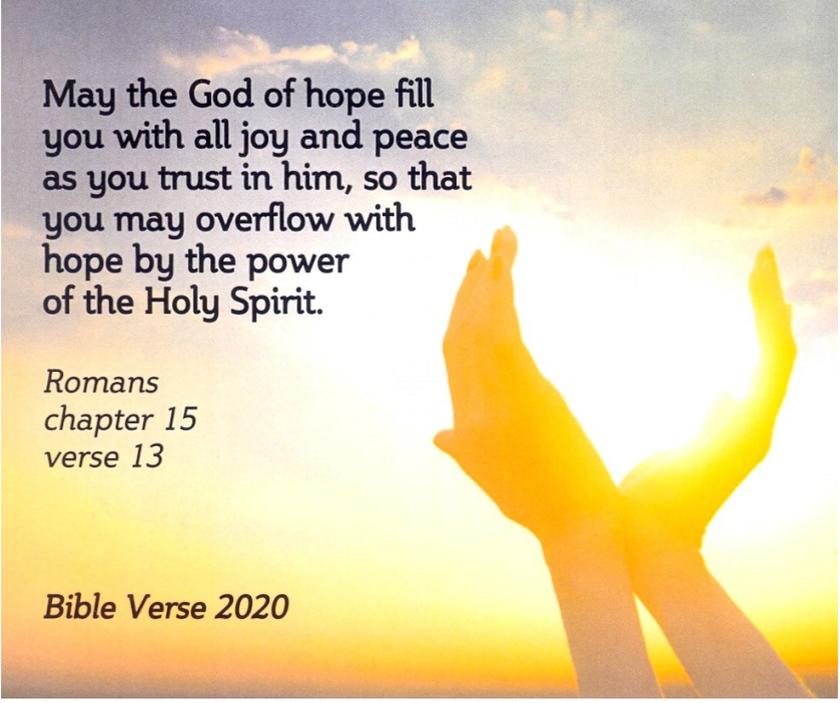


**FEBRUARY 2020**

# **TOGETHER**



May the God of hope fill  
you with all joy and peace  
as you trust in him, so that  
you may overflow with  
hope by the power of  
the Holy Spirit.

*Romans  
chapter 15  
verse 13*

*Bible Verse 2020*

## **METHODIST CHURCHES**

**PORTISHEAD**  
*High Street*

**REDCLIFFE BAY**  
*Queens Road*

*Minister: Revd Nick Moxon*

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## From Rev Nick Moxon

The other day the two youngest girls were comparing and counting bruises and scars. One of them had just fallen over (a result of living life to the full and at 100 miles an hour) and she wanting to see how battle-scarred her legs were! I'm sure many of us could point to scars acquired when we fell off our bikes / a tree / a horse / a wall (*delete as appropriate*). Scars remind us of lives lived to the full and maybe a bit clumsily as well.

We all carry other scars as well. Emotional, mental, or spiritual scars remind us that nobody escapes being wounded. Scars of grief and hurt, scars of betrayal and broken dreams. Sometimes these scars never seem to heal and continue to cause pain years later.

The scars we carry, whether we like them or not, are part of who we are. They go everywhere with us and are part of what has shaped our lives, our personalities and character. Chatting to someone the other day I was amazed at this person's life experience and how determined they were not to allow what they had lived through to shape their life in a negative way. They felt driven to get alongside people who had experienced something similar and help them. It's what psychologist Carl Jung called being a 'wounded healer' - the idea that psychologists feel compelled to treat patients because they themselves are wounded.

Henri Nouwen, a Catholic writer, brought this idea into the Christian thinking in his book 'The Wounded Healer'. In it he says,

*'The main question is not "How can we hide our wounds?" so we don't have to be embarrassed, but "How can we put our woundedness in the service of others?"*

As Christians we follow Jesus who, after His resurrection, had scars on his hands.

*'the hands that flung stars into space,  
to cruel nails surrendered' ...  
'the scars that speak of sacrifice.'*  
(taken from Graham Kendrick's song 'The Servant King')

The scars of Jesus remind us that He understands the reality of our pain and brokenness. And by these scars we are healed (look at Isaiah chapter 53 verse 5). And in the process of our healing our experiences can be used by God to bring healing and freedom to others.

When our wounds cease to be a source of shame, and become a source of healing, we have become wounded healers.

