

**NOVEMBER 2023**

# **TOGETHER**



***We will remember them***

***METHODIST CHURCHES  
PORTISHEAD  
High Street***

***REDCLIFFE BAY  
Queens Road***

***Minister: Revd Nick Moxon  
Office 01275 844917 Manse 01275 398881***

## ***From Rev Nick Moxon***

A few weeks ago I found out that the 3rd of November was World Jellyfish Day which is a day to appreciate and celebrate all things jellyfish! I never knew and my guess is you didn't either! A couple of days later (13th) is 'Odd Socks' day which starts anti-bullying week. It shares the day with world Kindness day which has been set up to celebrate and promote kindness in all its forms, and to appreciate the positive benefits of kindness to health, overall wellbeing, community, nature and the environment.



I remember, as a young boy, being told that kindness is key, it's everything to be kind to everyone you meet. It was drilled into me as I grew up. 'In a world where you can be anything, be kind.'

There is now plenty of research to show that kindness benefits the person on the receiving end, the person offering kindness and the wider community because of the ripple affect. Apparently those who are

kind tend to be healthier and live longer! Kindness should not just be an action it should be an attitude, a way of life and of being. In the Bible it's identified as a fruit of the Spirit - we know God's Spirit lives within us when we are kind. John Wesley saw that love and kindness were inextricably linked... 'What religion do I preach? The religion of love - the law of kindness brought to light by the gospel. What is this good for? To make all who receive it enjoy God and themselves, and to make them, like God, lovers of all.'

Kindness is one of the ways in which God's love is shown and experienced. It's one of the ways each one of us can share God with those around us. Let's not wait until the 13th of November to do this - let's start the kindness revolution today.

**Nick**

*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

*New Cafe opening hours:* Tuesday to Friday 9.30 am to 2.00 pm. Saturday 9.00 am to 2.00pm, at Portishead Church



### November 2023

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <u>1st Wednesday</u> | 10.00 – 11.00 am Prayer Meeting (Portishead)<br>2.30 pm Wednesday Focus (Redcliffe Bay)   |
| <u>2nd Thursday</u>  | 10.00 – 11.30 am Baycon Butties (Redcliffe Bay)   |
| <u>4th Saturday</u>  | 10.30 am Book Club (Portishead)<br>7.30 pm Phillipa Hanna Concert (Portishead)  |
| <u>5th Sunday</u>    | 10.00 am Morning Service (Portishead)<br>Rev Philip Challis<br>10.30 am Church Anniversary and<br>Holy Communion (Redcliffe Bay) Rev Nick Moxon |
| <u>6th Monday</u>    | 9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group<br>(Redcliffe Bay)   |

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <u>7th Tuesday</u>    | 2.30 – 4.00 pm New Beginnings Fellowship<br>(Portishead)   |
| <u>8th Wednesday</u>  | 10.00 – 11.00 am Prayer Meeting (Portishead)   |
| <u>12th Sunday</u>    | REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY<br>10.00 am Morning Service (Portishead)<br>Mrs Jane Mason<br>10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay)<br>Rev Nick Moxon  |
| <u>13th Monday</u>    | 9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group<br>(Redcliffe Bay)  |
| <u>14th Tuesday</u>   | 10.00 am Holy Communion (Redcliffe Bay)<br>Rev Nick Moxon<br>10.30 -noon Coffee and Chat (Redcliffe Bay)   |
| <u>15th Wednesday</u> | 10.00 – 11.00 am Prayer Meeting (Portishead)   |
| <u>18th Saturday</u>  | 10.30 am Crafty Chatters (Portishead)  |
| <u>19th Sunday</u>    | 10.00 am All Age Worship (Portishead)<br>Rev Nick Moxon<br>10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay)<br>Rev Peter Mortlock  |
| <u>20th Monday</u>    | 9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group<br>(Redcliffe Bay)  |
| <u>22nd Wednesday</u> | 10.00 – 11.00 am Prayer Meeting (Portishead)   |
| <u>24th Friday</u>    | 2.00– 4.00 pm Tea Coffee and Cakes<br>(Redcliffe Bay)  |
| <u>26th Sunday</u>    | 10.00 am Holy Communion (Portishead)<br>Rev Nick Moxon<br>10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay)<br>Rev Dr Russell Herbert<br>3.30 pm Messy Advent Church (Redcliffe Bay)<br>Rev Nick Moxon<br>6.30 pm Service of Remembrance (Portishead)<br>Rev Nick Moxon |
| <u>27th Monday</u>    | 9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group<br>(Redcliffe Bay)  |
| <u>29th Wednesday</u> | 10.00 – 11.00 am Prayer Meeting (Portishead)   |

