

The Methodist Church

Bishopston, 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.

Sunday 20 August 2023



July seems to have been a blur of farewells, including four special Sunday services, two Messy Church sessions and several other occasions, including the surprise party sprung on me just before my holiday. I seem to have been eating delicious cakes for most of the past few weeks, and I'd like to thank all the bakers and cooks for the very tasty fare, equally for their decorative creativity. A few weeks away from Bristol has allowed time for a good break, and I've just returned to start focussing on my new appointment elsewhere in the city.

I'm humbled by the generosity of your leaving gifts, including those of a rainbow-patterned stole and a trinket box, but principally the significant monetary contributions which will be used to buy some new African-style clerical shirts, when I can find some suitable ones, but also to save me from some clerical 'wardrobe failures' as some of my clerical attire has seen better days. Thank you.

Sandy and our wider family join me in thanking you once more for all you've supported us with whilst we've served God in and around Bishopston, Easter Compton, Horfield, Pilning and Shire.

Blessings Rev Patrick

WORSHIP DETAILS for 20 August.

Horfield at 10.00 conducted by D. Carter.

Bishopston at 10.30 conducted by V. Davies.

Shirehampton at 11.00 conducted by Rev. H. Cook with Holy Communion.

St. Peter's, Pilning at 10.00 conducted by the Anglican Team.

OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS for 20 August and the week

Sunday Worship. Radio 4 at 8.10. A PLACE OF WELCOME. Frome Down Cathedral, N. Ireland.

Songs of Praise. BBC 2 at 1.15. FAITH IN THE VALLEYS. Aled Jones discovers the rich history of Christian Faith.

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>

WORSHIP DETAILS for 27 August.

Horfield at 10.00. Service at Bishopston.

Bishopston at 10.30. Local Arrangement.

Shirehampton at 11.00. Local Arrangement.

St. Peter's, Pilning at 10.00. Rev. T. Kalongo with Holy Communion.

Please note there will be no Zoom service on 27 August.

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

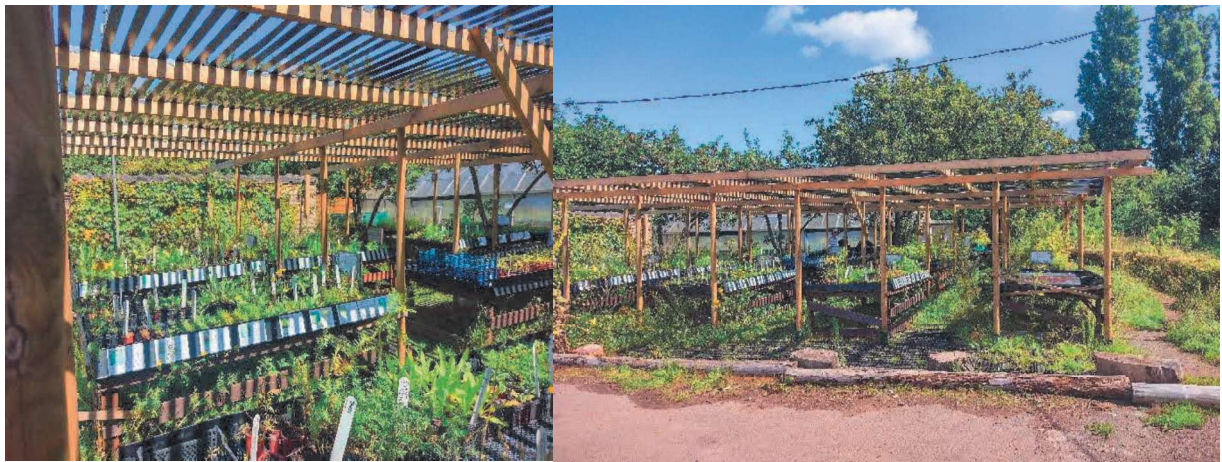
Horfield and Bishopston. We have had a thank you letter from **Shaun Waycott at Grow Wilder** for the donation we gave last year which has been used to help build shade netting over the outdoor area of the wildflower nursery.

"We very much appreciate the church donation which enabled us to finish the shade netting.

It took some time to build as with my time and a couple of volunteers we were only able to work on it once a week, so it's been a while. Now it is complete it is much appreciated by the nursery volunteers, visitors to the nursery and the plants!

The last few weeks have been relatively cool, but it was tested during the hot spell we had. It frames the plant sales area nicely and makes it more pleasant for visitors. Volunteers appreciate when putting out new plants and caring for the plants. It provides dappled shade, so the plants need less watering and are less stressed by being in small pots in baking sun all day. The roofing material used should last 15-20 years (it was used at the Channel Tunnel terminal to build windbreaks).

Developing the nursery is an ongoing process and without grants and donations like these we wouldn't have come as far as we have with the nursery. The nursery is the largest of the income strands that help keep the Grow Wilder site running enabling us to provide all the opportunities, courses, and inspiration that we do. So again, many thanks to the church for giving this donation and many thanks to all who contributed. "



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: - Jane Duffy, Sue Dyer, Rev. Dilwyn Edwards, Margaret Edwards, Kathleen Fenby, Betty Franklin.

Horfield Offertory. Many thanks to all those who have given this year - this might have been via the envelope scheme, by cash/cheque in the offertory basket, via the card machine, or a regular standing order through your bank. Equally if you have supported our fundraising initiatives and events, we are really grateful. With the total cost of the tower removal (essential due to health and safety reasons) costing just over £14,000, every last penny counts!

