



The Methodist Church

Bishopston, Horfield, Shirehampton Methodist Churches & St Peter's Pilning.

Minister: Patrick Stonehewer T: 0117 924 8407, patrick.stonehewer@methodist.org.uk We are part of the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit (www.bsgc.org.uk) a family of churches serving communities across the local area.

Sunday 30 July 2023



Last week, MPs voted to pass the government's Illegal Migration Bill into law. The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference have joined with civil society groups and charities in a solidarity statement to mark this moment and express their concern about the impact the Bill will have on people seeking asylum in the UK. The statement reads:

"We all deserve to live safe from harm. But this senselessly cruel Act will have a devastating impact on people's lives. It turns our country's back on people seeking safety, blocking them from protection, support, and justice at a time they need it most.

In abandoning the UK's moral and legal obligations, the Act risks breaching multiple international human rights treaties including the Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights while shielding the Government from accountability. The UK Government has admitted that it cannot confirm if the Act is compatible with the UK's obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights.

The Act will force people into situations that threaten their lives - whether by placing children in detention or sending people off to countries where their lives might be at grave risk. Moreover, the Act attacks the very core of human rights, which is the principle that we all have them regardless of who we are or where we are from. In stripping the most basic rights from people seeking safety and a better life, the Act dismantles human rights protections for all of us.

Either all of us have human rights, or none of us do. While the UK Government's plans will harm those seeking safety the most, this is an attack on all of us and the values we hold dear.

The government has rushed through this law despite broad and deep opposition. But our fight is not over. As caring people, we will continue to fight for the right for people to seek safety and a better life without being forced to take dangerous journeys and without being punished for how they enter the UK. We will keep holding those in power to account for upholding the UK's international obligations. We will strive for an asylum and immigration system that treats everyone with dignity and respect. We will stand in solidarity with and fight alongside everyone who makes the UK their home and build a society that treats everyone with compassion."

More information available via <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/the-methodist-blog/response-to-the-governments-illegal-migration-bill/>

God of love,

You are the God who takes the side of the oppressed.

You are the God who is close to the broken-hearted. You are the God who raises high the humble.

We pray for refugees around the world.

*May they be welcomed with open arms.
May their needs for food, shelter, clothing and love be met. May
their wounds – emotional and physical – be healed.*

*We pray that the world will hear their plight.
We pray that the world will have compassion.
We pray that the world will take action on their behalf.
In Jesus' name, Amen. With best wishes – Patrick*

WORSHIP DETAILS for 30 July

Horfield at 10.00. Conducted by Rev. T. Kalongo. Eco Service.
Bishopston at 10.00. Joining with Horfield.
Shirehampton at 11.00. No service.
St. Peter's, Pilning at 10.00. Conducted by Rev. J. Emmett.

OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS for 30 July and the week

Sunday Worship. Radio 4 at 8.10. HUMAN. The Christian gathering at Keswick in the Lake District. **Songs of Praise.** BBC 1 at 1.15. THE CORRYMEELA COMMUNITY. Northern Ireland's oldest peace and reconciliation organisation.
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>.

ALFA Christian Community. Drop-in resumes every Wednesday afternoon, 2.30-4.30. All welcome. Coffee Morning, this month will be on Saturday 29 July, 10.00-12.00 at Fulligrove House/Garden.

WORSHIP DETAILS for 6 August.

Horfield at 10.00 conducted Rev. P. Jackson with Holy Communion.
Bishopston at 10.30 conducted by P. Culshaw.
Shirehampton at 11.00 conducted by C. Campion Smith
St. Peter's, Pilning at 10.00 conducted by Rev. R. Van Rossum with Holy Communion.

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

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: Sandy Bowcock, Monique Brocklesby, Jayne Brown, Richard Brown, Janet Browning.

Horfield and Bishopston. Those of you in church or joining us on Zoom last Sunday would have heard our appeal for volunteers to help with SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Protocols). In extreme bad weather this council funded protocol aims to get the homeless off the streets. Here at Horfield we are exploring ways we can support this vital initiative. If you think you can help then please let Jenny or Lou know ASAP. We are looking for volunteers to stay overnight. This would need 2 volunteers per night along with a paid agency staff member. It might be that the severe weather doesn't arrive and we won't be required, but we do need to have people ready on standby. Thank you.

