

MARCH 2021

TOGETHER

Lent



METHODIST CHURCHES

PORTISHEAD
High Street

REDCLIFFE BAY
Queens Road

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From Rev Nick Moxon

If there's one phrase that gets this grumpy old man going its '*I'm/we're on a journey*' Actually I think it's the overuse of the phrase that gets me. It seems as though it appears in nearly every self-help programme & reality show on TV, pick up a magazine and someone will share their journey with you whether you like it or not! When I come across it in situations that I think it's being used incorrectly I instantly turn into Victor Meldrew!

'I'm/we're on a journey' is used to describe a process we have gone through or are going through where we may have learned something about ourselves - a new insight into our character or personality. We may have discovered a new skill we didn't think we had. And it is true even in it's broadest sense we are all 'on a journey' through life and hopefully we will never stop learning or discovering new insights into ourselves, others and God.

During this season called Lent and then into Easter we focus on a special journey. We spend time reflecting on Jesus' journey to the Cross and the empty tomb. Often in his gospel Luke uses the phrase 'As Jesus turned towards Jerusalem' or 'Jesus made his way to Jerusalem.' Luke here isn't just giving us a geographical statement, he is actually talking about the ultimate journey Jesus will take through death to everlasting life.

In Lent we too are called to take the same journey - to see how our lives and discipleship match up to that of Jesus. Of course we will never live the life that Jesus lived but that shouldn't stop us from trying. Lent is a time for us to evaluate where we are and where we want to be, to see where we need to die to our self interests and take up the cross of being a follower of Jesus.

The process of becoming more like Jesus is one that lasts our lifetime and will never fully be realised this side of heaven. It's a journey and a process where God reveals Himself to us and, as we change 'from one degree of glory to another' as the apostle Paul puts it in his letter to the Corinthians, people see Jesus in us.

So, whilst I often flinch when I hear the phrase let's all recognise the journey that we are on and be open to what God reveals and changes in us.

Happy travelling!

Rev Nick

CHURCH CALENDAR

In view of the lockdown restrictions it has been decided not to hold Sunday Services in the Churches. Any change will be notified in the Minister's weekly pastoral letter, or on the websites. When Sunday Services in the Churches resume there will be a 10.00 am Service at Portishead (also Zoomed), repeated at Redcliffe Bay at 11.30 am. Anyone intending to come will need to book, up till 5 pm on the Saturday with Pat Lloyd (848374) for Portishead or Sue Mason (849553) for Redcliffe Bay

March 2021

1st Monday 1.00 - 2.15 pm Lent Study on-line
2nd Tuesday 7.30 - 8.45 pm Lent Study (repeat) on-line
4th Thursday 10.00 -10.45 am Zoom Coffee Morning
7th Sunday 10.00 am Zoom Service, on line Rev Nick Moxon
8th Monday 1.00 - 2.15 pm Lent Study on-line
9th Tuesday 7.30 - 8.45 pm Lent Study (repeat) on-line

11th Thursday 10.00 -10.45 am Zoom Coffee Morning
14th Sunday MOTHERING SUNDAY 10.00 am Zoom Service, on-line
 Rev Nick Moxon
15th Monday 1.00 - 2.15 pm Lent Study on-line
16th Tuesday 7.30 – 8.45 pm Lent Study (repeat) on-line
21st Sunday 10.00 am Zoom Service, on line Rev Nick Moxon
22nd Monday 1.00 - 2.15 pm Lent Study on-line
23rd Tuesday 7.30 – 8.45 pm Lent Study (repeat) on-line
25th Thursday 10.00 -10.45 am Zoom Coffee Morning
28th Sunday PALM SUNDAY 10.00 am Zoom Service, on-line
 Rev Nick Moxon
29th Monday 1.00 - 2.15 pm Lent Study on-line
30th Tuesday 7.30 – 8.45 pm Lent Study (repeat) on-line
April
3rd Saturday 10.00 am – noon walk through Communion
 (Redcliffe Bay) Rev Nick Moxon



Online Zoom Service

The Sunday Service will be broadcast on-line at 10.00 am each Sunday. If you would like to join in please log on just before

10am.to:

www.portisheadmethodist.wixsite.com/worship

Each week an e-mail is sent with a Pastoral Letter and details of the following Sunday's Worship.