The end of the Methodist financial year (31 August) is fast approaching, and I will then need to submit the accounts for 2022-2023. If you give through the envelope scheme or give periodically, it will help me enormously if you could hand in any amounts for this financial year by the end of August, if at all possible. Please hand any cash/cheques/envelopes into the vestry stewards or give by BACS (online banking) directly into the church bank account (Bank: Lloyds. Sort code: 30-91-91. Acc no: 36329860) with the reference 'Offertory' or 'Donation' (whichever is relevant). These are also the details if you'd like to set up a regular standing order for your offertory. One-off donations are also very welcome, of course!

Helen Wallbridge (Treasurer)

Horfield. Please look at the Eco notice board for an outline of all the activities of the Group to date and also the latest Eco newsletter. Both these documents are available online.

Cotswold Christian Community. On Bank Holiday Monday 28 August, 2.30-5pm, there will be a **fun afternoon** at the Community Centre, Dursley Road, BS11 9XH. All welcome - free refreshments, games, craft and children's drama (from 4pm).

ALFA Christian Community. *Coffee Morning*, Saturday 19 August, 10-12noon, at Fulligrove House/Garden.

Avon & Somerset Police. Please read the attached document for tips on how to spot and avoid phishing emails and messages from scammers trying to steal your money or personal information.

Attachments: [phishing-newsletter.pdf](#)

Exam results. Over the next few weeks many young people will be expecting their examination results. Here is a prayer for them.

Thank you, God, that you are with me in my joy, and in my sorrow. Thank you, God, that you are with me when things are scary and uncertain. Thank you, God, that you are with me on every step of my journey, whether the path I take is clear, or whether the path takes me into the unknown.

Holy God thank you that I have been able to go to school. I pray for those who are unable to access education.

Thank you for teachers who have worked so hard this year, and every year, to help students. I pray for teachers and students who are returning to education this autumn.

Heavenly creator, you made me in Your image. You made me with love. You made me to be me, nobody else. Help me to remember that You love me, no matter what. Help me to remember that in your eyes, I am worth more than grades on a piece of paper.

Help me to remember your words: Isaiah 41:10 - "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

I pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Horfield. How can you help in the church's outreach to the community? We urgently need more volunteers at our Little Fishes Group on Friday mornings. You can help by making tea/ coffee for the parents, working on the craft table, helping with setting up on Thursday evenings or clearing away after the session. It does not have to be every week; you can come when it is convenient for you. This is a very successful venture, and it would be a pity if it must disband through lack of support from the church. Please talk to Helen, Janet, or Loraine if you can help.

Horfield and Bishopston. Dates for your diary

Circuit Meeting. Thursday 14 September, 7.30 p.m. at St. Chad's, Rodway Road, Patchway BS34 5ED.

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.

Reflection on the Lectionary Sunday 20th August (Ordinary 20)

Psalm 133; Genesis 45 :1 - 15; Romans 11 : 1 - 2, 29 - 32; Matthew 15 : 21 - 28

The reflection for this week is by Local Preacher, David Carter (Watley's End).

Our gospel reading, about the healing of the daughter of a Psycho-Phoenician woman, reminds us of something that we easily overlook, that in his human life, Jesus was subject to the limitations of understanding that affect all of us. Luke reminds us that he had to grow in wisdom (Luke 2:52), the author of Hebrews that he had to learn obedience through what he suffered (Heb 5:5).

At the beginning of his ministry, Jesus saw it as being for the benefit solely of his own people, a point reflected in our reading where Jesus states clearly that he was 'sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel'.

Overall, the gospels relate three incidents that helped change his understanding of what God required of him. One was this confrontation with a Psycho-Phoenician woman, the other two were the discovery of the great faith of a Roman centurion, who wanted his servant healed and his encounter with a Samaritan woman at a well. All three were people that Jesus, as a well brought up Jewish man, would normally have avoided. Our story tells us that the disciples just wanted Jesus to brush the woman off, she was after all an alien, not one of the special people of God.

Jesus, however, was overwhelmed by the woman's faith and to her daringly sharp answer to his statement that the children's food should not be given to dogs. The woman had faith that somehow this Jewish teacher and healer (as much an alien to her as she was to him) somehow had resources from which she could benefit. Jesus, in turn, was amazed by her faith and healed her daughter.

I'm sure this was a key moment in the development of our Lord's ministry, one that helped him to realise that he was ultimately called to a ministry much wider than purely to his own people. It was an understanding on which the disciples may well have reflected after the resurrection when the complex question arose of whether Gentiles should be allowed to join the Church without first having to keep all the Jewish laws. Peter's testimony about the Spirit being given to the Gentile convert, Cornelius, ultimately settled the issue but the development was foreshadowed in this key incident in Our Lord's ministry.

Prayer, *'Father we thank you that, in Christ, you have made available for all people without discrimination, sufficient, sovereign saving grace'.*

Our thanks to David for this reflection.



Join us for our

END OF SUMMER CELEBRATION & AGM!

Tuesday 26th September
7pm-9pm

- FREE to attend
- Everyone welcome
- Free BBQ and refreshments
- Fun, games & music
- Connect with your community
- Find out more about LNT
- Meet the trustees

Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust

@ The Cameron Centre, Cameron Walk
RSVP to info@lockleazent.co.uk
0117 914 1129