

SEPTEMBER 2021

TOGETHER



METHODIST CHURCHES

*PORTISHEAD
High Street*

*REDCLIFFE BAY
Queens Road*

*Minister: Revd Nick Moxon
Office 01275 844917 Manse 01275 398881
e-mail: nickmoxon@btinternet.com*

From Rev Nick Moxon

On a rainy morning during our recent camping trip we booked into an escape room. For those not familiar with this newish experience it's where a group of people are locked into a room and have to find and solve certain clues which would enable them to escape within an hour. We were locked into a room that was set out like a hotel reception area. We had 5 clues to find and solve which then meant we could open up padlocks with more clues in.

We didn't do it! We were about 5 minutes away from solving the puzzle. During the hour we all played our part in working out what we needed to do. At times we were just going round in circles and not getting anywhere which was really frustrating. Having said that it was good fun and we would do it again.

For many life is like being locked in an escape room with no means to get out. It feels as though life is just one big puzzle which can't be solved and there is no way of moving on. Life can very often feel as claustrophobic as constantly being in a small room. If you are feeling like that, there is a way out, there is a way forward.

In the book of Proverbs in the Old Testament Solomon wrote,
*'Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight'* (Proverbs chapter 3
verses 5-6)

King Solomon discovered that whatever the situation or circumstance God would lead him through. The same God can and does lead us through whatever situation of circumstance we find ourselves in. Look to God to help you, heal you, lead you, strengthen you. He is always there and always willing to answer your prayer.

God bless

Nick

CHURCH CALENDAR

This month some steps are being taken to get back to normal, the 10.00 am Service at Portishead remains, but the Redcliffe Bay Service will start at 10.30 am and pre booking will not be required. For Portishead please book with Pat Lloyd (848374) up till 1.00 pm on the Saturday.

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.

September 2021

5th Sunday 10.00 am Morning Service (Portishead) Rev Nick Moxon

10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay) Rev Ian Bowley

6th Monday 9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars (Redcliffe Bay)_

8th Wednesday 8.00pm Wednesday Focus (Redcliffe Bay)

12th Sunday 10.00 am Morning Service (Portishead) Mrs Jane Mason

10.30 am Holy Communion (Redcliffe Bay)

Rev Nick Moxon

13th Monday 9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars (Redcliffe Bay)

14th Tuesday 10.00 am Holy Communion (Redcliffe Bay)

Rev David Harris

10.30 -noon Coffee and Chat (Redcliffe Bay)

15th Wednesday 9.30 -11.30 am Wesley Toddlers (Portishead)

8.00 pm Bible Study – on line

18th Saturday 9.30 am Working Party (Redcliffe Bay)

19th Sunday 10.00 am Holy Communion (Portishead)

Rev Nick Moxon

10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay)

Mrs Jean Balcombe

20th Monday 9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars (Redcliffe Bay)_

22nd Wednesday 9.30 -11.30 am Wesley Toddlers (Portishead)

8.00 pm Wednesday Focus (Redcliffe Bay)
26th Sunday 10.00 am Service (Portishead) Rev Preben Anderson
10.30 am Harvest Festival Service (Redcliffe Bay)
Rev Nick Moxon
27th Monday 9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars (Redcliffe Bay)
29th Wednesday 9.30 -11.30 am Wesley Toddlers (Portishead)
8.00 pm Bible Study – on line

GENERAL NEWS

GOODBYE FRAN, HELLO JAYNE!

As mentioned in last month's Together magazine we have said farewell to Fran who has been our administrator for the last 4 years. She is now settled in Oxford ready to start ordination training for the Anglican priesthood. At the end of August we said hello to Jayne who became our new administrator. Jayne will be working three mornings a week in the office at church and has been given extra responsibilities. We will have a more in-depth interview with Jayne in next month's magazine so she can introduce herself properly.

MARTHA'S KITCHEN



During the school summer holidays, Martha's Kitchen has been providing breakfasts and craft activities for local primary and junior school children and their parents/carers. We would like to say a very big

thank you to all our volunteers for their support and their willingness to help.

Following a generous donation we have also been able to encourage reading by giving a reading book to each child to take home.

We are very grateful too for all the donations of food we have received and to Waitrose for their generous gift.

We would like to continue to give books to the children and wondered if you have any as new books suitable for children of primary and junior school age which you no longer need we would love to receive them. Please telephone Elinor on 01275 390355 so we can either arrange to have them collected or suggest a delivery time.

Many Thanks

T

THE JOHN WESLEY CHAPEL, BRISTOL
– THE NEW ROOM

The New Room is adopting new branding as the example here :

Opening hours 11.00 am – 3.00 pm Monday to Saturday (Cafe open at 10.00 am)

An evening of folk Americana
with Bristol-based Magpie22

On Saturday 11th September, Magpie22 will perform a selection of original compositions, covers and spiritual songs reflecting the themes of travel and the sea.

