage someone who had been injured? Can you follow the story using pictures

Reflection on the Lectionary, Sunday 5 February (Ordinary 5)

Psalms 112 : 1 - 9; Isaiah 58 : 1 - 9a; 1 Corinthians 2 : 1 - 12; Matthew 5 : 13 - 20

The reflection for this week is by Local Preacher, Naomi Sharp.

The message of Jesus is so clear when illustrations are used. We expect salt and light to do its job so when it fails to be fit for purpose, there is a major issue. Jesus chose these items as they involved senses which were important to the experience of many people. For the listeners to be able to visualise their role in these terms was a way of making the response to the gospel so integral to everyday life.

A while ago during a service I shared my thoughts on this reading and the emphasis was on the light being hidden. As many young people were at the Service, the theme was simplified and I used a solar light as a visual aid. Without being in a prominent place, it wouldn't charge or be able to be seen in the darkness. At the end of the service, a member of the congregation came to give additional information about the light saying there was a switch that was connected to a battery as back up, so it need never go out! Apart from feeling rather foolish at not realising this wonderful technology, I felt that I missed the essential message of God's power within. Jesus goes on to say that He has come to fulfil all that is the foundation of the Law of God. However, the Law is a tool of those who follow and one of the main tenets of God's law is righteousness. If those who teach and represent the Law are not able to follow it properly then it is those people who must improve their understanding and delivery. The Scribes and Pharisees had set limitations on God's law as they interpreted and taught. Jesus knows that understanding comes from those who listen and follow the teaching of God, through a direct connection.

In its deeper spiritual meaning, righteousness is the quality of being right in the eyes of God, including character (nature), conscience (attitude), conduct (action), and command (word). Righteousness is based upon God's standard because He is the ultimate Lawgiver (Isaiah 33:22).

The Solar light illustration is helpful when we think about the power of God to fill us and empower us but there is also the uniqueness of God's Spirit which has been given to each individual who commits themselves to live according to God's true Law. This is the switch that has been set within us to never fail when we need its power. God changes us to be and to do, so we can show the way, or flavour the experience of others with the Love of God. Who we are and what we do in the name of God is witness to the power of God at work within us. Amen.

Prayer

Lord, our Saviour, help us to call on you in our darkest moments and feel that we are loved by you for who we are and seek to be. Our actions should be driven by our love for you and our understanding of the freedom you give through the Law of God, so we ask for the confidence to allow the Spirit within us to shine through all we seek to do in your name. Amen.