

MARCH 2024

TOGETHER



METHODIST CHURCHES

PORTISHEAD
High Street

REDCLIFFE BAY
Queens Road

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From Rev Nick Moxon

In preparation for a session on Lent I was leading the other week I found out that the origin for the word 'Lent' comes from the old English word 'Lencten' which literally means 'lengthening of days'. I was also reminded of the three pillars, or areas traditionally observed during this period leading up to Easter which are **self-denial** (fasting), **alms-giving** (giving to others) and **prayer**.

At our session (which was the New Beginnings group who meet on the first Tuesday of every month at Portishead Methodist Church at 2.30pm) we looked at each of these three pillars and wondered what we might do this lent to help us examine our own lives. It was a really good conversation as we encouraged each other to do something this year in these three areas.

A week or so later I was sent the picture below by one of the group. It's a fascinating and helpful list of things that we might be able to fast from. I wonder if there's anything here that you might be challenged to take on. The focus of Lent is our discipleship - thinking about how we connect and communicate with God and how we live as followers of Jesus. Why not look at the three pillars of Lent and see what you might be able to give up or take on over these next few weeks.

Nick

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

pietrafitness.com



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

Normal 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

March

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|---|
| <u>2nd Saturday</u> | 10.30 am | Circuit 'Growing Churches' event (Redcliffe Bay) |
| <u>3rd Sunday</u> | 10.00 am | Holy Communion Service (Portishead)
Rev Nick Moxon |
| | 10.30 am | Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay)
Mr John Flowers |
| <u>4th Monday</u> | 9.30 – 11.30 am | Little Stars Toddler Group (Redcliffe Bay) |
| | 1.30 – 4.00 pm | Warm Safe Space (Redcliffe Bay) |
| | 7.00 pm | Lent Study Group (Redcliffe Bay)
Rev Nick Moxon |
| <u>5th Tuesday</u> | 2.30 – 4.00 pm | New Beginnings Fellowship (Portishead) |
| <u>6th Wednesday</u> | 12.30 – 1.00 pm | Lunchtime Reflections (Portishead)
Rev Nick Moxon |
| | 2.30 pm | Wednesday Focus (Redcliffe Bay) |
| <u>7th Thursday</u> | 10.00 – 11.30 am | Baycon Butties (Redcliffe Bay) |
| | 2.00 pm | Lent Study Group (Portishead)
Rev Nick Moxon |
| <u>10th Sunday</u> | 10.00 am | All Age Worship (Portishead)
Mrs Nicola Burdge |

10.30 am Holy Communion (Redcliffe Bay)
Rev Nick Moxon

11th Monday 9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group
(Redcliffe Bay)
1.30 – 4.00 pm Warm Safe Space (Redcliffe Bay)
7.00 pm Lent Study Group (Redcliffe Bay)
Rev Nick Moxon

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)

14th Thursday 2.00 pm Lent Study Group (Portishead)
Rev Nick Moxon

16th Saturday 9.30 am Working Party (Redcliffe Bay)

17th Sunday 10.00 am Morning Service (Portishead) LA
10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay)
Rev Nick Moxon

18th Monday 9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group
(Redcliffe Bay)
1.30 – 4.00 pm Warm Safe Space (Redcliffe Bay)
7.00 pm Lent Study Group (Redcliffe Bay)
Rev Nick Moxon

20th Wednesday 10.00 – 11.00 am Prayer Meeting (Portishead)

21st Thursday 2.00 pm Lent Study Group (Portishead)
Rev Nick Moxon

22nd Friday 2.00– 4.00 pm Tea Coffee and Cakes
(Redcliffe Bay)

23rd Saturday 10.30 am Crafty Chatters (Portishead)

24th Sunday PALM SUNDAY
10.00 am Morning Service (Portishead)
Rev Nick Moxon
10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay)
Rev David Harris