Their songs are original, fun, thought provoking and catchy and they are fast becoming one to watch. BBC radio Bristol's Adam Crowther loved their songs and likened them to KT Tunstall's acoustic hits; BBC radio Somerset's Luke Knight recently did an in-depth interview with Dawn and played their latest single, "Crossroads" saying it was a great tune and that he really admired



MAGPIE22 Saturday 11th September 2021, 7.30pm (doors 7pm, cafe open from 6.30pm) Adult £12.50 / Concession £10



MARKING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY
OF FRANCIS ASBURY'S HISTORIC
JOURNEY TO THE USA

*A portrait of Francis Asbury,
reproduced with the permission of the
Trustees of John Wesley's Chapel*

This autumn marks 250 years since Francis Asbury sailed from Pill, near Bristol, to Philadelphia, having been commissioned by John Wesley as a travelling preacher. Asbury went on to lead the Methodist movement in America for over 30 years.

Starting life with little education and from a humble background as an apprentice in the industrial West Midlands, Francis Asbury went on to become a major influence in the USA, and where he is still revered, over two centuries on.

Francis Asbury grew up in Sandwell in the West Midlands, his childhood home now the location of the Bishop Asbury Cottage Museum. Barbara Easton, Vice-President of the Methodist Church, who lived in the same area for over 40 years, has written of her admiration for Francis Asbury:

“Why am I such a fan of Asbury? I think it's because, by rights, he was someone that on-one should ever have heard of. Most things in life were stacked against him – he was an apprentice nail-maker with little education. Yet he was fired up by the faith that he found and this gave him an energy which nothing could stop. He didn't have a lot of learning, but he studied (and kept studying) to get the

education he needed. At a time when most people didn't travel far, he went round and round the preaching circuit of the growing, challenging towns encouraging people to find a transformative faith like his. He was said to be an extra-ordinary preacher'. He didn't always have great health or confidence, but he didn't let that define him or what he could do for the church. He put up his hand and said, 'Here am I. Send me.'"

The Methodist Church in Britain and the United Methodist Church have planned a series of events on both sides of the Atlantic coinciding with Asbury's voyage to the USA. The UK events are:

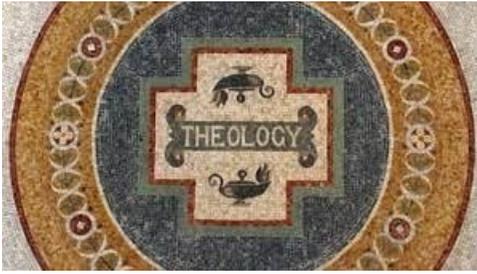
- A concert on Saturday 11th September evening at the New Room, Bristol, the oldest Methodist building in the world: Magpie22, a Bristol band specialising in Americana music, will perform a programme of specially selected songs, to celebrate the partnership with the US. This will be open to the public, with tickets for sale
- A service on Sunday 12th September, which will look at the call on Asbury's life, his response, and the cost of following that call. The service is invitation only (due to social distancing restrictions). The Vice President, Barbara Easton, will be in attendance and it will be live streamed

In addition the Methodist Church in Britain will launch a series of digital resources to coincide with the September celebrations on the themes of vocation, rural ministry, itinerancy and journaling. Sarah Hollingdale, Heritage Officer for the Methodist Church, said:

We wanted to bring some of the key themes of Francis Asbury's life into a contemporary context and offer resources for a period of reflection during the weeks between his embarkation and arrival in Philadelphia."

During September and October video resources will be released by the United Methodist Church and a number of events are planned in late October at Historic St George's United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, the oldest continuously used Methodist Church in the USA.

Anyone interested in attending the service on 12th September should email the Connexional Heritage Officer, Sarah Hollingdale - hollingdales@methodistchurch.org.uk



THURSDAY GOD TALK

Do you want to think more deeply about your faith? Are you interested in helping others to think theologically about their beliefs and practices as Christians? Do you lead worship, bible study

groups or fellowship groups? If so - you will not want to miss this opportunity to enrich your understanding of Christian theology, covering a variety of topics, in conversation with others.

Over the next Connexional year there will be nine sessions, approximately once a month, with three in a term. Each session will include some study material for you to reflect on in your own time (should take about 1 hour) and an online Zoom conversation in the evening lasting 1 1/2 hours. It is will be helpful you attend all three sessions in a term as they will link together, and hopefully provide different perspectives across a subject area.

Who is talking? The session will be curated and facilitated by Dr Wendy Allen, Regional Learning Network Officer, with additional input from invited contributors on particular topics ... but also yourselves in conversation with the material, and with others in the group.

