

MAY 2018

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

I hadn't heard of the 'Windrush' generation until a week ago. Let me qualify that - I didn't know that that was the name for the men, women and children who travelled over to this country just after the 2nd world war. I have met a couple of grandchildren of the Windrush generation who spoke about the bravery of their grandparents who travelled half way round the world to start a new life in Britain. Many left large families and nice homes and found themselves isolated and in damp, squalid conditions. However they strived to make something of their lives even in the face of aggressive racism. And now it's come to light that, due to administrative oversights and ignorance, thousands had been told that they are not regarded as British citizens and many have faced deportation. Stories emerged of people losing their jobs and so their homes, even dying alone and in another country, away from their family & close friends because their paperwork wasn't in order.

This scandal came to light in the public eye around the same time as the 25th anniversary of the brutal murder of Stephen Lawrence on the streets of London. Watching the 3 part documentary on BBC 1 about how Stephen's case was investigated and how long it took for justice for the Lawrence family showed once again how some parts of our society were looked on with suspicion and distaste because they happened to be a different colour.

As I reflected on the Windrush generation and Stephen Lawrence murder I began to wonder how it must feel to be isolated and looked on with suspicion and even viewed as someone who 'doesn't belong'. I'm privileged to come from a white, lower-middle class family and so haven't experienced anything these brothers and sisters of mine have gone through.

And as I reflected a bible passage came to mind, Ephesians chapter 2 verses 12-15:

'...remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace.'

At one time we were all aliens and outcasts yet God brought us all into his family through Jesus Christ. We are all members of God's family - those who we worship alongside each week, those we like and those we dislike, those we have known all our lives and those who are strangers to us, those who are the same as us and those who are completely different to us. ALL people are welcomed into God's family. Sometimes it's easy for us to feel comfortable, safe in the knowledge that 'we're in' and forget those who are viewed with suspicion or not looked at at all.

There are enough verses in the Bible to challenge us to speak out on behalf of those who are outcast and feel excluded. As members of the family of God may we never keep quiet about the mistreatment of others. When we see what happens to others may it break our hearts that our brothers and sisters are being treated fairly and equally.

As we say in one of our liturgies in church

'We are the body of Christ, and **ALL** are members of it.'
May we live out that declaration day by day.

God bless

Nick

CHURCH CALENDAR



May

- 1st Tuesday 9.30 am Prayers; 10.00 am Coffee and Chat (Portishead)
2.30 pm Hymn Singing (Cambrian Lodge)
- 2nd Wednesday 9.30 - 11.30 am Wesley Toddlers (Portishead)
2.30 pm Women's Fellowship (Portishead)
- 3rd Thursday 10.00 am Baycon Butty Club (Redcliffe Bay)
7.30 pm Choir Practice (Portishead)
- 5th Saturday 9.00 am Prayers for the World and Community (Portishead)
10.00 am - 12.00 Coffee and Chat (Portishead)
- 6th Sunday 10.30 am Morning Service (Portishead) Rev Peter Mortlock
10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay) Rev Nick Moxon
- 8th 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)
7.30pm Monthly Discussion Group
(Redcliffe Bay at 150 Merlin Park)
- 9th Wednesday 9.30 - 11.30 am Wesley Toddlers (Portishead)
2.30 pm Women's Fellowship (Portishead)
- 10th Thursday 7.30 pm Choir Practice (Portishead)
- 12th Saturday 10.00 am - 12.00 Coffee and Chat (Portishead)
10.00 am -12.00 Working Party (Portishead)
- 13th Sunday 10.30 am Morning Service (Portishead) Rev Nick Moxon
10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay) Rev David Harris
- 14th Monday 9.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group (Redcliffe Bay)
11.00 am Hymn singing at The Haven
7.30 pm Monthly Discussion Group
(Redcliffe Bay at 150 Merlin Park)
- 15th Tuesday 9.30 am Prayers; 10.00 am Coffee and Chat (Portishead)
- 16th Wednesday 9.30 - 11.30 am Wesley Toddlers (Portishead)
2.30 pm Women's Fellowship (Portishead)
- 17th Thursday 7.30 pm Choir Practice (Portishead)

