

DECEMBER 2023 and JANUARY 2024

TOGETHER



METHODIST CHURCHES
PORTISHEAD **REDCLIFFE BAY**
High Street *Queens Road*

Minister: Revd Nick Moxon
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From Rev Nick Moxon

Around this time of year I'm reminded of a headline that appeared in most daily newspapers: 'Vicar Bans Christmas Carol!'

As you read the story behind the headline you read about Rev Stephen Coulter who decided his congregation would not to sing 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' having just been to visit the West Bank area weeks beforehand and seen the struggles and injustices experienced by the people there. There were many people not happy with his decision - nearly all from observers looking into the situation and not from the congregation themselves!

Now, I love to sing the carol and I will be choosing to sing it this Christmas but I can see what Rev Coulter means. There are deep, deep struggles and many injustices encountered by people in the area we call 'the Holy land'. But as I sing the words I won't be singing them as a statement of fact - that Bethlehem is a peaceful place - but as a prayer for the peace of the place of Jesus' birth. For the rights of ALL people to live freely and peacefully. I will also use it as a prayer for all those throughout the world who feel excluded and oppressed and for those who feel that birth of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world, isn't for them.

As well as prayerful singing the opening words 'O Little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie' I will also prayerfully sing the closing words 'O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel' May you know the peace and presence of Jesus this Christmas.

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



December 2023

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| <u>3rd Sunday</u> | 10.00 am Morning Service (Portishead)
Rev Brian Hunt |
| | 10.30 am Holy Communion (Redcliffe Bay)
Rev Nick Moxon |
| | 6.30 pm Ecumenical Advent Carols (Portishead)
Rev Nick Moxon |
| <u>4th Monday</u> | 9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group
(Redcliffe Bay) |
| <u>5th Tuesday</u> | 2.30 – 4.00 pm New Beginnings Fellowship
(Portishead) |
| <u>6th Wednesday</u> | 10.00 – 11.00 am Prayer Meeting (Portishead)
2.30 pm Wednesday Focus (Redcliffe Bay)
7.00 – 8.30 pm Advent Course (Redcliffe Bay) |
| <u>7th Thursday</u> | 10.00 – 11.30 am Baycon Butties (Redcliffe Bay)
10.30 am – noon Advent Course (Portishead) |
| <u>10th Sunday</u> | 10.00 am Holy Communion (Portishead)
Rev Nick Moxon |
| | 10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay) |

Rev Peter Mortlock

11th Monday 9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group
(Redcliffe Bay)

12th Tuesday 10.00 am Holy Communion (Redcliffe Bay)
Rev Nick Moxon
10.30 -noon Coffee and Chat (Redcliffe Bay)

13th Wednesday 10.00 – 11.00 am Prayer Meeting (Portishead)
7.00 – 8.30 pm Advent Course (Redcliffe Bay)

14th Thursday 10.30 am – noon Advent Course (Portishead)

17th Sunday 10.00 am Nativity Service (Portishead) LA
10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay)
Rev Nick Moxon & Rev David Harris
4.00 pm Carol Service (Redcliffe Bay)
Rev Nick Moxon
6.30 pm Carol Service (Portishead)
Rev Nick Moxon

20th Wednesday 10.00 – 11.00 am Prayer Meeting (Portishead)
2.30 pm Carols and Mince Pies (Redcliffe Bay)
7.00 – 9.00 pm Advent Course (Redcliffe Bay)

21st Thursday 10.30 am – noon Advent Course (Portishead)

24th Sunday 10.00 am Morning Service (Portishead)
Rev Nick Moxon
10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay)
Mrs Nicola Burdge
5.00 pm Christingle Service (Portishead)
7.00 pm Holy Communion (Redcliffe Bay)
Rev Nick Moxon

25th Monday CHRISTMAS DAY
9.30 am Christmas Devotions (Redcliffe Bay)
Rev Nick Moxon

27th Wednesday 10.00 – 11.00 am Prayer Meeting (Portishead)

29th Friday 2.00– 4.00 pm Tea Coffee and Cakes
(Redcliffe Bay)

