

**FEBRUARY 2024**

# **TOGETHER**



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

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***From Rev Nick Moxon***

This letter is being written at the start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This is usually observed towards the beginning of the year and encourages churches of all denominations and traditions to pray for one another and for God's love to be



seen and shown through our lives together.

This year's theme is 'Go and Do Likewise' reflecting the words that Jesus spoke to the teacher of the law having shared the parable of the Good Samaritan. The parable of the Good Samaritan is one of the best known passages of Scripture, yet one that never seems to lose its power to challenge indifference to suffering and to inspire solidarity. It is a story about crossing boundaries that calls our attention to the bonds that unite the whole human family.

JESUS MAFA. The Good Samaritan, from Art in the Christian Tradition.

Have you ever had said to you ‘Do as I say not as I do’? Jesus in response to a question that was trying to trip Him up says, in effect, ‘Do as I say as well as what I do’.

We are surrounded by people who need help in many different ways. We too at times, need people to come alongside to help us. We need each other. That’s a basic human condition - the need for one another. Often that’s quite tough - we don’t want our offer to be rejected so we’d rather not step up and step out or we would rather people think we’re doing OK instead of reaching out and asking.

The story of the Good Samaritan shows that sometimes we can be the samaritan helping out and sometimes we are the person in need.

Whichever one you are today may you know the strength of God to help you in all you do.

God Bless  
**Nick**

**Prayer is where the action is,**  
*John Wesley*

*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

## February

- 1st Thursday 10.00 – 11.30 am Baycon Butties (Redcliffe Bay)
- 4th Sunday 10.00 am Holy Communion Service (Portishead)  
Rev Nick Moxon  
10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay)  
Mr David Eggleston
- 5th Monday 9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group  
(Redcliffe Bay)  
1.30 – 4.00 pm Warm Safe Space (Redcliffe Bay)
- 6th Tuesday 2.30 – 4.00 pm New Beginnings Fellowship  
(Portishead)
- 7th Wednesday 12.30 – 1.00 pm Lunchtime Reflections (Portishead)  
Rev Nick Moxon  
2.30 pm Wednesday Focus (Redcliffe Bay)
- 11th Sunday 10.00 am Morning Service (Portishead)  
Rev Nick Moxon  
10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay)  
Mrs Margaret Andersen
- 12th Monday 9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group  
(Redcliffe Bay)  
1.30 – 4.00 pm Warm Safe Space (Redcliffe Bay)
- 13th Tuesday 9.30 am – 2.00 pm Pancakes on the Hub Café  
menu with a Valentine's theme

	10.00 am Holy Communion (Redcliffe Bay) Rev Nick Moxon
	10.30 -noon Coffee and Chat (Redcliffe Bay)
<u>14th Wednesday</u>	10.00 – 11.00 am Prayer Meeting (Portishead)
<u>18th Sunday</u>	10.00 am Morning Service (Portishead) Rev Peter Mortlock
	10.30 am Holy Communion (Redcliffe Bay) Rev David Harris
<u>19th Monday</u>	9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group (Redcliffe Bay)
	1.30 – 4.00 pm Warm Safe Space (Redcliffe Bay)
<u>21st Wednesday</u>	10.00 – 11.00 am Prayer Meeting (Portishead)
<u>23rd Friday</u>	2.00– 4.00 pm Tea Coffee and Cakes (Redcliffe Bay)
<u>24th Saturday</u>	10.30 am Crafty Chatters (Portishead)
<u>25th Sunday</u>	10.00 am Morning Service (Portishead) Mrs Nicola Burdge
	10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay) Rev Nick Moxon
<u>26h Monday</u>	9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group (Redcliffe Bay)
	1.30 - 4.00 pm Warm Safe Space (Redcliffe Bay)
<u>28th Wednesday</u>	10.00 – 11.00 am Prayer Meeting (Portishead)

## **GENERAL NEWS**

### PORTISHEAD CHURCHES TOGETHER

As part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity a meeting was organised at St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church Hall based on this year's theme 'You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbour as yourself' (Luke 10:27). Brothers and sisters from the Catholic Archdiocese of Ouagadougou, Protestant Churches,

ecumenical bodies and the CCN in Burkina Faso collaborated generously in drafting the prayers and reflections.