For those who don't have access to the internet you will be able to use a worship sheet, which is delivered each week., For those unable to join in at 10 am on Sunday the worship will be recorded and accessible on the website at any time after that point.

If you would like to be on the circulation for the worship sheet please contact the Church Office or leave a message via "Contact us" on the Redcliffe Bay web site.

This magazine is being distributed, either as an attachment for those on e-mail or a printed copy for those who receive the pastoral letter though their letterbox.

WALK-THROUGH COMMUNION



During this past year one of the things many of us have missed is communion. You may recall last September we held a walk-through communion in the car park at Redcliffe Bay. On Saturday 3rd April (Easter weekend) we plan to offer communion again in the same way. Between 10am-12noon you can drop into the car park on Queens Road and receive bread and wine.

All social distancing and cleaning protocols will be observed.

GENERAL NEWS

KEEPING IN TOUCH

To keep people in touch with each other:

Monday Morning Mail –There is an opportunity for you to send an e-mail to a group within the church, sharing what you have been doing over the past week. Being part of this group means that you will also receive news from everyone else. If you would like to be a part of this group please let Fran know.

Zoom coffee morning - on alternate Thursday mornings from 10-10.45am via Zoom You can find the link here:

<https://portisheadmethodist.wixsite.com/worship/coffee-chat>

For someone not on the internet -why not just phone them?

You can follow The President and Vice President of the Methodist conference on their Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/MethodistPresidency where on most Mondays at 12:45pm they host a Facebook Live session.

If you don't have access to the internet you may like to: Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514; Listen to a pastoral message from the President and Vice President: 0808 281 2695; Listen to the Methodist Podcast: 0808 281 2478 .

HOLY HABITS IN LENT – FOLLOWING JESUS TODAY

This year's Lent course started on 22nd February and continues weekly through this month, Each Monday afternoon between 1.00 - 2.15pm and again on Tuesday from 7.30 - 8.15pm we will explore what it looks like to follow Jesus today. Because of restrictions we will need to do this on Zoom but please do think about joining for this journey. (The Monday & Tuesday sessions each week will be the same so you can choose which one to come to that week.) Each session is complete in itself so it doesn't matter if you don't come to all.

PORTISHEAD FAIRTRADE GROUP,

invites you to a Fairtrade Coffee Morning on Zoom.

Date: Friday 5th March 2021, 11,00am

The speaker will be Alison Derrick, from Fairtrade Devon, with a presentation about Bananas, St. Vincent and Fairtrade Log in details:

<https://zoom.us/j/95455820296?pwd=OVB0M1AxQ1hIYmk0Wis3djZoQks2dz09>

Meeting ID: 954 5582 0296 Passcode: 497832



Please come and join us with your cup of Fairtrade coffee.

Chair: Rosie Thayer

If you have difficulties logging on, please phone 07804 648486 or email dde@globalcentredevon.org.uk

PORTISHEAD METHODIST CHURCH GIFT DAY

You will see in this magazine a letter from Ken our treasurer at High Street outlining the generous grants we have been awarded in order to redevelop our premises into a cafe and community hub. These grants go alongside the amazing generosity of our church folk who have given so much as well.

A small team have been working very hard to bring the costs down of the building work in order for the work to start. This has meant that we have had to put some items on the sidelines for now hoping that we can raise some more funds over the next 6 months in order to bring them back in. These in-

clude new paving slabs for the courtyard area outside and new doors into the premises. We are also currently looking for additional funding to buy the furniture tables, chairs and kitchen equipment) along with finding essential money to begin to employ a cafe manager.

In order to help raise these extra funds we will be holding a gift weekend on the 27th & 28th March. We will be sending out more detailed information in due course but I ask if you could begin to prayerfully consider whether you would be able to give something towards our vision.

Thank you. Rev Nick.

THE JOHN WESLEY CHAPEL, BRISTOL – THE NEW ROOM



Hannah More: Moral Reformer or Political Manipulator?

On Monday 15th March 19:30 – 20:30 we'll be exploring Bristol born Hannah More (1745-1833) who raised her voice to campaign for what she believed. As an educator, social reformer and Bluestocking her values made centre stage in her playwriting, religious repository tracts and philanthropy.

