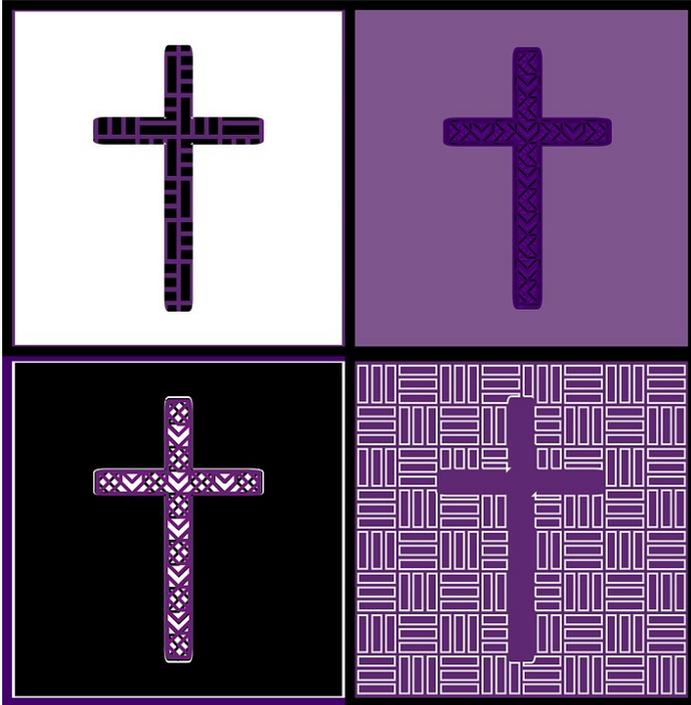


**MARCH 2020**

# **TOGETHER**



**METHODIST CHURCHES**

**PORTISHEAD**  
*High Street*

**REDCLIFFE BAY**  
*Queens Road*

*Minister: Revd Nick Moxon*

*Office 01275 844917 Manse 01275 398881*

*e-mail: [nickmoxon@btinternet.com](mailto:nickmoxon@btinternet.com)*

## From Rev Nick Moxon

I came across an article in the newspaper the other day of a Chinese marathon runner who ran 31 miles around his living room. Pan Shancu has been confined to his apartment for weeks whilst his country fight the appalling coronavirus.

The fitness fanatic completed 6,250 laps around a track set up between two large tables. Each lap was 8 metres and he eventually completed the feat in four hours, 48 minutes and 44 seconds. After finishing it he posted on social media "I have not been outside for many days, today I cannot bear sitting down any more!"

Whilst not running 31 miles around our lounges there are many of us who can't sit still, who are always looking for the next thing to do even while focusing on the current task. I'm often one of them. Sat at my desk doing an administrative task I'm also thinking about the next email to send, phone call to make or sermon to write. If it's not that then I'm trying to remember which child needs to be picked up from where and dropped off at the correct after-school activity. My life is constantly thinking about the next activity. Conversely there are other people whose lives are quiet, who only need to do or manage to do one or two tasks in a day.

Neither are wrong! Some of us need to be busy, some of us don't. Some of us would like to be less busy, some would love to do more if only we were able.

Our activity, at whatever level, becomes negative if it validates who we are - we need to be doing things to prove we have worth or we feel worthless if we are not able to do certain things. But there is no need to earn our worth. Why? Because we are worth *everything* is God's eyes.

During the season of Lent we are challenged to look at ourselves, our faith in God and examine if there is anything we need to do differently.

So I would like to challenge you to do something different. I would like you to look at the list of options below and go for the

one that feels the most difficult to do! And whilst you challenge and push yourself be open to God and what He might be saying or showing you.

*If you're busy:*

- Stop for 10 minutes each day. Sit down. Read a bit of the Bible. Pray. Listen. Be thankful.
- Swap one activity for another that benefits you and register how that feels.

*If you're not so busy:*

- Make a list of people you could write a card to, bake a cake for, email or call.
- Spend a dedicated time each day to pray for specific people (if you'd like a list please get in touch with me!)

