

APRIL 2024

TOGETHER



METHODIST CHURCHES

PORTISHEAD
High Street

REDCLIFFE BAY
Queens Road

Minister: Revd Nick Moxon

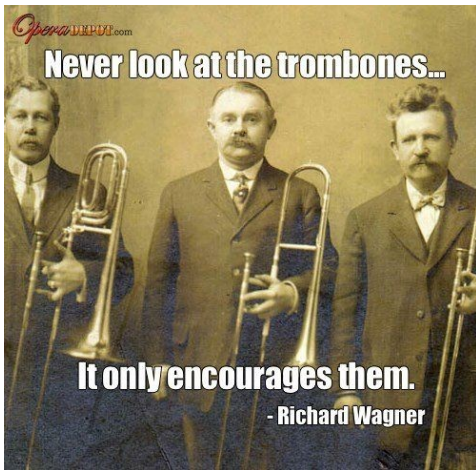
Office 01275 844917 Manse 01275 398881

e-mail: nickmoxon@btinternet.com

From Rev Nick Moxon

A few weeks ago I went along to hear Cory brass band give a concert in Bristol. I know that brass bands aren't everyone's cup of tea but for me, having grown up with them, it was a perfect Sunday afternoon.

The band are excellent - one of the best in the world. Their instruments were shiny, their uniforms impeccable and the sound they made made the hairs on the back of my neck stand on end.



I spent a lot of time watching the trombone section and marveling at their skills and wishing I'd done a bit more practice when I was younger. I also spend some time watching the conductor, Philip Harper. Throughout each piece he would not only beat time so that everyone played together, at certain points in the pieces, would lead different sections of the band. He would encour-

age to cornets to play louder. He would invite the horn section to play with more feeling and he would regularly turn to the trombone section to calm down (all trombonists need to be told that at times in their lives!)

It was as if the conductor had the band in the palm of his hand as he led the musicians through their music. He didn't have to play the instruments for them, he just encouraged and led them.

I wonder whether you see God as a conductor of your life, of the church, within the world.

I wonder whether you see Him as the one who encourages, draws out and leads you.

The analogy of God being like a conductor only goes so far, though. He indeed does encourage, draw out and lead us in so many ways. But He also sits alongside us helping us, equipping us and giving us everything we need in our lives.

Let's be open to God to lead and equip us in our daily lives.

God Bless

Nick

Sunday Services in Church are at 10.00 am at Portishead and 10.30 am at Redcliffe Bay. These and other events are listed in the Calendar.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Cafe opening hours: Tuesday to Friday 9.30 am to 2.00 pm. Saturday 9.00 am to 2.00pm, at Portishead Church.



THE BEACON HUB

A LIGHT ON THE HIGH STREET

April

- 2nd Tuesday 2.30 – 4.00 pm New Beginnings Fellowship
(Portishead)
- 3rd Wednesday 12.30 – 1.00 pm Lunchtime Reflections (Portishead)
Rev Nick Moxon
- 4th Thursday 10.00 – 11.30 am Baycon Butties (Redcliffe Bay)
- 7th Sunday 10.00 am Morning Service (Portishead)
Mrs Jean Balcombe
10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay)
Mr Alan Emery
- 8th Monday 9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group
(Redcliffe Bay)
- 9th Tuesday 10.00 am Holy Communion (Redcliffe Bay)
Rev Nick Moxon
10.30 -noon Coffee and Chat (Redcliffe Bay)
- 10th Wednesday 2.30 pm Wednesday Focus (Redcliffe Bay)
10.00 – 11.00 am Prayer Meeting (Portishead)
- 13th Saturday 10.30 am Crafty Chatters (Portishead)
- 14th Sunday 10.00 am Morning Service p (Portishead)
Mrs Jess McManus
10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay)
Rev Nick Moxon
- 15th Monday 9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group
(Redcliffe Bay)
- 17th Wednesday 10.00 – 11.00 am Prayer Meeting (Portishead)
- 20th Saturday 9.30 am Working Party (Redcliffe Bay)
- 21st Sunday 10.00 am Morning Service (Portishead)
Rev Nick Moxon
10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay)
Rev Dr Keith Clements
- 22nd Monday 9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group
(Redcliffe Bay)
- 24th Wednesday 10.00 – 11.00 am Prayer Meeting (Portishead)

