



The Methodist Church

Horfield Methodist Church

Minister: Revd. Martin Slocombe

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We are part of the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit (www.bsqc.org.uk)
a family of churches serving communities across the local area.

We hope to welcome all
serve the community
spread God's love

Sunday 30th August 2026

WORSHIP DETAILS for 30th August

Horfield at 10:00 conducted by John Creech.

Bishopston at 10.30 conducted by Forward Maisokwadzo.

WORSHIP DETAILS for 6th September

Horfield at 10:00 conducted by Revd Martin Slocombe with Holy Communion. - Bible Month.

Bishopston at Horfield.

Lectionary readings. Jeremiah 15: 15-21, Psalm 26: 1-8, Romans 12: 9-21, Matthew 16: 21-28

Whole Church

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: Audrey and David Bainbridge, Monique Brocklesbury, Jayne Brown, Richard Brown, Janet Browning, Michelle Butler, Carolina and Lou Carias, Gordon Chambers.

Naomi Shepherd We are sad to announce Naomi passed away on the 19th August. Please join us in praying for those who will miss her. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Eco Church News - a message from ARocha UK

This year marks ten years of A Rocha UK's Eco Church programme, and these are just some of the findings from a new report exploring the journey so far!

Over 9,000 registered Eco Churches, spanning 25 denominations.

Over 3,000 churches (88%) manage their land to encourage native wildlife.

Over 2,500 churches (78%) have made a decision to invest their funds ethically.

There is so much to celebrate about the first ten years of Eco Church. We have produced a report, which as well as celebrating what has been achieved, provides insights into what helps churches make progress, the barriers they encounter, and how A Rocha UK can continue to support churches as they respond to God's call to care for creation.

Thank you for your commitment to caring for creation and for playing your part in this movement of Christians taking action. Every action, every prayer, every conversation contributes to the enormous impact that this report shows us.

If you want to read the report, click here [10 Years of Eco Church - Eco Church](#) or visit

<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT - 21st September to 4 October 2026

This year's theme is Do It Fair - focusing on people, Planet and Fair Pay

Fairtrade is calling on the government to pass a new law that would ensure all businesses address human rights abuses and climate damage behind their products. You can make a difference - click here [Do it Fair](#) for more details and to sign the petition, or visit www.fairtrade.net/uk-en/get-involved/support-fairtrade/current-campaigns/do-it-fair.html

Circuit Welcome Service Tuesday 1st September at 7.30pm at St Peter's Church, Alison Road, Brislington (refreshments from 6.30pm). A welcome service for Revd Peter Masvotore, the new minister for South Bristol and Parkway - he joins the circuit from Zimbabwe.

A Musical Medley at Horfield - Friday 9th October, 7.30pm

Come along and enjoy an evening of musical entertainment featuring a range of music played on the organ (Alison Howell), piano (John Waldren), singing (Alice Lovell, Mary Lane), plus the cello, a recorder trio, handbells and the trombone!

Tickets available from members of the fundraising committee (including Lorraine, Esmin, Donna & Helen) from September.

Adults £10, children £5

Prayer - a short reflection

At the end of these notices is a short reflection written about prayer - you may find it interesting or have had a similar experience - if you want to chat about prayer or just comment, you can email Lou at mail@horfieldmethodist.org.uk

Please keep visiting our own church **Facebook page** at <http://www.facebook.com/share/16H4iPxiiX/>

Circuit Events. To find out what's going on across the circuit and details about all upcoming events, click here <https://bsgc.org.uk/events/>

DATES for your DIARY

12th September - Tea, Coffee, Craft & Chat at Bishopston 10.30am - 12pm

30th September - Property Group Meeting (Horfield site) 7pm at Church

6th October - Leadership Meeting 7pm at Horfield

9th October - A Musical Medley 7.30pm at Horfield

10th October - Tea, Coffee, Craft & Chat at Bishopston 10.30am - 12pm

20th October - Study Group - Heaven 7pm at Horfield (see poster on last page)

22nd October - Church Council 7pm at Horfield

24th October - Messy Church

27th October - Study Group - Heaven 7pm at Horfield

Submissions for notices

All submissions for the notices should be sent to: mail@horfieldmethodist.org.uk by MONDAY for inclusion the following Sunday. Details of future events should be supplied with at least 12 days' notice.

My Struggle with Prayer – a short reflection

I never thought I was very good at praying, and for a long time my prayer life was sporadic at best. In 2019 a lot changed. I finally found a church home, kick-started my spiritual journey and things were looking great. Then, almost as soon as things started to click for me, my Dad got the worst news – out of the blue, he was given a terminal cancer diagnosis. He felt pretty fit and healthy, but was told he had weeks to live. It was naturally devastating for the family, but the reason for sharing this isn't to talk about that, but so I can talk about how this event highlighted my struggles with prayer.

