

SEPTEMBER 2020

TOGETHER



METHODIST CHURCHES

PORTISHEAD
High Street

REDCLIFFE BAY
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From Rev Nick Moxon

I'm writing this in quarantine having come back from our holiday in France and the government's advice for those returning from there changing. We are 'confined to barracks' as they say.

Whilst out in France I managed to read a couple of books, one of them being 'Memoirs of a Pastor' by Eugene Peterson. Peterson was pastor of a church in Maryland, America for nearly 30 years (and you thought having me for 4 years so far was long!). His memoirs led me through his early life, his call to ministry and his continual growth and development as a local church leader. So much resonated with me as I journeyed with him.

One thing that I really connected with was his description of his lakeside family holiday cabin in Montana that he helped build with his father. It wasn't so much the building of the cabin that grabbed me but the way in which he encountered God there - year by year. He named it his '*holy place*' where he reflected and replenished his commitment to following Christ and where big life-decisions were made. I was reading this in our family's special place - packed full of memories with special people and life-changing decisions being made there, a place of reflection and replenishment.

Where is your '*Holy place/space?*' We all have them. Of course God is everywhere and we can encounter Him wherever we are but I believe that each of us has at least one special place where it feels we can connect with God more easily and that touches something deep within us when we're there. It may be a special area of the world, it could be a specific view, it may even be a chair in your sitting room. But it's a place where the division between heaven and earth seems paper thin.

The Bible is packed full of these paper thin '*holy spaces*'. One of the most famous holy places was the burning bush in Exodus chapter 3 where Moses encountered the living God and received his call to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Whilst there the great 'I AM' commanded Moses to take off his sandals be-

cause he was standing on holy ground. Taking off sandals was seen as a sign of respect when entering the presence of a king.

Where is your *'holy place'*? Why not seek it out this month? If you can't travel there physically, travel there in your imagination. Place yourself there. Take off your sandals, recognising that you are in presence of your heavenly Father and listen to what He wants to say to you. I would love to hear where you go and what God says.

God Bless ***Nick***

Re-Opening our Church Buildings - The Way Forward

It has now been 6 months since we needed to close our church buildings for worship and community groups. It has been said many times before but it has felt very strange not meeting together physically each week.

You will be aware that guidance from the government and national church leadership is regularly changing in response to the Covid-19 pandemic in this country and throughout the world.

Over the past few weeks small groups have been looking at the guidance and regulations given to us regarding re-opening our buildings safely. Whilst it may change at any time, this is what we are planning for our buildings over the next few months.

Worship

Sunday worship will remain online for September at least with a view to the possibility of re-opening in October. The Circuit have decided that for at least the first month there will be one act of worship per section (i.e. one act of worship in Portishead) each Sunday with the possibility of repeating the worship at different times throughout the week. It is hoped that we will still continue our online worship presence for some time for those who are unable to get to church because of restrictions. These are all still in the very early stages of discussion and development.

User Groups

Our plan is that our buildings will be available for our community user groups to use once again from October at the latest. In preparation for this we need to consider risk assessments and put together a plan that keeps our buildings and users as safe we can. Our plans for

this need to be signed off by the circuit and agreed by the local managing trustees, our Church Councils.

This gives a general overview of what we hope will happen and we are constantly reviewing the situation. I will keep everyone updated on the specific timetables in my weekly pastoral letter which I plan to continue at present. If you have any questions or comments please don't hesitate to get in touch with me. **Nick.**

The on-line service, starts at 10.00 am each Sunday. If you would like to join in please log on just before 10am.to:

www.portisheadmethodist.wixsite.com/worship

Each week an e-mail is sent with a Pastoral Letter and details of the following Sunday's Worship.

For those who don't have access to the internet you will be able to use a worship sheet, which is delivered each week., For those unable to join in at 10am on Sunday the worship will be recorded and accessible on the website at any time after that point.

On Wednesdays there is a Bible Study from 8.00 – 8.45 pm followed by Prayers - live on-line, access through the link above.

There is frequently an on-line Quiz Night from 7 pm on Fridays
These will not be recorded.

If you would like to be on the circulation for the worship sheet please contact the Church Office or leave a message via "Contact us" on the Redcliffe Bay web site.

