

MAY 2022

TOGETHER



METHODIST CHURCHES

PORTISHEAD
High Street

REDCLIFFE BAY
Queens Road

Minister: Revd Nick Moxon
Office 01275 844917 Manse 01275 398881
e-mail: nickmoxon@btinternet.com

From Rev Nick Moxon

Last month I travelled ‘over the water’ across the Seven bridge to Celtic Manor. My girls had bought me a day ticket for the Welsh Open snooker championship. It was a great day.

What’s different at this venue compared to the Crucible in Sheffield (which I’ve also been to) is that the snooker players walk through the spectators to get to their dressing rooms. So as I drank my coffee players like Ronnie O’Sullivan and Mark Selby brushed past me on their way to play their matches.

I remember texting a friend - “they’re like normal people!” I told my friend!! Of course they’re just like everyone else - they’re human beings. They just happen to be really good at a sport I like to watch.

I once heard a (semi) famous person say those immortal lines “Don’t you know who I am?” when trying to jump a queue. Thankfully the person on the door didn’t fall for it and they had to wait in line like everyone else.

When you hear the words ‘Everyone is equal’ how do you feel? Do you think that’s right? Are you offended? I often feel guilty because whilst I believe everyone is equal I don’t often live that out. I often look up to people and put them (unfairly) on a pedestal. My behaviour and my words often supports the inequality in society.

The apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the Galatians:

- 10th Tuesday 10.00 am Holy Communion(Redcliffe Bay)
Rev Nick Moxon
10. 30 -noon Coffee and Chat (Redcliffe Bay)
- 11th Wednesday 10.00 – 11.00 am Prayer Meeting (Portishead)
8.00 pm Bible Study – on-line.
- 14th Saturday 10.30am Plant, Book and Cake Sale (Redcliffe Bay)
10.30 am Book Club (Portishead)
- 15th Sunday 10.00 am All Age Worship (Portishead)
Mrs Jess McManus
10.30 am Holy Communion (Redcliffe Bay)
Rev Nick Moxon
- 16th Monday 9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars (Redcliffe Bay)
- 18th Wednesday 10.00 – 11.00 am Prayer Meeting (Portishead)
- 21st Saturday 9.30 am Working Party (Redcliffe Bay)
- 22nd Sunday 10.00 am Holy Communion (Portishead)
Rev Nick Moxon
10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay)
Rev Ann Owen
- 23rd Monday 9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars (Redcliffe Bay)
- 25th Wednesday 10.00 – 11.00 am Prayer Meeting (Portishead)
8.00 pm Bible Study – on-line.
- 29th Sunday 10.00 am Morning Service (Portishead)
Mr Michael Pryke
10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay)
Rev David Harris

GENERAL NEWS

CIRCUIT SERVICE

The service of admission of Jess McManus as Methodist Local Preacher will be on Thursday 5th May, 7.30pm at Christchurch, Clevedon. This will be a Gordano Valley Circuit Service.



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 15th to 21st MAY

As last year we will be delivering only, with drop off points for donations at Redcliffe Bay, St Peter's, St Nicholas and High Street churches. There maybe others. **We need as many volunteers as possible**

to deliver so if you find it in your heart to help please contact Eddie Entwistle 844470, Brenda and Dennis Wilson 397026, or Sheila Slater 842014

RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS TO OFFSHORE ASYLUM SEEKERS IN RWANDA

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, The Rev Sonia Hicks and Barbara Easton:

The Government's plans to offshore asylum seekers in Rwanda gives yet another insight into its hostile, uncompassionate and ineffective response to asylum seekers and refugees.

People are not a problem to be dealt with, but are individuals with inherent value and dignity made in the image of God. Sending some of the most vulnerable people in the world thousands of miles away to be imprisoned does not respect this dignity.

The factors which push people out of their homes and into displacement will always be much stronger than those which motivate them to claim asylum in a certain place. As we have seen in Ukraine, conflict and persecution can become a daily reality at a distressingly rapid pace.

Whilst it is important to address the dangerous trade of people smuggling across the channel, the lack of safe and accessible routes by which people can claim asylum in the UK will ultimately contribute significantly to increased small boat crossings. The government have shied away from committing to a resettlement target, and the Nationality and Borders Bill lacks detail of new or expanded resettlement routes. Now, the government is passing the issue onto another country, which the UK has previously criticised for holding a poor record on human rights.

Offshore processing is a distraction from the real work which needs to be done to establish workable, safe and welcoming routes through which the UK can play its part in responding to need.

