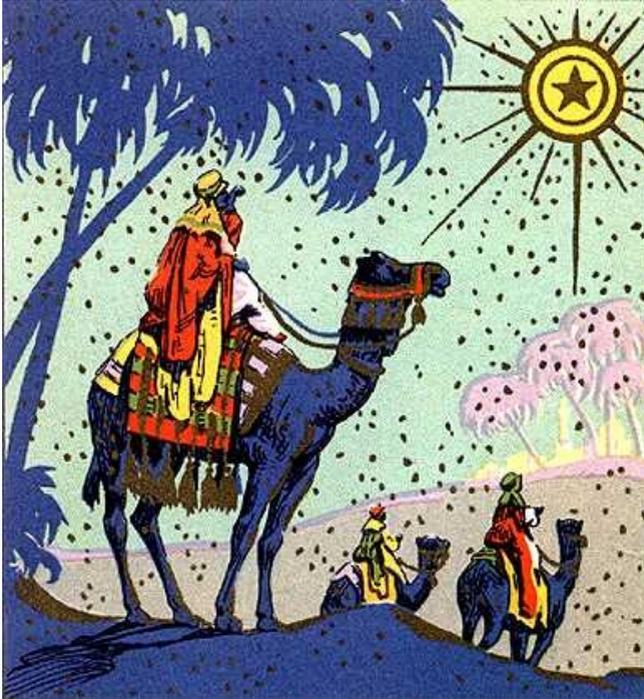


**DECEMBER 2019 and JANUARY 2020**

# **TOGETHER**



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

*Minister: Revd Nick Moxon*  
*Office 01275 844917 Manse 01275 398881*  
*e-mail: [nickmoxon@btinternet.com](mailto:nickmoxon@btinternet.com)*

## **From Rev Nick Moxon**

A recent headline caught my eye. 'Why Christmas can be a let-down'. The article shared some thoughts as to why, for many, the festive season doesn't live up to expectations. After months of planning, preparing and anticipating the season leaves people feeling cold. The reason suggested? It's because we put our own pleasure at the heart of it. The author of the article, Anthony Sheldon, said we may put great thought into the presents we are going to give others, but we feel that the presents we receive lack the same thoughtfulness.

I don't know if that's completely true. Yes, there may be some disappointments but generally the people I come across (both church and non-church) aren't that self-absorbed! They look for opportunities to give more than they do to receive.

For those who have self pleasure at the heart of Christmas Sheldon has an answer - others. Giving of your time and, sometimes, resources to other people makes us feel good. He suggests we need to place other people, not ourselves, at the heart of our entire Christmas experience.

Over my time here in Portishead I have been pleasantly surprised with the number of people from the church and wider community who want to offer their time at the Christmas Day lunch for example and I've discovered many different ways in which people can give to others.

But maybe we could do more. Maybe we could put ourselves out a little more and actively seek those who we haven't seen for a while, a friend or neighbour, and invite them to a meal. Maybe we could drop off a plate of mince pies to someone on your street. Maybe we could buy a gift for someone in need known that there will be nothing given in return. Maybe we could see if there are any roles that need filling for the Christmas Day lunch at church. There are many small but significant ways in which we could shear some festive cheer this year. But it's more than that. In actively serving others we are sharing the love and blessings of Jesus who was given to us and came to live

amongst us sharing all the love and blessings of heaven with all people.

This December and January could be the time when you put others at the heart of your life in a new way. And may God bless you if you do.

God bless.