This magazine is being distributed with the Pastoral Letter, either as an attachment for those receiving e-mail or a printed copy for those who receive the pastoral letter by post.

GENERAL NEWS

ORLA'S 24 CHALLENGE



Recently, I have been taking part in an online course run by Tearfund calling Emerging Influencer. As part of this course I have had the opportunity to create a team of people to fundraise some money to support the amazing work of Tearfund.

Did you know there are currently 24 MILLION people living in Yemen who are in urgent need of aid due to the humanitarian crisis?!?! That's a lot of people. So, I have a team of 24 people, each running/walking/cycling/swimming the distance 24km, on one 24hr day, lasting for 24 days. Our fundraiser kicked off when I ran and cycled 24kms on Tuesday the 4th August .It finished on the 27th August. Dad is doing his 24kms whilst we're away on holiday.

Please follow the link below and donate if you can. And please be praying for my wonderful TwentyFour Million team as they take on this challenge.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/twentyfourmillion>

PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE METHODIST CONFERENCE

The Rev Richard Teal and Carolyn Lawrence were inducted as President and Vice-President at the Methodist Conference (conducted online) on Saturday 27th June 2020.

The Rev Richard Teal is a Methodist presbyter and was brought up in a small Yorkshire Dales village, where his father was a farmer.

After leaving school, Richard worked in textile management and during that time he candidated for the Methodist ministry. He attended Wesley College, Bristol, and left a year early due to the shortage of presbyters at that time.

His first circuit was Blaydon in the Newcastle-upon-Tyne District and he was then sent as Superintendent to what in those days was a priority appointment in Berwick-upon-Tweed on the English-Scottish border.

Nine years later, Richard returned to East Yorkshire and served as Superintendent of the Beverley Circuit. In each of these appointments there was significant church growth. After circuit ministry, Richard served for 11 years as Chair of the Cumbria Methodist District and his experience of rural ministry came to the fore.

His understanding and appreciation of rural issues helped considerably when Cumbria was devastated by two county-wide floods. In 2010 a gunman killed 12 people on the west coast of Cumbria and Richard had a significant role in leadership and pastoral responsibility.



In his time in Cumbria, Richard had at least two other very significant roles: first in enabling the region to become the first ecumenical county in Great Britain.

Second, he formed a strong agricultural chaplaincy team to bring pastoral support to the agricultural community and beyond. Richard greatly values rural communities and encourages rural churches to take risks and do new and exciting faith activities.

For Richard, a small rural chapel is not a failed large church. Small communities are important and significant in building the kingdom of God. Richard was also contributor to *A Discipling Presence*, a workbook that promotes an effective Christian presence in rural communities (Methodist Publishing, 2017). Richard is married to Susan, and they have two children and two grandchildren.

Carolyn Lawrence has a background in primary education and was an educational mission partner in Guyana with the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and Americas.

Since returning to the UK, she has worked in a voluntary capacity within the Methodist Church as a preacher and leader. More recently she has worked with the Global Relationships team of the Methodist Church helping to engage people with our worldwide network of Partner Churches.

She is also part of the 'World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women', serving as the Area Officer for Great Britain. Carolyn grew up in a non-Christian home but became part of the Methodist Church through the Girl Guides and gave her life to Jesus at the age of 15.

She then spent three years in an Assemblies of God Pentecostal Church where she was baptised, received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and got married. Carolyn and her husband Mark felt called back to serve in the Methodist Church where they have worshipped now for the past 36 years.

Carolyn has a heart for sharing the love of Jesus through preaching, teaching, pastoral care and social action. Wherever people are on their spiritual journey, she enjoys helping them to grow in their faith and she encourages them to become 'disciple-making disciples'. She and her husband have two grown-up married daughters, three grandchildren and two cats.

They write: "During our year of office, as we journey around the Connexion, we really hope to be an encouragement to you no matter where you are on your spiritual journey. While travelling, we will be thinking about growth, both personally and corporately and seeking

to find ways to help you do both! Richard wishes to engage in this theme particularly from a rural perspective.

Our chosen Bible verses from Isaiah 43:18-19 remind us that God wants to do new things amongst us and to bring life and growth even in people and places that seem to be dry or tired. Our theme also fits with the launch of A Methodist Way of Life.