I would love to know how you get on. Let me know.

God bless **Nick**

# CHURCH CALENDAR



## March

<u>1st Sunday</u>	10.30 am Morning Service - Fairtrade (Portishead) LA 10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay) Rev Keith Town
<u>2nd Monday</u>	9.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group (Redcliffe Bay) 2.00 pm Hymn Singing at The Harbourside Care Centre 1.30 pm Lent Course 1 (Redcliffe Bay)
<u>3rd Tuesday</u>	9.30 am Prayers; 10.00 am Coffee and Chat (Portishead) 2.30 pm Hymn Singing (Cambrian Lodge) 7.30 pm Lent Course 1 (Portishead)
<u>4th Wednesday</u>	9.30 - 11.30 am Wesley Toddlers (Portishead) 2.30 pm Women's Fellowship (Portishead) 8.00 pm Wednesday Focus (Redcliffe Bay)
<u>5th Thursday</u>	10.00 – 11.30 am Baycon Butty Club (Redcliffe Bay) 7.30 pm Choir Practice (Portishead)

- 6th Friday 10.30am World Day of Prayer Service (St Peter's)
- 7th Saturday 10.00 am – 12.00 Coffee and Chat (Portishead)
- 8th Sunday 10.30 am All Together Worship (Portishead) Rev Nick Moxon  
10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay)  
Rev Heather Noel-Smith
- 9th Monday 9.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group (Redcliffe Bay) —  
1.30 pm Lent Course 2 (Redcliffe Bay)  
7.30- 9.00 pm God in Love Unites Us Discussion  
(Portishead)
- 10th 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)  
1.30 – 3 pm God in Love Unites Us Discussion  
(Redcliffe Bay)  
7.30 pm Lent Course 2 (Portishead)
- 11th Wednesday 9.30 - 11.30 am Wesley Toddlers (Portishead)  
2.30 pm Women's Fellowship (Portishead)
- 12th Thursday 7.30 pm Choir Practice (Portishead)
- 14th Saturday 10.00 am – 12.00 Coffee and Chat (Portishead)
- 15th Sunday 10.30 am Morning Service (Portishead) Mr Graham Roberts  
10.30 am Holy Communion (Redcliffe Bay) Rev Nick Moxon
- 16th Monday 9.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group (Redcliffe Bay)  
1.30 pm Lent Course 3 (Redcliffe Bay)
- 17th Tuesday 9.30 am Prayers; 10.00 am Coffee and Chat (Portishead)  
7.30 pm Lent Course 3 (Portishead)
- 18th Wednesday 9.30 - 11.30 am Wesley Toddlers (Portishead)  
2.30 pm Women's Fellowship (Portishead)  
7.15 pm Worship Through Creative Movement  
(Portishead)  
**7.30 pm Wednesday Focus (Redcliffe Bay)**
- 19th Thursday 7.30 pm Choir Practice (Portishead)
- 20th Friday 5.30 – 7.00 pm Junior Youth Club (Portishead)
- 21st Saturday 9.30am Working Party (Redcliffe Bay)  
10.00 am – 12.00 Coffee and Chat (Portishead)
- 22nd Sunday MOTHERING SUNDAY  
10.30 am Holy Communion (Portishead) Rev Nick Moxon  
10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay) Rev Ian Bowley
- 23rd Monday 9.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group (Redcliffe Bay)  
1.30 pm Lent Course 4 (Redcliffe Bay)
- 24th 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
	7.30 pm Lent Course 4 (Portishead)
<u>25th Wednesday</u>	9.30 - 11.30 am Wesley Toddlers (Portishead)
	2.30 pm Women's Fellowship (Portishead)
<u>26th Thursday</u>	7.30 pm Choir Practice (Portishead)
<u>28th Saturday</u>	10.00 am – 12.00 Coffee and Chat (Portishead)
<u>29th Sunday</u>	10.30 am Morning Service (Portishead) Mr Martin Buckley
	10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay) Rev Nick Moxon
	6.00 pm Circuit Service (Nailsea)
<u>30th Monday</u>	9.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group (Redcliffe Bay)
	1.30 pm Lent Course 5 (Redcliffe Bay)
<u>31st Tuesday</u>	9.30 am Prayers; 10.00 am Coffee and Chat (Portishead)
	7.30 pm Lent Course 5 (Portishead)