**Nick**

# CHURCH CALENDAR



## **December**

- 1st Sunday 10.30 am Morning Service (Portishead) Rev Nick Moxon  
10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay) Rev David Sharp  
3.30pm Messy Christmas (Redcliffe Bay) Rev Nick Moxon  
6.30 pm Ecumenical Advent Carol Service (Portishead)}
- 2nd Monday 9.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group (Redcliffe Bay)  
2.00 pm Hymn Singing at The Harbourside Care Centre
- 3rd Tuesday 9.30 am Prayers; 10.00 am Coffee and Chat (Portishead)  
2.30 pm Hymn Singing (Cambrian Lodge)
- 4th Wednesday 9.30 - 11.30 am Wesley Toddlers (Portishead)  
8.00 pm Wednesday Focus (Redcliffe Bay)
- 5th Thursday 10.00 – 11.30 am Baycon Butty Club (Redcliffe Bay)  
7.30 pm Choir Practice (Portishead)
- 7th Saturday 9.30 -10.00 am Prayers for the World and Community  
9.30 am – 1.00 pm Prayer Ministry Training (Portishead)  
10.00 am – 12.00 Coffee and Chat (Portishead)
- 8th Sunday 10.30 am Morning Service (Portishead) LA  
10.30 am Holy Communion (Redcliffe Bay)  
Rev Heather Noel-Smith and Rev Nick Moxon
- 9th Monday 9.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group (Redcliffe Bay) 1
- 10th Tuesday 9.30 am Prayers; 10.00 am Coffee and Chat (Portishead)  
10.00 am Holy Communion (Redcliffe Bay) Rev Nick Moxon  
10.30 am Coffee for All (Redcliffe Bay)
- 11th Wednesday 9.30 - 11.30 am Wesley Toddlers (Portishead)
- 12th Thursday 1.00 pm Victorian Evening preparations (Portishead)  
7.30 pm Choir Practice (Portishead)
- 13th Friday 5.30 – 7.00 pm Junior Youth Club (Portishead)

- 14th Saturday 10.00 am – 12.00 Coffee and Chat (Portishead)
- 15th Sunday 10.30 am Nativity and Gift Service (Portishead)  
Rev Nick Moxon  
10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay) Mrs Jane Mason  
3.00 -7.30 pm Open for Victorian Evening (Portishead)
- 16th Monday 9.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group (Redcliffe Bay)  
2.00 pm Hymn Singing at Waverley Court
- 17th Tuesday 9.30 am Prayers; 10.00 am Coffee and Chat (Portishead)  
2.00 pm Hymn Singing at Norewood Lodge
- 18th Wednesday 2.30 pm Wednesday Focus (Redcliffe Bay)  
7.15 pm Worship Through Creative Movement  
(Portishead)
- 19th Thursday 7.30 pm Choir Practice (Portishead)
- 21st Saturday 10.00 am – 12.00 Coffee and Chat (Portishead)
- 22nd Sunday 10.30 am Holy Communion (Portishead) Rev Nick Moxon  
10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay) Rev David Harris  
4.00pm Carols by Candlelight(Redcliffe Bay) Rev Nick Moxon  
6.30 pm Carol Service (Portishead) Rev Nick Moxon
- 24th Tuesday 11.15 pm Holy Communion (Portishead) Rev Peter Mortlock  
11.15 pm Holy Communion (Redcliffe Bay) Rev Nick Moxon
- 25th Wednesday CHRISTMAS DAY  
9.30 am Christmas Celebration (Redcliffe Bay)  
Rev Nick Moxon  
10.30 am Christmas Celebration (Portishead) Rev Nick Moxon
- 28th Saturday 10.00 am – 12.00 Coffee and Chat (Portishead)
- 29th Sunday 10.30 am Morning Service (Portishead) LA  
10.30 am Café and Carols (Redcliffe Bay)
- 31st Tuesday 9.30 am Prayers; 10.00 am Coffee and Chat (Portishead)
- January**
- 2nd Thursday 10.00 – 11.30 am Baycon Butty Club (Redcliffe Bay)  
7.30 pm Choir Practice (Portishead)
- 4th Saturday 9.30 -10.00 am Prayers for the World and Community  
10.00 am – 12.00 Coffee and Chat (Portishead)
- 5th Sunday 10.30 am Morning Service (Portishead) Rev Peter Mortlock  
10.30 am Covenant Service with Holy Communion  
(Redcliffe Bay) Rev Nick Moxon
- 6th Monday 9.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group (Redcliffe Bay)  
2.00 pm Hymn Singing at The Harbourside Care Centre
- 7th Tuesday 9.30 am Prayers; 10.00 am Coffee and Chat (Portishead)

