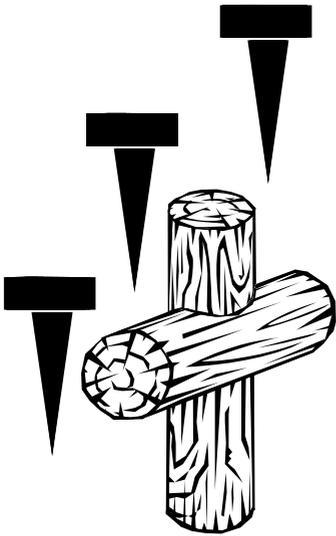


APRIL 2021

TOGETHER



*Faster
Greetings*

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

How many steps have you done so far today? Over the past few years there has been a concerted effort to try and get people moving more. One way people can measure their movements is through a pedometer - a piece of equipment that counts how many steps you have taken. These pedometers can be worn as a watch or you can have an app on your phone that counts for you. I'm not obsessed with it but I do like to look every couple of days as to how far I've walked. I can do as little as 3,000 steps and as high as 18,000. The recommendation is 10,000! David Sedaris, an American comedian and author, became obsessed with reaching 10,000 steps. Once he has reached that target he kept on going and pushing himself to the point that he was walking 80,000 steps a day!

Walking and moving more has many benefits. It improves our general health and wellbeing. However for many of us this just isn't achievable. Research says that '10,000 steps can be too challenging for people who are elderly, sedentary or who have chronic diseases. However, even a small increase in your steps per day above being inactive can make a difference to your health.'

I was thinking recently about one very important and life changing step that was taken. It was the step Jesus took out of the tomb following His resurrection and how that one step from darkness into light brought release, freedom, new life, healing and salvation for the whole of creation. His step out of the

tomb enabled all people in every generation to be 'made well again'.

We are Easter people and we are called to walk and follow in the foot steps of Jesus every day of our lives. As we journey with Him we will find other people and situations where we may be asked to bring the release, freedom and healing of Jesus. And as we walk with Him we will discover more about His purpose for our lives, we encounter new things and grow as disciples.

Let's go for a walk!

Nick

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday Services in the Churches will resume on Easter Day 4th April. There will be a 10.00 am Service at Portishead (also Zoomed), repeated at Redcliffe Bay at 11.30 am. Anyone intending to come should book, up till 1.00 pm on the Saturday, with Pat Lloyd (848374) for Portishead or up to 5.00 pm with Sue Mason (849553) for Redcliffe Bay as numbers are limited by distancing rules. But if you come without booking, you may just be lucky.

Any change will be notified in the Minister's weekly pastoral letter, or on the websites.

April 2021

- 2nd Friday GOOD FRIDAY
7.00 pm Music, Readings and Reflections via Zoom
Rev Nick Moxon
- 3rd Saturday 10.00 am – noon walk through Communion
(Redcliffe Bay car park) Rev Nick Moxon
- 4th Sunday EASTER DAY
10.00 am Service (Portishead) and Zoom on line
11.30 am Service (Redcliffe Bay) Rev Nick Moxon
6.00 pm Churches Together in Sainsbury's Car Park
- 8th Thursday 10.00 -10.45 am Coffee and Chat via Zoom
- 11th Sunday 10.00 am Service (Portishead) and Zoom on line LA
11.30 am Service (Redcliffe Bay) Rev David Harris
- 14th Wednesday 8.00 pm Bible Study via Zoom
9.00 pm Prayers
- 18th Sunday 10.00 am Service (Portishead) and Zoom on line
11.30 am Service (Redcliffe Bay) Rev Nick Moxon
- 22nd Thursday 10.00 -10.45 am Zoom Coffee Morning
- 25th Sunday 10.00 am Service (Portishead) and Zoom on line
11.30 am Service (Redcliffe Bay) Rev Nick Moxon
- 28th Wednesday 8.00 pm Bible Study via Zoom
9.00 pm Prayers



Online Zoom Service

The Sunday Service will be broadcast on-line at 10.00 am each Sunday. If you would like to join in please log on just before 10am.to:

www.portisheadmethodist.wixsite.com/worship

Each week an e-mail is sent with a Pastoral Letter and details of the following Sunday's Worship.

