

**JUNE 2022**

# **TOGETHER**



*METHODIST CHURCHES*

*PORTISHEAD  
High Street*

*REDCLIFFE BAY  
Queens Road*

*Minister: Revd Nick Moxon  
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## ***From Rev Nick Moxon***

I am writing this letter a couple of weeks before the celebrations marking the Queen's platinum jubilee. Even if you don't watch or join in any of the events you can at least enjoy an extra day's bank holiday!

One of the events I'm looking forward to watching is the lighting of the beacons. There is a long tradition of celebrating Royal Jubilees, Weddings and Coronations with the lighting of beacons. A beacon chain, once used as a tool for communication, has now become a symbol of unity across towns, borders, countries and continents and is often the central point of focus for any outdoor gathering or celebration. In 1897, beacons were lit to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. In 1977, 2002 and 2012, beacons commemorated the Silver, Golden and Diamond Jubilees of The Queen, and in 2016 Her Majesty's 90th birthday.

Thousands of beacons will be lit in communities throughout the country, and one in each of the Commonwealth countries, 54 in total. I'm sure it will be a magnificent occasion.

It reminds me of the words Jesus said in his sermon on the mount about being a light on a hill - shining bright for all to see. And as we shine we communicate the love of God and direct people to Him.

Throughout her years as our Queen, Elizabeth II has done just that. She has taken not only her coronation vows seriously but also her own personal faith in Jesus. She has been a beacon.

When we see the many beacons coming to life in the communities and over the continents maybe we can think about how we can be a beacon - shining bright for God.

**Nick**

*Sunday Services in Church are at 10.00 am at Portishead and 10.30 am at Redcliffe Bay. Pre booking is not required. These and other events are listed in the Calendar.*

Some Covid 19 precautions are being maintained.

<b>CHURCH CALENDAR</b>
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**June 2022**

- 1st Wednesday 10.00 – 11.00 am Prayer Meeting (Portishead)
- 2nd Thursday 10.00 – 11.30 am Baycon Butties (Redcliffe Bay)
- 5th Sunday PENTECOST
  - 10.00 am Morning Service (Portishead)  
Mr Martin Buckley
  - 10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay)  
Rev Nick Moxon
  - 12.30 am The Big Lunch (Flower Field)
- 8th Wednesday 10.00 – 11.00 am Prayer Meeting (Portishead)
  - 2.30 pm Afternoon Tea (Portishead)
  - 7.30 pm Bible Study – on-line.
- 12th Sunday 10.00 am All Age Worship (Portishead)  
Rev Nick Moxon
  - 10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay)  
Mr Alan Emery
- 13th Monday 9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars (Redcliffe Bay)
- 14th Tuesday 10.00 am Holy Communion (Redcliffe Bay)  
Rev Nick Moxon

10.30 -noon Coffee and Chat (Redcliffe Bay)  
15th Wednesday 10.00 – 11.00 am Prayer Meeting (Portishead)  
18th Saturday 9.30 am Working Party (Redcliffe Bay)  
19th Sunday 10.00 am Morning Service (Portishead)  
Mrs Heather Bentley  
10.30 am Holy Communion (Redcliffe Bay)  
Rev Nick Moxon  
20th Monday 9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars (Redcliffe Bay)  
22nd Wednesday 10.00 – 11.00 am Prayer Meeting (Portishead)  
7.30 pm Bible Study – on-line.  
26th Sunday 10.00 am Holy Communion (Portishead)  
Rev Brian Hunt  
10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay)  
Rev Ian Bowley  
27th Monday 9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars (Redcliffe Bay)  
29th Wednesday 10.00 – 11.00 am Prayer Meeting (Portishead)

## **GENERAL NEWS**

### CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PORTISHEAD

We'd love to see you at the Portishead Churches Together Big Jubilee Lunch on Sunday 5th June, from 12.30pm at the Flower Show field. Everyone is welcome (so invite your friends!) to bring a picnic and join with others for a few hours of food and fun. There will be a range of activities and a short service to honour the Queen's 70 years of faith and service.