	2.30 pm Hymn Singing (Cambrian Lodge)
<u>8th Wednesday</u>	9.30 - 11.30 am Wesley Toddlers (Portishead) 8.00 pm Wednesday Focus (Redcliffe Bay)
<u>9th Thursday</u>	7.30 pm Choir Practice (Portishead)
<u>11th Saturday</u>	10.00 am – 12.00 Coffee and Chat (Portishead)
<u>12th Sunday</u>	10.00 am Covenant Service with Holy Communion (Portishead) Rev Nick Moxon 10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay) Rev Heather Noel-Smith
<u>13th Monday</u>	9.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group (Redcliffe Bay)
<u>14th Tuesday</u>	9.30 am Prayers; 10.00 am Coffee and Chat (Portishead) 10.00 am Holy Communion (Redcliffe Bay) Rev Nick Moxon 10.30 am Coffee for All (Redcliffe Bay)
<u>15th Wednesday</u>	9.30 - 11.30 am Wesley Toddlers (Portishead)
<u>16th Thursday</u>	7.30 pm Choir Practice (Portishead)
<u>17th Friday</u>	5.30 – 7.00 pm Junior Youth Club (Portishead)
<u>18th Saturday</u>	9.30 am – 1.00 pm Prayer Ministry Training (Portishead) 10.00 am – 12.00 Coffee and Chat (Portishead)
<u>19th Sunday</u>	UNITED ECUMENICAL SERVICE (St. Peter's) 10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay) Mr Martin Buckley
<u>20th Monday</u>	9.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group (Redcliffe Bay)
<u>21st Tuesday</u>	9.30 am Prayers; 10.00 am Coffee and Chat (Portishead)
<u>22nd Wednesday</u>	9.30 - 11.30 am Wesley Toddlers (Portishead) 7.15 pm Worship Through Creative Movement (Portishead) 8.00 pm Wednesday Focus (Redcliffe Bay)
<u>23rd Thursday</u>	7.30 pm Choir Practice (Portishead)
<u>25th Saturday</u>	10.00 am – 12.00 Coffee and Chat (Portishead)
<u>26th Sunday</u>	10.30 am Morning Service (Portishead) Mr Martin Buckley 10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay) Rev Nick Moxon
<u>27th Monday</u>	9.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group (Redcliffe Bay)
<u>28th Tuesday</u>	9.30 am Prayers; 10.00 am Coffee and Chat (Portishead) 10.30 am Coffee for All (Redcliffe Bay) 11.00 am Hymn Singing at Waverley Court 2.00 pm Hymn Singing at Norewood Lodge
<u>29th Wednesday</u>	9.30 - 11.30 am Wesley Toddlers (Portishead)
<u>30th Thursday</u>	7.30 pm Choir Practice (Portishead)

## GENERAL NEWS

### SEASONAL SERVICES

- Sunday 1st December 3.30pm Messy Christmas (Redcliffe Bay)  
6.30 pm United Advent Carols (Portishead)
- Sunday 15th December 10.30 am Nativity and Gift Service (Portishead)
- Sunday 22nd December 4.00pm Carols by Candlelight (Redcliffe Bay)  
6.30 pm Carol Service (Portishead)
- Tuesday 24th December 11.15 pm Holy Communion (Portishead)  
11.15 pm Holy Communion (Redcliffe Bay)
- Wednesday 25th December 9.30 am Christmas Celebration (Redcliffe Bay)  
10.30 Christmas Celebration (Portishead)
- Sunday 19th January United Ecumenical Service in the Week  
of Prayer for Christian Unity

### CLEVEDON AND DISTRICT FOOD BANK

During the last School Holidays the Food Bank distributed 525 bags of food, supporting 153 children in Clevedon, Nailsea, Portishead and surrounding villages who receive free school meals. They are now embarking on Christmas Hampers and would be grateful if food with suitable 'Use By' dates could be sent to them by the first week in December. In particular: Cake, Chocolates, Sweets, Tinned Ham, Christmas Crackers, Tinned Fruit, Fancy Biscuits, Tinned Salmon, Christmas Puddings, Tinned Custard, Savoury Biscuits, Hot Chocolate Mince Pies and Toiletries.