For those who don't have access to the internet you will be able to use a worship sheet, which is delivered each week. For those unable

to join in at 10 am on Sunday the worship will be recorded and accessible on the website at any time after that point.

If you would like to be on the circulation for the worship sheet please contact the Church Office or leave a message via "Contact us" on the Redcliffe Bay web site.

This magazine is being distributed, either as an attachment for those on e-mail or a printed copy for those who receive the pastoral letter though their letterbox.

WALK-THROUGH COMMUNION



During this past year one of the things many of us have missed is communion. You may recall last September we held a walk-through communion in the car park at Redcliffe Bay. On Saturday 3rd April (Easter weekend) we plan to offer communion again in the same way. Between 10am - 12noon you can drop into the car park on Queens Road and

receive bread and wine.

All social distancing and cleaning protocols will be observed.

EASTER IN SAINSBURY'S CAR PARK

A drive in event, similar to the one at Christmas, is planned for 6.00 pm on Easter Sunday - singing Easter Hymns. Booking details will be available later, but make your application quickly as the Christmas event was soon fully booked.

GENERAL NEWS

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Don't forget:

Monday Morning Mail –An opportunity for you to send an e-mail to a group within the church, sharing what you have been doing over

the past week. Being part of this group means that you will also receive news from everyone else. If you would like to be a part of this group please let Fran know.

Zoom coffee morning - on alternate Thursday mornings from 10-10.45am via Zoom You can find the link here:

<https://portisheadmethodist.wixsite.com/worship/coffee-chat>

Keep phoning – especially for people not on the internet.

Listen to a pastoral message from the President and Vice President of Conference: 0808 281 2695; Listen to the Methodist Podcast: 0808 281 2478; listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514;

METHODIST CHURCH STANDS IN SOLIDARITY WITH MYANMAR



The Methodist Church in Britain is standing in solidarity with its partners in Myanmar following the coup that occurred in the country at the start of February. Since the coup, there have been violent scenes in the country, with protesters being fired upon and a growing number of deaths.

The Myanmar Council of Churches has called for prayer and support in a statement of request that has been sent to churches around the world. The statement calls upon us to pray for justice and peace in Myanmar, requests the release of those detained by the military regime, action on the control of Covid-19 and an end to the use of force and discrimination.

The Rev Conrad Hicks, Director of Global Relationships at the Methodist Church in Britain, commented, "We stand in wholehearted solidarity and prayer with our partner, the Myanmar Council of Churches, and wish to reiterate their call for an end to the violence and discord within the country."

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference have released a prayer in response to the call for support:

Lord Jesus we stand together with the people of Myanmar at this time of turmoil and unrest.

We hold before you our sisters and brothers in the Methodist Church of Upper Myanmar.

We pray for peace and justice for all citizens and for an end to division and conflict.

We pray for your church in Myanmar and pray for your people as they shine the light of Jesus which the darkness cannot overcome, showing your love and compassion for all people.

In solidarity with our partner, the Myanmar Council of Churches, we renounce the forces of destruction and despair and pray for your peace, hope, joy and unity to prevail.

Amen.

THE JOHN WESLEY CHAPEL, BRISTOL – THE NEW ROOM



Wes Talks Online – How can we work for peace in an angry world? We live in a world which seems to be permanently angry, from full on conflicts between countries to aggressive trolling on social media.



Is it possible to live and work for peace?

This month's talk features:

John Cooper – Director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

Rev Inderjit Bhogal – Theologian and Methodist Minister

19th April 2021 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Tickets to attend this online event cost £5. As well as gaining access to the talk on the night, attendees will also be able to ask questions during the event. A Zoom code will be sent out on the day of the event to enable participation.