God bless.  
**Nick**

# CHURCH CALENDAR



## **February**

- 1st Saturday 9.30 -10.00 am Prayers for the World and Community  
10.00 am – 12.00 Coffee and Chat (Portishead)  
7.00 pm Jonathan Viera Songs and Tales (Portishead)
- 2nd Sunday 10.30 am All Age Worship (Portishead) Rev Nick Moxon  
10.30 am Holy Communion (Redcliffe Bay) Rev David Harris
- 3rd Monday 9.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group (Redcliffe Bay)  
2.00 pm Hymn Singing at The Harbourside Care Centre
- 4th Tuesday 9.30 am Prayers; 10.00 am Coffee and Chat (Portishead)  
2.30 pm Hymn Singing (Cambrian Lodge)
- 5th Wednesday 9.30 - 11.30 am Wesley Toddlers (Portishead)  
2.30 pm Women's Fellowship (Portishead)  
8.00 pm Wednesday Focus (Redcliffe Bay)

6th Thursday 10.00 – 11.30 am Baycon Butty Club (Redcliffe Bay)  
7.30 pm Choir Practice (Portishead)

8th Saturday 10.00 am – 12.00 Coffee and Chat (Portishead)

9th Sunday 10.30 am Morning Service (Portishead) Mrs Jean Balcome  
10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay) Rev Nick Moxon

10th Monday 9.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group (Redcliffe Bay)

11th Tuesday 9.30 am Prayers; 10.00 am Coffee and Chat (Portishead)  
10.00 am Holy Communion (Redcliffe Bay) Rev Nick Moxon  
10.30 am Coffee for All (Redcliffe Bay)

12th Wednesday 9.30 - 11.30 am Wesley Toddlers (Portishead)  
2.30 pm Women's Fellowship (Portishead)

13th Thursday 7.30 pm Choir Practice (Portishead)

14th Friday 5.30 – 7.00 pm Junior Youth Club (Portishead)

15th Saturday 10.00 am – 12.00 Coffee and Chat (Portishead)

16th Sunday 10.30 am Holy Communion (Portishead) Rev Nick Moxon  
10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay) Mr David Eggleston

17th Monday 9.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group (Redcliffe Bay)

18th Tuesday 9.30 am Prayers; 10.00 am Coffee and Chat (Portishead)

19th Wednesday 2.30 pm Women's Fellowship (Portishead)  
7.15 pm Worship Through Creative Movement  
(Portishead)  
8.00 pm Wednesday Focus (Redcliffe Bay)

20th Thursday 7.30 pm Choir Practice (Portishead)

22nd Saturday 10.00 am – 12.00 Coffee and Chat (Portishead)

23rd Sunday 10.30 am Morning Service (Portishead) Mr John Flowers  
10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay) Rev Peter Mortlock

24th Monday 9.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group (Redcliffe Bay)

25th Tuesday 9.30 am Prayers; 10.00 am Coffee and Chat (Portishead)  
10.30 am Coffee for All (Redcliffe Bay)  
11.00 am Hymn Singing at Waverley Court  
2.00 pm Hymn Singing at Norewood Lodge

26th Wednesday 9.30 - 11.30 am Wesley Toddlers (Portishead)  
2.30 pm Women's Fellowship (Portishead)

27th Thursday 7.30 pm Choir Practice (Portishead)

29th Saturday 10.00 am – 12.00 Coffee and Chat (Portishead)

## **GENERAL NEWS**

### FORMER MINISTERS

We learned with sadness that retired Rev David Hudson (here 1994 -2001) has died after several months in hospital. He had been making progress and was expecting a move to a hospital nearer their home, but contracted a chest infection and this time antibiotics were ineffective. We think and pray for Jean and the family.

Rev Sharon Lovelock has now been at Tonbridge for 5 years and is to remain there. She has recently started to allocate 30% of her time to St Andrews Anglican/Methodist Church at Paddock Wood. She and Rick have applied to foster a child of primary school age and there is an important decision making meeting, for which she would appreciate our prayers. Having been in the ministry 10 years she has a three month Sabbatical this year too.

### THE GORDANO VALLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT IS CURRENTLY SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR THE FOLLOWING ROLES:

Circuit Property Secretary

Circuit Safeguarding Officer

Can you help?

For more details / job description please contact Rev Nick Moxon

### SONGS OF PRAISE 5th JANUARY

This programme included a recording in the New Room in Bristol with a piece about the Methodist Covenant Service. The Warden, Gary Best was interviewed as was the current Youth President Thelma Commey, who came over very well. It is good to see that the Church has such up and coming talent.



## CLEVEDON AND DISTRICT FOOD BANK

### **HOW FOODBANKS WORK**

Providing emergency food to people in crisis.