### PORTISHEAD TOWN COUNCIL'S JUBILEE EVENTS

Thursday 2nd June – Gordano District Scouts Beacon Lighting at Battery Point from 9.15 pm with local singers performing "A Life Lived with Grace"

Friday 3rd June – Community Event in the Show field from 1.00 – 8.00 pm including children’s entertainer, live music, craft stalls, food and drinks. Strawberries and cream.

**ARE YOU AN UNPAID CARER**

or know someone who is? Wellspring Counselling is running some workshops to support people with their mental wellbeing and the frustrations, stress and worry that can often be involved in being a Carer. These will be on Tuesdays at Holy Trinity Church, Nailsea from 6.30-8 pm starting from 1st June for five weeks. Each session costs £5 but reduced rates are available. If you’d like to know more please look on the Wellspring website or Facebook page or to book onto a workshop, email: [reception@wellspringcounselling.org.uk](mailto:reception@wellspringcounselling.org.uk) Or contact Wendy Griffin Tel 01275 810879

**METHODIST HOMES SUNDAY 12th June**

Gift envelopes will be distributed at Church on 12th June for Methodist Homes. Our gifts this year will be used to improve their garden and outdoor spaces for residents, which helps to bring a calming environment, and has a huge positive impact on their mental and physical wellbeing. Thank you for your gift.

**HOW MHA SUPPORTS OLDER PEOPLE AT RISK OF LONELINESS AND ISOLATION**



Our partner charity, MHA, supports 18,000 older people across the UK every day. As the only national care provider to offer connected care and support through specialist care homes, retirement living and community groups, MHA is a leading light in later life care. Jonathan Mace, Director of

Communities for MHA, explains how mental health and wellbeing has been a priority during the pandemic.

When face-to-face MHA Communities (formerly MHA Live at Home) meetings weren't possible during the pandemic, we sadly saw a decline in the wellbeing of our members.

But this also led to an opportunity for MHA to reach even more older people at risk of loneliness and isolation. We developed Digital Communities, a virtual community created for people aged 55 and over.

This online community is designed to support people feeling isolated or lonely within their own home through a variety of activities promoting social inclusion. Activities include arts and craft, advice around looking after your health, and wellbeing as you get older.

Over the past year the team has created more than 300 pieces of video content, totalling over 200 hours. We have had over 6,000 views on YouTube alone and featured in the social media feeds of more than 47,000 people.

This all goes to back up the more traditional face-to-face activities which have been running for a little while now, as well as the continuing befriending services to support older people.

And you don't just have to take MHA's word for how activities provided by its Communities services can help people. There is research to back this up.

Over in MHA Communities North Staffordshire, evaluation of the Better Together project with Father Hudson's Care to expand services in the area showed over 70% of members felt less lonely and isolated and 22 new social groups were set up during the four years of the project. Additionally, over 80% of volunteers felt they had been able to make a difference through their volunteering.

To find out more about how MHA Communities could help you or someone you know, go to

[\\_www.mha.org.uk/communities](http://www.mha.org.uk/communities)

### PORTISHEAD PARISH

Rev Tonya Nixon was licensed as the new Team Pastor by Bishop Ruth on Tuesday 24th May. Welcome Tonya to Portishead.

## NEW BISHOP



Downing Street has announced that the next Bishop of Bath and Wells will be the Rt Rev Michael Beasley; currently Bishop of Hertford in St Albans Diocese. Prior to taking a full time role with the church, Bishop Michael was an epidemiologist, a background

he was called on to use during the pandemic as a member of the Church of England's Covid task force. Please pray for Bishop Michael as he prepares to take his appointment.

## 2022 METHODIST CONFERENCE

The Methodist Conference will meet in Telford from Thursday 23rd - Thursday 30th June 2022. 22 Ordinands and Officiants will be ordained on 26th June.