7.00 – 9.00 pm Advent Course (Redcliffe Bay)

## GENERAL NEWS

WEDDING Following news of Niamh's wedding to Dan last month here are pictures which Nick has shared:



### PHILIPPA HANNA CONCERT - SATURDAY 4th NOVEMBER

At High Street we have the immense privilege of hosting an evening with Christian singer/song-writer Philippa Hanna.

Philippa is internationally renowned for her songs and had toured with greats such as Ed Sheeran and Lionel Ritchie.



The evening will be packed full of brilliant songs and honest stories about her struggles with self-image and self-worth.

This evening is ideal for family members and friends who don't normally come to church. We guarantee they will have a great evening.

Tickets are £13.50 and can be bought online on:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/an-evening-with-philippa-hanna-tickets-698928573177>

### ADVENT COURSE

*They Sang* is the title of an Advent Course which will be running from Wednesday 29th November 7.00 – 8.30 pm at Redcliffe Bay and duplicated at Portishead on Thursdays from 30th November 10.30 am – noon. There are sessions each week for four weeks. Come to as many or whichever suits you.

### PORTISHEAD JUBILEE DAY CARE HAS SOME VACANCIES

Jubilee Club provides support to elderly, lonely, or housebound folk, meeting weekly on Mondays throughout the year at Jubilee Hall, Slade Road.

Up to 18 Members are given a fun day together by sharing in games, quizzes, slide shows etc. as well as enjoying a hot communal meal together. All of this for a modest £10.

Members are picked up from their home by car and need to have sufficient mobility to be able to get from wheelchair to car seat, and to live within 2 miles of the hall. Contact Mike Burt on 01275847857 if you, or someone you know would like to join us.

### STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT ON NET ZERO POLICIES

A joint statement by The Baptist Union of Great Britain, The Methodist Church, The United Reformed Church

We are dismayed that the Prime Minister is delaying the implementation of policies to achieve net zero. As Christian leaders we are deeply committed to encouraging all within our sphere of

influence to be ambitious in reaching net zero as we seek to care for God's creation. This transition must be rapid, equitable and just.

At a time when so many people are struggling financially, the government has a crucial role to play in ensuring the cost of transition to net zero does not fall most heavily on those least able to afford it. Delaying measures to insulate homes will have the opposite effect, and slowing efforts to reduce fossil fuel use will increase climate impacts on vulnerable communities around the globe.

Extreme weather events this year have demonstrated the urgency of the situation. The independent Climate Change Committee have assessed that even current policy measures are insufficient to meet the UK's climate targets. The government needs to urgently demonstrate how it will get the UK back on track to reach net zero before 2050.

The commitments made at COP26 were instrumental in providing confidence to industry, investors and civil society that the UK was serious about rising to the climate challenge. It is a source of extreme disappointment that the Prime Minister's announcement will damage that confidence and undermine our collective efforts. As a country, we have moral and legal responsibilities to show leadership in tackling the climate emergency together.

Rev Lynn Green, General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain

Rev Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson, Moderator of General Assembly, United Reformed Church

Rev Gill Newton, President of the Methodist Conference

Deacon Kerry Scarlett, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference

### PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT UPDATE ON THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

As deaths and injuries of civilians continue to rise in the Israel-Hamas conflict, we are heartbroken to see the devastation this is having on so many people living in the region. We believe in a God who weeps, and, alongside the Holy Spirit our Comforter, our hearts

are breaking with all those whose loved ones have had their lives brutally cut short, for the terror felt by Israeli families, and the unimaginable wait that many face for news of the people being held hostage. We watch in horror as Gazan civilians flee for their lives, unable to leave Gaza and trapped in the midst of a violent and unpredictable conflict.