Horfield and Bishopston. Dates for diary.

Fish and Chip supper, 29 September.
Brass Band concert, 6 October.
Eco Art Exhibition, 21 October.
Christmas Fayre, 18 November.
Christmas Journey, 4 December. (More information to follow after this Sunday's service.) Church Anniversary service. (with Jonathan Pye), 21 January 2024.

Circuit Welcome Service.

Sunday 3 September 4.00 p.m. at Zion United Church, Frampton Cotterell. A service to welcome Rev. Sharon Lovelock and Rev. Martin Slocombe as they begin their ministries within our Circuit.

As the mother of John and Charles Wesley, it was arguably the influence of **Susanna Wesley** that gave rise to the Methodist movement. As we mark Susanna Wesley Day this month, we celebrate her life and legacy. Click on the box to follow the link.

Nailsea Methodist Church has become the first church in North Somerset to achieve the **Church of Sanctuary Award**, which was presented to them earlier this month. The members of the church have been offering practical support to refugees and migrant families and been active in starting a Hong Kong Welcome Course. They have also provided a Conversation Café for refugees from Syria and Ukraine. Click on the box to follow the link.

EDI Training Session. Saturday 29 July, 1.30 - 4.30 p.m.

Hanham Methodist Church. Session led by Anna Wheatley.

To book a place e-mail contact: hanhammethodist@gmail.com

Safeguarding Foundation Module. Saturday 9th September, 1.30 - 4.30 p.m.

Hanham Methodist Church, Chapel Road, Hanham BS15 8SD

Please book a place with Anna Wheatley at circuitsafeguarding@bsgc.org.uk

All volunteers in the Methodist Church must complete this course every 4 years. If you need to enrol please tell Eurfron or Pauline when you have done so, so that we can add it to our records.

John Wesley's New Room Summer Activities. Thursdays 27 July, 3, 10, 17 August, 11 - 12 or 2 - 3pm

This summer, stories will be jumping off the pages into the New Room. Exploring some of our favourite children's books with a different story read each week followed by a fun craft activity and then a trip to explore the museum. Plus, a museum trail available throughout the summer holidays.

Each session includes a story reading, craft activity and entry to the museum. £4 per child, plus PARENTS GO FREE. For more information, visit the [JWNR website](#)

One of our neighbouring churches, St Gregory's have inaugurated a new minister to their parish. We welcome Father Jones and wish him every success in his new position.

Pilgrimage for the Planet: Bristol CCA, Saturday 9 September, 10.30 to 6.00pm.

We invite people of all faiths and none to join CCA members as we walk together to Bristol airport on Saturday 9 September. Setting off from Bristol Cathedral, stopping for a picnic lunch at All Saints Church, Long Ashton, and arriving at the airport together to participate in a 'sacred action' continuing the long standing campaign against airport expansion.. We will gather on College Green from 10.30 and start our walk at 11.00; we should reach Long Ashton (2.5 miles) by 12.30 and will continue walking at about 1.30 aiming to reach the airport by 5pm. You are welcome to join us at Long Ashton for the 6 mile walk from there to the airport.

The walk will include times for discussion, mindful silence, singing, gathering items to create a mandala, and attending to the landscapes and places along the way.

Details of the sacred action will be shared with those who register to take part and joining instructions for the Pilgrimage will be available through CCA soon. The Pilgrimage is taking place during Creationtide, a season of the Church Calendar that culminates with the feast of Francis of Assisi. Our pilgrimage is drawing inspiration from Francis' Canticle of the Creatures which we'll give expression to during the day. Creationtide, see: <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

Reflection on the Lectionary, Sunday 30 July.

Psalm 128; Genesis 29 : 15 - 28; Romans 8 : 26 - 39; Matthew 13 : 31 - 33, 44 - 52.

The reflection for this week is by Local Preacher, Tim Lansdown (Hanham).