## GENERAL NEWS

### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(Formally Women's World Day Of Prayer) This years service will be held at St. Peter's Church at 10.30 on Friday 6th March and has been written by the women of Zimbabwe. All are welcome.

### METHODIST CHURCH OFFERS SUPPORT FOR CHURCHES IN CHINA AND CHINESE CONGREGATIONS IN THE UK

The Rev Dr Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference has written to the leadership of the Methodist Church in Britain's partner church in China to "share our love and prayers for the people of China" as they manage the health crisis associated with the Coronavirus outbreak in Hubei province. She adds: "Although we are many miles away geographically, we feel close to you in prayer."

The Methodist Church in Britain will also be providing a solidarity grant of £10,000 to the China Christian Council. The grant will be used for protective equipment including protective clothing, masks and goggles.

Addressing the work of the China Christian Council in her letter Barbara Glasson says: "We know that you will be working alongside communities to help people be calm and to support those in need."

“We are also mindful of the concerns of the Chinese diaspora community across the world, particularly in the UK, and will be offering our support for them as best we can.”

The Rev Dr Jonathan Hustler, Secretary of the Conference, has written privately to the approximately 20 Chinese congregations in Britain.

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

JOHN WESLEY’S CHAPEL - THE NEW ROOM

Sit Down Next To Me: Does non-violent protest work?

Wes Talks the 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.

This month we will be hearing from John Cooper, director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and Maggie Moss, a participant in Extinction Rebellion actions about the question of non-violent protest.

After the talk there will be an opportunity for questions and discussion.

Wes Talks 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).



‘GOD IN LOVE UNITES US’ CONSULTATION

Following last month’s article from the Secretary of Conference discussion sessions will be held :

Monday 9th March 7.30-9pm at High Street

Tuesday 10th March 1-2.30pm at Redcliffe Bay

These are part of conversations which will be at local, Circuit and District level prior to this year's Methodist Conference. Please come to this important debate. The Task Group's report to the 2019 Methodist Conference was *God in love Unites Us* and can be downloaded from <https://bit.ly/2JsZzgS>

### ADOPT A LENTEN LIFESTYLE FOR 40 DAYS - and FOR LIFE

The Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT), made up of the Baptist Union, the Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church, launched its first green Lent campaign in 2019 which resulted in many people changing lifestyle habits including flying less, reducing meat consumption and buying only second hand clothes.

Rachel Lampard, JPIT Team leader, said "The climate is already changing and together we must act to limit its impact. The campaign offers information about the effect of our everyday lives on the environment, alongside ideas for living more sustainable lives.

Living Lent sets the challenges within the Christian Lenten journey to Easter, offering daily prayers and reflections. We hope that the journey through Lent will enable people to reflect on both the personal lifestyle changes we need to make and the changes that we need from our society and government in order to care for God's wonderful creation."

For 2020 the Living Lent campaign sets six challenges from which to choose:

- **Give up single use plastics.** A plastic bottle takes around 450 years to biodegrade. With the UK using 7.7 billion plastic bottles per year, an average of 117 bottles per person, per year, this challenge to give up single use plastics is critically important. The campaign includes an online plastic use calculator and tips on how to cut down this waste.
- **Go meat free.** Lent is traditionally a time when people give up meat. We now know that animal products – beef, dairy and sheep in particular – have a greater impact on the climate than plant based alternatives. The challenge explores some of the evidence behind this and offers simple ways to reduce meat consumption.
- **Commit to finding alternative modes of transport.** Driving a car emits, on average, about 271g CO2 per kilometre. Whereas, in total, riding a bike accounts for only about 21g of CO2 emissions per kilometre. Replacing car journeys with a cycling or public transport during Lent could have a dramatic impact on an

individual's carbon footprint. If cycling is not possible, people are encouraged to look to public transport, car sharing or other ways of reducing energy consumption.