This is a great tool for our personal discipleship and growth, and also with the Evangelism and Growth strategy, God for All, finding ways to reach out to our communities with God's love and to make more disciples of Jesus. We are so grateful to you for walking with us on this journey of growth and for your prayer support.

We look forward to meeting many of you through the coming year and sharing some of our Christian journey together."

Love and blessings,

Richard and Carolyn "

THE METHODIST CONFERENCE

The Methodist Conference has voted for progress towards radical change to support the Church's engagement in God's mission

The Conference voted through the next steps of work around plans to simplify the oversight and trustee structure of the Methodist Church in Britain with the aim of providing greater support; enabling ministry, mission and broader strategic thinking; and promoting better coordination.

Representatives heard that the changes are necessary in order to ensure the Church can better comply with its obligations as a charity and so energies can be directed and focused on the mission of the Church.

A raft of proposals for change to the current structure were voted to be progressed to the next stage including reviewing the number of Church Councils, a review of the size of the Conference and a wide-ranging review of the constitution and function of all Connexional committees.

The work will be done with the EDI, Faith and Order and Law and Polity committees and will be reported to the 2021 Conference with proposals for change from the 2022 Conference.

The Connexional Secretary, Doug Swanney said: "Conference has voted resoundingly to indicate a desire for change in how we govern ourselves to ensure that we can properly focus on our calling into God's mission. This is an important step in a journey which will continue for the next year as detailed work is done on the outline proposals shared with the Conference today. The signal to continue with this work is an important indication that we are continuing to respond to the call of God and are willing to question some fundamental issues at the heart of how we are relevant in the present age."

THE JOHN WESLEY CHAPEL – THE NEW ROOM BRISTOL



The Chapel, Museum Shop and Café are all open and on Tuesdays at 1.00pm they are hosting weekly Emmaus Services (a reflective spoken word only service) in the chapel to which all are welcome. This is an alternative to our weekly Friday lunchtime communion service which remains postponed presently.

Please be advised that the re-opened museum will have various safety precautions in place to ensure you have an enjoyable visit and please remember that your ticket is an annual pass which you're welcome to re-use as many times as you wish during the year. In order to manage social distancing around the museum we are encouraging visitors to reserve a timed entry slot online and to pay for their tickets at our welcome desk on arrival. Visitors can arrive on the day without a booking, but priority will be given to those who have reserved a time slot In advance..

In addition to the re-opening of the shop, the second-hand book section in the chapel has also re-opened. The cafe has both socially distanced table service or takeaway if you prefer. It's offering drinks, cakes and a selection of light lunches that can cater for vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free diets and the Broadmead courtyard garden is open if you prefer to eat alfresco this summer! As always, the chapel remains open as a place for private prayer and reflection.

Please note that opening days and hours have changed slightly, currently from Tuesday - Saturday from 11am - 3pm.

BRISTOL METHODIST CENTRE

With current restrictions they have been running relief days for their guests, opening between 11.00 am and 12.30 pm, Monday and Tuesday, providing a door service where they can come to collect freshly prepared food, other essentials such as personal cleaning items, drinks, rucksacks, clothing, tents and sleeping bags - if needed. Staff continue to speak with them to build the ongoing relationships. 60- 80 people a day are fed. BMC are running out of food and resources, these can be left from 9 am to 12.30 pm on Mondays and Tuesdays only. Cash donations have also reduced. They need to raise £65,000 pa in addition to any grants to cover the cost of what their guests regard as an essential service. Would you consider becoming a regular doner – even £5 per month could provide lunch for 20 guests? Go to www.methodist-centre.org.uk/support-us or Tel. 0117 9555606

SCHOOLREADERS

Schoolreaders, is a charity currently recruiting volunteers to listen to children in Portishead primary schools read.

Our reading volunteers are going to be desperately needed following the Coronavirus pandemic. Thousands of children won't



have had enough reading practice during lockdown. In a normal year, one in four children leave primary school unable to read well. Most children will have missed a term of school, so the reading gap is now even wider. Children who struggle with reading are more likely to live in poverty and be unemployed as adults.