As a start there was a ceremonial Washing of Hands.

Later participants circulated round Prayer Stations one of which was a map of Portishead and another a map of The World on - which tea lights were placed to indicate where there is a significant prayer need in that country.



All came together for the final prayer :

Lord Jesus Christ,  
who prayed that all might be one,  
we pray to you for the unity of Christians,  
according to your will, -  
according to your means.  
May your Spirit enable us to experience  
the suffering caused by division,  
to see our sin and to hope beyond all hope.  
Amen.

Have a look at the Facebook page for information on upcoming and past activities of Portishead Churches Together

[www.facebook.com/portisheadchurchestogether/](http://www.facebook.com/portisheadchurchestogether/)





### REV TONY PRICE

Tony died at the beginning of December at the age of 91. As a supernumerary minister he was taking our services into his 80's. As chairman of the trustees of the International Seafarer's Centre at the Portbury Dock he encouraged several to volunteer to help there.

A memorial Service was held at Yatton Methodist Church on 16th December which was conducted by Rev Ian Bowley, with lessons and a poem read by members of Tony's family.

### DON'T FALL, WALK TALL

This is a falls prevention drop-in event at the Folk Hall 12.30- 4.00 pm on Thursday 15th February. Have you, or someone you know, had a fall or a near miss where you have tripped or slipped recently? Are you a bit unsteady on your feet? At this event experts will be on hand who will be able to show you what you can do to reduce the risk of falling. They can provide transport to the event – call 01934 416486 [info@vansmail.org.uk](mailto:info@vansmail.org.uk)

### THE INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE GUIDE

The Methodist Church has published an *Inclusive Language Guide*. This helps the Church hold conversations without making assumptions or inadvertently causing upset.

The Assistant Secretary of the Methodist Conference, the Rev Michaela Youngson, explains why words are important and how the guide affirms traditional terms such as husband and wife while allowing people to express themselves using the language that is right for them.

Words in general are powerful and important and, of course, human language is changing all the time. The Methodist Church, as part of our calling to be an inclusive Church, is paying attention to the language that we use and is encouraging everyone to be careful in

the words used when we are talking with and about people. We should never use offensive, racist, sexist or homophobic language but also part of loving our neighbour is to consider how they might want to be addressed or described.

Those in the life of the Church who help prepare people for special events such as baptisms, funerals and marriages will want to use language that is inclusive and reflects for those involved the language that they would choose to use for themselves. So, as well as traditional language such as 'husband and wife' it might be appropriate to use words such as 'partner' or 'spouse'. This is not a discarding of particular terms but an opening up of our language in a way that reflects the gracious and inclusive nature of God's love.

As the world's understanding of each person's identity changes, the Church is learning more about what it means to be created in God's image – our language about God is limited by our human understanding – as that understanding grows, so does our knowledge of the God who created us. In our guide to inclusive language we offer practical advice about how our language might be used in ways that do not exclude people, whatever their identity. We are called to love in the way that Christ loves, recognising, as St Paul's Letter to the Galatians, that in Christ Jesus we are all children of God in faith.

The guide can be download from  
[www.methodist.org.uk/media/31380/ilg-designed-update-december-2023.pdf](http://www.methodist.org.uk/media/31380/ilg-designed-update-december-2023.pdf)

## THE BRISTOL METHODIST CENTRE

In 2015 the service moved from Midland Road to the current location at Lincoln Street in Lawrence Hill.

Since then we have aimed to fulfil the traditions of the





original Methodist project and have expanded the means of assistance to the homeless and vulnerable, which include more modern approaches such as online access and training for those in need.

The new bigger building has meant that partnership working with other agencies has been much more efficient and we are able to deal with the growing demands on our service.

The Methodist Centre has become a necessary hub for organisations to centralise their operations and work closely with us in assisting those individuals with complex needs. In this way of working together with other service providers, we have helped a great many people achieve successful outcomes across a variety of complex issues, helping them on their journey of change and breaking the cycle of homelessness.

