



## The Methodist Church

Bishopston, Easter Compton, Horfield, Shirehampton Methodist Churches and St Peter's Pilning.  
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We are part of the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit ([www.bsgc.org.uk](http://www.bsgc.org.uk)),  
a family of over forty churches serving communities across the local area.

These notices are also posted on <http://www.horfieldmethodist.org.uk>

God's table is open to all

### Sunday 1 August 2021



Holidays - the word comes from Holy Days - rarely existed for the common man and his family. It wasn't until 1841 that a one day excursion to a temperance meeting (from Leicester to Loughborough on a chartered train) was organised and sold at a shilling a head. This earned former Baptist preacher Thomas Cook the sobriquet of inventor of the package tour.

It was Lancashire cotton workers in the 1870s who helped develop a genuine working class seaside holiday system. They saved all year to convert the traditional (unpaid) one-week Wakes holidays into seaside breaks and in doing so helped change the character of many northern seaside resorts. Wakes Weeks when factories closed were still pretty strong in the north in the 1970s (Glaswegians brought their own police with them to Blackpool for their Wakes Week).

In the 1940s and 50s the miners' families flocked from the valleys to places like Porthcawl, Barry, Tenby, Aberavon and Severn Beach, for the Miner's fortnight in the last week of July and the first week of August. The right to holiday leave became a legal right for workers in 1939, and by 1975 most workers had two weeks or more paid holiday. (New Year's Day was made a Bank Holiday in Britain in 1974 and the first Monday in May a Bank Holiday in 1978.) Our holiday of choice was still the British seaside and 40 million of us headed to a British beach in 1975. Many of us were now swapping train travel for our own cars, thanks to Dr Beeching who in the 1960s had closed many of the rail branch lines to seaside towns. Car ownership gave us all a freedom never before enjoyed and led to a big increase in camping and caravan holidays.

By 1979, for the first time in history, Britons spent more on overseas holidays than on holidays at home. For £50 you could spend a week in glamorous Majorca with hotel bedrooms that had balconies and - unheard-of luxury - en suite bathrooms! Travel entrepreneurs were developing mass-market tourism abroad on an unprecedented scale. However, due to Covid-19, these days, people are looking forward to 'staycations', and booking holidays in this country once again. They feel they need to get away from it all and refresh. If even Jesus needed to stop and rest in the midst of a chaotic world, with all of the important things He had to do, don't you think we need rest, too?

Setting boundaries in our lives is the only way to ensure we stay healthy physically, mentally, and spiritually. Jesus felt that he needed to get away from the crowds to rest and meditate. Continually Jesus withdrew from people, daily life activities, and the demands of his ministry to be alone with the Father and pray. Jesus' solitude and silence is a major theme in the Gospels. His ongoing, intimate relationship with his Abba was the source of his compassion, wisdom, and power that we see on every page of the Gospels.

**Lord God,**

*We put ourselves into Your hands, and pray that You will bless us and our families during the wonderful months of summer.*

*May we all help make our home a place of relaxation, joy, love, peace and safety.*

*May we be generous and considerate, not thinking only about ourselves, but helping others enjoy the blessings of summertime.*

*We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen*

(Information from the Family Holiday Association and St Martin's Prayers)

## **FORTHCOMING SERVICES**

**Joint Service on 1 August at 10.00 - Horfield with Bishopston** at the church and on Zoom led by Rev D. Hardy with Holy Communion.

For those attending Horfield in person: please arrive in good time for the service so you can register your details for Covid-19 purposes. Please enter via the left-hand doors from the Gloucester Road frontage, with the side (red) door in Churchways Avenue solely for those needing level access. Please wear a face covering whilst in the building (unless you have a medical exemption) and follow other Covid-19 arrangements within the building including maintaining two metres social distancing at all times. Do not attend worship in person if you have any symptoms of Covid-19. Please understand that if 40 people have arrived before you then we will not be able to let you in. You will continue to be able to join the service via Zoom

**St Peter's, Pilning with Easter Compton** at 10.00 led by Rev Phillip Rowe, with Holy Communion, at the Church.

**Shirehampton. 11.00.** At the church led by D. Head.

**Our pre-recorded worship** this week has been prepared by Adam Biddlestone, a Local Preacher in the Circuit and also a member of the Circuit team. Please follow this link, <https://youtu.be/VnZjy-VKmlk>

**Horfield.** Junior Church will be taking a holiday during August. Hopefully they will start again in the first week of September, at the church, subject to a risk assessment.

**All Age devotions** for everyone, available via [www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com)

**Open Church Cafe** on 2 August from 10.00 onwards hosted by St Peter's, Pilning. Please contact [churchwardenpilning@gmail.com](mailto:churchwardenpilning@gmail.com) for the joining details.

**Evening Prayer** every Wednesday at 4.00pm for 35 minutes hosted by St Peter's, Pilning, using the Church of England "Join us in Daily Prayer" resources <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-andworship/joinusservice-daily-prayer>.

**Bible Study-** we are taking a summer break from the weekly Bible Study - please look out for an update nearer the end of August about re-starting.

**Mark's Gospel** Following on from our exploration of Mark's Gospel in worship, you might be interested to listen to David Suchet, the well-known actor, read the whole of the Gospel: follow this link, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JjOgcMQXvSc> It is well worth listening to!

## **OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS for 1 August**

**Sunday Worship. Radio 4 at 8.10.** We cling to our faith. Remembering 4 August 2020, when an explosion at Beirut port killed 200 people, injured 6, 000 and displaced 300, 000.