The situation may feel overwhelming; so much information, so much misinformation and so much misery. Where is our hope? Watching and reading news reports can leave us confused and feeling helpless. What can we do? As members of the Methodist Church we have witnessed the plight of the Palestinian people's oppression for many years and have sought to encourage those on all sides who are working for lasting peace with justice in the region.

Now we pray for all those people and groups we have met: Daoud Nasser from the Tent of Nations and the recipient of the World Methodist Peace Prize in 2018; Rabbi Nava Hefetz from Rabbis for Human Rights, the Wi'am Peace and Reconciliation Centre in Bethlehem; the staff of the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme for Palestine and Israel, and the countless people and families in Gaza and the West Bank who we, as a Church, have supported over the years. We uphold them, praying for their safety, asking for God's protection and comfort. And we pray for those who have the power to effect change – that they will use this privilege wisely and well to put a swift end to this violence and aggression. We undertake to continue to pray that the beautiful peace of the Prince of Peace will manifest in our world, and we pledge ourselves once again to respond to the Gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out this discipleship in our worship and mission.

We call on the UK Government to do all it can to encourage dialogue between Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Egypt and states in the wider region. We urge our Government to use its influence to end the siege of Gaza that is depriving its population of water and food, and to call on all parties to abide by international humanitarian law.

As well as praying, we ask you to consider doing the following:



- Supporting Christian Aid's appeal and/or signing a petition calling on the UK Government to establish safe routes out of Gaza for people left homeless or caught up in the violence
- Find out more about the situation
- Write to your MP to ask them to act to protect civilians in Gaza and to support a lasting peace
- Be generous to those who you may not agree with, and try to find common ground. Pray for those people and, if appropriate, pray together. Be aware of those in your church or community who are particularly impacted by this situation, whether they have a connection with Israel or Palestine or because this is a painful and traumatic reminder of their own experiences of conflict. And please pray for those in leadership who are being called to offer support to the people who are impacted by the ongoing situation.

*The Rev Gill Newton, President of the Methodist Conference*  
*Deacon Kerry Scarlett, Vice President of the Methodist Conference*



3GENERATE 2023 Almost 1,300 young people aged 4-23 years old, 400 adults who accompanied them and 220 wonderful volunteers, all from across the Connexion, came together in celebration, worship and fellowship at this year's 3Generate, the Methodist Children and Youth Assembly. with a record attendance that was a 25 percent increase over last year. 3Generate

is a unique space for children and young people to develop their faith and to have their voices heard for what they want the Church and society to be like. At 3Generate young people are invited to listen to

God, each other and the world, while being supported to discern what they hear. They are encouraged to take action, both at the event and when they return home, on their own, with their peers and with the help of adults.

3Generate is on an impressive scale, filling four of the giant halls at the NEC with activities, performances, worship and on-site accommodation with over 900 tents pitched inside the venue for the young people and their leaders.

Suzanne Butler, a contributor to the event with Fischy Music, said of her experience at 3Generate, "We really enjoyed being part of it, and are keen to keep up the connection. What a feat of organisation, with so much creativity, inclusion and spiritual thoughtfulness in evidence."

Our Minister who attended with a group from Portishead Methodist Church said, "I think it's just amazing. It has given our young people a sense of being part of something bigger. They come and they think, wow, there's 1300 young Methodists here, and that gives their confidence as Christians such a boost."

The Methodist Youth President, Tom Hart, commented, "3Generate feels really special, you can see the way that the young people are interacting with the activities and each other, growing in fellowship."

"The event has developed year upon year as 3Generate has been refined blending faith and fun, exploring new ways of worship. The "Picnic in the park" worship was based on feeding the 5000, there was the Metal Methodist whose worship rocked and Lego Church, which was especially popular with the 4 to 7 year olds."

Jude Levermore, Head of Mission, said, "3Generate is so important to the life of the Church.