We urge the government to reconsider their approach, and accept proposed amendments to the Nationality and Borders Bill to uphold a practice of welcome.

Our colleagues at the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) are encouraging people to write to their MP to encourage them to support amendments tabled by the Lords (including rejecting offshoring)

EASTER OFFERING

The envelopes distributed at Easter were for the Methodist World Mission Fund. Your kind donations help the Fund support projects and individuals around the world.

The new World Mission Fund Grants Committee is an example of what it means to share power (from a British perspective). It has changed from a former membership of mostly British people to a committee where the vast majority of members are from our global Partner Churches. By making sure that the membership of this committee is globally representative, it makes way for the decision-making to flow from a mutual encounter of discussion and prayer concerning fund allocations for our global Church Partners.

For the Committee, the decision-making is not not always about the money. It is also about the wider sense of connections as the committee converse and pray about the world together. It is about relationship. Our global relationship.

The Grants Committee makes decisions on:

- Solidarity Grants

These grants are to a partner who is facing particularly difficult circumstances or an emergency situation. Although the grants may seem quite small in the global scale of things, they are a rapid response that express solidarity in partnership and can often open

the door for our partners to receive other funding from around the world.

- Essential assistant grants

These are grants given to our most vulnerable Partner Churches to support them until monies for capacity-building grants are received

- Capacity building grants

To enable Partner Churches to strategically build their capacity and resources to become self-sustaining.

With funds decreasing it's important to note that there is a projection for the World Mission Fund to reach its reserve level by August 2024; thereafter, any grant-giving will be minimal.



First and foremost, 'THANK YOU' for your continued support for our work in Nkomazi, South Africa. If you've supported us for a while, you'll know that our UK directors and volunteers do not receive any salary for the work they do and we strive to keep overheads to an absolute minimum

meaning that any donations we receive reach the children who need it most. We rely on regular donations to provide a reliable source of income which means that we can continue to fund our core projects:

- Our three After School Clubs provide food, learning, support and friendship for up to 300 of the community's most vulnerable children every day.
- Thembaletu Library is a learning hub for the local community, providing books for up to 500 visitors per week.
- The Zakhele group uses music and drama to share important health and social messages in schools and clinics.

The last few years have been incredibly challenging. The cost of running our projects has increased but fund-raising

opportunities here in the UK temporarily ground to a stop. Have you considered making a regular donation to Za Foundation? It may be that you haven't looked at your charitable donations for a while but a small monthly donation would make a massive difference. Our Sponsor a Child scheme supports the running of our After School Clubs and costs just £10 per month. Alternatively, you may choose to make general regular donation which can be spent on any of our projects. We know times are hard right now and that money is tight for many but if you are able to take a look at your charitable donations and perhaps make a regular donation to Za Foundation, the children of Nkomazi would be incredibly grateful.

Contact us info@zafoundation.org or Tel 848775 for more details of our Sponsor a Child scheme or for information about setting up a regular donation.

MARTHA'S KITCHEN

During the February half-term and the Easter Holidays Martha's Kitchen has opened its doors to hold Breakfasts, share Easter Eggs



and have a visit from the Flying Seagulls who gave an amazing performance to the delight of both children and adults alike. We would like to thank everyone who volunteered, donated Easter eggs and prayed for us, it is through your support we are able to

continue to keep our doors open.

BRISTOL METHODIST CENTRE

Located in a former church at Lawrence Hill the Centre supports the homeless with: hot meals and drinks; a place of safety; access to showers and laundry; distribution of relief goods; one to one support for those in need; access to computers and support when accessing benefits.



The work of the Centre is funded by donations and grant income. It costs approximately £175,000 per annum but only £50,000 of this comes from individual and church donations. Grant funding

can be hard to obtain, particularly when it is to sustain existing work. Until now the proceeds of the sale of the former, Midland Road, premises have helped, but these have now nearly run out. ***At a recent Circuit Meeting Rev Dr Jonathan Pye laid out the serious situation facing the Centre with funding in place only for the next year and a half.***

How the Centre operates is being reviewed to ensure cost efficiency. Collaborative partners are being sought to help generate revenue and further improve the service, and grant funding is being sought. Even so, for the work of the Centre to continue donations need to increase. They are asking for you to support the Centre with a one off gift, or by committing to give regularly by Standing order (forms can be downloaded from

<http://methodist-centre.org.uk/support-us>) or Tel. 0117 9555 606. At Redcliffe Bay the Bristol Methodist Centre is the current nominated charity so David Uncles would be pleased to handle your donation. If you are a tax payer Gift Aid boosts the donation considerably. Please dig deep and donate today.