Wendy Allen, Dr Jo Edwards and Jane Duffus will discuss what we can learn from Hannah More's earnestness to be heard in the midst of widespread opposition. This leads us to question: what has changed now for women campaigning against the grain in public life?

Everyone joining us for this Wes Talk will receive a Zoom code/link on the day of the event. You will also be invited to ask questions during the event if you wish. This event has been organised in conjunction with the Methodist Church's Learning Network South West. Tickets: **£5** -book through [eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk) - link on www.newroombristol.org.uk where more details can be found.

Why not visit the Chapel's online shop too?

"Prayer is where the action is." John Wesley

MODERN SLAVERY

The next meeting of the *Contemporary Ethics Forum* will be via Zoom on Monday March 22nd at 7:30pm, when Kate Garbers will speak about modern slavery. The talk will be followed by an opportunity for questions and discussion.

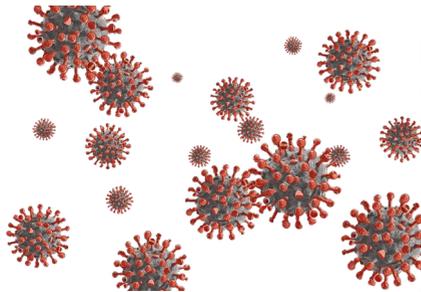
Kate is regarded as an expert on human trafficking and she was one of the founders of the Bristol based charity **Unseen** which provides support, safety and choice for victims of human trafficking. She is now a consultant and ambassador for the charity.

Do join us for this discussion of an important contemporary issue. To do so it is essential that you register your interest. Space is limited so do register now by emailing David Tyers at david.tyers@gmail.com and you will be sent a link for the meeting.

Entrance is free but it is normally our practice to have a retiring collection for a charity of the speaker's choice. On this occasion the charity will be **Unseen** and if you wish you can contribute using the charity's website.

We are sorry that at present we cannot hold this event in the parish church and hopefully our next forum will be open to all.

THE COVID PANDEMIC IN AFRICA



We hear a lot about COVID in the UK but very little about Africa where the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic has been unpredictable.

The first confirmed incidence in Africa was reported by Egypt in February 2020 after which the disease spread across the continent within three months. Lesotho reported its first case by May 2020.

The first wave of the pandemic led to severe lockdown measures that caused hardships due to the large informal market sector in Africa i.e. no work - no pay. Economies shrank following border closures, restricted movements and prohibited gatherings. Foodstuffs became very expensive especially in the urban cities because of limited transportation of agricultural products to urban markets. Those in the rural areas did better at feeding themselves, but lacked

funds to purchase other goods. Supply of potable water was also a challenge. In view of the hardship, the Methodist Church in Britain gave 'COVID-19 hardship grants' to partners in The Gambia, Sierra Leone, Togo, Benin, Cameroon, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also affected the fragile health systems in many African countries. Frontline medics needed Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), to protect themselves from the spread of the novel coronavirus. With many African governments struggling to obtain sufficient PPE supplies, mission hospitals became vulnerable because government hospitals had priority. The British Methodist Conference disbursed grants for PPE to Methodist mission hospitals in Ghana, Nigeria and Kenya. With God's help, deaths from COVID-19 remained relatively low and in many African countries governments eased lockdown measures to keep their economies rolling.

Regrettably, around Christmas, many people travelled to visit family and friends, crossing counties and borders. This increased the disease spread in many countries. Southern Africa was worst hit and a new South African strain spread across the region. Hospitals in Mozambique witnessed high number of patients, schools in Zimbabwe remain closed as deaths increased and Zambia also experienced rising numbers of positive COVID-19 cases. With Africa being a very religious continent, places of worship remain open, but with stricter rules such as washing hands, wearing facemasks and practicing social distancing. The situation in South Africa has led to increased funerals and closed churches.

Please pray for our British mission partners serving alongside their colleagues as frontline personnel in numerous African countries.

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the best of humanity as we hear stories of how partners are assisting each other. Despite the precarious nature of the disease transmission, to frontline staff, Cuba sent some doctors and nurses to assist in Mozambique hospitals. The African Union has also offered to share its vaccine supplies with some Caribbean countries. The love of God is being displayed as we serve and bless each other, with the British Methodists also sharing resources with global partners. As Prof Jeremy Farrar said, "vaccines

are great news, but global solidarity is the only way out of this pandemic". May this be achieved in Jesus' name...