"The young people learn from each other and from the carefully curated content of the event, but importantly the Church learns from them. You could sense God's spirit moving throughout the weekend, in the conversations that people had, in the worship and in the fun that you saw expressed on everyone's faces."

## LET'S END POVERTY LAUNCH

Let's End Poverty was launched on 14th October 2023

The launch occurred simultaneously across several cities in person, as well as online. People came together for the day, to advocate for the end of poverty and to fight those established systems that perpetuate it.

Recent events such as the war in Ukraine have increased the cost of living, this has led to a rise in the number of people experiencing poverty and the deepening of its impact. As of March 2023, The Trussel Trust announced that during the previous 12 months they had given out a record number of food parcels, with almost 3 million (2,986,203) given to needy families and individuals.

"Not doing anything is a moral failing," says Hannah Fremont-Brown, the Anti-Poverty Movement Methodist Coordinator.

"In between the increasingly desperate financial situation for many and the looming general election, now is the time to get organised and tackle the poverty issue, given the seeming ambivalence of our politicians."

Gill Newton, President of the Methodist Conference, said, "Currently poverty is impacting on far too many lives across our nation, and engaging with the Let's End Poverty movement now is one way that the Methodist people can play their part in the transformation of the world."

Hosted online by Hannah Fremont-Brown and Ali McMillian, a Deacon at Central Hall Westminster, the launch of the Let's End Poverty Movement was a chance to brainstorm and consolidate ideas.

People who joined the London gathering at Wesley's Chapel all have experience of poverty, either personally or through others, and are joined together by their desire, in Hannah's words, "to make ending poverty a political priority by showing that ending poverty matters for our communities."

The launch featured recordings that presented the Let's End Poverty project and offered moments for the attendees to reflect, give their opinions and share their ideas about the way ahead. "We

have the technology, the infrastructure and the funds to end poverty, what we lack is political will," asserted one of those who was interviewed. One of those attending the launch in London added, "We are committed to ending poverty because we cannot trust our political leaders to do it."

The aim is to bring together a collective representing a wide range of people with varied backgrounds, skills and experiences. The Let's End Poverty Movement is ecumenical and always keen for those who want to fight against poverty to join. There is power in numbers and, with the Methodist Church in Britain having already signed up, other churches and institutions are invited to join too.

Kerry Scarlett, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, concluded. "We know the lasting, negative impact that poverty has on our lives. But we also know that poverty is not inevitable. As a justice-seeking church, we believe that God consistently shows a bias of care and concern for people experiencing poverty and economic marginalisation and that we, as Methodists, are called to stand in solidarity with one another, seeking justice and transformation. I urge all Methodists to engage with the Let's End Poverty movement, to call upon those in power to make the changes that will enable others to flourish."

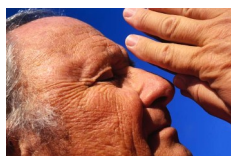
The next online session will be on 7th November and the next Action Call on 23rd November. If you'd like to find out more, email [hello@letsendpoverty.co.uk](mailto:hello@letsendpoverty.co.uk).

### JOHN WESLEY'S NEW ROOM in THE HORSEFAIR, BROADMEAD



The New Room relies on volunteers to keep it open six days per week, and are running a Volunteer Drop-in Information Day on Wednesday 1st November from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm to enable potential volunteers to view the work of the Welcomers Team, the Archives Team, the Education Team and the potential to join the Community Choir. As well as special

events the New Room has a constant stream of visitors and parties from all over the world who are great to meet and very appreciative of the information provided by the volunteers. There is much to see in this historic building, the first Methodist building in the world and in Charles Wesley's family home nearby. Manning rotas are flexible and can be worked round your other commitments. Why not drop in to find out more?



