



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 13 August 2023



This week I shall be celebrating my birthday. This caused me to think about those special days. Birthdays are a wonderful time to celebrate the life God has given us and to encourage our friends and family with uplifting words.

Those of you who have visited hospitals, doctors, chemists or dentists will know that on every visit you have to give your date of birth. This helps to identify who you are.

This is what Wikipedia says about birthdays.

"In many parts of the world, an individual's birthday is celebrated by a party where a specially made cake, usually decorated with lettering and the person's age, is presented. The cake is traditionally studded with the same number of lit candles as the age of the individual, or a number candle representing their age. The celebrated individual will usually make a silent wish and attempt to blow out the candles in one breath; if successful, a tradition holds that the wish will be granted. In many cultures, the wish must be kept secret, or it won't "come true". Presents are bestowed on the individual by the guests appropriate to their age. Other birthday activities may include entertainment (sometimes by a hired professional, i.e. a clown, magician, or musician), and a special toast or speech by the birthday celebrant. "Happy Birthday to You" is typically sung by the guests at some point in the proceedings. In some countries a piñata takes the place of a cake."

I think of one memorable birthday I attended. My mother-in-law was determined to celebrate her hundredth birthday. She was in a nursing home, on the special day, where they pulled out all the stops and everyone there celebrated with all our friends and family. The 'icing on the cake', for her was the card from the Queen.

There is a song which has the words: - 'I've got the key of the door, never been 21 before! ' But what exactly does it mean? The 21st birthday signified the start of an adult life and the independence it brings with it. Traditionally when a person became 21, he or she would leave the parental home for pastures new. Now, young adults are likely still living with parents but 21 remains a landmark birthday, calling for Celebration with a capital 'C'. Most Special birthdays are celebrated after you have reached 50.

Different faiths celebrate the birth date of their founders. We, as Christians, celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas time. Next year, 2024, we shall celebrate 125 years of the life of the church at Horfield. Hundreds of people have passed through its doors, and we would like to feel that it has been a beacon in the community. A church which is the anchor where people shine their light, and, in turn, inspires, guides, and brings hope to others.

We know that life is like a book. With each new chapter, we learn and grow towards what you would have us be. Bless us now, and in the future. In your name, we pray. Amen.

WORSHIP DETAILS for 13 August.

Horfield at 10.00 conducted by J. Creech.

Bishopston at 10.30 conducted by Rev. D. Edwards with Holy Communion.

Shirehampton at 11.00. All Age Worship and Local Arrangement.

St. Peter's, Pilning at 10.00. Conducted by D. Head.

OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS for 13 August and the week

Sunday Worship. Radio 4 at 8.10. RISE UP- WORLD YOUTH DAY. Young Catholic pilgrims gather in Lisbon for World Youth Day with Pope Francis.

Songs of Praise. BBC 1 at 1.15. COLCHESTER'S CHRISTIAN HERITAGE.

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 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.

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: - Jenny Cornell, Keith Cornell, Joshua Cottam, Linda Cox, Joan Davis, Libby Deeks. The leaders and families of the Cub Packs.

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)

Cotswold Christian Community. Songs of Praise Café, 13 August, 4.45-5.30pm at the Community Centre, Dursley Road, BS11 9XH. All welcome. Joan Hall will talk about the East African Revival and Paul Rhodes about the current revival in Ukraine! There will also be a short drama, 2 favourite hymns/worship songs and prayers - as well as tea and cakes of course!

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. 14 August - Quiet Garden Morning, 10.30-12.30pm, at Fulligrove House. The theme is "Consider the lilies of the field".

Coffee Morning, Saturday 19 August, 10.00-12noon, at Fulligrove House/Garden.

John Wesley's New Room Summer Activities. Thursdays 10, 17 August 11am - 12pm or 2pm - 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](#)

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 & 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 pm. 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.

ENCOURAGE PEOPLE IN YOUR CHURCH TO TALK TO YOUNG PEOPLE!

Research has shown that children and young people really value conversations with adults and feeling connected with their wider church family. That's why, at Conference this year, Methodists were encouraged to take a moment to talk to a young person in their faith community. For many adults, talking to a teenager maybe a daunting prospect. If this applies to people in your church why not invite them to one of the upcoming Youthscape Essentials taster sessions to help build rapport with young people? [Find out more and register here.](#)

A Word in Time is the daily online Bible study from the Methodist Church. Each week sees a series of scriptural reflections, written by a different writer or group of writers from all around the Connexion (the Methodist Church in Britain). The hope is to include as many different voices as possible (including those of young people) and it is always great to find new contributors - **and this is where you and your group might come in!** If your youth group would be interested in working together to write for one week of A Word in Time, then please [email Lynne Norman to find out more](#). The Bible passages are set for you, based on the lectionary readings for the week. Each day's reflection should be around 300 words and include a few questions for the reader 'to ponder'.