- **Reduce electricity use by 10%.** More than 25% of our carbon footprint is made up of domestic energy use. From installing smart metres to unplugging electronics that are simply wasting power on standby, there are many tips on how to reduce electricity use.
- **Live locally.** The average number of miles that our food travels has doubled over the last 30 years. Food transport accounts for one quarter of all heavy-goods vehicle miles in the UK, and estimates of the carbon emissions caused by food transportation range from 1.8% to 3.5% of the UK's total greenhouse gas emissions. It's estimated that buying food originating from within a 20km radius would save over £2 billion in fuel and environmental costs per year.
- **Buy nothing new.** New items may well be cheap but they often come with a huge environmental cost. The energy needed to produce a single T-shirt would keep a home going for 2-3 days. A single kilogram of cotton takes around 20,000 litres of water to grow yet we dispose of around 300,000 tonnes of clothing in the UK each year. Making our clothes last longer, swapping and buying second hand could substantially reduce our impact on the environment,

Rachel Lampard commented: "Living Lent will appeal to people of all faiths and none who want to change their lifestyles to help the planet.

"We hear about how climate change is causing anxiety and depression in some people, especially the young. Often it feels overwhelming and the solution is beyond us as individuals. Living Lent helps participants explore how damaging our consumerist habits are, but that we can adopt a fresh new approach, starting with Lent and then perhaps for life.

My family took part in Living Lent 2019, and since then we have changed what we eat and how we travel. My children have also joined green campaigning groups in their schools working for wider change in the community.

"For Christians, Lent is a time of prayer, reflection and preparation. I hope that Living Lent 2020 will enable people to reflect on changes they can make during this period of Lent - and beyond.

A special episode of Faith in Politics, the JPIT Podcast, has been produced for Living Lent. Listen to an interview with Rachel Lampard, hear a monthly

musings about the environment, hear discussions around environmental news and find out what challenges the JPIT team are taking on for Lent.

- Listen on Soundcloud <https://soundcloud.com/user-904487027>
- Listen on iTunes <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/faith-in-politics/id1349818375?mt=2>

Or search 'Faith in Politics' on podcast addict.

## 700 YEARS OF St PETER'S PORTISHEAD

A brass plaque in the chancel dates the first rector to 1320. A Project, known as Storyboat 700 has been launched to celebrate this wonderful heritage, to engage others with it and preserve it for future generations. An application to the Heritage Lottery Fund has been granted (subject to contract). Some of the money will be spent on stonework repairs but three other strands are planned: an oral history strand, a drama strand and a flotilla strand - which will involve 700 paper boats being hung from the nave ceiling. Each one being decorated by someone from a community group and a message of personal hopes for the future.

## REAL EASTER EGG

2020 is the tenth anniversary of The Real Easter Egg. 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.

All our eggs are Palm Oil free and the Original and Dark eggs are plastic free.

This year the free 24 page Easter story-activity book has had a whole new design. It is illustrated by award winning artist Martina Peluso and contains the story of the first Easter along with some fun activities. Over its 24 pages, the story covers the final week of the life of Jesus and includes the events of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. The book contains a prize competition worth £200.



To order your eggs log onto [www.meaningfulchocolate.co.uk](http://www.meaningfulchocolate.co.uk) for more details

### NEWS FROM ANUSARAN

Dear Friends, Family and Well wishers,  
Greetings from Anusaran!

A very blessed and prosperous year 2020 to you all.

By His mighty grace everyone is doing well at Anusaran. Last two months were busy and action packed. For weeks children were practicing a dance to the song 'This is Me'. The girls had eagerly been learning the lyrics and the shuffle dance. They performed it on the day of the Christmas celebration which was a huge success with lots of dancing, laughter, cake and refreshments and the Christmas message.