31st Sunday 10.00 am United Service (Portishead)
Rev Preben Andersen

January 2024

<u>2nd Tuesday</u>	2.30 – 4.00 pm New Beginnings Fellowship (Portishead)
<u>3rd Wednesday</u>	10.00 – 11.00 am Prayer Meeting (Portishead)
<u>4th Thursday</u>	10.00 – 11.30 am Baycon Butties (Redcliffe Bay)
<u>7th Sunday</u>	10.00 am Covenant Service (Portishead) Rev Nick Moxon 10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay) Rev Dr Keith Clements
<u>8th Monday</u>	9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group (Redcliffe Bay)
<u>9th Tuesday</u>	10.00 am Holy Communion (Redcliffe Bay) Rev Nick Moxon 10.30 -noon Coffee and Chat (Redcliffe Bay)
<u>10th Wednesday</u>	10.00 – 11.00 am Prayer Meeting (Portishead) 2.30 pm Wednesday Focus (Redcliffe Bay)
<u>14th Sunday</u>	10.00 am Morning Service (Portishead) LA 10.30 am Covenant Service (Redcliffe Bay) Rev Nick Moxon
<u>15th Monday</u>	9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group (Redcliffe Bay)
<u>17th Wednesday</u>	10.00 – 11.00 am Prayer Meeting (Portishead)
<u>20th Saturday</u>	10.30 am Book Club (Portishead)
<u>21st Sunday</u>	10.00 am Morning Service (Portishead) Rev Nick Moxon 10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay) Rev Michael Pullan
<u>22nd Monday</u>	9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group (Redcliffe Bay)
<u>24th Wednesday</u>	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 Crafty Chatters (Portishead)

28th Sunday 10.00 am Morning Service (Portishead)
Mrs Jean Balcombe
10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay)
Rev Nick Moxon

29th Monday 9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group
(Redcliffe Bay)

31st Wednesday 10.00 – 11.00 am Prayer Meeting (Portishead)

GENERAL NEWS

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Ecumenical Advent Carols 6.30 pm Sunday 3rd December (Portishead) **REJOICE!**

Carols Services : 17th December 4.00 pm at Redcliffe Bay and 6.30 pm at Portishead

Christingle Service for all ages 24th December 5.00 pm at Portishead

Holy Communion 24th December 7.00 pm at Redcliffe Bay

Christmas Day 9.30 am at Redcliffe Bay

JOHN WESLEY'S NEW ROOM in THE HORSEFAIR, BROADMEAD

MUSEUM
CAFE
CHAPEL
MEETING ROOMS
WELCOME



JOHN WESLEY'S
NEW ROOM

4 Charles Street was home to the writer of one of the most popular, well-known Christmas carols of all time: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*. Join us for exclusive access to Charles Wesley's House on our festive tours starting on 6th December.

We are taking you back to 1769 where Charles Wesley and his family are getting ready for Christmas. Enjoy carols, beautiful floral displays and find out how Christmas was celebrated in the 18th century. Finish with a mince pie and an optional sing-along in the family music room.

The tour starts at 11:30 am outside 4 Charles Street, Bristol BS1 3NW on the following dates:

Wednesday 6th Thursday 7th Saturday 9th Wednesday 13th
Thursday 14th Saturday 16th December.

Tickets £7, Pre-booking only

Places are limited, book early to avoid disappointment. The tours start at 11.30am and last approximately 60 minutes. Please note that this listed building is entered by steps and it has five floors linked by a steep and winding staircase. It has therefore not been possible to create disabled access.

Lunchtime Carols Celebrate the festive season with our lunchtime carol service. Enjoy special performances from our Community Choir and indulge in festive favourites from the café menu. Everyone is welcome!

Wednesday 13th December, 1 – 2pm

The lunchtime carols service will last approximately 60 minutes.

This is a free event with donations gratefully welcomed.

Book your free ticket

Carols by Candlelight

Enjoy an evening of festive cheer as we welcome everyone to gather for traditional Christmas carols in the atmospheric surroundings of our 18th century candlelit chapel. A unique cultural experience in the heart of Broadmead.

Why not join us straight from work, or combine your carol singing with an evening meal with friends?

Thursday 14 December, 5.30pm – 6.30pm

The service will last approximately 60 minutes.

Hot drinks and mince pies will be available from the cafe.

This is a free event with donations gratefully welcomed.

Book your free ticket [t](tel:01179264740) Telephone 0117 9264740

CONCERT AT St NICHOLAS' CHURCH

Professional tenor Gregory Steward will be giving a concert at 7.30 pm on Saturday 9th December. His programme features popular classical favourites such as Nessun Dorma and O Sole Mio, popular songs from musicals such as Les Misérables, as well as a few festive favourites. Wine and nibbles will be available. Tickets are £12 each and U18's are free. Contact Rachel at the Parish Church Office on 01275 846230 or office@portisheadparish.co.uk



ACTION FOR CHILDREN

see children who are struggling every day. Children without a bed sleeping on the floor. Families phoning us crying because they have no money for food. **But also we see the difference you can make.**

By donating and becoming a Secret Santa, you could give a vulnerable child the essentials of warm clothes, a hot meal, or a special present just for them. By 24th November there were 6650 Secret Santas who had donated £209000. Will you join them ?