**Songs of Praise. BBC 2 at 1.15.** Faith and Food. Aled Jones explores links between faith and food at the Coptic orthodox Cathedral of St. George in Hertfordshire, where the Eucharistic bread is especially baked.

**Daily Service at 09.45** each weekday - BBC Radio 4 LW

## WORSHIP DETAILS FOR SUNDAY 8 AUGUST

**Joint Service Shirehampton, Easter Compton and Horfield at 10.00** at the church and on Zoom – Eco Church by Local Arrangement.

**Bishopston at 10.30** at the church led by H. Cook with Holy Communion.

**St.Peter's Pilning at 10.00** at the church led by R.Shaw.

**WEEKLY NOTICES.** Please send items to Eurfron by Tuesday, [eurfron@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:eurfron@blueyonder.co.uk) or 969 1908.

**CHURCH LETTINGS.** Please contact Heather on [bookings@horfieldmethodist.org.uk](mailto:bookings@horfieldmethodist.org.uk)

## GENERAL NOTICES

**The Methodist Centre** in Lincoln Street is open Mondays to Thursdays, supporting the vulnerable and homeless across the city and beyond. Donations of food and money are welcome. Please note that they are no longer able to accept donations to the Charity Shop which is now permanently closed.

**Shirehampton.** All are welcome to join members and friends of Shirehampton church for coffee and cake on Saturday 7 August, 11.00, outside Cafe on the Square, Sea Mills BS9 2DY.

**Horfield.** Over the last few months many of us have missed our chats with other members of our congregation and groups. You have the opportunity to catch up at a virtual Wednesday morning meeting during August from 10.00 to 11.00 on Zoom. Details below.

**Horfield.** 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; Maureen & Philippa Hyde, Roger Jones, Junior Church, Jane Kimber.

**Eco-Tip.** Wasps have such a bad reputation compared with bees. They are the enemies of picnickers, always want to eat your food, and people think they are aggressive and sting all the time. But actually, wasps are as important as bees in the ecosystem. They are very big pollinators, and help develop diversity of flowers and food crops. They also regulate populations of crop pests such as caterpillars and whiteflies, contributing to global food security. A small wasp colony can eat up to 3,000 flies, mosquitoes and spiders each day, and kill insects that carry human diseases.

### **So wasps are as useful as bees for our planet!**

Unfortunately, bees and wasps populations are in a strong decline. This is due to climate change, pesticides and habitat loss. This will put at risk the balance in our ecosystem, and could trigger food shortages.

### **What can we do to help them?**

Don't use chemicals and pesticides to treat your garden.

Keep a small basin of fresh water outside your home because they are thirsty.

Buy local, organic food. Organic food fields contain less pesticides and toxic chemicals.

Remember: bees and wasps are not here to sting you! Just let them do their job.



### **Horfield. Dates for your diary**

- Friday 27 August, Eco Group Meeting
- Thursday 2 September, Stewards Plus
- Sunday 5 September, Circuit Welcome Service

- Thursday 9 September, Leadership Team

### Reflection on the Lectionary Sunday 1 August (Ordinary 18)

Psalm 41 : 1 - 12; 2 Samuel 11 : 26 - 12 : 13a; Ephesians 4 : 1 - 16; John 6 : 24 - 35

This reflection is provided by Local Preacher Ruth Marshall.

King David, after hearing the story Nathan told him of the rich man taking the one and only beloved sheep from the poor man to entertain a visiting friend, was appalled. How could anyone be so mean? It seems incredulous that King David did not appear to recognize that his affair and murderous plan that he put in place to secure his desire for Bathsheba was wrong, until Nathan relayed this story to him. The whole story of David's affair with Bathsheba, the resulting pregnancy, the attempt at cover up and the ultimate arrangement to secure Bathsheba's husband's death at the front line, reminds me of the saying "what a tangled web we weave when at first we do deceive."

David's initial desire for Bathsheba led to a whole continuum of wrongful actions. We may proudly attest to the fact that we've never followed in the same pattern as King David. However, do we ever stop to consider the reasoning of our desires, or the seemingly innate consequences of our desires?

When the crowds sought Jesus, He told them that they had sought him out not because of the signs he had performed but rather because they had eaten the loaves that Jesus had fed them with at the feeding of the five thousand and that they had been satisfied!

We live in an age of the desire of instant gratification. Credit cards encourage that concept of buy now pay later. Live for today don't worry about tomorrow. Jesus tells the crowd that He is the bread of life, not just a one meal deal. Are we caught up in what we want now without being concerned about the outcomes? Jesus says that all those that the Father gives to Him and who come to Him, He will never drive away (John 6 : 35 and 40). This requires acceptance and commitment.

Paul in his letter to the Ephesians says "I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle, be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." (4 : 1-3) Following Jesus and serving Him is a lifelong commitment, how can we expect others to be drawn towards Jesus if we only follow our desires? How many souls are lost because we're too busy just following what we want? Having been starved of social relationships, starved of the freedom to congregate in masses to cheer on our favourite sporting teams, or the ability to eat out at restaurants, our eagerness to rekindle these pleasures will undoubtedly be great. However, as we step out of Covid-19 restrictions let us be cognizant of those who remain vulnerable to even a mild infection; let us think carefully of the consequences of any actions, or inactions that may cause harm to others. Let us step out in faith and love for one another, being gentle, humble, patient, and bearing one another in love while we continue to make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Amen.

Our thanks to Ruth for this reflection.