Isaiah 58:10

...if you pour yourself out for the hungry
and satisfy the desire of the afflicted
then shall your light rise in the darkness
and your gloom be as the noonday...

Dr Olubunmi Olayisade Africa Partnership Coordinator
Global Relationships



FROM THE ZA FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

The vulnerable children and orphans of the communities in which we work are returning to our After School Clubs, albeit with the addition of face masks. With schools still closed at the time of writing, the clubs provide an essential sense of normality for the children and our fabulous staff are working very hard to continue to provide all the activities the children are familiar with in a COVID secure way.

Our After School Clubs continue to support large numbers of children across three centres every day. The children who attend take part in all sorts of activities including baking, sewing, washing clothes, singing, dancing, sport and even educational support.

Please help! As a consequence of the ongoing coronavirus restrictions we have been unable to hold any fundraising events. Our funds will soon become critically low.

Za Foundation, 36 High Street Portishead BS20 6EN

If you use Amazon, shop AmazonSmile at <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1135748-0> and Amazon will donate to Za at no cost to you.

SUPPORTING PARENTS THROUGH LOCKDOWN

The demand for parenting support during lockdown has grown as families have struggled to balance



home schooling, childcare and work. Ruth Stokes from *Action for Children* reports on how the charity has responded.

“She offered more help to me in our short conversation than I’ve had in years of trying to get help for my son”

- a parent's review after using the Parent Talk service

In the middle of the first wave of the coronavirus pandemic, children’s charity *Action for Children* launched a new service for parents. The advice website and one-to-one chat - *Parent Talk* - was a response to a growing number of parents needing help and guidance.

In June the charity and YouGov asked more than 2,000 parents how the coronavirus pandemic was impacting them and their families. More than one in three parents said they felt out of their depth. Over a third said they were struggling due a lack of usual support.

This reflected what the charity was seeing in its own services: in the first three months of lockdown, there was a surge of 417% to its existing digital parenting advice.

Parent Talk offers down-to-earth parenting advice, when it’s needed. Parents can browse articles on the most common parenting questions, or talk one-to-one with a qualified parenting coach about anything that’s worrying them.

The charity sees parents come to the service with a range of needs: from emotional wellbeing and mental health to behaviour, development and co-parenting.

The *Parent Talk* website builds on the charity’s successful one-to-one chat service, which has supported more than 450,000 parents since its pilot in 2018. This includes more than 11,500 one-to-one chats.

Recent data shows that 90% of parents rate the support from one-to-one conversations at 4 or 5 out of 5, while 79% of parents say they feel supported after accessing the information, advice and guidance content on the website.

The site is reaching a large number of parents around the UK - between July and December 2020, it helped 233,647 families. And the need for support remains high. That means that a priority for the

team is now working to ensure the service is sustainable for the long-term, to allow them to reach more parents when they need support.

Alongside this, they're using parental feedback and data to develop the service and help people find what they need as quickly and easily as possible. This feedback also helps the team see the difference they're making. As one parent said, "She [the adviser] offered more help to me in our short conversation than I've had in years of trying to get help for my son. I cannot thank her enough."

PRAYERS



Inscribed upon our heart, the maker's mark,
indelible, the Word of God,
'Love' beautifully written, heartfelt,
that all God's people might know
that we are precious,
children of a heavenly Father
becoming family together,
and may eyes lift upward
as we listen together
to hear angels worship.

Forgive those things we have done
which have caused you sadness,
and those things we should have done
that would have brought you joy.
In both we have failed ourselves, and you.
Bring us back to that place
where our journey began,
when we said that we would follow
the way that you first trod.
Lead us to the Cross and meet us there.