- 25th Monday 1.30 - 4.00 pm Warm Safe Space (Redcliffe Bay)
 7.00 pm Lent Study Group (Redcliffe Bay)
 Rev Nick Moxon
- 27th Wednesday 10.00 – 11.00 am Prayer Meeting (Portishead)
- 28th Thursday 2.00 pm Lent Study Group (Portishead)
 Rev Nick Moxon
 7.30 pm Maundy Thursday Communion
 (Redcliffe Bay) Rev Nick Moxon
- 29th Friday GOOD FRIDAY
 9.30 am Reflections (Redcliffe Bay) Rev David Harris
 10.00 am Reflections (Portishead) Rev Nick Moxon
 11.00am WALK OF WITNESS from St Peter's Church
- 31st Sunday EASTER DAY
 6.45 Sunrise Service (Battery Point)
 10.00 am All Age Worship and Holy Communion
 (Portishead) Rev Nick Moxon
 10.30 am Holy Communion (Redcliffe Bay)
 Rev Peter Mortlock

GENERAL NEWS

EASTER SERVICES

- Maundy Thursday 28th 7.30 pm Holy Communion (Redcliffe Bay)
- Good Friday 29th 9.30 am Reflections (Redcliffe Bay)
 10.00 am Reflections (Portishead)
- Easter Day 31st 10.00 am Holy Communion (Portishead)
 10.30 am Holy Communion (Redcliffe Bay)

WALK OF WITNESS

Portishead Churches Together are celebrating Good Friday again this year with the Walk of Witness which starts from St Peter's Church at 11.00 am. Several stops are made along the High Street to sing hymns. It concludes with a short meditation in the Precinct.

Come and demonstrate the Christian message, you can join at any stage. A Sunrise Service on Easter Day at Battery Point, when sunrise is 6.47 am, is also organised.

MARTHA'S KITCHEN.

Martha's Kitchen is an ecumenical group working to bring some light into the lives of families in Portishead who are struggling financially or otherwise. On Tuesday mornings during the school holidays, we provide a hearty breakfast, time for families to meet one another and craft activities for the children. Over 50 meals were prepared and served in the February half term, and our families were shown love and friendship.

It would be great to have some more volunteers to make these mornings even better so if you would like to join the team and work together with folk from other churches around Portishead to give a welcome to these families, please get in touch with Lindsay. There are various ways to be involved, such as setting up and/or taking down the tables and generally getting the room ready, praying partners, serving at the table and chatting with the families or helping with crafts. Just a couple of hours in the school holidays can make a lot of difference.

Contact Rev Lindsay Smith

- pioneer@Portisheadparish.co.uk – 07483932608

A STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR KING CHARLES

The President of the Methodist Conference, the Rev Gill Newton, and the Vice President, Deacon Kerry Scarlett, share their support for King Charles after the announcement of his cancer diagnosis:

“On behalf of the Methodist Church in Britain, we offer our thoughts and prayers for King Charles and his family after he was diagnosed with cancer.



We appreciate his openness and willingness to share news of his health and hope that it will encourage more people to attend routine screening and health checks when invited by their GP surgery.'

As we have just marked World Cancer Day, we are also praying for everyone who has just been diagnosed or is suffering from a life-changing illness, their families and everyone working for the NHS who helps and cares for patients."

GORDANO VALLEY CIRCUIT

On Saturday 2nd March at Redcliffe Bay there will be a Circuit 'Growing Churches' event from 10.30 am to noon. This is the second session. Please come early for a coffee/tea.

The Circuit has had a website for many years but if you haven't visited it recently it is worth a look, as it contains material additional to the details of the Churches, Ministers and Circuit Plan. In particular there is an extensive section on Mission, reviewing the current situation and a plan for 2024, plus a Policy section including the use of social media. Go to : [Gordano Valley Methodist Circuit – Methodists in North Somerset \(gordanovalleymethodists.info\)](http://Gordano Valley Methodist Circuit – Methodists in North Somerset (gordanovalleymethodists.info))

KENN ROAD ANNIVERSARY

The youngest church in the Circuit celebrated it's 75th anniversary in February and invited members of other churches to come to view a display of historical items and share refreshments. The present building is not the original, but was constructed in 1990 and provides comprehensive facilities. May Kenn Road MC continue with it's mission long into the future.



