

OCTOBER 2021

TOGETHER



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

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From Rev Nick Moxon

I heard this story the other day which tickled me...

An elderly woman, traveling by bus, had a stop-over during her journey. She purchased a package of biscuits from a vending machine in the bus terminal and located a table. She placed her biscuits on the table, sat down, and proceeded to read her newspaper

She was joined by a young man, who, to her surprise, opened the package of biscuits and began to eat them. The woman, saying nothing, but giving him an icy stare, grabbed a biscuit. The young man, with a funny look on his face, ate another one. The woman again glared and grabbed another biscuit. The young man finished the third biscuit and offered the last to the woman.

Completely appalled, she grabbed it and the young man left. Outraged, the woman threw down her paper only to find her unopened biscuits on the table in front of her!

You may have heard this or a similar version over the years. Many people claim it happened to them or a member of their family.

Two things struck me - the first was the very British attitude of not saying anything to each other during the little incident and the second was the young man freely allowing his biscuits to be eaten by a complete stranger just because she wanted to. There's something about the generous hospitality to the stranger that we, as followers of Jesus, are called to live out.

The writer to the Hebrews encourages God's people... 'Do not forget to entertain (serve) strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.' (Hebrews chapter 13 verse 2). I don't know whether the young man in the story had that verse in mind but he certainly lived it out.

Who might you serve this month? For in doing so you will be serving God's precious child.

God bless

Nick

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. Go to :<https://portisheadmethodist.wixsite.com>

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

As you will know we have resumed our on-site worship and stopped our online live stream on a Sunday morning. We have also changed from producing a weekly worship sheet to a monthly one. 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

October 2021

- 3rd Sunday 10.00 am All Age Worship and Harvest Festival
(Portishead) Rev Nick Moxon
10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay)
Rev Preben Andersen
- 4th Monday 9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars (Redcliffe Bay)
- 6th Wednesday 9.30 -11.30 am Wesley Toddlers (Portishead)
8.00pm Wednesday Focus (Redcliffe Bay)
- 7th Thursday 10.00 to 11.30 am Baycon Butties (Redcliffe Bay)
10.00 – 10.45 Coffee and Chat - on line
- 9th Saturday 10.00 am - noon Drop in anytime to Reconnect
(Redcliffe Bay)
- 10th Sunday 10.00 am Morning Service (Portishead) Rev Nick Moxon
10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay)
Mr John Flowers
3.30 – 5.30 pm Messy Harvest for all the family
(Redcliffe Bay)
- 11th Monday 9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars (Redcliffe Bay)
7.30 pm Church Council (Portishead)
- 12th Tuesday 10.00 am Holy Communion (Redcliffe Bay)
Rev Nick Moxon
10. 30 -noon Coffee and Chat (Redcliffe Bay)
2.00 pm Church Council (Redcliffe Bay)
- 13th Wednesday 9.30 -11.30 am Wesley Toddlers (Portishead)
8.00 pm Bible Study – on line
- 16th Saturday 9.30 am Working Party (Redcliffe Bay)
- 17th Sunday 10.00 am Holy Communion (Portishead)
Rev Ann Owen
10.30 am Holy Communion (Redcliffe Bay)
Rev Nick Moxon
- 18th Monday 9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars (Redcliffe Bay)
- 20th Wednesday 9.30 -11.30 am Wesley Toddlers (Portishead)

8.00 pm Wednesday Focus (Redcliffe Bay)

21st Thursday 10.00 – 10.45 Coffee and Chat - on line

24th Sunday 10.00 am Morning Service (Portishead) Rev Ian Bowley

10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay) Rev David Harris

25th Monday 9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars (Redcliffe Bay)

27th Wednesday 9.30 -11.30 am Wesley Toddlers (Portishead)

8.00 pm Bible Study – on line

29th Sunday 10.00 am Morning Service (Portishead) Rev Nick Moxon

10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay)

