

NOVEMBER 2021

TOGETHER



© Rev David H Harris

METHODIST CHURCHES
PORTISHEAD **REDCLIFFE BAY**
High Street **Queens Road**

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From Rev Nick Moxon

November is a month when we remember.

'Remember, remember, the 5th of November, gun powder, treason and plot...'

'In the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.'

Stopping or pausing to remember is a good thing. A few weeks ago I got out our old wedding album and showed the girls. They were fascinated as I talked through what happened on the day and who some of the folk were in the photographs. It was nice for me too to recall that special day.

Stopping or pausing to remember is important. Often it helps us see where we have come from, what joys and sorrows we have lived through (and survived). We can learn how to live in present when we reflect on what has gone before.

Remembering can often lead us to yearn for the past, wanting to go back to the 'good old days' when things seemed easier and we were healthier and had more energy. Unfortunately however much we desire for those days to return they have past and what we have is our present and the future before us.

Remembering is a key part in our relationship with God. Many times the Scriptures encourage us to remember what God has done and is doing. But equally important are the verses that say that God constantly remembers us - never forgets us. One of my favourite verses in the Bible is Isaiah 49 verse 16 'See, I have engraved you on the palm of my hands (says the Lord)' In

other words God has our names tattooed on his hands - a visual reminder that He can and never will forget us.

May we always remember that we are created, loved, called and equipped by God and that He never forgets us or will forsake us.

God bless

Nick

P.S. Another act of remembering will be on Sunday November the 21st when I will be leading our annual service of remembrance for those who have died. This will be at High Street church and will start at 6.30pm

The steps taken to get back to normal are continuing. The 10.00 am Service at Portishead remains, but the Redcliffe Bay Service starts at the old time of 10.30 am and attendance has improved. Pre booking is no longer required. On-line Zoom Bible Study and Coffee and Chat in alternate weeks remain-ask the Minister for the link.

Important Covid 19 precautions are being maintained, you are encouraged to continue to wear a mask. Mid-week activities are returning and more will follow.

Worship Material

You will see in the middle of this magazine worship material that you can use at home throughout the month. If you are unable to attend church please know that the readings, prayers and hymns will be used during the month. You are also in our prayers.

CHURCH CALENDAR

November 2021

- 1st Monday 9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars (Redcliffe Bay)_
- 3rd Wednesday **7.30 pm** Wednesday Focus (Redcliffe Bay)
- 4th Thursday 10.00 to 11.30 am Baycon Butties (Redcliffe Bay)
10.00 – 10.45 Coffee and Chat - on line
- 6th Friday 10.30 am Book Club (Portishead)
- 7th Sunday 10.00 am Morning Service (Portishead) Mrs Jane Mason
10.30 am Church Anniversary Service (Redcliffe Bay)
Rev Nick Moxon
- 8th Monday 9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars (Redcliffe Bay)
- 9th Tuesday 10.00 am Holy Communion (Redcliffe Bay)
Rev Nick Moxon
10.30 -noon Coffee and Chat (Redcliffe Bay)
- 10th Wednesday 8.00 pm Bible Study – on line
- 14th Sunday 10.00 am All Age Worship with Holy Communion
(Portishead) Rev Nick Moxon
10.30 am Remembrance Sunday Service (Redcliffe Bay)
Rev Ann Owen
- 15th Monday 9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars (Redcliffe Bay)
- 17th Wednesday **7.30 pm** Wednesday Focus (Redcliffe Bay)
- 18th Thursday 10.00 – 10.45 Coffee and Chat - on line
- 20th Saturday 7.00 pm Skittles Evening (Clarence House)
- 21st Sunday 10.00 am Morning Service (Portishead)
Rev Rod Inguille
10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay) Rev Nick Moxon
6.30 pm Service of Remembrance (Portishead)
Rev Nick Moxon
- 22nd Monday 9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars (Redcliffe Bay)
- 24th Wednesday 8.00 pm Bible Study – on line
- 28th Sunday 10.00 am Morning Service (Portishead) Rev Nick Moxon
10.30 am Holy Communion (Redcliffe Bay)
Rev David Harris

3.30 pm Messy Christmas (Redcliffe Bay)
6.30 pm Ecumenical Advent Carol Service (Portishead)

29th Monday 9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars (Redcliffe Bay)

GENERAL NEWS

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PORTISHEAD

Plans are being made for another Drive in Carol Service in the Sainsbury's Car Park, to be held after the store closes on Sunday 5th December.