Go to the website : www.actionforchildren.org.uk You can buy a loved one a Christmas present that helps support a family in need.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY CHRISTMAS FILM 2023 LAUNCHED

Christmas brings joy to many and stress for some. When Christmas makes us feel anxious or inadequate, scratch beneath the surface and you can discover the extraordinary moments waiting to be found.

The Methodist Church has launched its 2023 Christmas film, *Out of the Ordinary*.

The film features the emotional, relatable story of a young mother facing financial struggles at Christmas, who, during a visit to Methodist church, is transported to an animated, angelic world where she discovers that she is worthy to both love and to be loved.

To accompany the film, there are "scratch-off" Christmas cards as resources, both real and digital, showing how we can all discover the "extraordinary" within our daily lives. Methodist Churches will be distributing these scratch-off Christmas cards at services and events, as well as using them for invitations in their local community. There is also the opportunity to sign up for daily digital advent reflections and a new arrangement of the Christmas carol,

O little town of Bethlehem, is used as the soundtrack to the film and will be released as a single.

Ben Lawrence, Digital Content Producer for the Methodist Church, directed the film and wrote the new arrangement for the carol. Describing the story presented in the film, Ben explained, "Out of the Ordinary is a story of hope, with a mum-to-be struggling with the cost of living crisis stumbling upon a glowing manger in a Methodist Church. Here, she discovers a pair of virtual reality goggles that transports her to an animated world where she encounters an angel-like being. After being freed from a symbolic cage, she can see the world from a new perspective. The mum-to-be leaves the animated world as the virtual reality goggles run out of battery, but she realises that there has been a change that has carried back through with her. The film shows us that everyone is out of the ordinary because of God's love for them.

"The opportunity to write a new arrangement of a much-loved carol to accompany the film was exciting. As a musician myself, crafting a bespoke soundtrack to a film gives us the opportunity to truly tell the story in the way that we want to. We're really excited to release the full track as the Methodist Church's first ever single."

Ben Hollebon, Director of Digital for the Methodist Church, commented, "The last few years haven't been easy for many, so we wanted to show that despite the struggles we face, God's love waits patiently for a moment to change everything.

“The Out of the Ordinary campaign will also be sharing daily advent reflections via email, celebrating the global heritage of the Methodist Church and its hidden treasures. There are also physical and digital cards to share, where “scratching” beneath the surface shows us some of those gifts that are just out of sight.

“Our Christmas campaign does two things. It reassures those who watch that everyone is worthy of the Christmas message of love and hope; and it offers our local churches a way to connect with those in their community seeking a church where they can celebrate and worship this Christmas.”

More details, the film and an opportunity to sign up for emails to discover the Out of the Ordinary campaign can be found on our website: methodist.org.uk/OutOfTheOrdinary along with an invitation to local Methodist church services.

A RESPONSE TO THE KING'S SPEECH TO PARLIAMENT

Steve Hucklesby, a Policy Adviser with the Methodist Church, offers this short comment on The King’s Speech and climate change.

The Prime Minister stated that he would like to encourage further applications for licencing of oil and gas extraction but our government must do more to show how we will urgently phase out oil and gas production and define the timescale. We must ensure that this is consistent with the UK’s contribution to tackle the climate crisis.

The United Nations Environment Programme has just reported that major producers currently plan by 2030 to extract twice the volumes that would be consistent with keeping below 1.5 degrees of warming. Last month over 400 Christian leaders called on the Prime Minister to cancel the huge Rosebank oil and gas field.

PRAYERS



Prayers for Israel-Palestine

Oh sacred head now wounded...

Today, as every day, you are wounded again by the sins of the world.

Today the wounded of Gaza cry to you and we lift our cries with them.

How long, we wonder, will it be until your promised reign of peace comes.

How long before the captives will be released.

O sacred head, when the wounds seem too hard to bear, too awful to see, teach us not to turn away but instead remind us that in you all trauma can find healing and long years of hatreds be transformed.

Oh, make us yours forever And should we fainting be
Lord, let us never, never Outlive our love for thee.

Amen

How can we call a land "Holy" when a festival site becomes a killing ground and a hospital becomes a grave?

Christ, have mercy upon the land of your birth and all who know it as home. May the prophecy of Isaiah find fruition in this time and place: No more shall infants live but a few days or the lives of older people be cut short. No more shall weeping and distress echo across the plains. No more shall children be borne for calamity. Let houses be built and lived in. Let vineyards be planted and enjoyed. Let enemies come and eat together and the days of hurt and destruction be

over.

In Jesus' name we pray

Amen (Isaiah 65 v.17-25)

Join Methodists from around the world to pray together for Justice and Peace in the Holy Land. Every Wednesday from 6pm (UK time) for 40 minutes. Each week there will be updates and theological reflections from local voices and Methodist Liaison Office staff members followed by the opportunity to pray together. To join please email office@mlojerusalem.org and you will be sent joining instructions.