<u>26th Friday</u>	2.00– 4.00 pm Tea Coffee and Cakes (Redcliffe Bay)
<u>27th Saturday</u>	10.30 am -noon Growing Churches (Portishead) 10.30 am Book Club (Portishead)
<u>28th Sunday</u>	10.00 am Youth Service (Portishead) Rev Nick Moxon 10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay) Mrs Jane Mason
<u>29th Monday</u>	9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group (Redcliffe Bay)

GENERAL NEWS

GROWING CHURCHES

Arising from the Circuit's adopted mission document, Rev Nick Moxon is running four meetings called Growing Churches. The second of these meetings, with the subject Welcoming, will be at High Street on Saturday 27th April from 10.30 am till noon. It will be attended by people from the Circuit churches. You are welcome to come, to explore this important issue. It is not necessary to have attended the previous meeting.

CONTEMPORARY ETHICS FORUM

The subject of the next meeting, at 7.30 pm at St Peter's Church will be "Support or Abuse? - The Mental Capacity Act in Practice". It will be led by Dr Peter Carpenter, a retired psychiatrist.

Peter will help us explore mental capacity, principles and conundrums in practice, the Mental Capacity Act and other related legal issues,

Peter is a retired psychiatrist. He was for several years a special medical visitor for the Court Of Protection and for the Public Guardian, writing legal reports on capacity and assessing people when there were concerns about lasting powers of attorney. He was

co-opted to advise on the NICE clinical guide lines on mental capacity and advance directives and has taught extensively on the Mental Capacity Act. All welcome, admission free.

The Forum will also be live streamed to YouTube:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=98Am2Xs8nRk

POVERTY IS IGNORED IN THE GOVERNMENT'S LATEST BUDGET

Leaders from across the Methodist Church have responded to the Chancellor's announcements made in the budget on 6th March. They have highlighted the lack of acknowledgement of people struggling against poverty in our communities, and the lack of difference the announcements will make to the communities they live and work alongside.

Paul Morrison, Policy Advisor for the Joint Public Issues Team, said:

"A 2p cut in National Insurance offers the bottom fifth of households around £350m a year, but the top fifth of households will receive over 10 times more – more than £4Bn. This cut represents a long-term choice to target resources on those with the most rather than those with the least.

"In a country where 14.4 million people are held back by poverty and where one million children are growing up experiencing destitution – a form of very deep poverty we had all but eradicated in the UK – the choice to focus money on the best-off households is the wrong one.

"Today, five out of every six households receiving Universal Credit (the main benefit designed to support low-income families), are going without essentials. The six-month extension of the Household Support Fund, which provides funds to councils to help families struggling to meet their basic needs, is welcome, but it is a temporary measure that will barely touch the sides of the problem. A decent welfare system would at the very least ensure that everyone is able to afford the essentials.

"The Churches are supporting the Let's End Poverty movement, because with political willingness we can turn the tide on rising poverty in the UK. The movement is bringing together voices from across society to demand that our political leaders take poverty seriously and set out their long-term plans to address it as an election approaches. The reality of deepening poverty did not feature in either the Chancellor's budget speech or the Leader of the Opposition's response – next time, it must be central."

Leaders from across the Methodist Church who work alongside low-income communities also offered their initial reflections on the budget announcements.