OPEN LETTER TO ALOK SHARMA CALLS FOR BOLD ACTION OVER THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Ahead of the UN conference on climate change in Glasgow this month, a youth-led, global Methodist campaign, Climate Justice for All (CJ4A), released an open letter to COP26 President Alok Sharma calling for bold and ambitious action to avert further damage caused to the environment by climate change.

Reflecting the work of the CJ4A movement, the letter says: "Young people have been pioneers in the climate movement, and as a Church we have been led by their prophetic voice as we have responded to the climate crisis. Our young people have continually expressed their fears for the planet, and have called on those in power to do more to protect their future. We urge you to hold these fears close to your heart as you lead COP26. We ask that you test the impact of the resolutions you make on generations to come. To neglect to do so would be a betrayal of the young people whose voices have been so active in driving the climate movement, and who risk bearing the heaviest consequences of our actions in years to come."

The letter came from consultation sessions that CJ4A held with Methodists in Britain earlier this year. CJ4A wanted to find out what people wanted to say to our leaders at COP and the letter captures the heart and passion of what was shared during these sessions.

Mollie Pugmire, British CJ4A worker, said:



"We wanted to make sure we were properly representing the voices of Methodists in Britain who so boldly shared their anger and frustration at the way in which the climate crisis is handled by our national and global leaders. I was really inspired by the way in which despite all the anger, people had not given up and were prepared to call upon their leaders to do what it takes to achieve climate justice for all."

One of a number of banners outside Methodist buildings



HELPING ZIMBABWE

All We Can has been working with its local partner, HEFO, since 2018 to help communities in Zimbabwe.

HEFO (Health Education and Food Security Organisation.) work to restore

dignity and quality of life for people living in the Matabeleland region of Zimbabwe – in particular, rural regions of Nkayi District. HEFO was formed by churches in Nkayi and nearby Bulawayo – who were well versed in the challenges faced by local communities.

HEFO's focus is on helping vulnerable communities become more self-reliant – through projects supporting climate-resilient sustainable agriculture, livestock production, and increasing access to clean and safe water. The region in which they work is very dry – so HEFO supports borehole, agricultural, and community gardening projects to help communities cope with these challenges.

How is climate change affecting this region?

Climate change is making life increasingly difficult for families living in rural Nkayi. The region often experiences extended dry spells, and is prone to persistent drought as well as other extreme weather events such as floods and high temperatures. As a result, access to water is an issue in Nkayi, with women and young people often traveling long distances (up to 5 km) to fetch water. The infrequent quantities of rain which do fall in the region is insufficient for growing most crop varieties, meaning families can struggle to grow enough food to eat.

Climate change also affects livestock in the region – animals may go for days without drinking water, or need to travel long distances to access a watering point. Access to safe and clean drinking water for both humans and livestock is an urgent priority in the region.

What challenges are families facing?

With unreliable harvests and the impact of a changing climate, the families that HEFO serve in rural Nkayi face challenges making ends meet. As it becomes more and more difficult to grow crops, families must increasingly rely on livestock production or alternative livelihoods to secure a sustainable income. According to the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZIMVAC), more than 76% of households in Nkayi live below the poverty line.

For families with children, access to education can be a particular difficulty, as school fees can be prohibitively expensive for those living in poverty.

Lack of clean and safe water, coupled with airborne and waterborne diseases continue to pose major problems for the communities in Nkayi. Covid-19 has also further complicated the situation, as farmers have been unable to travel to markets to sell produce, and development projects have faced interruptions.

How has Covid-19 affected Zimbabwe (so far)?

Zimbabwe has faced a series of tough measures to curb the spread of Covid-19 since March 2020 – including a strict 30 days lockdown in January 2021. At the time of writing 38,466 cases have been recorded and 1,579 deaths. However, there is some fear that both deaths and cases are often under-reported.

As is the case across the globe, the impact of Covid-19 goes far beyond mere statistics, and has had a profound effect on livelihoods and local economies in Zimbabwe. For many, streams of income have dried up, as people have been unable to access markets during periods of lockdown.

Thankfully, vaccination began in Zimbabwe in February, and at the time of writing more than 414,000 people have been inoculated. However, widespread fear and misinformation, as well as complications with logistics, have hampered take-up.

How does HEFO's work make a difference for people?

HEFO care deeply about the local communities they serve, and work together with them to develop the best possible solutions to the challenges they are facing. In particular, HEFO work to increase food, nutrition and income security by supporting families to take on a mixture of both crop and livestock farming. Farmers are trained in climate-just practices. This provides them with the seeds, resources and training they need to develop a sustainable income through farming, and provide nutritious food for their families – and at the same time, enables them to make their communities greener.