### BRISTOL METHODIST CENTRE

As usual BMC are asking for items to give to their clients for Christmas. Can you help by providing any of these? Chocolate bars, Socks (warm), Hats, Gloves, Waterproof coats, Waterproof Trousers, Long Johns, base layers (thermal wear), Puzzle books, Shaving foam, combs, Cup-a-soups

## MEDITATION AND PRAYERS

**Read, pray, reflect and live your faith during Advent – One for each week.** *These pages can be detached if you wish.*

**AN ADVENT JOURNEY** Bible readings for  
**Advent 1, 1 –7 December** Isaiah 2.1-5 • Romans  
13.11-14 • Matthew 24.36-44

***From past to present, travelling  
hopefully*** by Gill Page



### **Reflection**

It's an old joke: What do you think of nostalgia?

Answer: Well, it's not what it was!

On Facebook there are many pages for people from a particular place or city to share memories and reminisce about the past. Old photographs are shared, and participants offer comments about how things used to be and how things have changed over the years. This is all well and good – up to a point! On one such page, focused on a particular city in the UK, a recurring issue concerns the Old Market Square at the heart of the city. Every time an old photograph of this area appears, one can predict the response with great accuracy. People bewail the loss of the trees (although there are still trees), the old fountains (there are new ones), and the removal of benches (seating is now in the stone surrounds). It was a lovely open space where people met. But they complain about, and/or fail to commend, the many new uses of the square, including a vibrant Christmas market complete with ice-skating rink; and a 'beach' in the summer providing families with a taste of the seaside (many miles away). Taken to extremes nostalgia can bog us down in the past, preventing us appreciating newer innovations and delights.

In Advent we are called to remember the past event of Jesus Christ entering our world and to look forward to his second reappearance in the future. The first of these is relatively easy as we prepare for the familiarity of the Christmas story, the nativity plays and the carols, the celebrations and the memories of Christmases past. The second confronts us with the unknown and with the possibility of change to our familiar world, and within ourselves.

In Advent we look back upon the good experiences of the past and then look forward, moving on in our journey. We cannot forget past experiences, but perhaps we can choose how we respond to those memories. We can reflect on how our past has shaped us, and how we use that as a base to spring forward in hope and expectation.

## Activities

During this week, look at some old photographs of you and/or your family and friends. Notice the changes between then and now. Some may be difficult or even painful, such as ageing and decreasing mobility or health, or the absence of someone who has died. But others (hopefully) will be more positive (we all have photos of a dodgy hairstyle or outfit!). Make a list – on paper or in your head, as you prefer – of the good things which have happened over the years.

Take a look around your local area and/or take notice of local news items. Consider whether you might be called use your time, skills or resources (including money) to help someone or something (e.g. a local good cause).

## Thoughts and prayer points

Give thanks for all that was good in your past. Pray for anyone who has hurt you. Pray that God might help you move towards forgiveness and reconciliation. Think about a person who has helped and supported you in some way. How might their example encourage you to help others? Thank God for sending Jesus into the world. Give thanks for joyful days, and let them give you hope of more to come.

## Listen

**Music to help you reflect on this week's Advent theme.** Dear God (Piano), Hunter Hayes on Dear God (Piano)  
[bit.ly/youtube-deargod](https://bit.ly/youtube-deargod)

## Questions for reflection

What is your immediate response to this image? How much of our lives lie 'below the surface'? What difference might it make if we were more open with one another – and God?



**A prayer** Lord, be with us on our journey this week. Help us to value the past and to trust you for today and tomorrow. Amen.

## **Bible readings for Advent 2 8-14**

**December** Isaiah 11.1-10 • Romans 15.4-13 • Matthew 3.1-12

***Repent and bear good fruit*** by Gill Page

### **Reflection**

I've always envied people who have lived all their lives in one place. Unlike me, they have probably managed to keep contact with childhood friends and feel rooted in their locality. Gardeners know that, to see a good crop of flowers or fruit, plants need to develop healthy root systems. And that takes time and patience – in contrast to some children I heard about who pulled seedlings up every day to see how the roots were doing! Those of us who have frequently moved home for work or family reasons perhaps need to think about how our roots can develop and grow, even when we are far from the place we might consider as 'home'. In my family, we have always tried to make the best of each situation we are in, knowing it to be temporary – home is where we are now. Returning to the garden analogy, another danger for plants is that they can become 'pot-bound' – that is, with roots so tightly compressed and constrained that further growth is stunted.