## GIFTS FOR THE BRISTOL METHODIST CENTRE

Thank you to everyone from both Redcliffe Bay and High Street Churches who responded to the cry for help from the Bristol Methodist Centre. Four huge bags of food, which completely filled their large supermarket trolley, were taken to The Centre on Monday, 16th May, and very gratefully received. The Centre was very busy that morning, so no doubt our food gifts would be used very soon. Thank you for your help.

## STATEMENT ON THE NATIONALITY AND BORDERS ACT 2022

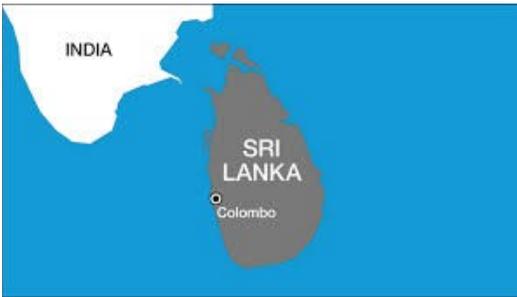
*A statement on behalf of the Methodist Church in Britain, Baptists Together and the United Reformed Church*

We lament the passing of the Nationality and Borders Bill into law. Compelled by the Biblical call to welcome the stranger, our denominations were outspoken in our criticism of the Bill, arguing

that it would unjustly remove the rights and threaten the dignity of people who are in need of our nation's care and protection.

Over the last year, members of our churches have come together with a wide range of people to raise concerns about the government's proposals, and to stand alongside refugees. Many have also signed up to host refugees from Ukraine, and continue to be involved in welcoming people seeking sanctuary in their own communities. This legislation will not diminish that spirit of compassion, hospitality and solidarity. We know that through such encounters we will learn more about ourselves, each other, and God.

Alongside the practical work of welcome, our Churches will not stop advocating for love to be shown to our neighbours through the policies and practices of our asylum system. We will continue to push the government to open up more safe and legal routes for people who are in need of the sanctuary we can offer here in the UK. Our denominations have also joined hundreds of other organisations and charities in pledging to work towards the repeal of the UK's 'anti-refugee' laws. We remain committed to working with others towards a refugee protection system that treats all people with dignity and compassion.



### THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CRISIS IN SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka is experiencing the worst economic crisis since becoming independent in 1948. The government has insufficient foreign currency to import essentials such as food, petrol,

cooking gas and medicines, so there are severe shortages. Waiting in queues has become normal, and the wait to purchase petrol can now be longer than 24 hours. However, rising inflation means that basic items have become too expensive for many people to afford.

In the light of the anger and frustration which have led to public protests, the Methodist Church in Sri Lanka has called for action on the part of those in power, and non-violent approaches from both the protesters and the authorities.

The Methodist Church in Britain received a letter from Rev W.P. Ebenezer Joseph, President of Conference, Methodist Church, Sri Lanka in which he commented, "The Methodist Church Sri Lanka is grieved and alarmed at the current political developments that are unfolding before us, at a time when as a nation we are facing an acute economic crisis, causing immense suffering and hardship, leading to frustration and hopelessness among all our people."

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference have offered this statement of support and solidarity in response:

Over the past weeks we have seen the reports of the situation in Sri Lanka as the country has experienced economic collapse on top of the social disruption brought about by the Covid crisis. We have noted with concern the sufferings of the Sri Lankan people as soaring inflation has led to unaffordable prices of basic goods and shortages of foods, medicines and fuel.

In response to the Appeal from the Methodist Church, Sri Lanka Pertaining to the Current Situation, and in the face of the growing anger and political unrest in Sri Lanka, we join in calling for calm attempts to reach peaceful solutions, and in affirming the need for all individuals to treat others with care and love.

The Methodist Church in Britain values the partnership of the Methodist Church in Sri Lanka. We stand in solidarity with them at this time of economic and political crisis, and support them in their appeals for solutions according to democratic principles. We join them in their call for non-violent action and dignified treatment of other people, both on the part of protesters, and on the part of the authorities when dealing with peaceful protests.

