



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 6 August 2023



Hello to everyone in Bristol. The long wait for August is nearly over, and we will soon be moving from my current appointment in North-East Somerset and Bath to join you in Bristol and South Gloucestershire. We are very much looking forward to meeting and getting to know you. I have been asked to introduce myself, so here goes!

I was born in Bristol and grew up at Clowes Methodist Church in St George and Kingswood Methodist Church, where my parents and grandparents also worshipped. I was a member of the Boys Brigade, a church steward and treasurer before being accepted for ministry. I trained at STETS, in the grounds of Salisbury Cathedral, in a group of mostly Anglicans, alongside a minister you may already know, Patrick Stonehewer!

After leaving school, I trained as a Quantity Surveyor, working in Bristol, Newbury, London, Cheddar and then finally back in Bristol, mainly on the fit out and refurbishment of commercial buildings, but also building homes for the MOD and student accommodation.

My wife is Helen, who is a sister on the neo-natal intensive care unit at Southmead Hospital. She is looking forward to a much shorter commute to work after we move! We have been married for 34 years and have 3 children, Callum, Katie and Fraser who are all in their 20's. I have attached a family photo taken recently at a friend's wedding, so we are looking presentable!

When I have time for hobbies I sing in the Mendip Male Voice Choir, have researched my family tree back to the early 1500's, and have recently developed an interest in growing bonsai trees, although I hate gardening!! I have been known to bake the odd cake or two and enjoy cooking for friends when I have the time. I used to play indoor bowls and enjoyed hacking round a golf course but taking far too many strokes to be counted as competent! Perhaps I might be able to improve on my lack of skill at Shirehampton Golf Course?

I look forward to getting to know you, and ministering to you, and to finding out what God has planned for us all as we journey together over the next five years.

God bless, - Revd Martin

WORSHIP DETAILS for 6 August.

Horfield at 10.00 conducted by Rev. P. Jackson with Holy Communion.

Bishopston at 10.30 conducted by P. Culshaw.

Shirehampton at 11.00 conducted by C. Champion Smith.

St. Peter's, Pilning at 10.00 conducted by Rev. R. Van Rossum with Holy Communion.

OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS for 6 August and the week

Sunday Worship. Radio 4 at 8.10. Anna Magnusson marks the Edinburgh Festival on its opening weekend.

Songs of Praise. BBC 1 at 1.15. The 12th. Century Church in a Hospital.

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 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. Local Arrangement with All Age Worship.

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

Martin, Helen and their family.



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: - Rachel Canning, Carolina Carias, Lou Carias, David Chandler, Mary Chandler, Nicholas Chivers, and for Martin and Helen as they prepare to move to Bristol.

Horfield and Bishopston. In extreme bad weather the 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 two 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 needed, but we do need to have people ready on standby. Thank you.

Horfield and Bishopston. August Messy church will be on Saturday 12 August from 11.00 to 1pm on Wellington Field behind the Parish Church Hall or in the Church Hall if wet. Please bring your own picnic. Soft drinks and snacks will be available. An opportunity to play games and have a chat, if you are in Bristol that weekend. If not have a good Summer and see you in September. Horfield Messy team x

August Eco Tip. Help birds in hot weather. Keeping your bird bath topped up with fresh water in warmer weather can be a life saver for our feathered friends. Get your garden birds through a heatwave when natural supplies, like worms, become scarce, by putting out supplementary food - black sunflower seeds, pinhead oatmeal, soaked sultanas, raisins and currants, mealworms, waxworms and good seed mixture. Submitted by Lou.



We are pleased to announce that following our application for a grant the Benefact Trust have awarded us £2,100. This money will help with the costs involved with the tower removal and repairs to the roof.

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, two 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

9th August. *NO drop-in.* Resumes every Wednesday afternoon, 2.30-4.30pm at Fulligrove House, Woodwell Road, BS11 9UG from 16^h August. All welcome.

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

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

Safeguarding Foundation Module. Saturday 9th September 1.30 - 4.30pm.

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 3, 10, 17 August. 11.00 - Noon 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 & Bishopston - Dates for your diary

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 4.00pm . 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.

Horfield Parish Church. We are pleased to invite you to the re-launch of the **Horfield Young People's Club** on Friday 15 September in the Church hall. Children, 6pm - 8pm. Parents and carers from 7.15pm - 8pm to meet the leaders and helpers. Refreshments provided. Please RSVP to hpc.sec@horfieldparishchurch.org.uk by Friday 25 August

Reflection on the Lectionary Sunday 6 August

Psalm 17 : 1 - 7, 15; Genesis 32 : 22 - 31; Romans 9 : 1 - 5; Matthew 14 : 13 - 21

The reflection for this week is by Local Preacher, Adam Biddlestone (Zion).

The news that Jesus had just heard was the death of his cousin, John the Baptist. The compilers of the Lectionary have left this event out of our readings (14 : 1 - 12), so you may not be aware that this has happened. In response, *'he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place.'*

In the Romans passage, Paul speaks of *'the great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my (his) heart.'* Paul's sorrow and anguish is over his kinsmen, the people of Israel, who unlike him are unsaved because they are cut off from Christ, they don't, as Paul now does, have a relationship with the Saviour of the world. His people have many privileges, everything is in place, all they have to do is to accept and follow the Messiah, God over all.

I wonder if Jesus would have explained his emotions as being of *'great sorrow and unceasing anguish.'* After all, John was his cousin with whom he had grown up, the one who prepared the way for him and baptized him. The circumstances of his death were that he was beheaded on the request of Herod's niece, Herodias. There was a certain tragedy and untimely nature to his death.

I wonder, if the crowds and disciples were aware of the news Jesus had just received? The crowds still followed Jesus and at a time when he needed their compassion, yet it was Jesus who, *'had compassion on them.'* He continued to heal those who were ill. There would have been many healings performed, time slipped away and before they knew it evening was upon them. The disciples had compassion too, they recognised the hunger the crowds would have felt, the place was remote, resources few, so they suggested to Jesus that he sent them into the villages to buy food. This presented Jesus with an opportunity to be alone again, but he chose not to send the crowds away but to feed them from what they had available.

This turned out to be just *'five loaves of bread and two fish.'* The crowds were sat down and before their very eyes Jesus took the loaves and fish, looked up to heaven, gave thanks broke the loaves before the disciples, distributed the food and all five thousand men plus women and children were fed. A miracle indeed! Apart from what was eaten twelve basketfuls of scraps were also collected.

This takes us back to Paul and his kinsmen, with the twelve baskets seen as representing the twelve tribes of Israel. As Paul identifies, the privileges they have received are many, covenants, laws, temple worship, promises, a shared ancestry with the Messiah himself. Maybe in the crowds among the committed followers, there are those whose interest in Jesus and his message are growing. And now there is another privilege being laid out in front of them, an earthly banquet and feast, a foretaste of the heavenly banquet and feast to come.

Prayer. Lord, we thank you for the privileges of a life and faith in you. Help us as we journey through this earthly life to see glimpses of the life to come. Amen.

Our thanks to Adam for this reflection

LINKS TO ONLINE SERVICES

10.00 Sunday morning, Joint Morning Worship from Horfield (REVISED LINK)

<https://zoom.us/j/98471129655?pwd=Sk4wTno5WHV5S21KV0p4UC9ZWnZ6UT09>

Meeting ID: 984 7112 9655 Passcode: 482170

To dial in please use 0203 901 7895 or 0208 080 6591 and follow the prompts for Meeting and Passcode.