In our spiritual journeying, we need to retain a sense of rootedness if we are to bear fruit. We need to allow roots to develop – through prayer, Bible study, worship and good deeds. But we also need to prevent ourselves becoming spiritually pot-bound, by continually making room for growth – for example, by challenging our prejudices and preferences.

In this week's Gospel reading, John the Baptist calls people to repent, to turn away from thoughts and deeds which hamper growth, and to return to, or to discover afresh, or even for the first time, the roots of their faith. John points to Jesus, the one who will accept the fruits we offer and winnow out what is unhelpful in our lives.

### **Activities**

Sow some seeds (e.g. some cress seeds on damp kitchen paper) – or something a bit slower growing that you can nurture as the winter progresses, ready for planting in spring. At the same time, commit yourself to a new activity that will help you to grow spiritually. Assess your personal progress as you monitor that of your seeds!



If possible, get in touch with a friend you haven't seen for some time, and find a way for the roots and fruits of your friendship to grow.

### **Thoughts and prayer points**

Remember a time when you felt particularly close to God. What was it about that time that you found helpful?

Read Matthew 7.15-20. What fruits you are displaying in your life? Give thanks for all that keeps you rooted in your faith.

Spend a few minutes in silence each day, allowing God to draw close to you and you to God.

Remember some of the people who nurtured your faith. Could you help someone else to grow their faith?

### **Listen**

#### **Music to help you reflect on this week's Advent theme.**

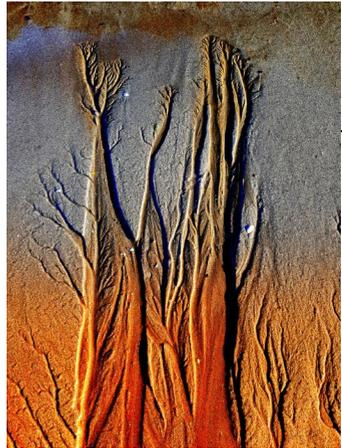
Coventry Carol, Pentatonix on Pentatonix Christmas

### **Questions for reflection**

What do you see in this image?

Good roots, good fruit – how can you tell your roots are good?

What are the signs of good fruit in your community at the moment?



that

### **A prayer**

*Lord, we thank you for the roots of our faith. Strengthen those roots within us, so that we may bear good and abundant fruit. Amen*

## **Bible readings for Advent 3 15-21**

**December** Isaiah 35.1-10 • James 5.7-10  
• Matthew 11.2-11

***Acknowledging doubt and despair*** by  
Gill Page

### **Reflection**

When I spend time with the Taize, a community in France we often sing a song that speaks of Jesus as our 'interior light' and asks that he won't let our doubts and our darkness speak to us. It is so easy dwell on doubts, darkness and despair, especially when we are awake in the night and finding sleep elusive. How comforting it is, then, to find that we are not alone at such times. Even the great saints of God, including John the Baptist, could be – and were – assailed by doubts and times of despair.

The prophet Isaiah understood these feelings. He recognised that there are times when our hearts feel like barren deserts and are waiting for the chance to blossom again. Sometimes our circumstances make us feel dark and cold and barren. For example, bereavement can make us feel like this – as can other kinds of loss, such as loss of friends, of familiar surroundings, of a job, or possessions or a sense of identity. It is easy to misunderstand these normal and natural feelings and to let even more darkness creep in, perhaps in the form of guilt. We tell ourselves that 'Christians shouldn't feel like this', so we must be a poor Christian – or perhaps not even a Christian at all.

Look what Jesus suggests as a remedy for John's attack of doubt. He asks him to see what the disciples have seen, all the good things that have been happening. He wants John to extend his vision beyond the confines of his present prison, and he wants his followers to share all the good news that they can.

Advent is all about the coming of the Light of Christ. It is that light which enables us to see things as they really are. It is that light which can enter our darkness and dispel it to the margins. We pray for that light to illuminate our hearts and minds.