Every day people in the UK go hungry for reasons ranging from redundancy to receiving an unexpected bill on a low income. A simple box of food makes a big difference, with foodbanks helping prevent crime, housing loss, family breakdown and mental health problems.

### **FOOD IS DONATED**

Churches, schools, businesses and individuals donate non-perishable, in-date food to a foodbank. Large collections often take place as part of Harvest Festival celebrations and food is also collected at supermarkets.

### **FOOD IS SORTED AND STORED**

Volunteers sort food to check that it's in date and pack it into boxes ready to be given to people in need. Over 40,000 people give up their time to volunteer at foodbanks.

### **PROFESSIONALS IDENTIFY PEOPLE IN NEED**

Foodbanks partner with a wide range of care professionals such as doctors, health visitors, social workers and police to identify people in crisis and issue them with a foodbank voucher.

### **CLIENTS RECEIVE FOOD**

Foodbank clients bring their voucher to a foodbank centre where it can be redeemed for three days' emergency food. Volunteers meet clients over a warm drink or free hot meal and are able to signpost people to agencies able to solve the longer-term problem.

## RENEWAL AND REBELLION: FAITH, ECONOMY AND CLIMATE

How fundamental changes to economic and political attitudes could tackle the climate crisis will be at the heart of a major conference in March 2020. The conference has been organised by the Methodist Church, United Reformed Church, Church of Scotland and Baptist Union. The four denominations work together as the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) on issues of peace and justice.

The conference is aimed at those concerned about the scale of response needed to the climate crisis, and who are inspired to work

for change. The event will include a panel of young climate activists to explore how young people have played a role in leading change.

Workshops will explore topics from poverty to socially responsible business, and will be led by different organisations include Christian Climate Action and Christian Aid.

Rachel Lampard, Team Leader of the Joint Public Issues Team, commented: "In the same way that we don't leave politics to the politicians, economics isn't only for economists. The conference is for everyone who is concerned about the climate and keen to explore what we need to do structurally in order to make the changes needed. We want to inspire creative, innovative and challenging responses to the climate crisis as we bring together resources from Christian tradition, economic practice and climate activism. This is about imagining how things could work for the benefit of all creation, and asking 'what if?' it actually came to be."

The conference will focus on how:

- The current economic system is driving ecological degradation and inequality.
- Changes to political and economic assumptions could improve responses to the devastation caused by climate change.
- We can model new ways of living as individuals and church organisations.

2020 is a key year in which to shape the UK's response to the climate crisis, as Glasgow hosts the UN COP26 in November.

The conference will take place at the Riverside Centre in Derby, on Saturday 7th March. Information and tickets are available from <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/whats-new/conference2020/>

### JOHN WESLEY'S CHAPEL - THE NEW ROOM

Wes Talks is a new series of talks inspired by the New Room's founder John Wesley. He wrote and spoke about many issues in the 18th century which still resonate today.

**Penthouse and Pavement: Is the gap between rich and poor inevitable?**





Paul Morrison, policy advisor from the Joint Public Issues Team ([jointpublicissues.org.uk](http://jointpublicissues.org.uk)) will be joining us to talk about recognising and challenging poverty and inequality in the UK. After the talk there will be an opportunity for questions and discussion.

This is a joint initiative run by the New Room and the Methodist Learning Network (South West)

Tickets cost £5 and can be purchased through Eventbrite

They can also be purchased at the New Room or reserved by emailing [info@newroombristol.org.uk](mailto:info@newroombristol.org.uk) (then pay on the door).

### UPDATE ON THE 'GOD IN LOVE UNITES US' CONSULTATION

from the Rev Dr Jonathan Hustler, Secretary of the Conference:

The Methodist Church in Britain is at the midpoint of a consultation on 'God in love unites us', the report which the Conference received and commended for study and on which all District Synods have been asked to vote. Those votes will approve, disapprove or approve with amendments some of the key resolutions of the Conference, namely:

- That the Conference adopts the understanding of the principles of good relating contained in the report.
- That the Conference adopts the understanding of cohabitation contained in the report.
- That the Conference adopts the *Guidance on the Understanding of Marriage* contained in the report and directed its inclusion in CPD.
- That the Conference consents to the marriage of same-sex couples.
- That the Conference amends the Standing Orders in the light of these decisions.

Throughout this process, we have been praying with and for one another, accepting that we cannot always agree but seeking to witness to our unity as we live with contradictory convictions. There are conversations in train to discuss how we can deal with one another graciously after the 2020 Conference. The Conference will be asked to consider the outcome of those conversations together with recommendations about practical matters.