Rev Deborah Mallett

GENERAL NEWS

THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS

is the title of the presentation at the next Contemporary Ethics Forum meeting on 4th October, at St Peter's Church 7.30 – 9.30 pm. It will be given by Chris Sunderland who has an unusually wide-ranging experience of life and scholarship. He is a Bristol-based environmental entrepreneur, who played a key role in the launch of the Bristol Pound as well as founding several food-related enterprises. He now devotes his time to writing, building community interest in nature and has just finished writing a new book on the environmental crisis. He has research-level degrees in both science and theology and has published a range of academic papers, popular articles and books. All welcome.

The meeting will also be live streamed to Youtube at <https://youtube.be/rBQj5SehKjk> More information from 840245.

THE JOHN WESLEY CHAPEL – THE NEW ROOM

Black Lives Matter: Readings and Conversation is a free online event hosted by John Wesley's New Room as part of Black History Month. 7th October, 7.30-9pm.

This Zoom webinar features work shared by poets from a diverse range of backgrounds, who have all recently been featured in the anthology *Black Lives Matter: Poems for a New World* which was published by CivicLeicester in November 2020.

Keynote speaker Dr Edson Burton, poet, writer and historian, will be joined by two hosts – anthology editor Ambrose Musiyiwa and Rev Dr Catherine Okoronkwo, a vicar in Swindon who is also the Bishop of Bristol’s Advisor on Racial Justice.

The evening will include poetry from Dr Edson Burton, Ambrose Musiyiwa, Catherine Okoronkwo, Rosalie Alston, Tanisha Barrett, Richard Byrt and Barbara Saunders. There will also be a Q&A session exploring themes raised by the poets.

Book through www.newroombristol.org.uk/Events

MUSEUM

CAFE

CHAPEL

MEETING
ROOMS

WELCOME



JOHN WESLEY'S
NEW ROOM

THE METHODIST CHURCH RESPONSE TO THE IICSA INVESTIGATION INTO CHILD PROTECTION IN RELIGIOUS ORGANISATIONS AND SETTINGS

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse has released a report of the investigation into Child Protection in Religious Organisations and Settings.

The Secretary of the Conference, the Rev Dr Jonathan Hustler said: “The Methodist Church welcomes today’s report, we are grateful for the work of the Chair and Panel for their consideration of the issues surrounding safeguarding and the recommendations which we hope will be of benefit to the children and vulnerable people in our churches. While it will take time for us to study this report, early indications are that it includes many areas where religious organisations are still failing their members and we are truly sorry for where this happens in our churches.

“The report makes two recommendations; the first on policy, procedures and training and the second around legislation for unregistered institutions providing full-time education. The first recommendation largely reflects our existing policy and procedures and stresses the need for regular updates. We will examine our child

protection policy along with the procedures and training as part of our ongoing cycle of learning and review to see what changes might be needed in light of the report. We will await Government advice on the second recommendation.

“We note the report’s mention of a general lack of support for victims of abuse among religious organisations. We will continue to review and improve our support to victims and survivors and we apologise where this has not happened as it should have done.

“We are grateful to the Panel for recognising positive child protection practice in the Church including our safer recruitment and internal auditing processes.

“There can never be any excuse for failings in safeguarding and it is the responsibility of everyone connected with the Methodist Church to uphold the highest standards in order to protect children and vulnerable people.

“We have learnt much of how our response can be improved from our Survivors’ Advisory Group and we are grateful to them for sharing their experiences and working with us to make our systems and support better for all. We welcome the report’s conclusion that child protection work should be ‘victim focussed’ and we will continue to work with and be led by the SAG to achieve this.

“We are grateful to the Chair and Panel for the work they have done in producing this report and to the victims and survivors of abuse for their bravery in taking part in the inquiry.”

CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY (CAP) -cap.uk.org

Ann Tarr has taken over as the Gordano Valley Debt Centre Manager. She write:

A New Start at CAP

Thank you to everyone who has made me feel so welcome in my new role as CAP Debt Centre Manager in Gordano Valley. It has been good to meet some of the befrienders and supporters of CAP and other agencies involved in dealing with those in need.



I worked for 30 years in Financial Services with experience of helping people being better with money. I am married to Nick and we have five children between us. I am from Portishead and volunteer with a number of local groups.

As Debt Centre Manager, I am here to link people to the right services and to be the local contact.

Financial Pressures Post Pandemic

The furlough scheme is due to come to an end on 30th September. Fuel prices and weekly shopping bills are increasing so it is expected that more people will feel the squeeze on their incomes and need help to get out of debt and stay out of debt. Many clients wait for a crisis before seeking help due to feelings of shame and embarrassment.

We want people to know they have nothing to fear by seeking help, they won't be judged in any way and CAP is for anyone who needs debt help.

Post Pandemic Changes

During lock down, CAP moved to a phone and Zoom based model for clients. We are now able to add face to face visits so clients can choose phone, face to face in a neutral place or we can meet in the comfort of their own home.

Focus on the next few months:

CAP Money Course starting 26th October 7.15pm to 9.30pm for 4 weeks at the Trinity Centre Nailsea.

'Time to seek Free Debt Help' has been launched this month by CAP.

This is to let people know that free debt help is available to access before support schemes end.

How You Can Help!

CAP is a family made up of staff, volunteers and supporters. We can only give hope and change thousands of people's lives when everyone plays their part. We need you to join in today so we can open more debt help centres to turn debt and despair into hope and new life for thousands more people. For more information, contact Ann on 07568 354 880.

Who CAP helps

Is CAP Debt Help just for Christians? No. CAP will help anyone regardless of their faith or religious beliefs. We monitor our services to ensure that everybody receives the same caring service regardless of race, nationality, religion, age, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability.

Contact Us anntarr@capuk.org 07568 354 880

Struggling with debt? Call free on 0800 328 0006

GORDANO SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

Gordano High School have a chaplain based there paid in part by a grant made by Bristol Methodist District. We thought it would be good for Becky to introduce herself.



My name is Becky, I am the chaplain for Gordano School, and I have been doing this for the last year and a half! I am the first chaplain that the school has ever had, and as you can imagine starting the role in April 2020 was both perfect and awful timing!!! The students at the school (like many of us) have been struggling with covid and how it has affected their lives in this time, and I have noticed how valuable so many of them have found having someone to talk to. I really love my job, and it is a real privilege to see the

impact it is having on the students I work with. I am always extremely busy, which shows just how high the demand is!

I am so thankful for all the support and prayers the churches have already given me, and I could not be doing this without you!

It would be amazing if you could pray for my work in the school, that I would have enough capacity for every student who needs it. That I would be able to prioritise who to see and when - that the timing for meeting with each student would be just right. And finally that there would be a real spirit of peace and joy over the school. There is, and has been, a lot of anxiety due to the pandemic in stu-

dents and staff, so prayers that God would provide comfort and hope in the lives of those who come here would be greatly appreciated!

VACCINES FOR ALL – COVAX

The World Health Organisation (WHO) and the UN-backed vaccine alliance (Gavi) alongside the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (Cepi) set up a program called Covax. Its aim is to ensure equitable worldwide distribution of vaccines by providing collective purchasing facilities and mechanisms to expedite research and manufacture.

The hope was that all nations would join and purchase through the scheme with the higher income countries subsidising the lower-income countries. However, higher-income nations led by the US, Japan and the UK preferred instead to buy direct from manufacturers – guaranteeing rapid supply for their nations.

COVAX aims to have suitable vaccines rolled out simultaneously in developing and developed nations, however it is clear that access to vaccines is going to be massively greater in richer nations for some time. This became inevitable when wealthy nations bought direct from manufacturers rather than through COVAX.