We continue to hold the leadership and members of the Methodist Church Sri Lanka in our prayers,

*Rev Sonia Hicks and Barbara Easton*

## PRAYERS



God of all peoples and nations,  
Who created all things alive and breathing,  
United and whole,  
Show us the way of peace that is Your overwhelming presence.  
We hold before you the peoples of Ukraine and Russia,  
Every child and every adult.  
We long for the time  
When weapons of war are beaten into ploughshares  
When nations no longer lift up sword against nation.  
We cry out to you for peace;  
Protect those who only desire and deserve to live in security and safety  
Comfort those who fear for their lives and the lives of their loved ones  
Be with those who are bereaved.  
Change the hearts of those set on violence and aggression  
And fill leaders with the wisdom that leads to peace.  
Kindle again in us a love of our neighbour,  
And a passion for justice to prevail and a renewed recognition that we all  
play a part in peace.  
Creator of all hear our prayer  
And bring us peace. Make us whole.  
Amen

*Christian Aid*

For Sri Lanka:

Pray for protection for those who are protesting around the country. That the powers that be will hear these important

voices of the common man and they need to be heard. Pray that the protests and protestors stay peaceful and non-violent, as there are more and more happening around the country.

- Pray for the judiciary for impartiality and justice to be upheld and corruption curtailed.
- Pray for the people of Sri Lanka who have been stretched beyond their capacity to cope in the past few weeks, who are tired, frustrated and bitter.
- Pray that the people will remain hopeful, peaceful but dissatisfied and vocal in protest, and endure until change takes place.
- Pray for the emergence of a credible political solution. Pray for courage to make the hard decisions and policies needed to bring stability to the economy.
- Pray for economic improvement and for resilience for the Sri Lankan people, so that they may continue to push through the next few months/ years as the government seeks answers for these losses.
- Pray for God to pour out His mercy on the people of this country and to bless Sri Lanka with the resources they need to help the country recover. Pray that the Church in Sri Lanka will be a beacon of hope to the people who continue to look for hope in these dark times.

### *Some daily prayer suggestions from The Joint Public Issues Team:*

We give thanks that California achieved 100% renewable energy for a period on 30 April. This is a positive milestone towards their goal of being powered entirely by clean energy by 2045. God, we thank you for the commitment enshrined in law and policy to reach this aim. We pray that other policymakers would be inspired to follow.

After Mental Health Awareness Week, we give thanks for projects across the country that are improving people's wellbeing. 1 in 4 adults feel lonely some or all of the time, and initiatives like these offer friendship and fun to those who are struggling. God, we thank

you for all those who give their time and energy to improve the mental health of others.

We pray for students entering the exam season. These are the first round of GCSEs, A Levels and Scottish Highers sat since the pandemic began. God, we pray your peace over exam halls across the country. May all students know that their worth does not come from academic performance.

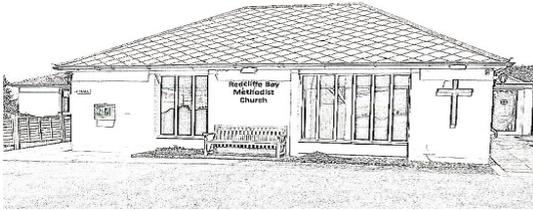
We pray for the Horn of Africa, which is enduring its worst drought for 40 years. Up to 20 million people face the risk of famine across parts of Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia. God, we pray that those with the power to help would give proper attention to this crisis of hunger.

We pray that the UK economy would not fall into a recession. The economy contracted by 0.1% in March, while inflation could reach more than 10% at the end of the year. God, we think of all those who suffer when prices go up and budgets are squeezed. Help us find ways to provide for people in need.

We pray that upcoming environmental tipping points in the UK would be averted. Catastrophic loss of wildlife, fisheries collapse and dead, polluted rivers are fast approaching, according to the Office for Environmental Protection. God, we pray that the government would understand the urgency of these crises, and act swiftly to avoid them.

Amen.