This debate is not peculiar to the Methodist Church in Britain. Both our ecumenical partners and our Methodist brothers and sisters overseas are also wrestling with these issues. The United Methodist Church's General Conference meets in May to determine its next steps after its Conference in February last year resolved to reaffirm a 'traditional' understanding of marriage. Amongst the proposals that the General Conference will be asked to consider is one for the formal separation of some in the UMC from the rest of the body. The Methodist Church in Britain (MCB) is a concordat partner of the UMC, a global church present in Europe, Asia, Africa and the US and we work closely with it in the United States and in other parts of the world, particularly in Europe. We will be represented at the General Conference and we are in close and prayerful communication with our partners.

These are difficult and, for some, painful times. However, we remain united in prayer for one another, convinced that there is more that holds us together than causes us to differ, and confident that by the guidance of the Holy Spirit we can find a way (both in Britain and throughout the world) to live together as a Methodist family rejoicing in our common Wesleyan heritage.

*Our minister is planning local discussion sessions.*

### ***Can You help at Trinity School***

Trinity School have asked if the church can help by getting alongside pupils who need some one-to-one time.

Working alongside Learning Mentor and Oasis lead Claire Taylor the volunteers will be assigned one child who they



will commit to during the school year to build a positive relationship and the child's self esteem.

The school is especially looking for adults who might be able to help in the following areas:

- Good with animals (cleaning hutches etc)
- Reading with a child
- Repairing & creating (repairing hutches, making bird boxes etc)

Volunteers would need to have the following attributes:

- Patience
- Compassionate & Caring
- Reliable
- Show empathy
- Able to work as part of a team
- A love of children!

The time commitment is one hour every week during term time and any initial training and all materials will be provided by the school. Each volunteer would need to have a current DBS (this can be done through the school if you don't have one).

If you are interested and would like to know more please get in touch with Nick Moxon who is co-ordinating this scheme with Claire.

## THE FUTURE OF METHODISM

*By Rev David Sharp*

At the end of October I attended an event at the New Room entitled Methodism Unfinished. There were about 30 of us there (mostly, it seemed, like me, retired ministers and some spouses!). The meeting was led by two speakers: former President of the Conference Rev. Tom Stuckey, and former Secretary of the Conference Rev. David Deeks. The session was a follow-up to Tom Stuckey's book, *Singing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land* (although it was not necessary to have read the book).



Initially it seemed as though the two speakers were far apart. Tom Stuckey, while he admitted he had exaggerated some elements in the book, maintained his contention that Methodists are strangers in today's culture, and need to repent. David Deeks, on the other hand, said, No, we did not need to repent and that we are perfectly at home in today's secular western culture. The meeting, however, in the question and discussion time, felt that there were subcultures in our secular culture where Methodists were definitely not at home.

As the meeting progressed, however, there were points on which the two speakers were in agreement. They agreed that Methodism has a future.

But it means that we have to stop looking back and stop being so concerned with the church as an institution. David Deeks pointed to the resources tied up in our so many buildings. Both said we need to focus more on Jesus and on being and making disciples. David Deeks expressed his frustration and disappointment that, after so many decades of the ecumenical movement, we seemed no nearer to breaking down the barriers between denominations and really working together.

Altogether, it was a stimulating and thought-provoking morning.

One outcome of the discussions that Tom Stuckey's book has inspired is a series of 6 studies, which would be excellent for a house-group. They are written by a variety of Methodists, lay and ordained, from a retired Chairman of District to a student minister and a former Youth President. They respond to the themes in Tom's book, and he follows them with discussion questions. Methodism Unfinished is published by Church in the Market Place Publications (2019) at £4.99.

## UNITED SERVICE

Portishead Churches Together marked the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity with a United Ecumenical Service at St Peter's which was crowded for the occasion. Introduced by the Rector, Rev Rob



Eastwood Dewing, prayers of intercession were led by Rosie Thayer of the Quakers and the sermon given by Dave Francis of GVC. Reports were given by Simon Stevens about the Gordano School Chaplain project and Joanna Pritchett about Christians Against Poverty's help for those in financial debt. Additionally reports from the Churches appeared on the screen before the Service. Two modern Worship Songs were quite easy to pick up and two old favorites including Charles Wesley's "O for a thousand tongues to sing" which rounded off the Service.

## MEDITATION

### **John 17:11b-23**

"As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me." (v. 21b)

### **Background**

In all the Octaves of Prayer for Christian Unity since 1908, this passage will probably have been read and heard more times than any other. Numerous meditations have been offered on it; many other prayers have quoted from it; and the longing for Christian unity has been inspired by it.