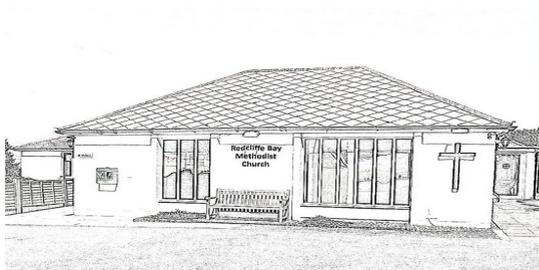
Lord, as we enter Lent help us to draw near to you in praise, stripping away all that distracts us from worship. **Amen**

As Jesus resisted temptation by the devil in the wilderness, help us reflect on his faithfulness to God, his rejection of worldly values and hold these thoughts in our hearts throughout Lent and beyond. **Amen**

Jesus, you prayed and fasted. As your disciple teach me about spiritual discipline in my relationship with you. **Amen**

Lord may Lent be a time of inward searching that makes me more able to look with compassion at the needs of the world. **Amen**

Thank you Lord for desert experiences, when being confronted with myself makes me realise my need of you. **Amen**



Website: www.redcliffebaymethodistchurch.org.uk

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

Iris Perry has left hospital and is in St Georges, Weston Super Mare to continue recovering and where they are assessing when she might be able to return home.

Rev PHILIP AUDEN

We were saddened to hear of the death of Philip Auden. After he retired as Chaplain at the Seafarer's Centre at the Royal Portbury Dock he came to live in Nore Road, later moving to Thornbury. An Anglican (and a monk) he led our services on a number of occasions as well as other churches in the Circuit and spoke at Wednesday Focus. He was Chaplain to the local Merchant Navy Association and Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Bristol. We remember him for his wit, preaching and friendship. We pray for his family at this time.

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



PORTISHEAD

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website: www.portisheadmethodistchurch.co.uk

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

WESLEY CENTRE REFURBISHMENT

Work is now underway to fulfil our vision for the Wesley Centre. The existing kitchen, toilets, undercroft and Aldersgate room will all be swept away and a brand new cafe area with enhanced kitchen, toilets, meeting room and outside space will be introduced in their place.

The total contract price is £356796 and we couldn't have entered the contract without a large number of grants from various sources. Below is a list of the grants received and the bodies that have agreed to support us:

Bristol Methodist District	20000
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	40000
Veolia Environmental Trust	67000
Joseph Rank Foundation	35000
Methodist Insurance	30000
Garfield Weston Trust	25000
Beatrice Laing Trust	5000
Norwood and Newton Settlement	5000
Leonard Laity Stoate Charitable Trust	2000

The church has raised £80000 and other funds will come from a loan of £40000 repayable over 4 years. This gets us to £350000 but the search for more grants continues as we want to go much further than the current specification of works allows. We have had to omit several items we would like to have when completed. More of that shortly but at this time of celebration that work has begun we would like to thank all those responsible for giving us these grants that have allowed us to get to this stage.

Ken Gathergood -Treasurer

Challenge Nick

Throughout this year I plan to help raise money towards our redevelopment by learning a new skill or doing something I haven't done before each month - and you help decide what it is.



The idea is that each month I will offer two suggestions of what the new skill might be and you vote for the one you would like me to do!

Over the year I will offering to learn to knit, bake a cake, play the piano, flower arranging, ride 150 miles on my bike, do a cold water swim in winter and many more.

You can help and encourage me by either making a one-off payment or just pay for the ones you would like to see me do.

Details of how you can pay will be in next month's magazine.

POSTSCRIPTS

If you broke your New Year resolutions you now have Lent to do it again.

Mr. Green peered over his fence and noticed that the neighbour's little boy was in his garden filling in a hole. Curious about what the youngster was up to, Mr. Green asked, "What are you doing, Jimmy?"

Tearfully, little Jimmy replied, "My goldfish died, and I've just buried him."

"That's an awfully large hole for a goldfish, isn't it?" Mr. Green said. Patting down the last bit of earth, little Jimmy replied, "That's because he's in your cat!"

Bent over and obviously in pain, the old man with a stick hobbled laboriously through the sanctuary and into the pastor's office while the choir was practicing.

Ten minutes later he came out, walking upright and moving with grace and speed.

"Good gracious," the choir director exclaimed. "Did the pastor heal you by faith?"

"No," the old man said with a smile. "He just gave me a stick that wasn't six inches too short!"

Please pass copy for the April issue to:

Ray Burgin, 11 Hillcrest Rd. Portishead BS20 8HS

Tel. 844115 e-mail rayburgin@hotmail.co.uk

*by **SUNDAY 21st March***