Schoolreaders needs more volunteers in Portishead to support children's reading and prevent them falling further behind. If you

want to make a difference to a child's life, apply to become a Schoolreader. No qualifications are needed; just a love of reading and some spare time each week. We understand that each volunteer will have different personal circumstances which may affect when they wish to start so we are happy to delay volunteering until the individual feels comfortable with going into a school.

To join us, please visit the website :

www.schoolreaders.org/volunteer-application-form or call 01234 924111 for further information. (Charity Number: 1159157)



Have you bought something with the Fairtrade logo recently? In some supermarkets all the bananas they sell are Fairtrade. More often some brands of goods carry the Fairtrade logo, but others do not.

Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. By requiring companies to pay sustainable prices (which must never fall lower than the market price), Fairtrade addresses the injustices of conventional trade, which traditionally discriminates against the poorest, weakest producers. It enables them to improve their position and have more control over their lives.

Since the first Fairtrade products appeared 26 years ago the range of items has steadily increased, but some large companies who have sold Fairtrade in the past have pulled out. In 2016 Cadbury and in 2017 Tesco. Now Kit-Kat has abandoned Fairtrade. Michael Gidney, chief executive of the Fairtrade Foundation, said its cocoa farmers in Ivory Coast were "devastated" by the news. "It would never be good news, but to face this when the country is looking at one of the worst health crises imaginable makes things particularly difficult," he said.

"Nestlé's relationship with farmers in Ivory Coast has been able to make a huge difference to village communities, helping them to receive electricity and water pumps. The decision is a huge blow."

KitKat will join Nestlé's other confectionery in being certified by the Rainforest Alliance, a weaker scheme that lacks Fairtrade's crucial

fixed minimum price and financial bonus. Rainforest Alliance currently ensures no minimum price and no premium, and has been repeatedly criticised for failing to address the unfair pricing and subsequent dire poverty faced by many cocoa farmers, which is at the centre of the issues in the industry. The certification body recently announced that as of July 2022 it would be introducing a 'Sustainability Differential' - similar to Fairtrade's premium. However, the amount is less than a third of that guaranteed by Fairtrade.

All the supermarkets, apart from Tesco, sell Fairtrade own-brand chocolate. But while all Waitrose chocolate confectionery is Fairtrade the Co-op goes one further – all the cocoa it uses in all its products is Fairtrade. There are a number of other smaller, Fairtrade-only chocolate makers – Plamil, Divine, Seed & Bean, Cocoa Loco, Vego and Traidcraft. There's also value added at source in which the processing is done locally which should mean that more money is captured locally – Pacari and Chocolat Madagascar Direct trade (Madécasse brand) creates direct relationships between buyers and farmers which should enable farmers to get a better deal.

Look out as well for the Fairtrade logo on other product -tea and coffee are common . sugar, cold drinks, wine, flowers, clothes and gold can also be found.

ZA FOUNDATION UPDATE



Due to the ongoing pandemic, our projects in South Africa have been temporarily suspended. Instead, we are focusing our efforts on ensuring that the vulnerable children who would usually attend our After School Clubs have sufficient food. Children are attending our three centres at intervals throughout the afternoons where they receive a meal and the opportunity to talk about their worries with our Thembaletu colleagues. We will continue to support the community in this way for as long as there is need and we rely on your donations to do this. Thank you. To donate, contact info@zafoundation.org or Tel. 848775

YEAR OF PRAYER

Why a Year of Prayer?

The Methodist Conference has declared 2020/2021 a year of prayer so that our Church-wide commitments to evangelism, church growth, church at the margins, and pioneering and church planting will flow from a deep, contemplative orientation to God's grace and love.

Be part of this movement of prayer as we ask the Holy Spirit to help us be a growing, evangelistic, inclusive, justice-seeking Church of gospel people.

Weekly Online Prayer Meeting - Tuesdays at 12.45pm

Join others across the Methodist Church to pray together every

Tuesday (starting 1st September) from 12.45 to 1.00pm.

Join the weekly prayer meeting on Zoom. Go to

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMvdeGpqj8rHtPwCqKrcGrw17KP0OIZM4w0](https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJMvdeGpqj8rHtPwCqKrcGrw17KP0OIZM4w0)

This online experience will draw on the diversity of Methodist traditions to help the whole Church pray together. Each week, different leaders will share Scripture, offer testimony, and creatively lead participants deeper into prayer. This may include praying with images, with music, in silence, with poetry, liturgically, or in free prayer.