Access to water is a real challenge in rural Nkayi – and so HEFO help communities to tackle this through initiatives such as borehole drilling and solarisation, weir construction, roof harvesting, and better management of water points.

Across their work, HEFO help community members to learn from each other, and share best practise by forming community producer groups. HEFO work with these groups to share technical knowledge on crop and livestock farming, and equip them to work well together as a group – reaping better results for everyone! In addition, across all of HEFO's work, there is a focus on sustainably using and preserving the resources available, in harmony with the natural environment.

**"Not from his head was woman took, As made her husband
to o'erlook;**

**Not from his feet, as one designed The footstool of the stronger
kind: But fashioned for himself, a bride;**

An equal, taken from his side." ~ Charles Wesley

Worship Material for November

If you have a candle, please light it as a sign of God's presence with you.

Let's pray:

We come today to acknowledge Christ as King.
His throne is a cross, and he reigns from high heaven.
Beauty and holiness are the marks of his kingdom.
He is the face of God revealed in human form.
Let us keep our eyes fixed on him:
King Jesus – the Way, the Truth and the Life. Amen.

We sing our opening hymn: 'All People that on Earth do Dwell'

Let's read Psalm 93 together:

The Lord reigns, he is robed in majesty;
the Lord is robed in majesty and armed with strength;
indeed, the world is established, firm and secure.
Your throne was established long ago;
you are from all eternity.

The seas have lifted up, Lord,
the seas have lifted up their voice;
the seas have lifted up their pounding waves.
Mightier than the thunder of the great waters,
mightier than the breakers of the sea –
the Lord on high is mighty.

Your statutes, Lord, stand firm;
holiness adorns your house
for endless days.

We share in a prayer of thanksgiving and confession:

For the vastness of your being, our God and king:

we give you thanks and praise.

For your promise to be with us always, our God and king:

we give you thanks and praise.

For the giving of your truth, our God and king:

we give you thanks and praise.

For your voice that calls us, our God and king:

we give you thanks and praise.

For the life of Jesus, our God and king:

we give you thanks and praise.

For the indwelling of your Holy Spirit, our God and king:

we give you thanks and praise.

For the promise of your kingdom, our God and king:

we give you thanks and praise.

For the promise of your eternal welcome, our God and king:

we give you thanks and praise.

O Lord our mighty God,
we have heard but not always listened to you:
with sorrow and sadness, we confess our sin.
We have seen need and closed our eyes to it:
with sorrow and sadness, we confess our sin.
We have closed our ears to cries for help:
with sorrow and sadness, we confess our sin.

We have known your truth and yet followed lies and falsehoods: with sorrow and sadness, we confess our sin. **Amen.**

Our Bible reading is from John chapter 18 verses 33-37

Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?'

'Is that your own idea,' Jesus asked, 'or did others talk to you about me?'

'Am I a Jew?' Pilate replied. 'Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?'

Jesus said, 'My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.'

'You are a king, then!' said Pilate.

Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.'

Some questions to ponder on:

- How do you think Pilate felt as Jesus stood in front of him?
- What would you say are the key truths Jesus speaks of? Is His truth ever hidden? If so how can we reveal it?
- What does it mean to belong to the truth?

We bring to God our prayers for the world:

Loving God,

we pray for those in authority, that they may not manipulate truth to retain power.

May the kingship of Christ guide them.

We pray for those exploited or abused by those in positions of power.

May the kingship of Christ guide them.

We pray for those robbed of their freedom for challenging injustice.

May the kingship of Christ guide them.

We pray for our church, that in confidence we would share your truths that we know, and in humility seek out the truths we have yet to learn.

May the kingship of Christ guide us.

We pray for one another and ourselves, that we would be open to truth and eager for wisdom.

May the kingship of Christ guide us. Amen.

Our final hymn together is:

‘Lord, for the years, Your love has kept and Guided’

And a blessing:

In a world of confusion and doubt,
may we know the truth that you are Lord,
and that we are loved. Amen.

PRAYERS



A prayer following the death of Sir David Amess MP

Gracious God

We are thankful for all those who give their lives to public service; we are deeply saddened when it comes at such cost. Be with all who loved the late David Amess MP and especially with his family at this awful time.

Lord, we pray for all those affected by this violent act. May your comforting love and healing grace be with them all.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen

Prayers to remember a loved one who has died

Loving God, you comfort us in this moment of need. You embrace us all in your loving arms.

In the shadow of death your light shines on us.

May we who are left, inherit your eternal kingdom, with those who have died.