Paying for vaccines

The IMF has estimated that the amount of investment required to counteract COVID's economic damage is between \$9,000Bn and \$12,000Bn. The estimated cost of vaccinating the world's population is around \$35Bn – a lot of money, but in economic context an extraordinarily good investment.

COVAX has the objective of supplying 2Bn doses of COVID vaccine and distributing them equitably in 2021. It has raised \$2Bn to fund the first stage of the plan – the "advance market commitment" which secures access to vaccine supplies. It requires a further \$5Bn in funding over the next year to fund the vaccination program.

Coincidentally, just over \$5Bn was cut from next year's International Aid budget when the Government decided to break its commitment to spend 0.7% of GDP on Aid.

The World Bank has offered around \$12Bn in loans to pay for vaccination, and other financing is arriving. However, it is clear that countries with few resources have been hit hard by COVID.

Additional loans and financing will be needed for rebuilding and development, as well as vaccination. Now is the time when wealthy nations are needed to offer support. It is regrettable that the UK government has chosen to step back and cut funding instead.

The joint Public Issues Team of the Baptist, Methodist and URC.

PRAYERS



There are times, dear Lord, as you well know, when I wonder about my faith.

How can I believe in a God who allows so many evil things to happen in the world. Floods which sweep away all before them. Earthquakes which kill thousands. Countries which war against each other. Those who abduct children for their own perverted ends.

Then I realise that the fault isn't yours - it's ours. We remove the forests which hold the land together. We build in earthquake zones. It is our greed and desire for land and natural resources that drive us to war. It is a few individuals in our society which cannot control themselves and their desires.

O Lord help me in my unbelief! Amen

Lord Jesus, be with those whose week never seems to start, because there is no difference for them in the days. Every day is the same.

Lord, we pray for those who have no joy in being able to do something new; for those whose routine is so rigid that anything out of the ordinary is challenging, frightening.

In their routine may they find you. In the care provided by others, may they find your love. In the work done for them may they find your healing hands.

For you are our carer, our healer and our sustainer, and in your name we pray. Amen

by Rev Jeff Walker

Please do pray for the Debt Centre in Gordano and particularly

🕒 For clients to have the confidence to come forward and seek help

- 🕒 For the befrienders and supporters of Gordano Valley, to be encouraged and strengthened for this ministry
- 🕒 For the clients steadily working their way out of debt, for the gift of perseverance
- 🕒 For those at the front line dealing with those in great need in local food banks, job centres, homeless charities, and our churches.

BACK AFTER LOCKDOWN

Portishead Porters is a willing band of volunteers who organise and run a hospital car service for patients from both the Portishead Health Centre and Harbourside Family Practice-transporting them to and from their homes to appointments at all the local hospitals. Porters operate throughout the week and more recently, weekends. We are looking to recruit drivers who are looking for worthwhile voluntary work, have a few hours free and enjoy meeting interesting and friendly people.

Our Recruitment Officer would welcome the opportunity to talk to anyone interested Please contact Vera Sanders: [01275 814002](tel:01275814002).

INTRODUCING JAYNE PACKER

You will have read in last month's Together magazine of Fran's departure and Jayne's arrival as our new administrator. We asked her a few questions by way of an introduction.

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

After moving away from Portishead in my late teens, I moved back here 8 years ago with my partner. We live just off the High Street. Our household quickly grew to include Mooch, our golden doodle and 3 years ago, our daughter, whom we adopted when she was 5. Living in Portishead has given us a lovely sense of community, comfort and safety and we all regularly enjoy walking down the High Street and meeting and chatting to friends.

Apart from keeping everyone in the house happy and fed, I enjoy staying fit and healthy by running, practicing yoga and Pilates. During lockdown, I discovered a love for baking and cooking which also helps me to relax and unwind.

What made you interested in this role?