Rev Neil Johnson, Pioneer minister at Street Banquet in Birmingham said:

"I work alongside the street community, particularly those in Birmingham City Centre - those living with the daily injustice of homelessness. This includes rough sleepers, hostels and houses of multiple occupancy (HMO) residents and tenants in insecure and inadequate housing. These are people, many of whom are receiving benefits, but also those who are working in poorly paid work and receiving very low incomes. This budget has done those people no favour at all. In fact, quite the opposite. Jeremy Hunt said that his budget was a budget for long-term growth. And yet we're living in a society where many, many people are in immediate need.

"The future was already bleak for the street community but now, after this budget, it seems even bleaker. The budget makes the richer, better off while poverty increases. Cuts to public services will have a devastating impact on the poorest and most marginalized of communities. This budget was not meant for the members of the street community, people who already feel disenfranchised because they have been disowned by society.

"So what will make a difference? A truly just tax system, solving the housing crisis and long-term investment in public services."

Winnie Baffoe, Director of Engagement and Influence, South London Mission said:

“The budget refers to fiscal drag, a recovery of finances, but not to people's lives. The negative accumulative effects of inadequate housing, the lack of investment in mental health and reduced funding in education is not spoken openly about. We cannot recoup the loss of time and the impact that has had on people's lives. What we need is a budget that tells the story of the social contracts of housing, education, and health. Children and young people are heirs of the past 10 years, the suffering children of the present and makers of the future. What does this budget tell us that they have to build on?”

Deacon Jenny Jones, based at Methodist Central Hall, Manchester, said:

“This budget makes no additional provision for refugees and asylum seekers, and actually blames them for the problems the countries are having. In recent months, the Government has improved the speed with which applications are processed for those who are looking for the right to remain. And that's good news in some ways. But I don't think we've really talked about how, once leave to remain is granted, their benefits, anything they have like their accommodation, all stops within a few days. I think this budget should have been addressing that, because these people are becoming homeless, their mental health is being destroyed. These people become dependent on food banks, clothing banks, warm spaces, the places that churches provide. But this government and this budget have forgotten that these are real people with real emotions. The people that I have met are wonderful people who would love to contribute to this country. But they're being held back by the systems. And this government doesn't seem to care.”

Helen Pearce, Social Justice Enabler, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Methodist District, said:

“For many in Cornwall, the budget gave no good news, especially those who struggle to find accommodation to live in. For the 28,000 people waiting on the home choice list there has been no

announcements of a plan to enable people to be able to access long term homes and accommodation for so many families and children. A long-term plan is required. A home is something that everyone needs and has a right to."

The Methodist Church is part of the Let's End Poverty movement, calling on political leaders to make tackling poverty a core priority ahead of the next General Election.

In response to the budget, individuals and groups are invited to write to their MP to ask them how they will raise poverty up the political agenda. You can use the digital action to find your MP and send them a personalised email on the Let's End Poverty website: <https://letsendpoverty.co.uk/action/>. Or write to our local MP: Sir Liam Fox, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

STATEMENT ON ANTISEMITISM AND ISLAMOPHOBIA

A statement from the President and Vice President of the Methodist Conference, the Rev Gill Newton and Deacon Kerry Scarlett

We are deeply saddened and concerned about the increase in antisemitism and Islamophobia in the United Kingdom. Such incidents, attacks and attitudes are fundamentally opposed to Jesus' command to love our neighbour. The tangible fear and tension for British Jewish and Muslim communities as a result of these incidents have no place in our society and are a real threat to community cohesion.

The 2023 Methodist Conference reiterated our commitment to oppose antisemitism and to stand by all who are discriminated against or persecuted on the grounds of their religion or ethnicity. We recognise that as a Church we need to be vigilant about our own language, voice and actions, and continue to repent and learn from past wrongs. We are committed to being an inclusive Church that challenges antisemitism, Islamophobia and all forms of discrimination.

We call on our elected leaders to lead by example and not only call out any discrimination on ethnic or religious grounds but to ensure

that in their language they do not incite antisemitism and Islamophobia.