Prayer for war in Ukraine

Holy and Gracious God

We pray for the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia; for their countries and their leaders.

We pray for all those who are afraid; that your everlasting arms hold them in this time of great fear.

We pray for all those who have the power over life and death; that they will choose for all people life, and life in all its fullness.

We pray for those who choose war; that they will remember that you direct your people to turn our swords into ploughshares and seek for peace.

We pray for leaders on the world stage; that they are inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ.

Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace for Ukraine.

And we ask this in the name of your blessed Son.

Lord have mercy.

Amen



PORTISHEAD

Office: 01275 844917

Websites:

www.portisheadmethodistchurch.co.uk

www.thebeaconhub.co.uk

On Facebook:

www.facebook.com/thebeaconhub



THE BEACON HUB

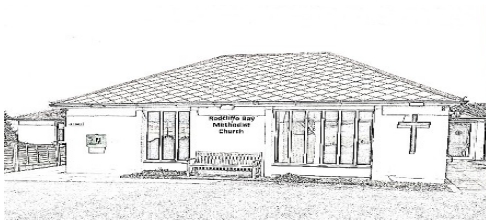
A LIGHT ON THE HIGH STREET

CRAFTY CHATTERS

Join us on Saturday 27th January, at 10.30 am.

BOOK CLUB.

The next meeting is on 20th January discussing Murder before Evensong by Rev Richard Coles.



REDCLIFFE BAY

website: www.redcliffebaymethodistchurch.org.uk

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

The Morning Service on 17th December will include a celebration of 60 years since the ordination of Rev David Harris

BRISTOL METHODIST CENTRE'S CHRISTMAS PARTY AND LUNCH

The Bristol Methodist Centre need the following items for their Christmas gift parcels. If you are able to help, our collection box will be in the Church porch on Sundays 3rd and 10th December.

Medium boxer shorts

Men's & Women's deodorants

Shampoo & shower gel

Men's socks (not thermal)

Men's gloves

Small notebooks

Small puzzle books & biros

Chocolate oranges

Christmas wrapping paper & sticky tape.



Thank you for your help and generosity.

CHURCH COUNCIL

The Autumn Church Council opened with devotions on Psalm 11. The good news was that the church financial position had improved with increased membership contributions, donations, lettings up to pre Covid levels and improved Gift Aid refunds. Two new people are attending regularly.

The Circuit is seeking a new minister for Nailsea for September 2024 from which time our minister will have responsibility for Pill, although a part time lay worker would be sought to help.

The Leadership Team will continue to be looking at how best we can serve the community and we are to be a Warm Welcome Space Venue. Wednesday Focus has improved attendance



since changing to afternoon meetings and other weekday events are well supported.

The Property Committee are looking at ways of covering the maintenance of the garden and whether the Church front needs improvement.

Trinity School needs a new Methodist Governor now and another next year. Our Minister is very involved with the School, including pastoral duties.

WEDNESDAY FOCUS

Rev Nick Moxon and Philip Baldwin will present Advent Songs and Reflections at 2.30 pm on 6th December. An extra session of Carols and Christmas Music will be on Wednesday 20th December – with mince pies too!

The January meeting is on the second Wednesday, 10th, when there will be a selection of board games to play.

All welcome to any meeting.

BAYCON BUTTIES

Meetings will be on 7th December and 4th January. A gathering for men, with butties, coffee and chat.



FIKA COFFEE and CAKE AFTERNOON

On the last Friday of the month from 2.00 – 4.00 pm- 29th December and 26th January. All welcome.



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



POSTSCRIPT

It was Christmas time. The trip had gone reasonably well, but the traveller was ready to go back home. The airport, on the other hand, had turned a tacky red and green, and loudspeakers blared annoying renditions of cherished Christmas carols. Being someone who took Christmas very seriously, and being slightly tired, the traveller was not in a particularly good mood. Going to check in his luggage (which, for some reason, had become one suitcase filled entirely with new clothes), he saw some hanging mistletoe. Not real mistletoe, but very cheap plastic with white paint on some of the rounder parts and green paint on some of the flatter and pointier parts; something that could be taken for mistletoe only in a very Picasso sort of way. With a considerable degree of irritation and nowhere else to vent it, he said to the pretty young attendant, "Even if I were not married, I would not want to kiss you under such a ghastly mockery of mistletoe."

"Sir, look more closely at where the mistletoe is."(pause)

"OK, I see that it's above the luggage scale, which is the place you'd have to step forward for a kiss."

"That's not why it's there." (pause)

"OK, I give up. Why is it there?"

"It's there so you can kiss your luggage goodbye."

from A Bundle of Laughs-John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books .

*Please pass copy for the combined December 2023
and January 2024 issue to:*

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*by **SUNDAY 26th November***