- 18th Friday 5.30 – 7.00 pm Junior Youth Café (Portishead)
- 19th Saturday 9.30 am - noon Working Party (Redcliffe Bay)
10.00 am - 12.00 Coffee and Chat (Portishead)
- 20th Sunday PENTECOST
10.30 am Morning Service to include Holy Communion (Portishead) Rev Nick Moxon
10.30 am Morning Service to include Holy Communion (Redcliffe Bay) Rev Mandy Briggs
- 21st Monday 9.30 am Little Stars Toddler Group (Redcliffe Bay)
- 22nd Tuesday 10.30 am Coffee for All (Redcliffe Bay)
- 23rd Wednesday 9.30 - 11.30 am Wesley Toddlers (Portishead)
2.30 pm Women's Fellowship (Portishead)
- 24th Thursday 7.30 pm Choir Practice (Portishead)
- 26th Saturday 10.00 am – 12.00 Coffee and Chat (Portishead)
10.30 am Plant , Cake and Book Sale (Redcliffe Bay)
- 27th Sunday 10.30 am Morning Service (Portishead)
10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay) Mrs Jane Mason
- 29th Tuesday 11.00 am Hymn Singing at Waverley Court
2.00 pm Hymn Singing at Norewood Lodge
3.30 – 4.30 pm Hymn Drop-in (Redcliffe Bay)
- 30th Wednesday 2.30 pm Women's Fellowship (Portishead)
- 31st Thursday 7.30 pm Choir Practice (Portishead)

June

- 2nd Saturday 9.00 am Prayers for the World and Community (Portishead)
10.00 am – 12.00 Coffee and Chat (Portishead)
- 3rd Sunday 10.30 am Morning Service (Portishead) Rev Peter Mortlock
10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay) Rev Nick Moxon

GENERAL NEWS



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 13th to 19th MAY

The purpose of this annual appeal is to respond to the urgent needs of the millions of refugees and people who have lost their homes worldwide – either through natural or

man-made disasters. This is our unique way to support poorer communities throughout the world.

Can you please consider joining our loyal team of helpers this year? There are still many roads in Portishead which are not covered by collectors.

If you can spare 2 to 3 hours of your time to deliver and collect envelopes please contact either Jean Campbell at High Street (845952) or Edwin Entwistle at Redcliffe Bay (844470).

It would be wonderful to hit the £10,000 target, having fallen short last year by less than £500.

A STORY FROM CHRISTIAN AID

Vilia and her family lived in Port-au-Prince when the earthquake hit in 2010. Her home was destroyed, and her mother was killed. Vilia went back to her hometown in the south of Haiti with her husband and seven children. But life was a struggle, and they had nowhere safe to stay. Christian Aid's partner KORAL realised how dire Vilia's situation was, and reached out to help her. We built her a new home, one safe and strong enough to stand up to natural disasters.

On that terrifying night in 2016 when Hurricane Matthew hit Haiti, Vilia's house was the only one in her area sturdy enough to survive. One by one, her neighbours fled to her house and she welcomed them in. 54 people sheltered safely from the hurricane in Vilia's house – she potentially saved 54 lives that night. She said: 'I formed a chain of solidarity so we could eat together and share together... until they went back to their own homes, or found a shelter.'

Vilia is incredibly grateful for the help she's received, and she's used it to help others. Faced with incredibly difficult challenges, Vilia finds her strength in God: 'I stay connected with God, I pray. I pray every time something like this happens... Only God can do anything in these situations. There's nothing that our God cannot do'. *Take a moment to reflect on the blessings in Vilia's life and in your own.*

A prayer for the building of God's Kingdom

*Give us, Lord God, a vision of your Kingdom as your love desires it:
a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry,
a world where life is shared, and enjoyed by all,
a world where all races, nations and cultures live in tolerance and
respect,
a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by
love.
Give us the inspiration and courage to build your Kingdom here and
now. Amen.*

CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY - LOCAL DEBT CENTRE

On the 29th of April, Joanna Pritchard, the new CAP Gordano Area Debt Centre manager was commissioned to undertake this important work. As the Methodist Church in Portishead (High Street & Redcliffe Bay) we have committed to support this work financially for at least the next 3 years. Over the coming months we will hear of ways that we as churches and individuals can get involved in the centre. Joanna will be speaking at Redcliffe Bay on Sunday 8th July and later on in the year at High Street.

This is what Joanna has written:

Joanna, the newly appointed Debt Centre Manager (DCM) is busy talking to people about this new service which is available in the community of Clevedon, Nailsea and Portishead. The CAP debt management model is based on three visits to the clients home by the DCM. It includes an introductory visit, a fact finding visit to obtain all necessary financial information and the third budget option visit when the client is given a budget plan to show them how they can become debt free over a period of time. The DCM talks all this through with the client, but needs a Befriender present to support and accompany her on all visits.