May we find rest in your light and peace.

This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Give rest, Lord Jesus Christ, to those who have died, and rest with you -where there is no more sorrow or pain, but life everlasting.

Holy God, creator and maker of all;

You are immortal; we are mortal,

From dust we came and to dust we will return.

Yet even at the grave,

because your rose from the dead,

we make our song:

Alleluia! Amen.

God grant to the living, grace;

To the departed, rest;

To the world, peace;

And to us and all the faithful,

Life everlasting;

and the blessing of God,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,

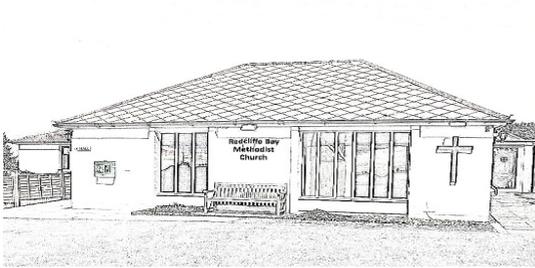
remain with you always. Amen.

Prayer for a Just and Fair Future

Great Spirit, heavenly Father, source of life and love. We rejoice and give thanks for your bountiful planet. Great plains, verdant forests, deserts of rock, sand and ice, mountain ranges, rivers and oceans: ecosystems to meet the needs of all your creatures. We mourn our separation from you, each other, ourselves and all creation. We have forsaken your calling to be custodians: When we drill for oil, gas and minerals, despoiling the earth, poisoning the waters and fouling the air with climate changing gases; When we fell ancient trees, over-exploit the oceans and techno-farm food, destroying soils, traditional food systems and indigenous communities; When we desecrate your world with trash where nothing in nature is intended to go to waste; When we live lavish lifestyles and turn our other cheek to poverty, injustice, war, famine and unbearable human suffering. When world leaders and multi-national corporations put profit before the wellbeing of people, communities and a flourishing planet. We pray that our words, our pilgrimage and our actions may be a witness to world leaders, encouraging and inspiring them to make radical commitments at the forthcoming climate talks. Commitments that will restore the earth and lead to justice for communities confronted by the climate crisis. And may they lead us onto a new path for a sustainable future where we live in harmony with all life. Open our senses to all we encounter and be with us that we may walk in safety. Awaken us to our true nature, to live in peace with you, each other and all

creation. By restoring harmony and balance we too will be restored to wholeness. Amen.

Prayer written by Bishop Geoff Davies, South Africa's 'Green Bishop' and distributed by Christian Aid.



**REDCLIFFE
BAY**

Website: www.redcliffebaymethodistchurch.org.uk

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

We will celebrate our Church Anniversary on Sunday 7th November. The service will be led by our Minister.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Sixteen people were present at our Church Council, held on 12th October. Our Superintendent minister, Rev Russell Herbert, came to explain the Report, 'God in Love United Us', which had been accepted at the recent Methodist Conference. It states that same-sex marriages are now possible in Methodist Churches. However, Methodist ministers are not obliged to preside at such marriages, and each Church Council must decide if it will allow these marriages in its Church. A special Church Council meeting will be held at an appropriate time to decide. Copies of the Report will be made available at Church, as will copies of a contrary view entitled 'The Runaway Train'. It is important that we all read both.

Others matters mentioned were our recent successful 'Re-connecting Coffee Morning', this year's open-air Carol Service at Sainsburys car park will be on 5th December, pastoral matters, dates and times for our Christmas services, and the successful re-starting after lockdown of our weekday activities. It was decided the Home Project we will support for our 2021/23 fundraising will be The Bristol

Methodist Centre. Our Church Treasurer reported that support for our Church finances during lockdown had been generous, and we had also benefitted from several donations.

Detailed minutes of the meeting will be placed on the Schoolroom Notice Board in the near future.

LITTLE STARS TODDLER GROUP

Very busy, please sign up on the Schoolroom Notice Board if you have a Monday morning when you can help Sue.

BACON BUTTIES

Our popular meeting for men on Thursday 4th November. 10.00 till 11.30 am.



MESSY CHRISTMAS

For all the family Sunday 28th 3.30 – 5.30 pm

WEDNESDAY FOCUS

We have decided that in future all evening meetings will start at 7.30 pm. We hope that this will encourage more people to come - we need you to come to increase the number attending and make it viable to invite speakers.

At the first October meeting Ann Tarr, who is also our local Christians Against Poverty Manager, gave an interesting account of the work of the Bristol Street Pastors.