Whether it is Jackanory or Ronnie Corbett in his solo slot on "The Two Ronnies" most people love a good story. And there is no better teller of stories than Jesus as these two mini-parables recorded by Matthew exemplify. On the one hand we have someone, who just by chance, stumbles across some treasure in a local field (today we may imagine a person with a metal detector). On the other hand, there is someone who has dedicated much of his life to finding extremely valuable pearls. He may have combed most of the Eastern Mediterranean and it seems that this is no stumbling by chance across such a valuable item, it has been his goal for a long time.

And so is the search for the Kingdom of God. Some search diligently for years to find the Christ, others come across the truth seemingly by chance, and I emphasise the word seemingly. The great Victorian preacher C. H. Spurgeon as a young man had no faith. Whilst out walking one Sunday evening a sudden storm erupted and he took shelter in a nearby wayside chapel. An elderly man was preaching and Spurgeon was so moved by the message his life was changed forever. So too the one who came across the treasure (v 44)

For others, the search can be long and slow, facing questions, challenges and some backslidings along the way. But like the merchant (v 45), we must be ready to persist and when the moment arrives the opportunity is there to grasp. The labourer bought the field, the merchant sells all that he has to buy the pearl. That is not to say that other jewels are worthless. So too with what we consider worthwhile in life: art, music, serious conversation, humour and human endeavour are all commendable. But above all is the prize of the Kingdom, exemplified by Jesus.

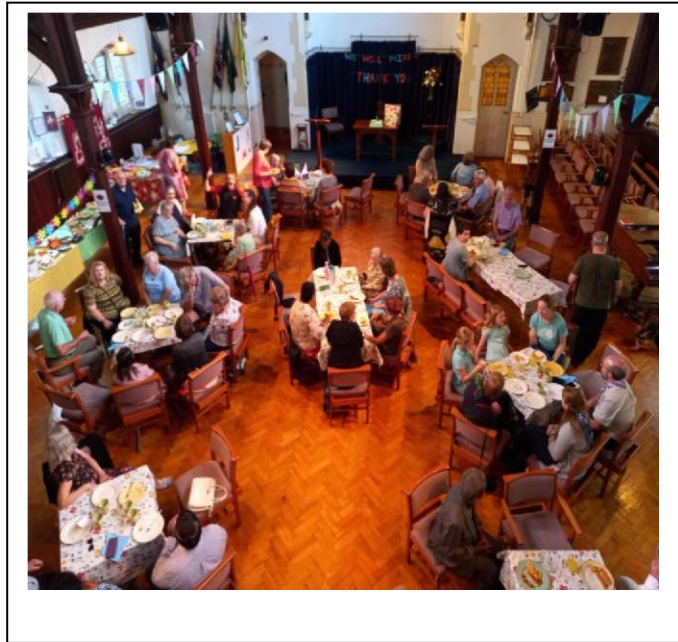
Cynics might say that both individuals were foolish. The words 'eggs' and 'basket' come to mind. But remember that our passage begins with the words 'the Kingdom of Heaven is like treasure hidden in a field'. Just as the parable of the Labourers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20: 1 - 16) is not a blueprint for industrial relations so these two mini parables are not like extracts from the Money Mail. Their purpose is to tell of the primacy of the Kingdom of God- 'seek ye first'.

The two characters in our stories were blessed with success. But having acquired the treasure and the pearl they still had to live out their lives with all the familiar problems that inhabiting this world incurs. Our Old Testament story tells of Jacob working for 14 years to win the hand of Rachel, but going forward, life as a married couple was far from straightforward for them. When Brother Roger of Taizé was asked what he wished most of all for his pilgrims he replied "that they continue searching." May we continue in our search for the Christ.

*May I run the race before me, strong
and brave to face the foe.
Looking only unto Jesus as I onward go.*

Our thanks to Tim for this reflection

Some photographs of the Farewell Event held for Patrick and his family.



#ACTIVELOCKLEAZE POP UP ACTIVITY EVENT

Free fun activities!

Thursday 3rd August
11 - 1pm
Gainsborough Square

Please note all children
must be accompanied by
an adult.
This is an outdoor event.

For more information
contact Maria on:
maria@lockleazent.co.uk

#ActiveLockleaze