### **Activities**

Light a candle or tealight in a darkened room. Watch how it flickers and falters, but doesn't go out. Think about your faith. Does it seem almost to



go out at times, and at other times feels as if it is burning strongly? Remember that this variation is natural and normal – it was also the experience of John the Baptist!

Light a few more candles/tealights alongside the first one. Notice how much brighter the light is now, and how much greater the warmth. And how much more steady – when one candle stutters, another will be burning strong and clear. This is a lovely image of how we can support one another to overcome the darkness in us all. When you feel unable to pray, others will be praying for you – and you will have your turn to pray for them.

**Thoughts and prayer points**

Do I recognise when my faith is fluctuating? What can I do to rekindle the delight I once had in it?

What can I do to encourage others when they are struggling in their Christian experience?

Think about your local community: where is light shining? (Consider both church and non-church settings.)

Look for light in the darkest of news item – e.g. when people come together to help each other.

Give thanks for the Advent light, and for the promise that Jesus is always with us. When you open the curtains and it's light outside, thank God for the light which comes again and again, in the mornings and in our souls.

**Listen**

**Music to help you reflect on this week's Advent theme.**

Paris (Refuge), All Sons & Daughters on Paris  
[bit.ly/youtube-paris](https://bit.ly/youtube-paris)

**Questions for reflection**

What do you see when you look in the mirror?

When do you experience doubt and despair?

What good things would you like to share?



**A prayer** *Lord Jesus, light of the world, flood our hearts with your light, warmth and love this Advent. Help us to pass that light on to others so that, together, we may conquer all darkness. Amen.*

## **Bible readings for Advent 4 22-24**

**December** Isaiah 7.10-16 • Romans 1.1-7 •  
Matthew 1.18-25

***Changing your mind*** by Gill Page

### **Reflection**

It is often said that it is a woman's prerogative to change her mind – a sweeping generalisation! In this week's Gospel, it is a man who changes his mind. Joseph had made his mind up to turn Mary away. It was the easiest way to a quiet life! But he changed his mind when he realised that God had a very different plan. We sometimes have very fixed minds about whom we should accept into our Christian community. Ideally, a church should reflect the wider community around it. Think about that for a moment. On that basis, who is missing from our Christian community? Are we prepared to accept, without judgment, those who are richer or poorer, those of differing ethnic backgrounds or sexuality, those who are outcasts from society – all of whom are still part of our wider community?

During the last few years, those of us who live in the UK have experienced all the troubles of the Brexit process. Families have disagreed among themselves. Friendships have been severed. Some people have been made to feel unloved and unwelcome. When views are strongly held it can be impossible to change our minds. But, leaving the politics to one side for a moment, we could all try to change hatred for love, intolerance for acceptance and hostility for welcome. Could that be our Advent challenge this year?

### **Activities**

Practise the hospitality of smiling this week: smile at someone on the bus, or someone who visits your home. It could become catching!

Bring to mind someone whom you find it difficult to get along with. Write their initial of their first name in the margin of this sheet. Pray for that person every day this week. Pray that God will show you how to develop a positive relationship with that person. See if you change your mind as a result.



## Thoughts and prayer points

Reflect on how it feels to be left out. Try to remember a time when this was your experience.

Have you been challenged to change your mind about a person or group of people?

What might have happened if Joseph had not changed his mind about Mary?

Are first impressions always the correct ones?

Remember that changing your mind isn't always a weakness; it can take great courage and need a lot of strength of mind.

## Listen

### Music to help you reflect on this week's Advent theme.

Starts With Me, TobyMac feat. Aaron Cole on The Elements

[bit.ly/youtube-tobymac](http://bit.ly/youtube-tobymac)

## Questions for reflection

What do you see in this oil painting?

What was the last significant risk you took?

When is it okay to change your mind?



