



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), a family of churches serving communities across the local area.

God's table is open to all

Sunday 21 August 2022

The Desideratum by John Wesley



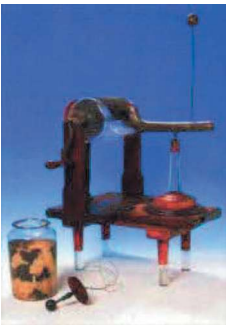
John Wesley Pioneers Electric Healing

Many people know John Wesley was the inspiration behind the Methodist Denomination. But few know he was one of the first persons in England to use a static electricity machine to heal many disorders including blindness, gout, sprains, deafness, toothaches, and stomach and back pain.

Electrifying Cures

In November 1756, he obtained an electrical apparatus and began experimenting by shocking himself for lameness and neuralgia. The cure was certain but gradual. His Journal records at least two other occasions where he applied electrical shock therapy to himself, once when he was 70 and once when he was 80 years old.

In 1773, while on one of his many preaching tours, Wesley had such a pain in his left side and shoulder that he had great difficulty even lifting his hand to his face. For several days previous he had been trying to recover from inflammation in his throat and mouth. He felt that the pain in his side and shoulder was a result of the earlier inflammation. After getting one of his assistants to electrify him, he felt much better and was able to preach in the evening.



Wesley's Electrical Machine

It consists of a hollow glass cylinder (7 1/2 in. long by 4 1/2 in. diameter) supported on two wooden uprights. Through it runs a metal bar to which a handle is attached, by means of which the cylinder can be freely rotated. A leather pad (to which is firmly attached a piece of black silk) is pressed against the cylinder. It is controlled, very simply, by a thumbscrew.

Our thanks to Bob Walters for submitting this introduction.

Let us pray for the world of technology and scientific research.

Lord, you have endowed human beings with the ability to search out your laws and have given them the freedom to apply their knowledge as they choose.

We ask your blessing on all engaged in scientific research and technology and on those who provide the resources for such work; that choice may be made of projects which both enhance human life and have regard to the safety and well-being of the natural order. May we thus be true stewards of your bounty, to our own inner satisfaction and your greater glory. Amen.

(David Welbourn - Theology of Work Project)

WORSHIP DETAILS FOR SUNDAY 21 August and the week

Horfield. Joint Service at Bishopston.

Horfield - Christian Believers Fellowship at 12.30. Led by William Carey.

Bishopston at 10.30. Joint Service with Horfield. Conducted by S. James.

Shirehampton at 11.00. Conducted by Rev. M. Briggs with Holy Communion.

St Peter's, Pilning and Easter Compton at 10.00. Conducted by the Anglican team.

Easter Compton. Wednesday 24 August at 3.00. Reflective Space led by the Ark Team.

OTHER WORSHIP DETAILS for 21 August and the week

Sunday Worship. Radio 4 at 8.10. From the Corrymeela Community, Ballycastle, a Service to mark the UN International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the victims of Terrorism.

Songs of Praise. BBC 1 at 1.15. Sacred Walks on the Wales Coastal Path with Aled Jones.

Daily Service at 09.45. BBC Radio 4 Long Wave.

Every Wednesday 2.30-4.30pm Open Garden/Drop-in for tea and cakes at Fulligrove House, Woodwell Road, BS11 9UG. (Not 3rd or 24th August)

Open Café Church on 22 August, 10.00 - 12.00 for coffee, tea, cake and chat at St Peter's, Pilning.

Join us in daily prayer: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-andworship/joinuservice-daily-prayer>

YouTube services whilst Patrick is on sabbatical will continue to be available thanks to our friends at the Church of Westbury Park on https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnfVvJ4Thf84rwaBF9K_Nkw (use the same link each week).

You will also find a **service of Morning Prayer** to cover each day of the week, available from first thing each Monday. More details at <https://westburyparkchurch.org.uk/worship-service>

While Patrick is away.

1. If you require a minister urgently, please contact Rev Emma Langley on 07974 658619 or the Circuit Office on 0117 951 7044
2. Easter Compton: email circuitengagement@bsgc.org.uk
3. Horfield and Bishopston: email mail@horfieldmethodist.org.uk
4. Shirehampton: via <https://shiremethodist.org/contact/>
5. St Peter's Pilning: email churchwardenpilning@gmail.com
6. For Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit matters: email circuitproperty@bsgc.org.uk
7. For Bristol District matters, email Rev Leigh Maydew: leigh.maydew@methodist.org.uk

WORSHIP DETAILS FOR SUNDAY 28 August and the week

Horfield at 10.00. Conducted by J. Creech.