Programme - Thursday Evenings 7.30 – 9.00pm

23 September: God Talk? – some limits and possibilities for theological conversation.

21 October: Seeking God – where might we look for our sources for God Talk?

25 November: The Word of God – a foothills walk exploring God's self disclosure.

20 January: Humankind – considering some Christian understandings of human nature

17 February: Sorrow & Sinning – a conversation with Luke 15.

17 March: A cross in the heart of God – thinking about the passion and resurrection

26 May: "In memory of me" – Patterning our communal gathering

23 June: From glory to glory – What is our hope?

21 July: Anything you Ask? – Reflections on prayer

Please sign up for the first session using [Eventbrite SW Learning Network - Thursday "God-Talk" Session One Registration, Thu 23 Sep 2021 at 19:30 | Eventbrite](#)

Although this EVENTBRITE link is only a booking for the first session, please note the expectation is attendees make a personal commitment at this stage to attend the first three sessions.

DEVASTATION IN HAITI

Reporting the situation in Afghanistan has obscured the huge disaster in Haiti. The Methodist Relief Agency "All We Can" says:

A powerful earthquake that struck Haiti's Southern Peninsula has claimed more than a thousand lives, with the death toll still climbing. Many more have been injured.



All We Can and the Methodist Church in Britain have launched a Joint Appeal, after together assessing the likely response needs.

Graeme Hodge, All We Can CEO said, "Our joint response with the Methodist Church in Britain, to deliver life-saving inputs through local partners who are there already, means aid can be deployed quickly. The first five days after a quake are when lives are saved, or lost. We're been speaking with local actors, and invite anybody wishing to support the response to give now."

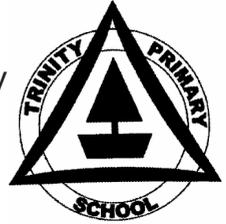
Across the region, large-scale damage has been caused to a majority of churches and hotels. The Methodist church in the Jeremie area is among buildings affected.

As the Methodist Church in Britain and All We Can together launch a joint response, please give, and join us in praying for the initial assessment and early response. You can donate on-line at www.allwecan.org.uk

PRAYERS

As the new school term starts at Gordano School please pray for Becky Cox the chaplain, a post created by the combined efforts and financial support of Portishead Churches. Particularly for what she has been able to set up so far and her future plans.

Also for Trinity Anglican/Methodist School especially for the new pupils entering for the first time.



A prayer for Afghanistan

The Prophet says, You know the plans I have for you, says the Lord; plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to offer you hope and a future.

Gracious and holy God,

We come to you with the situation in Afghanistan heavy on our hearts. It is a situation so complicated, and so fast moving, that it is difficult for us to know what to say or how to think.

We hold before you the people of the country, those who stay and those who flee; those living with terror and afraid for the future; those who, because of this latest turn of events, will never be able to live the fullness of life that is your purpose. We hold all this before you.

We hold open to you the future: the world leaders with a role in shaping what happens next; the many who are becoming refugees and the people who will be called upon to offer them safety and a future; the impact of these local events on our world story. We hold all this open to you.

We hold in your love all those known to us whose lives have been bound up in the recent story of Afghanistan. We think of all those who have served there in our Armed Forces, those who were injured and those who did not return. We hold in our hearts all those for

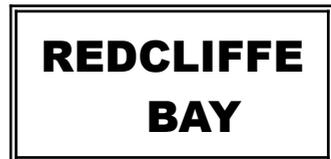
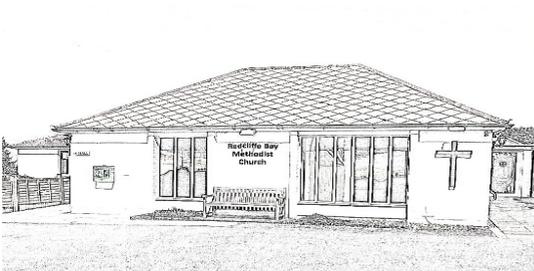
whom this is a time of special grieving and confusion, and those who minister to them. We hold all these in your love.
Rock of ages, at this difficult time we lean into your timelessness.
Turn us, and all people, to your good purposes for your world. Grant courage and wisdom, hope and a future.

Amen

In November 2021, the UK Government will host the UN's key climate talks, COP26. This is a decade-defining opportunity to impact and influence the decisions made.

In June the Young Christian Climate Network YCCN set off on a pilgrimage across the UK, which will arrive at the COP26 in Glasgow in November:

'Climate change is costing the earth, it's pushing countries into debt, we are walking from Cornwall to Glasgow as an act of faith, hope and love, praying for justice.' – Rachel Mander, YCCN Please pray for them and the important COP26 meeting.