## A prayer

*Lord, help us to hear your voice as Joseph did. Give us the courage to change our minds, if needed, and to do your will. Amen.*

## More GENERAL NEWS

### JOHN WESLEY'S CHAPEL - THE NEW ROOM

*Book Launch:* David Sheppard – *Batting for the Poor* the official biography of the celebrated cricketer and bishop by Andrew Bradstock. Thursday 5th December at 5.00 pm. Tickets, which include light refreshments are priced at £20, which includes a signed copy of the book, or £5 for admission only, from Eventbrite [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk)



*Join us for our annual Carols by Candlelight on Wednesday 18th December at 1pm and 6pm , followed by mince pies.* Singing Charles Wesley's famous Christmas hymn "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" in the building where it was originally sung in the 18th Century, alongside other traditional and contemporary carols to celebrate the Christmas Story.

All are welcome. We hope to see you there.

*Free lunchtime recital of traditional 18th Century music and carols from West Gallery Quire, Bristol Harmony.*

'Bristol Harmony' was formed in 2007 with the intention of being a small, high-quality, democratic group, focused on the music of Bristol and the West of England. A group of singers and instrumentalists who meet regularly to rediscover and recreate the vigorous music of 18th and 19th century English village choirs. Friday 20th December, 1.30pm. Free with retiring collection.

The New Room is open Monday to Saturday 10.30 am to 4.00 pm all year round, with a short service of Holy communion on Fridays at 1.00pm. Entry is free although donations are welcome.

*One of the BBC Songs of Praise programmes (BBC1 usually 1.15 pm Sundays) will include some parts recorded in the New Room.*

### PRAYER MINISTRY

Two training sessions have been arranged with Rod Ingrouille who will lead us through different aspects of prayer and how we may be led to pray for other people and ourselves.

The training will be over 2 Saturday mornings - 7th of December and 18th of January from 9.30am-1pm and will be at High Street. If you are interested in attending please let Nick know.

### ***God in Love Unites Us - Marriage & Relationships Report***

Many of you will know that the church has been in a period of discussion and discernment regarding it's view on marriage and relationships. A report was produced by a small task group and presented to the Methodist Conference in the summer of 2019. It was agreed that the discussions should carry on with a final vote on the church's stance at the Methodist Conference of 2020.

The report entitled 'God in Love Unites Us' highlights different areas that the church needs to look at i.e. cohabitation, living in relationships, living with different sexualities and marriage itself. The main area of the report that many people have commented on is same-sex marriage. The church has now produced the report in a user friendly format along with a supporting study guide for people to access. If you would like to look at these then log onto [www.methodist.org.uk/MandR19](http://www.methodist.org.uk/MandR19).

I will be leading some further discussions on this in February/March time when we can use the study questions to help us grapple with some of the main issues. The dates for these sessions will be advertised well in advance and will be open for anyone to attend.

If you have any questions about the process please get in touch with Nick.

### ***Can You help at Trinity School***

Trinity School have asked if the church can help by getting alongside pupils who need some one-to-one time.

Working alongside Learning Mentor and Oasis lead Claire Taylor the volunteers will be assigned one child who they will commit to during the school year to build a positive relationship and the child's self esteem.



The school is especially looking for adults who might be able to help in the following areas:

- Good with animals (cleaning hutches etc)

- Reading with a child
- Repairing & creating (repairing hutches, making bird boxes etc)

Volunteers would need to have the following attributes:

- Patience
- Compassionate & Caring
- Reliable
- Show empathy
- Able to work as part of a team
- A love of children!

The time commitment is one hour every week during term time and any initial training and all materials will be provided by the school. Each volunteer would need to have a current DBS (this can be done through the school if you don't have one).

If you are interested and would like to know more please get in touch with Nick Moxon who is co-ordinating this scheme with Claire.

### **John Wesley Day at Trinity School**

On Tuesday 10th of December Trinity School are spending the day exploring Methodism and John Wesley and they'd like you to be involved! If you have an hour or two to spare on that day and would like to come and learn more about John Wesley with the children then please let Nick know.

### **MAKE LUNCH BREAKFAST**

On Tuesday 29th October we held our very first Make Lunch Breakfast for those families who are in need of some help during the school holidays. We were blessed to host four families and were delighted to be able to give them not only a hot breakfast but also lunch which was enjoyed by both families and helpers.