## **PRAYERS**

### *A prayer for prisoners*

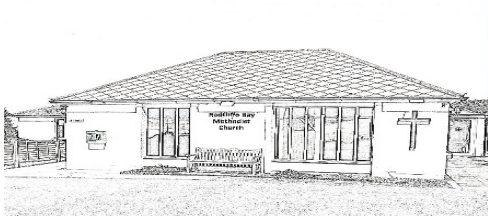
Lord, you offer freedom to all people.  
We pray for those in prison.  
Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist.  
Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends,  
prison staff and all who care.  
Heal those who have been wounded by the activities  
of others, especially the victims of crime.  
Help us to forgive one another.  
To act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ  
in His strength and in His Spirit, now and every day. Amen.

### *Prayer for Gaza and Israel from Open Doors*

Sovereign God, I pray for peace in Israel and Gaza – for an end to hostilities and for peacemakers on both sides. Comfort all who mourn and all who are waiting to hear news of missing loved ones. Give boldness and compassion to Christians on both sides to shine the light of Christ in their communities, and equip national and international leaders with wisdom. May Your will be done, and may Your loving kindness be evident to all. Amen.

## *A prayer for the hostages taken by Hamas*

O Lord be with those held captive who are so uncertain about their future. Give them reassurance that they are in your hands whatever happens and help those who seek their release. Amen



**REDCLIFFE BAY**

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

## NEWS OF THE FAMILY

Our thoughts and prayers are with Rev David Harris and the family at the rather sudden death of Maureen following a reaction to Covid and flu inoculations.

## WEDNESDAY FOCUS

Rev Nick Moxon's subject Whose Holy Land is it? in October was rather relevant to the current turmoil in Gaza

For the meeting on 1st November. We have Jess Crossley and colleagues: Andrew House - Volunteer Plus Programme - part of Changing Lives Charity. For some years Andrew House Clevedon has been used to rehabilitate alcoholics and drug users.

## BAYCON BUTTIES

Next Meeting on 2nd November (on the first Thursday of the month). A gathering for men, with butties, coffee and chat.



## AUTUMN SALE – CAKES BOOKS AND COFFEE

The sale on 21st October raised £250 for The Bristol Methodist Centre. Thank you to all who contributed. Enjoy the cakes and books you bought.

## FIKA COFFEE and CAKE AFTERNOON

On the last Friday of the month from 2.00 – 4.00 pm 24th November. All welcome.

## HARVEST GIFTS FOR METHODIST CENTRE.

Ten heavy bags of our Harvest gifts, plus a financial donation, were delivered to the Bristol Methodist Centre on the Monday after our Harvest Festival. They filled two large shopping trolleys, and were very gratefully received. We were asked to convey their thanks for our continuing support of the Centre, and for our Harvest gifts, which they said were very much what they needed.

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



**PORTISHEAD**

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*Websites:*

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

[www.thebeaconhub.co.uk](http://www.thebeaconhub.co.uk)

*On Facebook:*

[www.facebook.com/thebeaconhub](http://www.facebook.com/thebeaconhub)



**THE BEACON HUB**

A LIGHT ON THE HIGH STREET

## CRAFTY CHATTERS

Join us on Saturday 18th November, at 10.30 am.

## BOOK CLUB.

The next meeting is on 4th November discussing Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Germus.

## ***POSTSCRIPT***

### TEETH

A dinner speaker was in such a hurry to get to his engagement that when he arrived and sat down at the head table, he suddenly realised that he had forgotten his false teeth. Turning to the man next to him he said, "I forgot my teeth."

The man said, "No problem". He reached into his pocket and pulled out a pair of false teeth. "Try these," he said.

The speaker tried them. "Too loose," he said. The man then said, "I have another pair – try these." The speaker tried them and responded, "Too tight". The man was not taken aback at all. He then said, "I have one more pair. Try them." The speaker said, "They fit perfectly." With that, he ate his meal and gave his speech.

After the dinner meeting was over, the speaker went over to thank the man who had helped him. "I want to thank you for coming to my aid. Where is your surgery? I've been looking for a good dentist." The man replied, "Oh, I'm not a dentist. I'm an undertaker."

*from A Bundle of Laughs-John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books .*

*Please pass copy for the combined December 2023 and January 2024 issue to:*

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Tel. 844115 e-mail rayburgin@hotmail.co.uk  
by **SUNDAY 26th November***