ECO FAIR

The Church Eco Group at Nailsea Methodist Church have organised an Eco Fair to help understand better the environmental issues we all face and what we can do to ensure the needs of the human and non-human creation are respected. Local organisations with an interest in the environment will be involved by having a stall, putting up a display, giving a short talk, or showing a short film. Richard Lancaster, organiser of the Fair on behalf of the Eco Group, has said "We hope that this will be an opportunity for groups to promote themselves, educate and attract new members as well as giving everyone involved the chance to network and perhaps find opportunities to work together in the future."

You are cordially invited to attend this free event that is taking place between 10.00 am and 3.00 pm on Saturday 9th March. Refreshments will be available. Do drop in.

JOHN WESLEY'S CHAPEL - THE NEW ROOM BROADMEAD

A Magical Night with Stephen Simmons

Join Team Apex & magician Stephen Simmons for a night of magic and drinks raising funds for John Wesley's New Room.

Come together with friends and family for a magical evening of enchantment and illusion as Team Apex volunteers present an exclusive close-up table magic event in support of John Wesley's New Room. Hosted by the extraordinary talents of Stephen Simmons, the UK's premier magician, known for his exceptional skill in magic and masterful hosting. Friday 1st March, 7.00 pm Tickets £15 including welcome drink

Unbounded Love Meditation Exploration

An opportunity to learn about and experience Christian Meditation with New Room Chaplain Rev Josette Crane.

Linking to the Methodist Lent Reflections on Unbounded Love and using the Charles Wesley hymn, Love Divine All Loves Excelling in the beautiful John Wesley's Chapel, the very place where it would have been most sung in its early days.

A chance to begin or extend your knowledge of this powerful yet gentle force of silent stillness, which has sustained Christians and those of many other faiths and healing practices for thousands of years.

Friday 22nd March Time: 10.30 am – 12noon £10

REAL EASTER EGGS



The Meaningful Chocolate Company has been making Real Easter Eggs for many years. Out of the 80 million Easter eggs sold in this part of the world every year, The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has an Easter story book in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and supports charitable projects. The various types are not sold by supermarkets but modest bulk orders can be placed with the manufacturers. Individual Eggs can be purchased on-line from a number of suppliers including **www.eden.co.uk**

PRAYERS



Easter Prayer

When everything was dark
and it seemed that the sun would never shine again,
your love broke through.
Your love was too strong, too wide, too deep for death to hold.
The sparks cast by your love dance and spread and burst forth
with resurrection light.

Gracious God,
We praise you for the light of new life
made possible through Jesus.
We praise you for the light of new life
that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.
We praise you for the light of new life
that continues to shine in our hearts today.

We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy,
will live in us each day;
and that we will be bearers of that light
into the lives of others.
Amen.

written by the Rev Michaela Youngson.

For peace in Gaza and Isreal

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)

PRAYER CARDS

Prayer: difficult, boring and frustrating

Prayer: creative, life-giving and transformational

Where do you sit?



Prayer is an opportunity to encounter God. It can involve words spoken in a group, art we hang on our walls, or a stroll in the park.

The new Methodist prayer cards offer 52 different prompts for creative prayer; different ways that we can fulfil the Methodist Way of Life commitment to "pray daily" as far as we are able, with God's help.

The cards can be used by individuals or groups, at church events on-site & online, in homes, schools & care homes.

"The teenagers liked them - thought the illustrations were cute/cool and it prompted some good discussion"

"Easy to use with children, and the kids love the fun design; and I have found them to be a great resource to use with adults"

"We are a small RAF congregation. To help members of the church (especially those not used to saying much in worship) to share in our 'prayers for others', I gave out cards... This has given them confidence to do more in worship now."

Buy your pack from Methodist Publishing now. Alternatively, download a PowerPoint or Pdf version to use in digital meetings and church services. Search for "Prayer Cards" on www.methodist.org.uk

How are people using the cards?