Games were provided for the children and the volunteers at the craft table provided a shadow theatre which was enjoyed by children and adults alike, together with everything that was needed to make dried leaf pictures. A prayer table was also provided and prayer requests were stuck onto a pumpkin and prayed for at a meeting held the following week.

It was a time of real blessing for everyone and we very much look forward to hosting more families in our forthcoming Breakfasts.

We have now received news from Waitrose that thanks to you all who supported us by donating your green tokens we will be receiving a cheque for £354 to cover our ongoing costs.

We would like to thank everyone for their generosity in volunteering to help, all your prayers and also for all the donations we have received.  
Our next Breakfast will be held on Thursday, 2nd January, 2020 between 10.00 am and noon.

*Elinor*



**PORTISHEAD**

*Office:01275 844917*

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

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

### HELP NEEDED

We are planning to do the table decorations to sell at the Victorian evening on the afternoon of Thursday 12th December . PLEASE can we have offers of help!! Also any greenery , especially holly with berries on. We will be at the church from 1pm. No experience needed, Thank you .

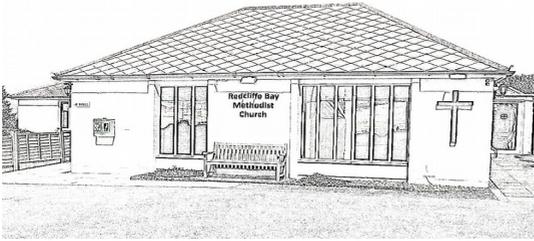
### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We wish everyone all the blessings of the Christmas season.  
4th December Rev Nick Moxon  
11th December Carol Service at Brunel Court .Please note the time of the service - it will be held at 11.30 am  
18th December Carols with the nursery children  
2020  
15th January Malcolm King  
22nd January Philip Baldwin  
29th January Bring and Buy

*Gwen*

### YOUTH EVENT

The next meetings will be on Friday 13th December and 17th January. 5.30 – 7.00 pm - for primary age children. All Welcome.



# **REDCLIFFE BAY**

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

## INVITATION SERVICES

The Harvest Festival and Remembrance Sunday Services were invitation services. It was encouraging to see new faces on both occasions. Thank you to all who delivered Invitation Cards in local roads. The next Invitation Service will be 22nd December.

## CAFE AND CAROLS

The morning service on 29th December will be an informal one, with tea /coffee served at tables whilst favourite hymns and carols are chosen and sung by attendees. Volunteers are needed to make and serve hot drinks. Please speak to Philip Tel. 843593 if you can help.

## CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

We were pleased to welcome Rev Christine Legge, who grew up in our Church, to lead the Anniversary Service. It was good that Marjorie and Brian were there too.

## BAYCON BUTTY CLUB

The next meetings for men will be on Thursday 5th December and 2nd January. Any time between 10.00 am – 11.30 am.

## WEDNESDAY FOCUS

There is a special event on 4th December: Philip Baldwin and John Cammack will play piano solos and duets for piano and organ under the title Two's Company.

Our traditional Carols and Mince Pies will be on the afternoon of 18th December, starting at 2.30 pm.

The first January meeting will be on 8th when Mary Dyer will be running a Beetle Drive. On the 22nd we have a visit from Steve Loader, the Bristol Port Chaplain.

All welcome.



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



### ***POSTSCRIPTS***

*It was a cold and misty Christmas morning in the very depth of winter after a heavy fall of snow and only Farmer Evans and the Rev Joseph Lancaster managed to arrive at the church for the morning service.*

*'Well,' said the Vicar laconically, 'I guess there's no point in having a service today.'*

*'Well that's not how I see it.' said Farmer Evans smartly. 'If only one cow turns up at feeding time, I still feed it.'*

A mother named Carol Christmas had her family festive celebrations in a stable! What happened was Carol was forced out of her home by the summer floods which swept across the UK in 2007. Mrs Christmas, said she has been preparing to take part in 'her own nativity' since her cottage in Bushley, near Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, UK, was wrecked by the deluge in July. Her family stayed in a neighbour's stable conversion for months while repair work is carried out on their home.

*Please pass copy for the February issue to:*

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*by **SUNDAY 19th January***