The Centre also welcomes donations of food. Current needs are: Cereal (Weetabix, Shredded wheat, Cheerios and chocolate cereal);

Biscuits; Wrapped Chocolate Bars; Tuna; Tinned Meat (ham, corned beef, stewing steak); Mixed vegetable or peas in tins; Smash and tinned potatoes; Sugar; custard(not powdered); Tinned fruit; Vegetable Stock Cubes. At Redcliffe Bay there will be a box to collect these items on Sundays 8th and 15th May. Thank you.

LOW CARBON GORDANO

As a community owned enterprise, Low Carbon Gordano (LCG) represents a new vision for ownership of our energy supplies. A vision that allows local people to own and profit from the development of renewable energy resources in their community.

The purpose is to help local communities to reduce energy costs and become more sustainable by reducing their carbon footprint.

More specifically, aim to raise funds from the community to enable the installation of locally-owned renewable energy systems and use the surplus income from these systems to fund work that reduces people's energy consumption – for example, by improving home energy efficiency.

LCG also make an annual donation to their Community Benefit Fund. 10% of this is granted directly by the LCG Board to a charity supporting carbon reduction schemes in communities in the developing world. The other 90% is contributed to the Bristol Megawatt Fund, along with a similar contribution from the Bristol Energy Co-operative, and managed by the Quartet Foundation.

In 2014 LCG undertook a successful community share offer and raised £2.2 million to build the 1.8MW Moorhouse Farm Solar Array (visible on the left of the M5, going north, past Avonmouth). In 2015 a further £970,000 was raised to build the 970kW array at Ham Lane, Kingston Seymour, in North Somerset. With the surplus from these two schemes, three community roof solar schemes were installed at the end of 2015. In 2018 an array at Churchill Academy in Churchill Green, North Somerset was added. In 2019 two small existing arrays totalling 99kWp on the Solarsense site in Brockley were purchased.

Find out more at <http://lowcarbongordano.co.uk/>

PRAYERS



A Short prayer for friends

I give thanks for my friends For connection and laughter,
For comfort and strength, For encouragement and unity,
For forgiveness and grace, For celebration and joy.
They are so many things to me, Such a rich tapestry of blessings,
Woven through my life.
Thank you.

Dear Father,

I am concerned for my friends who are ill. So I lift my prayers to
you, King of Kings and Lord of Lords! You put the stars in the sky
and filled the seas with water. You are the giver of life whom
understands the wonderful development of a new baby and filled the
earth with plant life that provides us with medicine. So I am
confident that you can touch my dear friends and bring your
restoration. Give their bodies new strength, health and wholeness.
Cover their hearts, minds and emotions with the oil of your healing.

I trust them into your care, because you love them even more than I
do.
Amen.

Midday Moment

You're with me every morning, beside me all the way,

You know my joy, and worries, cares or needs.
Every minute of each hour your grace flows over me,
Your love and truth connect with all I feel.

And at this midday moment, I choose to talk with you,
To draw so close to you, my heavenly dad.
For what is past is covered by your all redeeming love,
And the future's filled with hope, so I'll be glad.

I'll lift my eyes up to the sky and a sight so beautiful,
I'll let your light come brighten up the grey,
And wait upon your spirit Lord to blow upon my life.
So come, move through me as I live the rest of this day.

For your kingdom changes everything, it touches all I am,
In everything I think and say or do.
I choose to fix my eyes on you, to take hold of your hand,
I give this midday moment Lord to you.

Prayers courtesy of www.prayerscapes.com

On every occasion of uneasiness, we should retire to prayer, that we may give place to the grace and light of God and then form our resolutions, without being in any pain about what success they may have. In the greatest temptations, a single look to Christ, and the barely pronouncing his name, suffices to overcome the wicked one, so it be done with confidence and calmness of spirit.

John Wesley



PORTISHEAD

Office: 01275 844917

Websites: www.portisheadmethodistchurch.co.uk

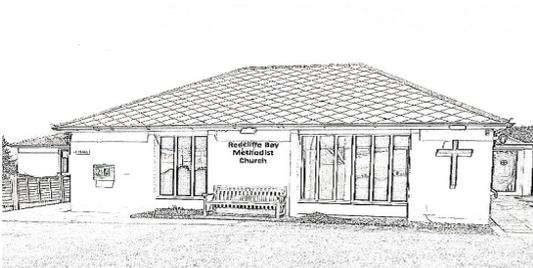
[The Beacon Hub | Home](#)

On Facebook: www.facebook.com/portisheadmethodistHighSt

BOOK CLUB

Our next meeting of the book club will be on the 14th Of May at 10.30

We will be reading and discussing *The Butterfly Room* by Lucinda Riley.