We are dedicated to offering shelter, sanctuary and support to the homeless, vulnerable and excluded by offering a safe, peaceful and welcoming environment . That is open to all with staff that are able to come alongside our guests at their varying points of crisis and will journey with them, as we seek to first address their short term needs and then help them make changes or arrange support for them to achieve their long term needs.

People of all or no faith are welcome at the centre but they must respect our ethos and values.

Our Christian beliefs underpin all of the valued work we offer at the Methodist Centre. Prayer is always available to our guests if they request this, and there is a weekly worship service on a Wednesday morning that is open for anyone to attend if they are so inclined to do so.

#### LOCAL GANGS TAKE OVER METHODIST CHURCHES IN HAITI

Mission Coordinator for the Methodist Haiti District, David Draeger, gives us an update on the situation in Haiti and how it affects daily life.



It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone. Most days are like the one that precedes and the one that follows. The unending grief from continuous gang warfare, with murder, rape, extortion, and robbery tends to lull us into complacent oblivion. It is

sad to say that I do not get as much accomplished as I would wish because hope for the future dwindles. It seems easier to just go with the flow and do nothing rather than to try and change the unchangeable.

When I stop for a moment and look around, I see evidence that the Church, specifically Eglise Méthodiste d' Haiti [The Methodist Church in Haiti] is moving forward. There are some church buildings, like St. Martin and Croix d' Boquets, that have been taken over by the local gangs so that the people are unable to worship in their own sanctuary. Other congregations are unable to travel through gang-infested areas to their normal places of worship. At the same time, I see congregations like Frères and Jérémie that are relatively safe, and their worship services are full every Sunday. Throughout the whole country there is the same pattern; some churches are hampered by the gangs and others remain as a light in a darkened world.

But then I am awakened by the Hope proclaimed by Jesus Christ and my faith in the future is renewed. Throughout the year there are births and deaths, weddings and funerals, there are still confirmation classes and Bible studies where people are coming to Christ and as a result are professing their membership in the Methodist Church of Haiti."

Please keep supporting the World Mission Fund that serves partners with solidarity grants. These grants are given 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.

In 2023, your donations to the World Mission Fund enabled the Methodist Church in Haiti to support hundreds of people in their communities affected by the prolonged political and social crisis. With these funds, the church set up mobile clinics to tackle the outbreak of cholera and other health problems, as well as distribute dried food packages to support community health promotion.

**PRAYERS**



*Human Trafficking*

Creator God

Through the pervasive, insidious sin of human trafficking  
Your precious children are exploited and harmed  
Denied the opportunity for freedom and flourishing  
In horror, we recognize that we are unknowingly complicit  
In the systems and structures which enable trafficking to exist  
We confess that we feel overwhelmed at the scale and complexity of trafficking,  
In the UK, and across the globe  
Hear our prayers, loving God,  
For all victims and survivors

For those who walk alongside them, seeking change and transformation. Amen

*For peace in Haiti*

For an end to gang violence  
For healing for victims  
For compassionate, just and democratic governance  
For the Methodist District Annual Conference  
For international support for Haiti to create Haitian solutions to Haitian issues

If you use the Methodist Prayer Handbook, you can pray for Haiti on day 11 (page 34) of the book.



**PORTISHEAD**

*Office: 01275 844917*

*Websites:*

[www.portisheadmethodistchurch.co.uk](http://www.portisheadmethodistchurch.co.uk)

[www.thebeaconhub.co.uk](http://www.thebeaconhub.co.uk)

*On Facebook:*

[www.facebook.com/thebeaconhub](https://www.facebook.com/thebeaconhub)



**THE BEACON HUB**

A LIGHT ON THE HIGH STREET

NEWS OF THE FAMILY Ken Gathergood, for many years Church Treasurer has died of cancer. He would have been 80 in January.

.A tribute To Mary Pain Mary passed peacefully away on 4th December while staying with her eldest daughter Catherine.