We also believe that we are called as Christians to challenge all policies and practices which perpetuate injustice, oppression, violence and suffering. This includes instances where states, political parties, politicians or groups try to silence legitimate criticism of policies and actions by claiming they are antisemitic or Islamophobic.

As a justice-seeking Church we believe in building communities of inclusion and challenging discriminatory speech and behaviour, recognising that we are all created in God’s image and have value and worth. We continue this work of seeking justice, peace and flourishing through our interfaith relationships and with all who share a vision of a society where no-one is discriminated against and all are free to fulfil their God-given potential.

JOHN WESLEY’S CHAPEL - THE NEW ROOM BROADMEAD

MUSEUM
 CAFE
 CHAPEL
 MEETING ROOMS
 WELCOME



JOHN WESLEY'S
 NEW ROOM

John Wesley’s New Room has teamed up with Broadmead BID, SPARKS and the Methodist Church’s Ark Bus team to present Woodland of Wonder – a celebration of the natural world.

We’re joining forces to run a series of events during the Easter school holidays, including nature-themed craft workshops, photography walks, and even performances from stilt-walking trees!

FREE ACTIVITIES IN THE CHAPEL - Just drop in and have fun.

Thursday 4th April, 11am-3pm – Junk Bugs
 - make colourful insects from recycled materials

alongside other fun crafts

Thursday 11th April, 11am-3pm – My Woodland of Wonder - make trees, flowers, and animals from recycled materials

FREE MUSIC FOR EVERYONE *Mainly Slow Organ Music*

Love the sound of organs in chapels? Join us for a thrilling experimental concert led by Huw Morgan. Discover new composers and the expressive power of the organ. Just drop in and enjoy the start of your weekend.

Saturday 13th April, 11-12noon

Free for ALL - Donations welcome

A RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE IN HAITI

The following prayer has been written by Sandra Lopez, MCB Partnership Coordinator for the Americas, as a prayer of solidarity with the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and Americas, Haiti District and the people of Haiti where on-going violence continues to affect the country.

Almighty God,

We weep with our Haitian brothers and sisters as they continue to suffer violence, injury, fatalities, aggressions, food insecurity, water shortages and insecurity across the country. We pray that your holy spirit would intervene and change the hearts of all those involved in perpetuating this violence.

We pray for wisdom for international partners who are supporting Haiti in seeking a peaceful, democratic transition following the resignation of Ariel Henry, the interim president.

We pray that Haiti will become a nation that offers security and peace to all its citizens.

We pray for Haitian children who attend Methodist Schools across Haiti. We pray that they would soon be able to return safely to their schools to continue their education. We pray for all teaching and school staff who are having to adapt their lessons to virtual classrooms.

We pray for the Methodist Church in Haiti, its Sunday services and other activities that have been affected by the violence that is stopping participants from gathering. May they find comfort in you during this time.

Lord, we pray that our Haitian brothers and sister will find hope in you, so that they may overcome this seemingly unsurmountable challenges. But we thank you that what is impossible for people, is possible for God (Luke 18:27).

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

PRAYERS



Prince of peace,
Lord of light,
God of grace,
As we hear of war and invasion,
We pray to you for peace.
In a world of conflict and violence,
We pray for all who live in fear,
Especially today the people of Ukraine.
We lament with you,
And pray for peace.
Prince of peace,
Lord of light,
God of grace,
Show me how to pray for peace today.

Amen

**ALL
WE
CAN**

**ALL
WE
CAN**

A prayer for good health from Compassion

Father God, please protect those who are vulnerable to illness around the world.

We think especially of children and babies living in poverty who are especially at risk, and where medical assistance is often more difficult to access.

Father, we pray for your protection and healing.