From Avon & Somerset Police

Many large community groups use WhatsApp, so please read the attached document if you use WhatsApp or know someone who does.

Attachments: [whatsapp-scam.pdf](#)

Are you aged 18-30 and have 5 mins to spare? [Please take a look at our survey](#). This will help us to hear a range of views and opinions of young adults as we continue to plan and develop Young Adult ministry within the Methodist Church.

Are you a minister, chaplain, youth worker, young adult worker, volunteer? We would also like to capture your thoughts about Young Adult ministry at this time. We would be grateful if you could take the time to [fill in this short survey](#). Your views will be helpful as we continue to plan and develop ministry with young adults in the Methodist Church. **THANK YOU!**

Reflection on the Lectionary Sunday 13 August (Ordinary 19)

Psalm 105: 1 - 6, 16 - 22; Genesis 37: 1 - 4, 12 - 28; Romans 10: 5 - 15; Matthew 14 : 22 - 33

The reflection for this week is by Local Preacher, Christine Jones (Longwell Green).

After Matthew's account of the Marvellous Picnic, Jesus sends the disciples back to the other side of the lake while he dismisses the crowd. We join the disciples, now a considerable distance from land, being buffeted by waves because the wind is against them. Only Matthew includes the story of Peter getting out of the boat.

The Christian community for whom Matthew wrote his gospel were feeling rather like the disciples. They no longer had the physical presence of Jesus. They believed he was alive and they had the Holy Spirit, but it

wasn't the same as having him with them, having him 'in the boat,' as it were. He had promised that he would come again, but time had passed, decades. Would he ever return? How long could they manage without him? Like the disciples in the boat they were struggling in the dark, buffeted by waves of doubt and temptation; not actually facing persecution, but fearing it could come. The confidence with which they had started out after Pentecost had ebbed away. After the initial wave of conversions there had been opposition and apathy; undercurrents and tensions, pulling them this way and that.

This is the situation for which Matthew includes this story of Peter; Peter the rock, Peter the great Christian leader, Peter the faithful martyr. Matthew deliberately tells this story to encourage his Christian community to exercise their faith amid the chaotic situations around them; to fix their attention on Jesus; to be brave enough to get out of their boat and keep walking towards him; to focus on what he's doing and where he's leading; to accept that there will be trouble, opposition and threats around them; there will be distractions, doubts and temptations within them. There will also be the hand of Jesus reaching out to catch them, because truly he is the Son of God

Does any of this sound familiar? Do we ever feel that it has been a long wait for Jesus to return? Not just decades, centuries, millennia. We believe he is risen and we have the Holy Spirit, but it is not the same as having his physical presence, having him 'in our boat.' Will he ever return? How long can we manage without him? Do we sometimes, or maybe often, feel we are struggling in the dark, straining at the oars, working our socks off for the church, and getting nowhere? Nothing seems secure anymore. There are forces for change both inside the church and in the wider world. Is the boat sinking under us?

Are we brave enough to get out of the boat and walk towards Jesus, or are we so fascinated by the powers of destruction that we have lost sight of him? If we keep our eyes on him, we will stay afloat. If we keep our eyes on other things we will go under. He says to each of us 'Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid. Come'. So, when we do get out of our boat he reaches out his hand to catch us, for truly he is the Son of God.

Lord Jesus, since it is you, though I am afraid, I will take heart, I will come to you, for truly you are the Son of God, and even my little faith is enough for you to use. Amen.

Our thanks to Christine for this reflection.

**BANISH THE BINDWEED
& PLANT POTATOES
FOR CHRISTMAS!**

Prepare the growing space and
plant potatoes ready for
Christmas harvest.

 **WEDNESDAY 16TH AUG** 
12PM-3PM
BUZZ COMMUNITY GARDEN

Meet your neighbours and make the
most of this community growing space.
Get active outdoors, learn new skills
and have some fun.

All tools provided, refreshments
included.
Please wear suitable footwear &
clothing.

 Contact: 01179141129 or
maria@lockleazent.co.uk 