(JIPT daily prayer prompts can be found on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).)



## **REDCLIFFE BAY**

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

### NEWS OF THE FAMILY

Vernon Perry has had a spell in Southmead hospital but should be home by now. Margaret Prince and Rosemary Hurst are back home.

Marjorie Legge is having temporary respite care at The Russets Sandford.

Kay Taylor has had successful hospital treatment, which has been followed by a holiday.

Please pray for them.

### BAYCON BUTTIES

Our popular meeting for men, with bacon butties and coffee, Thursday 2nd June 10.00 till 11.30 am. All welcome

### WORKING PARTY



Thanks to all who came to the recent WP. The June Working Party will be on Saturday 18th - to tackle small jobs particularly in the flower beds and garden. Come for however long you can manage between 9.30 and noon.

### PLANT CAKE AND BOOK SALE

Our May Plant Sale was a great success, raising £345 for the Bristol Methodist Centre.

Thank you to Denise and John Orton, and others, for nurturing and providing so many plants, to Margaret Reddrop for the cake sales, to

Marion Radge for the huge book display, and to Sue Mason for the many teas and coffees served. The weather was just right for an outdoor sale, and many purchasers came. It was a most enjoyable Redcliffe Bay occasion.

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

[\*\*The Beacon Hub | Home\*\*](#)

*On Facebook:* [www.facebook.com/portisheadmethodistHighSt](http://www.facebook.com/portisheadmethodistHighSt)

AFTERNOON TEA

A small group of ladies have arranged Afternoon Tea on 8th June to enjoy the new cafe area and hopefully some sunshine on the patio. There will be the usual array of delights - sandwiches, cakes and scones . Lots of tea in pretty cups and some tunes to sing along to with a Jubilee theme courtesy of Phillip Baldwin.

The aim is to enjoy the company but also to raise funds for the Beacon Hub.



Numbers are limited and the booking deadline was 26th May, but check with Yvonne Rowland or May Cox to see if a place is still available.. The cost will be £10 a head.

### LEAVING

Ann and I are extremely grateful to everyone for their best wishes and thoughts as we pack up to move from Portishead especially all those involved in the lovely buffet and send off we enjoyed in the Hub on the Thursday before we moved. Over many years we have worshipped at High Street and have had the privilege of working alongside many faithful and committed Christian folk. We have made many friends and enjoyed fun and fellowship with so many. There is a saying 'Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened' and although it is not easy saying good bye we look back on our time in Portishead with immense gratitude and pleasure. New horizons await us and the church at Portishead. God has been our guide and companion throughout our time here and we pray he will continue to bless us and our many friends at High Street in the changes and challenges that lie ahead. Our love and grateful thanks to you all.

*Ken Gathergood*

### BOOK CLUB

Our next book club meeting will be on Saturday the 2nd of July 10.30 am till noon, at the Beacon Hub when we will be reading and discussing:

The Room in the attic by Louise Douglas.

If you enjoy reading you would be welcome to join us

*Anne*

### ***POSTSCRIPTS***

A little boy, told by his mother that he might now go on a picnic she had previously forbidden, sighed, "It's too late Mummy, I've already prayed for rain."

## **In Case of Experiencing Sudden Pentecost Symptoms:**

If you suddenly find yourself caught in an indoor tornado and your scalp on fire, it might be ...Pentecost.

*Know what to do:*

Notify the front desk.

Fight the urge to stop, drop and roll – You are not going to put this Fire out!

Make disciples of all nations!

Invest in a toupee. Bald preachers are shady.

*A true story:* The chairman of the Finance Committee declared the meeting could not be convened for lack of a quorum. He asked the minister present to lead in a prayer. Tired of the lengthy meeting, the minister intended to help the cause when he prayed: "Lord, we thank you for your Word that says, 'where two or three are gathered in your name, they have a quorum. . .'" The meeting was promptly convened with a full quorum!

Authors Unknown

*Please pass copy for the combined July and August  
2022 issue to:*

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*by **SUNDAY 26th June***