- 🙏 "I used the ones on nature during my daily walks"
- 🙏 "After dinner at the table together"
- 🙏 "As the focus of a prayer station, at the on-line Circuit Day of Prayer... I got the following comments: 'Love the focus and simplicity of the cards'; 'Wonderful, keeping me focused'"
- 🙏 "I found the cards very effective for reflective praying"

🙏 "I used them at home when preparing virtual services. I found them very helpful in creating ideas for engaging virtual congregations in prayers and reflections"



PORTISHEAD

Office: 01275 844917

Websites:

www.portisheadmethodistchurch.co.uk

www.thebeaconhub.co.uk

On Facebook:

www.facebook.com/thebeaconhub



THE BEACON HUB

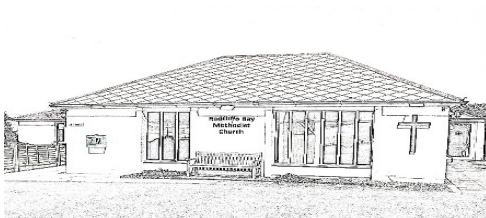
A LIGHT ON THE HIGH STREET

CRAFTY CHATTERS

Join us on Saturday 23rd March at 10.30 am.

BOOK CLUB.

The next meeting is on 16th March discussing *Those who are loved* by Victoria Hislop. For the April meeting the book will be *A Keeper* by Graham Norton



REDCLIFFE BAY



website:

www.redcliffebaymethodistchurch.org.uk

A Warm Welcome Space is 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.

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

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

Sheila Castleton has recovered after ten days in hospital with Covid then being looked after at home by her daughters.

Edwin enjoys sound recordings of our Sunday services and is grateful for those who visit him in the Care Home in Weston, bringing them to him.

BAYCON BUTTIES

The next meeting will be on 7th March. A gathering for men, with butties, coffee and chat. Come any time between 10.00 and 11.30 am, but all the butties may have been eaten if you arrive near the end.



WEDNESDAY FOCUS

The March meeting is on Wednesday, 6th, when Ray Burgin will give an illustrated talk on The Channel and its Shipping. All welcome to any meeting. 2.30 pm start.

PLANT, CAKES AND BOOKS SALE

Our annual sale of plants, cakes and books this year will be on Saturday 18th May at 10.30 am. Please make a note of the date, and sow some seeds now so that you can bring the plants to the Sale. We shall also be pleased to receive cakes and books for sale on that day. Thank you.



FIKA COFFEE and CAKE AFTERNOON

Usually on the last Friday of the month, but as this is Good Friday one week earlier 22nd March - 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

Top Ten Reasons to Celebrate Easter

- 10.** You absolutely love the movie, "The Ten Commandments".
- 9.** You look really, really good in yellow.
- 8.** You just went on a low cholesterol diet and didn't want to waste all those eggs in the fridge.
- 7.** You figure any Holiday that starts with a "Good Friday" can't be all bad.
- 6.** You love to bite the heads off chocolate bunnies.
- 5.** It's a good time to check out your neighbourhood church and not be noticed.
- 4.** You have this bunny suit you love to wear, but are too insecure to wear it without a reason.
- 3.** Even though you don't know what it is, you really like the sound of going to a "Passion Play."
- 2.** You figured since Jesus went to all THAT trouble to make it to the first Easter, you'd give it a shot.
- 1.** As a Christian you celebrate the resurrection every other day, why not Easter too?

- .Why shouldn't you tell an Easter egg a joke?
- *It might crack up!*
- Why did the Easter egg hide?
- *Because he was a little chicken.*
- Why won't Easter eggs go out at night?
- *They don't want to get beaten up!*
- What do you call a mischievous Easter egg?
- *A practical yolker*

- What do you call a sleepy Easter egg?
- *Eggs-austed*
- I was going to tell you a joke about an egg, but it's not all it's cracked up to be.
- What do you call an Easter egg from outer space?
- *Egg-stra terrestrial*
- How many Easter eggs can you put in an empty basket? *Only one—after that it's not empty any more!*
- Why do Easter eggs go to school?
- *To get egg-ducated.*
- What did the egg say when the Easter Bunny told a joke?
- *"You crack me up."*
- What stories do Easter eggs tell their children?
- *Yolk tales*
- What do you call an unconventional Easter egg?
- *Egg-centric*
- What do you call naughty Easter eggs?
- *Deviled eggs*

Acknowledgements to authors unknown.

Please pass copy for the April 2024 issue to:
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 by **SUNDAY 24th March**