Website: www.redcliffebaymethodistchurch.org.uk

NEWS of the FAMILY

The collection, following Norman Castleton's death for "Above and Beyond" amounted to £920. Thank you to all who contributed.

WEEKDAY ACTIVITES

Little Stars Toddler Group have been meeting, using the summer weather to enjoy the Lower Garden, on fine Mondays. Although only planned to go on till the end of July it has continued through August at the parents' request. Thank you to Sue for accepting this load -

which involves washing the toys between sessions and for Derek's help. ***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.***

WEDNESDAY FOCUS



Starting up again! A social evening is planned for 8th September – coffee and chat. Masks optional (except when drinking coffee!) On 22nd September Ray Burgin will give an illustrated talk "On the Box".

A full program for the rest of this year is now available.

BACON BUTTIES

We hope to restart our popular meeting for men on Thursday 7th October.

HARVEST GIFTS

Our Harvest Festival service will be on Sunday, 26th September, at 10.30am, and once again we shall be supporting Bristol Methodist Centre. They would be grateful for the following, please:

Tins of ham, corned beef, baked beans, new potatoes, fruit, carrots, chopped tomatoes, evaporated milk. Tea, coffee and sugar, custard, UHT milk, chocolate bars, crisps, sauces such as curry, Bolognese, and sweet & sour. Finally they also need women's and men's spray deodorant, shampoo, and conditioner.

There will be a box in the porch on Sunday, 19th September, for our gifts, and the Church will be open on Saturday, 25th September, from 10.00 am, if that is more convenient for you. Thank you.



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



MONTHLY WORKING PARTIES

The September Working Party will be on Saturday 18th from 9.30 until 12noon. Come when you are able - you don't have to be there for the whole time slot. No gardening was possible on the 21st August as it was raining,



PORTISHEAD

Office:01275 844917

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



BELL REPLICA

The replica of Portishead's Battery Point bell made and donated by John Osborne, local craftsman of Industrial Modern Furniture to support The Beacon Project, has been touring various locations in the town . Finally on Saturday 7th August the winner of the free draw was made. It was won by Janice Bryant and given to her later the same day. Many donations to the Beacon Hub project were received amounting to £1090. A pleasing result and we are very grateful

to John Osborne for the time and effort he put in to producing such a remarkable replica.

Thank you to John and Karen and all who donated.

CHALLENGE NICK

During August I walked the Gordano Round a beautiful walk around the Gordano Valley following the fantastic book written by Jim Dyer (thank you Mary for the suggestion). You can do the 26 mile walk all in one go or do 4 more manageable sections (this is the route I took).

I have thoroughly enjoyed walking through parts of the valley I didn't even know existed. I have been accompanied by my trusty side-kick Maggie the dog who has bundles of energy and pulled me up several steep hills! If you haven't walked all or part of the Gordano Round walk I would strongly recommend it - you will not be disappointed.



Thank you to those who sponsored me on the walk. If you would like to sponsor my 26 mile hike then please put your donation in an envelope and mark it 'Challenge Nick - Gordano Round Walk'

Here's an update of what's happening over the next few months:

September - I will be learning to ride a horse! Maybe you could sponsor me for each jump I successfully tackle.

October - I will be knitting a scarf which will be auctioned off.

November - I have been challenged to learn how to play netball by the Portishead Pirates netball team and then take part in a charity match.

December - You choose! I'll be asking you to suggest something for me to do as I finish off this little challenge to raise money for the redevelopment at High Street.

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will be back in September, date and meeting place will be given in the notice sheet. I am looking forward to seeing you

Anne



BUILDING WORKS

The scaffolding is down and the builders are finishing. There's still much to do in furnishing the cafe area and stowing items in the new storage areas. Hopefully all will be completed by the end of the month.

POSTSCRIPTS

A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other: "You stay here. I'll go on a head."

I wondered why the cricket ball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.

A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: "Keep off the Grass".

The midget fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.

The soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.

A backward poet writes inverse.

In a democracy, it's your vote that counts. In feudalism, it's your count that votes.

When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion

If you jumped off the bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine.

A vulture boards an airplane, carrying two dead raccoons. The stewardess looks at him and says, "I'm sorry, sir! Only one carrion allowed per passenger."

Two fish swim into a concrete wall. One turns to the other and says "Dam!"

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.

Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, "I've lost my electron". The other says "Are you sure?" The first replies, "Yes, I'm positive."

Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocain during a root canal? His goal: transcend dental medication.

There was the person who sent ten puns to friends, with the hope that at least one of the puns would make them laugh. No pun in ten did.

Author unknown

*Please pass copy for the October issue to:
Ray Burgin, 11 Hillcrest Rd. Portishead BS20 8HS
Tel. 844115 e-mail rayburgin@hotmail.co.uk
by **SUNDAY 19th September***