Another highlight during the Christmas season was the Christmas Eve function of the church where members and non-church goers alike came together to worship God through singing and dance performances. Few girls from Anusaran also came and expertly performed their dance.

It was such a blessed evening as we really felt people's joy at hearing and celebrating the Christmas message.

Since we were following the themed weeks we had different classes based on different themes. At the end of each week we had group competitions based on the theme. Girls were hard pressed to use their creative skills. Dress competition (where at the final round girls were asked to make dresses from the news papers), making towers from papers were some of the most enjoyed activities.



These days the lessons have been more focused on other subjects like maths since the children's final exams are fast approaching. It's been satisfying to see their math getting better and better every day as they are getting explanations and time to really grasp the concepts.

Meanwhile as it was long desired and promised to help few blind girls in our neighbourhood in their studies, we are visiting the blind



girls’ hostel on alternate days in the morning to help them learn English better, which can help them to acquire good jobs as they are pursuing their higher studies.

Teaching blind girls is a new experience and a challenging one. We need your prayer support in this mission.

In our mountain project it snowed at the beginning of the last week. The weather is still very cold and icy there.

We request you to kindly remember us in your prayers as children are about to sit for their final exams, so please pray for wisdom and good health.

Anusaran is always grateful for all your prayers and support.

With warm regards,

*John and Abha David*

Anusaran – In Search of Lost Innocence



## **MEDITATION**

### WHAT DO OUR HYMNS SAY ABOUT PETITION?

At its simplest, petition is the act of asking. The word is often used in the context of making a formal approach to an authority or higher power, such as a monarch or a court of law, that has within its power the gift of hearing and granting a request or point of view. Love Maria Willis presents her petition quite simply: Father, hear the prayer we offer (StF 518).

Nowhere in the hymns of Singing the Faith is a petition expressed more memorably than in what is sometimes known as the ‘Seafarer’s hymn’, Eternal Father, strong to save by William Whiting (StF 517), with its deeply-felt refrain:

O hear us when we cry to thee  
for those in peril on the sea.

While Love Willis’s request is made on behalf of “us”, the

worshipping community, Whiting's plea is made on behalf of others. So is Fred Pratt Green's petition in Lord Jesus, once a child (StF 537), intended for the somewhat less traumatic circumstances of infant baptism – and one of many occasions in the life of faith when prayers of petition seem natural: “receive this little child of ours / into your flock and fold”.

Give to me, Lord, a thankful heart and a discerning mind (StF 520) is entirely personal, while adding a further dimension to our understanding of petition. This prayer by the United Reformed minister, Caryl Micklem, is for help in living “a life that trusts in you”. His words suggest that Christian petition is not simply about getting something from God. It isn't about arranging a transaction or simply requiring a problem to be solved or a situation to be made better, even when we hope for these things. Like a number of other hymn writers, Micklem implies that ‘petition’ is something deeper than that: a sense of wanting – needing – to be closer to God because we ourselves have an inadequately human, partial, view of things:

When, in the rush of days, my will  
is habit-bound and slow,  
help me to keep in vision still  
what love and power and peace can fill  
a life that trusts in you.

Our desire to pray for others follows from a realisation that we, too need God's help: It's me, it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer (StF 523). Clare Stainsby expresses this well when she speaks about her own hymn Here as we kneel, here as we pray (StF 521). While petition is the task of asking for God's help or grace for others it is also the act of accepting our own reliance on God.

Charles Wesley understands this without a doubt (StF 355):

Jesus, lover of my soul,  
let me to thy bosom fly...  
Other refuge have I none,

hangs my helpless soul on thee;  
leave, ah, leave me not alone,  
still support and comfort me.

in a style that echoes prayers from the Celtic traditions, a contemporary hymn by Tim Hughes (StF 497) also expresses this desire to be guided by God's presence, using quite simple language:

God in my living,  
there in my breathing,  
God in my waking,  
God in my sleeping.