Book with Eventbrite through www.newroombristol.org.uk
Organised in conjunction with the Methodist Church's Learning Network South West.

This year marks the 250th anniversary of Francis Asbury leaving Britain to begin his ministry in America. Asbury, who was the first Bishop of the American Methodist Church, is often referred to as the 'Prophet of the Long Road' due to his itinerant ministry that continued for over 40 years in his adopted homeland. It was at the 1771 annual Methodist Conference, held at the New Room, that Asbury responded to John Wesley's appeal for more preachers to go to America. He set sail from Pill, on the banks of the Avon, in September that year and arrived in Philadelphia six weeks later.

To celebrate this occasion, the New Room team are working with colleagues in both the British and American Methodist Churches to offer events and activities to mark this important anniversary.

STATEMENT FROM CHURCH LEADERS ON THE UK GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT ON WARHEAD NUMBERS



Church leaders across 7 denominations, including the Methodist Church, have today made the following statement following the publication of the Government's: integrated review of foreign and defence policies

"The Government's decision in the integrated review of defence, security and foreign policy to increase the number of Trident nuclear warheads the UK can stockpile by more than 40 percent is a retrograde step that will not make any of us safer.

"Our Trident submarines already carry warheads that in total have an explosive yield equivalent to hundreds of the bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima. It is immoral that the

UK government is committing resources, which could be spent on the common good of our society, to stockpiling even more.

"Over the last 50 years, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty has restricted the increase in the number of nuclear weapons worldwide as well as the number of new nuclear-armed states. This

announcement puts those gains in jeopardy and weakens collective action on non-proliferation. Progress on reducing the threat from nuclear weapons will come through dialogue, diplomacy and principled action. The Government's announcement today will complicate rather than aid this process.

"The entry into force of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition in of Nuclear Weapons is an encouraging development. As people of faith, we join with millions across the world who are working towards the elimination of nuclear arsenals. Living up to our responsibilities under the Non Proliferation Treaty would be a step towards realising that vision. We believe that 'Global Britain' should strive for peaceful and cooperative international relationships, and joint endeavour on climate change, global poverty and other challenges. This announcement takes us in a worrying and wholly wrong direction."

Signatories are:

Most Rev and Rt Hon Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York

Most Rev John Davies, Archbishop of Wales

Rev Clare Downing, Moderator of General Assembly, United Reformed Church

Bob Fyffe, General Secretary, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

Bishop William Kenney, Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham, International Affairs Department, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

Bishop Declan Lang, Bishop of Clifton, Chair, International Affairs Department, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

Carolyn Lawrence, Vice-President of the Methodist Church

Rev David Mayne, Moderator of the Baptist Union Council

Paul Parker, Recording Clerk, Quakers in Britain

Rev Dr Joanna Penberthy, Bishop of St Davids

Rev Richard Teal, President of the Methodist Church

MARTHA'S KITCHEN

'I'm becoming increasingly convinced that food is one of God's love languages'

Martha's kitchen was formed as a Churches Together project to bring love, hope and support to families in our community. In normal times during the school holidays, though our partnership with Transforming Lives, we would provide families with a free weekly hot and healthy meal served in the Methodist church hall. In addition to food, children are encouraged to join in craft activities giving many carers/ parents/ grandparents space to chat and relax over a cup of coffee. Martha's kitchen is run by volunteers passionate about building relationships with local families to create a loving, caring and compassionate space, believing that even just one meal for one family could make a vital difference.

Throughout the pandemic we have kept in contact with the families that we support by providing them with Bags of Hope. During the school holidays these bags have provided not only a practical lifeline but vital relational support to many families in our community. In the February half-term holiday, we were able to deliver over 80 bags which were very gratefully received by the families that we support.

If you feel that you would either like to volunteer or just keep in touch with what we are doing please let us know and we can add your name to our mailing list.