The prayer of Jesus in chapter 17 is set after a long speech to the disciples which follows their last meal together. During that meal, Jesus has washed his disciples' feet and given them a new commandment: love one another (John 13:34). During the speech, Jesus has told them what they can expect to happen to them in the future. The next day Jesus is crucified.

It is important to appreciate that, in his gospel, John uses the Greek word 'kosmos', which is translated 'world', in a number of ways. For example, he makes it clear that, in its broadest sense, the world is everything and everyone, created and loved by God; he also uses it to talk of the social world which hates Jesus and his disciples. In John 17, we read that the disciples are in the world (verse 11a) but do not belong to the world (verse 14) and that Jesus does not want them to be taken out of the world (verse 15) but has sent them into the world (verse 18).

Today's passage begins with Jesus asking his holy Father to protect the disciples so that they may be one (verse 11b); a little later he asks God to protect them from the evil one because they are in the

world but, like Jesus, do not belong to the world (verses 15-16). Then Jesus asks God to sanctify them in the truth because he has sent them into the world (verse 17). The passage ends on the theme of unity and Jesus prays not only on behalf of his first disciples, but also on behalf of those who will believe in him through their word; he asks that they may all be one (verse 20).

**To Ponder**

- In what ways do you think the Church needs to be protected today?
- In what ways do you think the Church needs to be sanctified in or consecrated by the truth today?
- Jesus prays that his first disciples and those who will believe in him through their word will be one so that the world may believe (verse 21) and know (verse 23) that his Father has sent him. How do you see the relationship between unity and mission?

**Bible notes author**

The Rev Neil Stubbens, a Methodist presbyter who is currently the connexional ecumenical officer. Previously, he has served in the Barnsley, Southport, St Helens and Prescot, and Sankey Valley Circuits.



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

**INVITATION SERVICES**

As in previous years the Carols by Candlelight Service on 22nd December was attended by a substantial number of visitors. Thank you to all who distributed the Invitation Cards.

## BAYCON BUTTY CLUB

The next meeting for men will be on Thursday 6th February. Any time between 10.00 am – 11.30 am.

## WEDNESDAY FOCUS

The New Year got off to a good start with a Beetle Drive organised by Mary Dyer. There are two meetings in February – on 6th Paul Gregory will give the first of two talks on the South West Coast Path and on 19th we will find out about The Wit and Wisdom of Elizabeth Vallis. Both start at 8.00 pm - all welcome.

### *Redcliffe Bay Project*

Over the next two years Redcliffe Bay have agreed to raise money for 'Anusaran' the school Orla worked at in Delhi with the Baptist Missionary Society.

Anusaran is a Christian based school but reach out to anyone if they need help. The school's vision is that every woman and child should get an opportunity to live life in it's full dimension, without discrimination. They create this welcoming and nurturing environment, through education, counselling and vocational skills, to the deprived community (mainly women and children) so that they can become self sufficient and great contributors to the society.

The work the school does includes a *women's empowerment programme* educating women to become literate and self-sufficient. They have already helped 2800 women through this programme. Another area is a child development programme in a variety of subjects such as maths, english, science and health education.





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



## **PORTISHEAD**



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

### JONATHAN VEIRA

Saturday 1st February SONGS and TALES An unforgettable evening with the international singer and raconteur. 7.30 pm start, doors open at 7.00 pm. Tickets £12. Profits go to the Church 20:20 Vision Development Project.

### BOOK CLUB

We had a very enjoyable first meeting of the Book Club. Our second meeting is booked for the 25th of February at 7.30 pm, when we will meet at the Poacher. The book we will be discussing will be Sunrise by Victoria Hislop. If you would like any information please contact me Tel.845540.

*Anne Jarman*

### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Forthcoming Meetings:

- 5th. February "Ben" Huddleston
- 12th February Jean Balcombe
- 19th February Special Bible passages
- 26th. February Introduction to Lent Course

*Gwen*

## YOUTH EVENT

The next meeting will be on Friday 14th February 5.30 – 7.00 pm  
- for primary age children. All Welcome.

## ***POSTSCRIPTS***

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, 'Would you like to say the blessing?' 'I wouldn't know what to say,' the girl replied. 'Just say what you hear Mummy say,' the wife answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, 'Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?'

## ***GRACE BEFORE MEALS***

*The Sunday School teacher asks, "Now, Johnny, tell me frankly: do you say prayers before eating?" "No sir," little Johnny replies, "I don't have to. My Mum is a good cook."*

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?" "Because white is the colour of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life." The child thought about this for a moment, then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"

*Please pass copy for the March issue to:*  
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**by SUNDAY 16th February**