After a career break of nearly three years and with my daughter growing up fast, it felt like the right time to start back at work again. The Administrators role has offered me the opportunity to use my skill set and work the hours that help me to ensure full support for our daughter. Additionally the challenge of learning a new role, the opportunity to meet new people and to be involved in an exciting new project like The Beacon Hub has been brilliant!

What things will you be doing as church administrator?

I am based at the church office on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning. My role will mainly be ensuring the day to day administration duties required for the church, Sunday Worship and answering email and phone enquiries. Additionally, I will be looking at creating some new processes for The Beacon Hub and supporting Nick and others with their day to day duties.



PORTISHEAD

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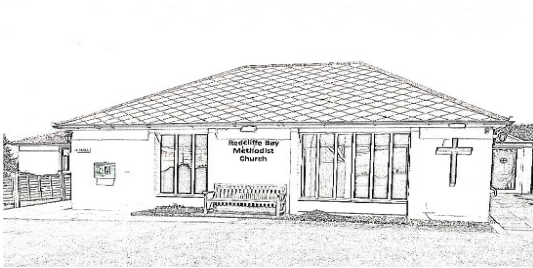
On Twitter : [Follow@PortisheadMC](https://twitter.com/Follow@PortisheadMC)

THE BEACON HUB

The builders finally handed the building back to the church at the end of September which was amazing. There are still a few more things to do - fix some lights in one of the meeting rooms and buy tables and chairs all of which will be happening very soon.



The church has one outstanding application with some funders which we hope will be successful. This is for the manager who will oversee the cafe and work with those using the new hub. Please pray that this bid will be accepted!



**REDCLIFFE
BAY**

Website: www.redcliffebaymethodistchurch.org.uk

WEEKDAY ACTIVITES

Little Stars Toddler Group ***As more children want to come Sue badly needs some help, please speak to her if you can spare some time to support this important outreach.***

BACON BUTTIES

We restart our popular meeting for men on Thursday 7th October. 10.00 till 11.30 am.

RECONNECTING

There will not be an Autumn Sale this year but we are having a Coffee Morning on Saturday 9th October from 10.00 am till noon to have a chance for all our friends to reconnect.

MESSY HARVEST

For all the family Sunday 10th 3.30 – 5.30 pm

CHURCH COUNCIL

On Tuesday 12th at 2.00 pm. Anyone can attend.

WEDNESDAY FOCUS

On 6th October Ann Tarr speaks about the work of the Bristol Street Pastors and on 20th Jane Hill, of Weston Super Mare Museum, says 'Know Your Place.' 8.00 pm start.

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



MONTHLY WORKING PARTIES

The October Working Party will be on Saturday 16th from 9.30 until 12noon. Come when you are able - you don't have to be there for the whole time slot.

POSTSCRIPTS

Harvest puns:

How do you harvest crops in the winter?

With an ice sickle

Potatoes For Everyone!

A party official asks a farmer how things are going, and the farmer replies that the harvest is so bountiful that the potatoes would reach the 'foot of God' if piled on top of one another.

'But this is the Soviet Union,' says the commissar, 'there is

no God here.' The farmer replies, 'That's all right, there are no potatoes, either.'

My neighbour has a 15 acre farm, he breeds dogs to do work on them. He grows cantaloupe, and come harvest time the dogs sniff out the ripe ones and bring them back to the barn.

He says the breed are Melon Collies

Why did the farmer fail to bring in the whole harvest before winter frost?

He got lost in the maize.

Why has the harvester pleaded guilty?

Cause he's a cereal killer.

In the divorce court today an 85-year old farmer divorced his 17-year old wife, claiming he could not keep his hands off her.

He has since fired all of his hands and bought a combine harvester.

A well known local man has fell into a combine harvester trying to steal it last night

The police have confirmed he's been bailed.

My boyfriend never gets my fruit puns

Perhaps I should let this mango.

Authors unknown

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by **SUNDAY 24th October***