Wherever we are, we are called to prayer, which is "oxygen for the soul" and "a conversation of the heart with God".

PRAYERS

Gordano Area Christians Against Poverty (CAP)

For God to enable clients still going through the process of becoming debt-free to persist in working with CAP.

For those who have decided not to work with CAP but who still need to address their debt problem.

For people who are in debt, to self-refer or contact me to explore what is involved before deciding to refer to CAP.



For befrienders and myself, as we wait for new referrals. It can be demoralising, when things are so quiet and we are not seeing clients.

For those at Head Office as they continue to provide advice and a service to our clients.

For newly trained debt advisors as they put their training into action.

joannapritchett@capuk.org

A CALL TO PRAY FOR EVERYONE INVOLVED IN EDUCATION AT THIS TIME

Barbara Easton, head of service for the Methodist Academies and Schools Trust, calls for prayers at this anxious time of important exam results and as schools return.

Children have had a very mixed time over the last several months. Many have missed friends and the experience of learning as a community. Some have flourished, spending more time at home than ever before. For a few, more time spent at home has been a time of inescapable trauma. Young people in examination years have been on an emotional roller-coaster which is now reaching its end. Years of hard work, or of moderate apathy, were to be judged not by the throw of a dice but by the casting of a mathematical algorithm. But that has all changed and they will receive their grades based on teacher assessment, and the risk of overall grade inflation.

Lives, careers and futures in the balance. Scotland is already ahead in the challenges of this process, and in the challenges of the return to school. Staff and children in the rest of the country are anguishing about the full opening, uncertain how to prepare and what to prepare for. The guidance is like 'an ever-flowing stream' and yet more is expected.

And so I ask you to pray:

- For young people and their families as they deal with their results
- For the people in exam boards, university admissions offices and schools balancing the requirements of process and the futures of young people

- For everyone involved in the full return to education; for people across the country returned to school and others involved in the shifting picture of preparation
- For our Methodist schools across the country, serving and loving in the name of Christ and of the Methodist people
- For Methodist schools and universities across the world, each serving in its own place.

*God of grace,
we hold before you everyone involved in education at this time.
Give peace, righteousness, energy, delight and empathy all in
their places.
We offer all our young people into your care,
Amen.*



REDCLIFFE BAY

Website: www.redcliffebaymethodistchurch.org.uk

Best wishes to everyone at this difficult time of 'Lockdown', when we are unable to meet freely with our friends and family. A couple of 'bring-your-own' coffee mornings have been held in the Church garden, and despite limited numbers and social distancing, it was good to meet some of our friends and have a chat.



The Hall has been redecorated, and it looks great. The kitchen has been cleaned, and out-of-date items disposed of. The portable electrical appliances have been checked, and new paintings, etc.,

hung on the Church walls. Of course, Church admin and finances have gone on being looked after carefully.

Work on the garden has continued, especially by Nerys, the gardener who comes to help us a couple of times each month. In the lower garden, several lovely new shrubs have been planted, with plaques alongside displaying helpful texts to make it a prayerful place. Recently it has often been visited by local people, who also enjoy the well-cut grass.

So, much has been going on at Church. A big thank-you to all who have helped! We look forward to the time, hopefully soon, when we can meet together again. In the meanwhile please keep up the phone calls, which bring such joy to us all.'

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

We regret to announce the death of two Redcliffe Bay friends. Dorrie Foster died on 27th July aged 90. We think and pray for her daughters and their families at this sad time.

Val Gamlin died on 30th July. Val lived in Meadows Close then in the Marina She moved to Keynsham about three years ago to live nearer her daughter, Estelle. We remember her daughters, Cheryl and Estelle and their families, in our prayers.

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



Please pass copy for the October issue to:
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by **SUNDAY 20th September**



PORTISHEAD

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

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

YOUTH EVENT

WESLEY TODDLERS

We will be back !

Have you visited our new web site? Easy to view on mobile phones.

POSTSCRIPT

I was visiting my granddaughter last night when I asked if I could borrow a newspaper.

"This is the 21st century," she said.

"I don't waste money on newspapers. Here, use my iPad."

I can tell you this. That fly never knew what hit him.

