



Bishopston, Easter Compton, Horfield, Shirehampton Methodist Churches & 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 19 February 2023



Last week we explored the meaning of some powerful words in different languages. This week we shall think of a commonly used word in our faith- "Grace". During our last Communion at Horfield we sang, "Come to the Table of Grace, Come to the Table of Grace. This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the Table of Grace." What is Grace? There are a lot of different facets to the word. In my dictionary, grace is described as elegance, fluidity, and supple ease, while in another situation it is described as charming quality, refinement, and decorum. A King's grace meant being given mercy, pardon and clemency. If you are given a time of grace, it means an extra time, exemption or reprieve. Flowers gracing a path in a park embellish and adorn the surroundings. A dignitary dignifies, honours and exalts an event by his/her presence. Grace may also refer to a short prayer before meals and "Your Grace", is a form of address for a Bishop in the Church. Paul is called, "the apostle of grace", because out of 131 uses of the word grace in the Bible, 124 are in the New Testament and 84 are quoted by Paul. In the Christian Church, Grace is undeserved favour. Grace is what inclines God to give gifts free and undeserved to sinners. Grace is that quality in God that produces free gifts for guilty sinners in salvation. So, you can't work to earn Grace-it is free. Grace is not only a quality of the nature of God but is a power to change our capacity for work, suffering and obedience. We grow in Grace by maturing as Christians. Becoming more like Christ, is synonymous with growing in Grace. Maturing in our Christian life is not about what we do, but about what God does in us, by His Grace. Understanding and applying God's Grace in our lives is important and is part of our Christian journey. Amazing Grace is a very popular hymn written in 1779 by John Newton. It's second verse reads: - "Was Grace that taught my heart to fear, And Grace my fear relieved, How precious did that Grace appear, The hour I first believed." Peter 2, 3 v 18 "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen."

WORSHIP DETAILS for 19 February and the week

Horfield at 10.00 conducted by J. Gardner.
Horfield at 12.30, Christian Believers Fellowship led by William Nagilla.
Bishopston at 10.30 conducted by A. Smith.
Shirehampton at 11.00 conducted by D. Bolton with Holy Communion.
St. Peter's Piling & Easter Compton at 10.00, Conducted by the Anglican Team.
Easter Compton on Wednesday 22 February at 3 p.m. Quiet, Reflective Space.

Bristol Energy Network. BRISTOL EMERGENCY FUEL FUND You can donate to help members of the community. Information on the fund to share can be found here: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/bristolemergencywinterfuelfund>

Holy Trinity, Horfield. Exodus - A Musical Journey, by Jonathan Crow and Margaret Holli at 4 p.m. 25 March, with guest artists, narrators, Horfield Young People's Club and others.

St Stephen's in Bristol city centre has a regular event on the first and third Tuesday evenings of the month called Resonate. I'd particularly like to invite you to the meeting on Tuesday 21st February, when we will be watching a short documentary film called "The Unlikely Activist". We meet in the café at church. Arrive at 7.30 pm for soup and bread, hot drinks and chat. Then the meeting will start at 8.00 prompt, finishing at 9.00. The address is St Stephen's Church, 21 St Stephen's Street, Bristol BS1 1EQ. (The church is difficult to access by car, because it is in the pedestrianised Old City of Bristol. You could park in the Trenchard Street car park, and walk across the city centre. Or travel by bus.) "The Unlikely Activist" - Four UWE students spent several weeks last term filming members of the local Christian Climate Action (CCA) group, including an 80-year-old priest, who is prepared to be imprisoned.

Reflection on the Lectionary Sunday 19th February (Sunday before Lent)

Psalms 2; Exodus 24 : 12 - 18; 2 Peter 1 : 16 - 21; Matthew 17 : 1 - 9

The reflection for this week is by Local Preacher, Alison Smith (St. Andrews).

Imagine I am an onlooker and I'm watching the three disciples, Peter, James, John and Jesus as they climbed the mountain: lots of amazing things have happened on mountains - the ten commandments, the Beatitudes of Jesus to name but two, so who knows what might happen this time. It was a steep climb when the three went with Jesus and by the time they got to the top they were all breathing a bit more heavily and perhaps even had aching limbs - I know I would have done, but then I'm probably not as fit as they were. When they stopped, the disciples seemed to stand back, I don't know why, there was nothing to see, but Jesus took a step forward and started glowing! I know! It sounds weird but truly, that's what happened. He looked like a bright star. He seemed to change from a solid form. He was hard to look at, His face was shining brighter than any sun I've ever seen; and His clothes, they were getting brighter too - they were whiter than anything I've ever seen in my life, they were as white as the light. And then, it's very hard to imagine, to say, what happened - you had to be there really - but what I saw then was, there seemed to be three people; yes I know the disciples were with Him but apart from them there seemed to be two others with Jesus. I had to look twice but the people, men with Him, were Moses and Elijah! They were there talking with Jesus, as alive as you and me, there on the mountain, together! I couldn't believe my eyes, although it was happening in front of me, and I have said already that amazing things happen on mountains. Peter seemed to be the first to recover and he spoke to Jesus, saying that they could put up shelters for them, one each - Moses, Elijah and Jesus. It seemed funny to me that he should suggest that, why would they need a shelter? And for them to have one each. The disciples would have had to have built three! Maybe he just wanted to normalise the moment. While Peter was speaking a cloud appeared - it was quite frightening the way it appeared so quickly, out of nowhere, there on the mountain - nowhere else just there. It's dangerous to be on the mountain when it's cloudy, anything could happen and accidents weren't rare, but this cloud was different. This cloud was so bright, so bright I could hardly look at it and I saw the others covering their eyes from its brightness - then it spoke! A voice came from the cloud - a loud, commanding but kind voice that said, "This is my son, whom I love: with Him I am well pleased. Listen to Him!" Well, it scared the daylight out of all of us I think, because the disciples fell face down on the ground terrified. Next thing I saw was Jesus going over to them and one by one touched them very gently on the shoulder telling them to get up and not to be afraid. Why do people tell us not to be afraid when we're in a situation where there's no other emotion to experience but fear.

OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS for 19 February and the week

Sunday Worship. Radio 4 at 8.10. LIVING STONES. The Bishop of London leads a service on the 300th anniversary of the death of Sir Christopher Wren.
Songs of Praise. BBC 1 at 1.15. LENT IN LINCOLNSHIRE with Rev. Kate Bottley and Sean Fletcher.
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, 20 February, 10.00-12.00 for coffee, tea, cake and chat.
ALFA Christian Community. Drop-ins continue on Wednesday afternoons 2.30-4.30pm.

WORSHIP DETAILS for 26 February and the week

Horfield at 10.00. Conducted by J. Creech
Horfield at 12.30. Christian Believers Fellowship led by William Nagilla.
Bishopston at 10.30. Local Arrangement
Shirehampton at 11.00. Café Church Local Arrangement
St. Peter's Piling & Easter Compton at 10.00. Conducted by Rev. P. Stonehewer with Holy Communion.
Easter Compton on Wednesday 1 March at 3 p.m. Quiet, Reflective Space.

Details of other church meetings.

- Ash Wednesday Service 7.30pm at Horfield.
- Shirehampton: additional Church Council Meeting, 12.15pm on Sunday 26 February in the Church.
- Walking from Cape Wrath to Dover. Rev Patrick will be sharing some experiences from his sabbatical on Sunday 26 February, 12.30 onwards, at Shirehampton Methodist Church. All are welcome.

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

Horfield and Bishopston. House groups.

The question has recently been asked, "What is A Methodist way of Life"? Why not join a Zoom Lent house group to discover what this means in practice? If you are interested, could you let Patrick Stonehewer or David Bainbridge know, your preference for the day of the week and time?

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?

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: Joan Davis, Libby Deeks, Disabled Christian Fellowship, Jane Duffy, Sue Dyer.

Horfield. Hopefully, most of you have seen the Eco Journey Document emailed to all last week. It tells you all you need to know about the Eco Group, what we got up to last year and what we are planning for 2023. There are also copies in the vestibule and on the eco noticeboard at church. If you can't get to church and need a paper copy, please email Lou at mail@horfieldmethodist.org.uk.

This year's World Day of Prayer Service will be held at Horfield on Friday March 3rd 10.30 am This year the service is written by women of Taiwan. All are welcome.

We are Bristol. Horfield. Do you want help with the cost of Living? Please look at the wealth of information on the Notice Board in the Crush Hall.

The Bristol Methodist Centre Would you like to receive an e-mailed newsletter from the Centre to keep you up to date with all the latest developments? Please let your Ambassadors know and it will be arranged.

When I'd got over that shock and looked again at the scene there was only Jesus and the three disciples. Moses and Elijah had gone. Next thing they were all coming down the mountain with Jesus telling them not to share what they'd seen until the Son of Man was raised from the dead. What a tale, strange but true and what was this about someone rising from the dead? Well, keep interested in the story because with God's help and blessing you will find out.

Prayer. God of time and eternity, all heaven praises you. Accept our praise for all we've known of you and for all you've yet to show us. Help us to acknowledge all your miracles, big and small and to be amazed at all that you accomplish, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Our thanks to Alison



Foodbank Advice Worker £16.24hr - 37.5hrs/week - One Year Contract

The Bristol North West Foodbank is looking to employ a generalist advice worker to work alongside our other Foodbank Advice Worker. This role will be to triage Foodbank clients at their point of accessing the Foodbank and provide pre-bookable appointments outside of Foodbank opening times for Foodbank clients and others in need of generalist advice help in the local community. We are looking for a self-motivated Advice Worker with good organisational skills, people skills and an excellent telephone manner. You'll also need strong keyboard, literacy and numeracy skills and be experienced in using Microsoft Office and databases. We're looking for a team player who is committed to the Christian ethos of the charity. Someone with compassion and empathy with the client group and volunteer staff.

Based at our Hub in Avonmouth, this one-year post is full time (37.5hrs/week), over five days a week. Part-time may be considered.

For a job description and application form, please contact Emma Murray Foodbank Manager on 0117 9235343 or emma@bristolnwfoodbank.org.uk

Closing date for applications: 5pm 10th March 2023
Interviews on: 20th March 2023



Foodbank Warehouse Coordinator £14.35hr - 37.5hrs/week - One Year Contract

The Bristol North West Foodbank is looking to employ a Foodbank Warehouse Coordinator. We are looking for a self-motivated Warehouse Coordinator with good organisational & people skills to plan and organise the day-to-day running of our warehouse. The role will involve leading teams of volunteers, stock control, organising transport of collections/deliveries and meeting legislative standards-i.e. Health & Safety/Environmental Health. You'll also need strong keyboard, literacy and numeracy skills and be experienced in using spreadsheets.

We're looking for a team player who is supportive of the Christian ethos of the charity. Someone with compassion and empathy with the client group and volunteer team.

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