Tim encapsulates the idea that petition is not so much about *asking* as about desiring to be at one with God, praying for Christ to be "in me". He builds a refrain on the pared down phrases: "Be my everything. You are everything. Jesus, everything." Tim's words are also mirrored in Scott Wesley Brown's More like you, Jesus, more like you (StF 505) and My eyes be open to your presence (StF 560) by Nick and Anita Haigh.

Prayers of Intercession are a form of petition, though – as the Rev Prebendary Norman Wallwork points out – "public intercession is traditionally about the needs of Church, nations, those in need, and the departed rather than the specific needs of the individual believer for grace and guidance".



**PORTISHEAD**

Office: 01275 844917

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

## JONATHAN VEIRA

First of all thanks to all the ticket sellers, furniture movers, cake bakers and sellers, tea and coffee makers, poster putter uppers, publicists, daughter and in fact everyone who in anyway helped make the Jonathan Veira concert a success.

It was a great evening many were surprised by what they heard and the performance he gave,

The aim of the evening had two purposes, to raise money for the development fund, and to encourage us on the task ahead of raising the money, and seeing it all happen.

The concert after everything was paid for raised £743 for the development fund. Thanks again to all who made this possible, and most of all thanks to our Heavenly Father for His faithfulness and answer to prayer.

Thank you

*Maureen Hart.*

## Funerals:

January

10th Alice Harper

17th Elizabeth Besant

February

5th Mavis Wren

19th Don Coghill (at Nailsea)

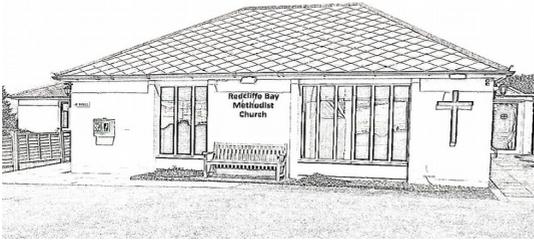
26th Joyce Parr

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

This month's meetings will be taken up with the Lent Course.

## YOUTH EVENT

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



# REDCLIFFE BAY

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

## NEWS OF THE FAMILY

We were sorry to hear of the death of Don Coghill. His Thanksgiving Service was at Nailsea Methodist Church on 19th February. We think and pray for his family at this time.

Congratulations to George and Kay Noris who have celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary – and received a card from Her Majesty the Queen !

Kay Taylor is recovering well from a knee replacement operation.

## BAYCON BUTTY CLUB

The next meeting for men will be on Thursday 5th March. Any time between 10.00 am – 11.30 am.

## WEDNESDAY FOCUS



We had a fascinating talk by Steve Loader about the seafarers he meets in his Chaplaincy at the International Seafarers Centre at the Royal Portbury Dock. Many ship's crew really welcome woolly hats and Steve was presented with a

colourful selection which had been knitted by the ladies who come to Wednesday Focus.

There are two meeting in March. On 4th Rev David Harris will give part 3 of A Passage to India and on 18th we will start earlier at 7.30 pm for a film night.

### WORKING PARTIES

With the winter season over (hopefully) monthly Working Parties resume on Saturday 21st March. Generally to attend to the garden and other small jobs. Come anytime from 9.30 am for as long as you are able, or to about noon.



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



### ***POSTSCRIPTS***

A taxi passenger tapped the driver on the shoulder to ask him a question. The driver screamed, lost control of the car, nearly hit a bus, went up on the footpath and stopped centimetres from a shop window. For a second everything went quiet in the cab, then the driver said, "Look mate, don't ever do that again. You scared the daylight out of me!" The passenger apologized and said, "I didn't realize that a little tap would scare you so much." The driver replied, "Sorry, it's not really your fault. Today is my first day as a cab driver – I've been driving a hearse for the last 25 years."

*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 15th March**