REDCLIFFE BAY

Website: www.redcliffebaymethodistchurch.org.uk

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

Margaret Prince and Maureen Harris have both had falls damaging their hips. Please pray for them as arrangements are made for their post hospital care. Marjorie Legge and Rosemary Hurst are in hospital, Tony Goatman has also been in hospital, and is being looked after in a care home, please pray for him and for Mary as well as Rosemary and Marjorie.

BAYCON BUTTIES

Our popular meeting for men, with bacon butties and coffee, Thursday 7th April 10.00 till 11.30 am. All welcome

WEDNESDAY FOCUS

At the AGM, the last meeting of the session, Philip reported on a successful year with attendances generally 16 to 20, with one at 24. With visiting speakers, collections were taken on the night for their favourite charity, £595 being collected in total. From the additional cash in hand donations were made to the Church, Portishead in Bloom, RNLI and Christmas Lights. Philip has already fixed the programme for next autumn and some of next year. He was thanked for his leadership and appreciation was shown to Christine and those who help with refreshments. We enjoyed the minister's contribution – but the Trombone will appear next year.

WORKING PARTY

The May Working Party will be on Saturday 21st - to tackle small jobs particularly in the flower beds and garden. Come for however long you can manage between 9.30 and noon.

PLANT SALE



The Plant Sale, on Saturday 14th May, at 10.30 am will also have cakes and books on sale plus coffee and tea to consume. Please make an

effort to bake some cakes and bring any contributions by 10.00 am.

PRAYER CHAIN To take part, or if there is a prayer need, please contact Sue Mason Tel. 849553.



POSTSCRIPTS

A parable is told of a farmer who owned an old mule. The mule fell into the farmer's well. The farmer heard the mule 'braying' ... what else would a mule do! After carefully assessing the situation, the farmer sympathized with the mule, but decided that neither the mule nor the well was worth the trouble of saving.

Instead, he called his neighbours together and told them what had happened ... and enlisted them to help haul dirt to bury the old mule in the well and put him out of his misery. Initially, the old mule was hysterical!

But as the farmer and his neighbours continued shovelling and the dirt hit his back ... a thought struck him. It suddenly dawned on him that every time a shovel load of dirt landed on his back ... HE SHOULD SHAKE IT OFF AND STEP UP! This he did, blow after blow. "Shake it off and step up ... shake it off and step up ... shake it off and step up," he repeated to encourage himself.

No matter how painful the blows, or distressing the situation seemed the old mule fought "panic" and just kept right on SHAKING IT OFF AND STEPPING UP! You're right! It wasn't long before the old mule, battered and exhausted, STEPPED TRIUMPHANTLY OVER THE WALL OF THE WELL! What seemed like it would bury him, actually blessed him ... all because of the manner in which he handled his adversity. THAT'S LIFE! If we face our problems and respond to them positively, and refuse to give in to panic, bitterness, or self-pity ... the adversities that come along to bury us usually have within them the potential to benefit and bless us!

Remember that FORGIVENESS, FAITH, PRAYER, PRAISE, and HOPE ... all are excellent ways to "SHAKE IT OFF AND STEP UP" out of the wells in which we find ourselves! This story reminded me of life. The dirt is a symbolism of the tests and trials that we go through in life. The stepping up is the

symbolism of growing and learning from our life experiences.

Do not let your worries overwhelm you. remember that Moses started out as a basketcase.

Some people show kindness, politeness, and sweet spirit -until you try to sit in their pews.

Many people desire to serve God, but only as advisers.

It is easier to preach twelve sermons than to live one.

When you get to your wit's end, you will discover it is a dwelling place for God.

People have a big problem. They want to sit in the front of the bus, they want the middle of the road, but then want to sit at the back in the church.

How will the feet that did not carry you to church, carry you to heaven?

Nowadays, before people share their problems with me, I list out all my own. We then end up praying for one another.

GOD is like oxygen. You can't see him, but you can't live without him. Be humble!

What do you call a prophet who is also a chef? Habakkuk.
Authors Unknown

Please pass copy for the June 2022 issue to:
Ray Burgin, 11 Hillcrest Rd. Portishead BS20 8HS
Tel. 844115 e-mail rayburgin@hotmail.co.uk
by **SUNDAY 22nd May**