On 3rd November Clive Buriton tells us about Bristol's Lost City. 7.30 pm start and will be bringing some books.

There is a Film Night on 17th November

1st DECEMBER SPECIAL

Tim Lewis and Sheila Furneaux's presentation on 1st December at Wednesday Focus (7.30 pm) is

The Greatest Story Ever Told
in story and song. Everyone is welcome. Free admission but retiring collection for MHA.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR CLIENTS OF THE BRISTOL METHODIST CENTRE

Men's items: medium boxer shorts, footwear 7-9, waterproof coats, joggers, jeans 30-32

Women's items: Footwear 6-7, waterproof coats, joggers.

General: Hoodies, back packs, camping rolls, spray-on deodorant, small packets of tissues, cuppa soups.

Our collecting box will be in the Church porch on Sundays, 28th November & 5th December.

Helen & Arnold wish to thank their friends at Redcliffe Bay for the flowers, cards and good wishes they received on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 9th October. Thank you.

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



PORTISHEAD

Office: 01275 844917

Website: www.portisheadmethodistchurch.co.uk
On Twitter : [Follow@PortisheadMC](https://twitter.com/Follow@PortisheadMC)

SPECIAL SERVICES

At 6.30 pm on Sunday 21st November our Minister will conduct a service remembering all those who have died.

On 28th at 6.30 pm there will be an Ecumenical Advent Carol Service.

BOOK CLUB

We are going to meet on Friday 6th of November at 10.30 at High Street..

We will read Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman. Can you please bring something to drink as we are not sure that we will be able to make drinks and we will supply the cake.

Anne

SKITTLES COMPETITION



I am pleased to say that our skittles championship is back on the agenda and is booked for Saturday 20th November. As usual it will be held at Clarence House and all 3 lanes will be open to avoid any unnecessary crowding. Play will start at 7.30 pm. Those who have played before will know how it works but for those who don't we have three trophies, one for ladies (held by Rachel McCintosh) one for men (held by Matt Woollatt) and one for juniors (currently held by Samuel McCintosh). It is a fun evening with no experience needed in order to take part and you can just come along to watch and enjoy an evening out with other church folk if you feel playing is not for you.

Proceeds this year are for our own redevelopment and the cost is £5.00 each with family tickets at £10. As usual we ask everyone to please bring one item towards a shared buffet which we enjoy half way through the evening.

Ken Gathergood

CHRISTMAS FAYRE: SATURDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 10AM - 1PM

This is the first event for the church and Za since lockdown and it is great to be back!

As always, we **really** need some help for the Fayre. There will be a list at the back of church from this Sunday (3rd Oct). Please put your name down if you can help in any way or can run a stall. We are interested if anyone can make Christmas table decorations and small

wreaths. We would really appreciate your help. The form will be at the back of the church until Sunday 17th October.

Items for the Christmas Fayre

If you have any of the following we would be really grateful.

- pre/un-loved presents or toiletries
- Christmas gift bags

Please can you leave these in a bag at the back of the church marked for the Christmas Fayre. Thank you so much.

All proceeds from the Fayre will be divided between the Church's continued development work in the Beacon Hub and Za Foundation, supporting orphan and vulnerable children in South Africa.

Very many thanks, we look forward to hearing from you.

Jayne Morris-Thurgood



Last month's challenge was postponed because of illness so this month I will (hopefully) be successfully and safely learning to ride a horse AND learning to knit. At the end of the month I will have knitted something resembling a scarf which I'll then auction off with the highest bidder winning it. I will keep up updated as to how it is going - look out for pictures etc on the screen in church on a Sunday morning (and photos will appear in next month's magazine).

POSTSCRIPTS

I took my wife to an orchard and we stood there staring at trees for more than an hour.

Apparently this was NOT the Apple Watch she was expecting for her birthday.

I was reading through the ingredients for a fruit salad I'm making today

It said: "Pineapples: five cubed."

I'm not sure though, 125 (5³) will probably be too many.

I met a girl who didn't like dried fruit.

Well I certainly couldn't interest her in a date.

A vegan said to me people who sell meat are disgusting.

I said people who sell fruit and vegetables are grocer.

A doctor says to his patient, "Don't eat anything fatty..."

To which the patient replies, "Well what about fruit, can I eat that?"

"No fatty, don't eat anything."

My friend told me, "did you know trees drop edible stuff that's not fruit?"

"that's nuts" I replied.

One bird can't finish an entire bowl of Fruit Loops...

...but Toucan.

Authors unknown

Please pass copy for the combined December and January 2022 issue to:

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*by **SUNDAY 21st November***