If you wish to donate items, we place regular requests in our Church Service notes and each gift is very gratefully received.

Our email address is: MakeALunchPortishead@gmail.com

Contact telephone number: 07483932608

Elinor and Lyndsay



THE BISHOP OF BATH AND WELLS RETIRES

The Rt. Rev Peter Hancock 65, is to take early retirement, after being bishop of the diocese since 2014, as he continues his recovery from treatment for acute myeloid leukaemia. Archbishop Justin Welby said: "I would like to thank Peter for more than 40 years of dedicated ministry in the Church. Anyone who has worked with him or spent time with him will know the deep authenticity of

his personal faith and pastoral concern.

TRINITY YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHERS

As the first stage of the national competition, organised by Rotary Clubs, pupils of Trinity Anglican Methodist School submitted three photographs each on the theme of Wild Nature. The winner has been declared as Emma Venn, with second place Teagan Wall and third place Isla Shapcott. Highly Commended Jack Hurst and Commended Jennifer Venn. Of Emma's winning entry the judge, Jane Rees ARPS said "They were nicely themed and very well executed. Shafts of light and rainbows are not easy to capture but Emma has achieved both. A very competent entry." We wish Emma success in the next stage of the competition.

FROM THE LOCAL CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY (CAP) MARCH NEWSLETTER

Joanna Pritchett writes:

I will never forget my first client, who was so easy to help through the process. God was very gracious when I needed it but I quickly realised the client journey can be varied, complicated and sometimes distressing or disappointing. Lives can be chaotic and living on Universal Credit while raising a family is very challenging. Not all clients are in this situation but most have big challenges. There are joys and encouragements too. The experience of meeting a client when they go debt-free is unforgettable.

Starting the Debt Centre from nothing has been a privilege and a challenge. My team of faithful befrienders has been wonderful. We have shared the joys, sadness and frustrations of individual clients. I have always said the befriender role is harder, because pre-2020 they were meeting up with the client and encouraging them along the journey. This is not an easy role - I thank them for their tenacity, care and acts of kindness shown to clients.

Ultimately the Debt Centre Manager is part of a wider team: the befrienders, cake makers (that cake on the first visit is always a winner!), CAP Money coaches who provide ongoing budgeting skills for those who want it, intercessors who pray in the background and often 'bring change for the best', the Steering Group members who provide support and oversight and our Church Leaders who

encourage their congregations to engage in supporting CAP. Praise God for the part each one has played and continues to do.

Joanna’s replacement has been selected and after interviewing and training by the CAP organisation will take over at the end of June.

SUSPICIOUS E-MAILS

Do you get messages like *“The Classic version of Outlook Mail will be replaced by our new version. So, it's time to verify, before you lose your email access.”* followed by a link ‘to verify’? Don’t click on the link and delete the message, but before you do you can forward it to “report@phishing.gov.uk” You will be thanked for passing it on, with a message like:

*“As of 28th February 2021, we have received more than **5,000,000** such reports, allowing us to remove more than **36,000** scams and take down **71,000** malicious URLs.”*

PRAYERS

A prayer for God to break through in the life of our churches:

God of love, God for all,
your purposes are more beautiful than we can possibly imagine.
Fill us with your Holy Spirit.
Help us let go of all that holds us back.
Open our lives and our churches to new seasons of humility and faith, of change and growth.
Shake us up with the Good News of Jesus and show us the way.
Amen

The Israelite prophet Micah said:

"What does the Lord require of you? Only to act justly, love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

God of mercy and source of justice,
pour on your people such love and compassion that
we cannot remain silent,

we cannot tolerate injustice and poverty.

As your grace fills our hearts
so may we be stirred into action
to demonstrate your love for all the world
and for all creatures that live and move on this earth.

This prayer has been written by the Rev Michaela Youngson:

When everything was dark
and it seemed that the sun would never shine again,
your love broke through.

Your love was too strong, too wide, too deep for death to hold.