So, I've just got off the phone with my parents. Dad is dying, just like that, from nowhere. I dropped to my knees and cried, everything hurt, but more than anything I was really mad. So mad, I couldn't articulate my thoughts or feelings properly. I raged at God, internally and screaming. It didn't make any sense.

I knew things were really bleak, and lots of people kept saying they were praying for him and our family, but I wasn't sure what they were praying for. I didn't know what to pray for. I just sat quietly asking God why or just sat numb saying nothing, waiting, and waiting. One thing I didn't do, which I still think about today, is ask for a miracle – I never asked God to save him, or make him better. My faith at that time wasn't strong enough, I really did think it would be a waste of time – that is something I have come to regret. I know now, that it is OK to ask God for anything. I spent so many years censoring my prayers or wondering if I might ask too much, or if my prayers were selfish. I wish I could go back and tell myself to let go – God already knows anyway, as John Wesley said *"your Father knows what you need even before you ask"*

Whilst caring for Dad, these silent conversations with God continued. I don't remember what I was saying, it didn't feel like prayer, just silent anger aimed at Him. Gradually I started to not just rage, but to listen and I did sit quietly in the evenings and just wait for his guidance. After a few weeks I realised I had started to pray, I was talking (in my head) with God. I asked that he take care of my siblings and my Mum. I asked for the strength to support and look after my Dad. I asked that he make Dad comfortable, pain free and let him die with peace and dignity and that all of us siblings and Mum be with him at the end. In the midst of everything going on I managed to get to Church one Sunday, and it was there that I was really helped by someone praying for me. During a service, there was a moment during the prayers of intercession when we were asked to join hands with the person next to us (if we were comfortable to do so). Cherry and I, who didn't know each other at the time, held hands. I was upset and she noticed, I told her about Dad's diagnosis and she prayed for him and me right there. I don't remember what was said, but I know I left church that morning feeling stronger and better able to deal with things that I had before. God, was working that day, and through that act of prayer I was affected. I felt the strength of the Holy Spirit with me in those final weeks caring for Dad. My prayers were answered, we were with Dad right until his last breath, he was pain free and at peace, and died at home exactly how he had wanted.

I look back at that time and know that I got everything I needed from God, even though I couldn't get the words out. God was at work, and through prayer I heard him, through Cherry, the Holy Spirit gave me strength and not only did that help then, it changed my view of prayer as well. It was the start of a spiritual journey that led to me becoming a member of the Church and undertaking the roles I have. It's what led me to the Worship Leader course and the chance to study and continue to grow in my Spiritual Life.

Lou Carias

August 2026

People's Emergency Briefing

A short film presenting the latest evidence on the climate and nature crisis followed by discussion



Scan to book free seats

**The People's Emergency
Briefing | Film Showing
Sunday 20th September**

5.30pm Doors Open | Refreshments

6.00pm Film | 6.50pm Discussion & Responses

7.30pm Depart

Bradbury Hall, Waterford Rd, Henleaze BS9 4BT

Jointly organised by Trinity-Henleaze URC & St Peter's, Henleaze

Discussion Group Heaven

In the book 'Heaven', Paula Gooder considers the ways in which the Bible sees heaven and earth connecting, and explores all the major strands of belief about life after death, including the role of paradise, and what happens between death and resurrection. She shows how the biblical writers see heaven and earth as closely connected, so that what happens in heaven affects events on earth and vice versa. You might like to buy the book and read along with us, but it is not essential.

**Horfield Methodist Church
Tuesdays from 7pm**

Oct 20th – Introduction and Cosmology

Oct 27th – Transcendence and Closeness

Nov 10th – Angels

Nov 17th – Communication

Nov 24th – Life and Death

Come and watch a video, see what the Bible has to say, and share your thoughts – all are welcome



Westbury-on-Trym
**Methodist
Church**

Click and Connect

is a new community digital support
program for the over 55's.

**Thursday
10.30am – 12.30 pm**
starting on 10 September.

Thanks to grants from **The Anchor Society** and the **Methodist Circuit**, Digital support sessions are back at the Westbury-on-Trym Methodist Church. Same team, new name, offering weekly focussed and drop-in sessions to support you to learn a new skill or hone and tone existing skills.

Bring your mobile phone or tablet and move forward with us

www.wotmethodist.org.uk

WoT Methodist Church, 46 Westbury Hill, BS9 3AA