I first met Mary just as she became secretary to Women's Fellowship at High Street, a role she filled for some 30 years. She organized weekly, a very mixed and varied range of speakers. She was never happier than when she was arranging one of her famous teas, she not only invited all the ladies groups in the circuit she also invited groups from all the Portishead, and beyond, Churches. She volunteered for us to organize Harvest Suppers and then she decided once a month a few of us could clean the church and Hall, which turned out to be a wonderful time of fellowship. Mary helped with Saturday morning coffee and baked cakes to sell at every Tuesday coffee to raise money for the church. She never missed a week, baking double or treble if she was going



away. She was still on the pastoral team and although she could no longer visit folk each month she would write little notes of encouragement to post out to them with the Together magazine. She acted as key holder for anyone needing access to the Wesley Centre. These are just a few of the things she did and all done quietly in the power and love of God. I last saw Mary when I delivered her November copy of Together, although she could no longer attend church services she was still extremely interested in all the news, facts and figures and I had to make sure I had the correct answers to her very many questions. On the 8th January we gathered to say goodbye to our dear friend---leaving sadness on earth but I'm sure rejoicing in heaven. Mary, an inspiration to us all.

*Sheila Slater*

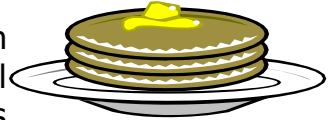
We think and pray for both families at this sad time.

CRAFTY CHATTERS

Join us on Saturday 24th February at 10.30 am.

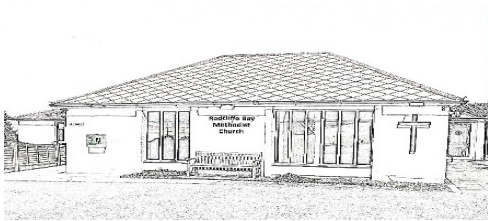
PANCAKE DAY

The start of Lent is on Ash Wednesday 14th February so on the day before Pancakes will be on the Hub Café menu - with a Valentine's theme.



BOOK CLUB.

The next meeting is on 16th March discussing Those who are loved by Victoria Hislop



**REDCLIFFE BAY**

*website:* [www.redcliffebaymethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.redcliffebaymethodistchurch.org.uk)



A Warm Welcome Space is now operating on Monday afternoons from 1.30 – 4.00 pm in the New Hall. We encourage anyone to come in for warmth, a chat, coffee, tea and toast. Publicity is being stepped up so that the community is aware of the facility. At the moment this is the only Warm Welcome Space in Portishead.

We need to have at least two of our own people present during opening hours. If you would like to help please contact Sue Mason



### SIR MICHAEL EAVIS

Knighthed recently, Michael Eavis of Glastonbury fame is a member of the local Methodist Church. His Great Uncle the Rev Earnest Eavis was one of the first ministers here in the 1930s....to be followed by Rev Albert Mortlock, whose nephew can be seen in our pulpit from time to time.

### BAYCON BUTTIES

The next meeting will be on 1st February. A gathering for men, with butties, coffee and chat.



### WEDNESDAY FOCUS

The February meeting is on the Wednesday, 7th, when a film will be shown. All welcome to any meeting.

### ACTION FOR CHILDREN

As is our custom, collections were taken at various events over Christmas for Action for Children (formerly NCH) this year we have been able to send £250 – up on last year. Thank you to all who contributed.

### FIKA COFFEE and CAKE AFTERNOON

On the last Friday of the month, 22nd February. 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.



### ***POSTSCRIPTS***

**CHURCHGOING** *In one church, the pastor, apparently fed up with all the excuses given over the years as to why people don't go to*

church, included "Ten reasons why I never wash" in the Sunday bulletin:

1. I was forced to as a child.
2. People who wash are hypocrites — they think they are cleaner than everybody else.
3. There are so many different kinds of soap, I can't decide which one is best.
4. I used to wash, but I got bored and stopped.
5. I wash only on special occasions, like Christmas and Easter.
6. None of my friends wash.
7. I'll start washing when I get older and dirtier.
8. I can't spare the time.
9. The bathroom is never warm enough in winter or cool enough in summer.
10. People who make soap are only after your money.

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

Directions for singing:

1. Sing lustily and with good courage
2. Beware of singing as if you are half dead or asleep, but lift your voice in strength
3. Above all, sing spiritually
4. Have an eye to God in every word you sing
5. Aim at pleasing him more than yourself

*John Wesley 1761*

As relevant today , as the day they were written 263 years ago !



*Please pass copy for the March 2024 issue to:  
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by **SUNDAY 25th February***