The sparks cast by your love dance and spread and burst forth
with resurrection light.

Gracious God,
We praise you for the light of new life
made possible through Jesus.
We praise you for the light of new life
that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.
We praise you for the light of new life
that continues to shine in our hearts today.

We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy,
will live in us each day;
and that we will be bearers of that light
into the lives of others.

Amen.

A prayer for CAP

For clients to be tenacious in their journey to become debt free, to maintain hope and not despair; follow the advice and reach out to our Heavenly Father. For the new Local Manager and future referrals.



PORTISHEAD

Office:01275 844917

website: www.portisheadmethodistchurch.co.uk

On Twitter : [Follow@PortisheadMC](https://twitter.com/Follow@PortisheadMC)

Challenge Nick

Throughout this year I plan to help raise money towards our redevelopment by learning a new skill or doing something I haven't done before each month - and you help decide what it is.

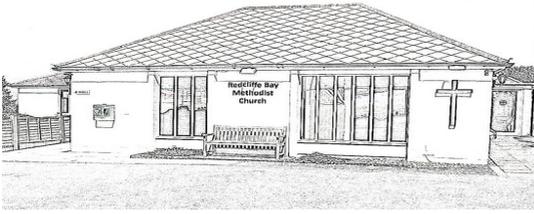


The idea is that each month I will offer two suggestions of what the new skill might be and you vote for the one you would like me to do!

Over the year I will offering to learn to knit, bake a cake, play the piano, flower arranging, ride 150 miles on my bike, do a cold water swim in winter and many more.

You can help and encourage me by either making a one-off payment or just pay for the ones you would like to see me do - details to follow.

At the Service on Sunday 21st March Nick offered, for April, to bake a cake, which he has never done before, each week, or do 100 press-ups. The vote chose the cake baking.



REDCLIFFE BAY

Website: www.redcliffebaymethodistchurch.org.uk

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

Iris Perry's return home from St Georges, Weston Super Mare has been delayed while care arrangements have been put in place, but it is hoped she will be there by the time you read this.

31st March was Norman and Sheila Castleton's 65th wedding anniversary. Norman is rather poorly at the moment and the doctor is carrying out tests to try to find out why.

We think and pray for them.

WORSHIP IN CHURCH

Easter Day will see the Church re-opening for worship. The Service will start at 11.30 am with masks required and social distancing. Still no socialising! Book in advance, because of restricted seating, although there may be space if you just turn up. We can accommodate more if there are families/bubbles!

MONTHLY WORKING PARTIES

Monthly Working Parties to care for our building and garden have re-commenced. They will take place on the third Saturday each month until October from 9.30 until 12noon. Coffee and biscuits are provided! We have a small group of helpers, but we have lost our professional gardener, so we would welcome new helpers.

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



POSTSCRIPTS

HEAVENLY ARRIVALS

At the pearly gates, St. Peter greeted a minister and a congressman and gave them their room assignments.

"Pastor, here are the keys to one of our nicest efficiency units. And for you, Mr. Congressman, the keys to our finest penthouse suite."

"This is unfair!" cried the minister.

"Listen," St. Peter said, "ministers are a dime a dozen up here, but this is the first congressman we've ever seen."

At the pearly gates again, a taxi driver and minister are waiting in line. St. Peter consults his list and says to the taxi driver, "Take this silken robe and golden staff and enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

St. Peter next greets the minister saying, "Take this cotton robe and wooden staff and enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

"Just a minute," says the minister. "That man was a taxi driver, and he gets a silken robe and golden staff while I get a cotton robe and wooden staff. How can this be?"

"Up here, we work by results," says St. Peter. "While you preached, people slept; while he drove, people prayed."

Authors unknown

Please pass copy for the May issue to:

Ray Burgin, 11 Hillcrest Rd. Portishead BS20 8HS

Tel. 844115 e-mail rayburgin@hotmail.co.uk

by **SUNDAY 25th April**