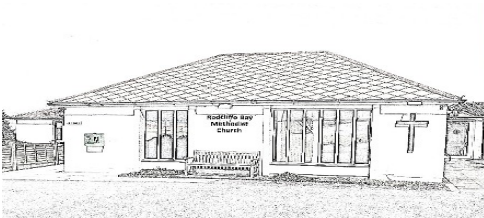
We pray for churches who work so hard to look after their communities. We also lift before you healthcare workers and medical researchers.

Thank you for their tireless service.

Lord, we praise you for the recent medical advances against many diseases.

We pray resources will be fairly distributed around the world.

Amen



REDCLIFFE BAY

website: www.redcliffebaymethodistchurch.org.uk

On Facebook : www.facebook.com/people/Redcliffe-Bay-Methodist-Church/61555783166187/

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

Ray Burgin would like to thank all those who sent messages of condolence and those who have been praying for his elder son, Ken, who died of pancreatic cancer, aged 67, on 8th March.

EDDIE'S 90th BIRTHDAY SURPRISE.

Eddie Entwistle's 90th birthday was on 1st March, and his daughter, Rachel, arranged a 'Surprise Tea' for him at The Winter Gardens in Weston. Friends from walking groups he used to attend, neighbours, Church friends, family, and even a few from Lytham St Annes where he used to live - about 45 in total. When Eddie arrived at the tea, his face showed that the party was a total surprise, which he enjoyed immensely. Congratulations to Rachel for arranging such a memorable afternoon.

BAYCON BUTTIES

The next meeting will be on 4th April. A gathering for men, with butties, coffee and chat. Come any time between 10.00 and 11.30 am, but all the butties may have been eaten if you arrive near the end.



WEDNESDAY FOCUS

The April meeting is on Wednesday, 10th. The planned AGM is postponed, instead Philip Baldwin will play some Music for Spring. The May meeting, on 1st will be about the work of St Mungo's with rough sleepers. The complete summer programme is available at the Church. All welcome to any meeting. 2.30 pm start.

FIKA COFFEE and CAKE AFTERNOON

On 26th April - from 2.00 – 4.00 pm- All welcome.



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





PORTISHEAD

Office: 01275 844917

Websites:

www.portisheadmethodistchurch.co.uk
www.thebeaconhub.co.uk

On Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/
portisheadmethodistHighSt/](http://www.facebook.com/portisheadmethodistHighSt/)
www.facebook.com/thebeaconhub



NEWS OF THE FAMILY

We wish our organist Ian Paget a speedy recovery following a hip replacement operation.

Christine Rilett has recently died. Her funeral is at the South Bristol Crematorium at 2.15 pm on Friday, 5th April. We think and pray for Tony and the family at this sad time.

CRAFTY CHATTERS

Join us on Saturday 13th April at 10.30 am.

BOOK CLUB.

The next meeting is at 10.30 am on 27th April discussing A Keeper by Graham Norton .

POSTSCRIPTS

SCAM ALERT

Beware of an e-mail which arrives showing prominently the name of one of your friends who sends you messages from time to time.

The message briefly directs you to look at some photographs for which there are links.

If you look at the address from which it was sent it will immediately be apparent that this is not your friend's usual address. Don't open the photographs and delete the message as it wasn't sent by your friend and is a scam.

Short Quotes

For every minute you are angry you lose 60 seconds of happiness.

Not even the fastest horse can catch a word spoken in anger. *Chinese proverb*

A tea kettle ,although up to it's neck in hot water, continues to sing.

Those who wish to sing always find a song. *Swedish proverb*

Since the house is on fire, let us warm ourselves. *Italian proverb*

Attitudes are contagious. Is yours worth catching?

This is not a bald spot. It's a solar panel for brain power.

From A Bundle of Laughs -J.John, Mark Stibbe; Monarch Books

*Please pass copy for the May 2024 issue to:
Ray Burgin, 11 Hillcrest Rd. Portishead BS20 8HS
Tel. 844115 e-mail rayburgin@hotmail.co.uk
by **SUNDAY 21st April***