Christian Believers Fellowship at 12.30. Led by William Carey.

Bishopston at 10.30. Local Arrangement.

Shirehampton at 11.00. Coffee and Conversation.

St Peter's, Pilning and Easter Compton at 10.00. Conducted by Rev. D. Edwards.

Easter Compton. Wednesday 31 August at 3.00. Reflective Space led by the Ark 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: Maureen and Philippa Hyde, Roger Jones, Junior Church, Beryl Jervis, Jane Kimber, Gill Kibble.

Horfield. Please place any donations for the Bristol Methodist Centre in the box at the back of the church. A list of requirements will be found on the Crush Hall notice board.
Thank you. (Audrey and David Bainbridge)

Horfield. The Methodist Prayer Book is available at a cost of £4.15. Please contact Audrey at church or phone Linnette on 0117 951419 if you would like a copy.

Dates for your diary: August 21, Joint Service at Bishopston. August 24, Eco Group meeting on Zoom. September 4, Circuit Welcome Service for the new Superintendent. September 14, Circuit Meeting. September 15, Leadership Meeting (Bishopston and Horfield). September 24, Eco Photographic Exhibition. (Horfield).

Reflection on the Lectionary Sunday 21st August (Ordinary 21)
Psalm 71 : 1 - 6; Jeremiah 1 : 4 - 10; Hebrews 12 : 18 - 29; Luke 13 : 10 - 17

This reflection is provided by Local Preacher, David Bainbridge (Horfield).

In our Gospel reading, we find Jesus teaching in the synagogue, where he encounters a woman with a disability that she'd had for eighteen years. There is no diagnosis given for her condition and it is most unlikely that doctors at the time would have been able to give one. Her healing by Jesus was controversial because it took place on the Sabbath which was perceived by the legal experts as a breach of the fourth commandment which forbade work on the Sabbath. We can imagine them thinking that even a minor breach was the thin end of the wedge. Jesus challenges the hypocrisy of his critics by pointing out that they would tend to the needs of an animal on the Sabbath, so why should this woman be denied healing. On another occasion, he pointed out to them that the Sabbath was made for humankind not humankind for the Sabbath.

On this particular occasion Jesus interrupts his teaching to seek out this woman described as being bent over and unable to stand up straight in order to bring her healing. This is a story of real hope. It acts as a metaphor for all who are "bent over." Bent over physically, emotionally, psychologically, or socially. Those who are bent over because of addictions, others burdened by serious illness or disability, children bullied at school or via social media, those who suffer from depression, and yet others who feel there is little in their lives to give them hope.

We know only too well that many people don't get well in the sense that they fully recover, and we are aware that we owe a great debt to medical science and the medical profession for the amazing work that they do. Yet we all have a part to play in helping people who are "bent over," to stand up straight. We don't even have to have had special training although we might find it helpful. It is really about how we value people sufficiently to give them some of our time, not just out of a sense of duty but because they matter to us. Offering that helping hand, writing that letter or sending that email which lets people know that we have them in our thoughts, just being there for people, giving time to listen to them.

We used to sing a hymn entitled "Rescue the perishing." The language now seems somewhat archaic but there's one verse that still speaks powerfully to the human condition. It goes: "*Down in the human heart, crushed by the tempter, feelings lie buried that grace can restore.*" How true that is of many lives, those who have been crushed by life experiences they haven't been able to cope with, so that their feelings are deeply buried, suppressed or find expression in unhelpful ways. Yet that verse goes on to say: "*Touched by a loving hand, wakened by kindness, chords that are broken will vibrate once more.*" That reflects the healing Jesus brought to many people who had suffered because of illness or other pressures and especially a lack of compassion from a society that was so obsessed with the letter of the law that it had lost the spirit it was intended to convey. That too is the healing we can bring to those whose lives are broken and when we do that, we honour God.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you showed compassion and brought hope and healing to so many people who were suffering physically, emotionally, and mentally. As we seek to follow your example help us to demonstrate that same love and compassion to those we know and meet who are struggling with burdens that threaten to overwhelm them.
Amen

Our thanks to David for this reflection.