For the debt service to be effective and successful a band of volunteers/Befrienders are needed. These are Christians who have a heart to come alongside clients, show support and kindness during their journey of becoming debt free. If you are someone who has empa-

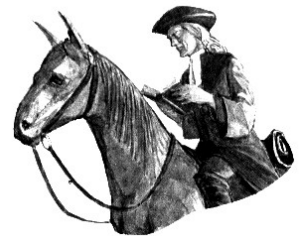
thy and compassion for people in difficult circumstances and is willing to give time to them. Please consider becoming a Befriender. The role of Befriender comes in many forms and depends on what you are able to do. This can include acts of kindness such as making cakes for clients, mowing the grass, accompanying them to the bank, going on the visits with the DCM, establishing a supportive relationship with clients along the journey of becoming debt free, helping write newsletters/prayer letters, and organising social events. So it is flexible according to each Befrienders availability and interest. Training will be given and appropriate checks and references are also required.

So if you are able to help in anyway please talk to Rev Nick or contact Joanna via email at: joannapritchett@capuk.org

JOHN WESLEY'S CHAPEL - THE NEW ROOM

Celebrating World Fair Trade Day: Working together for a fairer world

**COME ON IN TO
FAIRTRADE**



Saturday 12th May

The event we had scheduled for Fairtrade Fortnight (but had to cancel due to extreme weather conditions) is now taking place on Saturday 12th May to coincide with World Fair Trade Day.

Try Fairtrade with our free samples.

Shop Fairtrade in our pop-up market in the chapel. Eat Fairtrade with our café's delicious 'Fairtrade Taster Platter' – Fairtrade cake mini-bites, fruit salad, served with your choice of Fairtrade hot drink for just £5.

11.30am – Guest speaker – FOYS Founder and key facilitator, Patience Gibbs, will talk about the 20th anniversary of FOYS (Focus On Your Strengths) an NGO enriching the lives of young people and

mature women in Abiriw through projects, sharing information and collaborative effort.

2 pm – Skype conversation with Fairtrade producer from Soppexcca Cooperative, Nicaragua

Café open 9.30am, chapel & pop-up shops open 10.30 am-4pm.

Free event, donations welcome.

To pre-order your Fairtrade Taster Platter, e-mail cafe@newroombristol.org.uk

THY KINGDOM COME



Prayer for Thy Kingdom Come

Almighty God, your ascended Son has sent us into the world to preach the good news of your kingdom: inspire us with your Spirit and fill our hearts with the fire of your love, that all who hear your word may be drawn to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

How do I get involved?

Thy Kingdom Come is a call to prayer from 10th to

20th May.

During this time we may:

- Remember Our Calling as Methodists – to worship, to learning and caring, to service, and to evangelism;
- Reflect on the disciples waiting in faithful expectation between the ascension of Jesus and Pentecost for the outpouring of God's Spirit;
- Respond in prayer.

You may wish to organise a one-off prayer meeting or a dedicated Thy Kingdom Come service, or to commit individually or as a small group to daily prayer. Creative prayer ideas, along with all-age and family prayer activities are available via the website www.thykingdomcome.global

A nine day cycle of prayer, reflections, and readings is available in the booklet *Waiting in Wonder* by the President-Designate of the 2018 Methodist Conference, the Rev Michaela Youngson.

- A suggested outline for daily prayer that can be used by individuals, in small groups, or as the opening devotions for a Bible study, fellowship, business, or other meeting taking place between Ascension Day and Pentecost;

- A model order of service, which could take place in individual churches or across circuits;
- Further prayer resources drawn from the Methodist Prayer Handbook, The Methodist Worship Book and Singing the Faith.

CHURCH ACTION ON TAX JUSTICE

Christian leaders united in the House of Lords on Tuesday 17th April to challenge government inactivity on tax justice reforms and to demand immediate tough action. Launching "Church Action for Tax Justice" (CAT), President-Designate of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Michaela A Youngson, joined Lords Rowan Williams and Richard Harries, Dame Margaret Hodge and Quaker Leader Paul Parker to demand an end to corporate tax evasion, greater transparency and a change to the negative narrative around tax.

In her speech to a packed committee room, the Rev Youngson said: "I hope we can shift the narrative around tax away from it being a dirty word, or a necessary evil, but rather a blessing and a means of all citizens having a stake in a generous society that cares for all." Dr Rowan Williams talked about an "unquenchable thirst for more" in the corporate sector (referencing the name of the Christian Aid report), a "wilful blindness" amongst policy makers and how tax should not be "an us and them but a recognition of shared goals and mutuality".

Opening the meeting, Dame Margaret Hodge, chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Responsible Tax, congratulated the new initiative, saying: "there has never been a more important time than today to address issues of tax justice...this is not anti-business but pro fairness... Reforms are urgent, now is the time for tough action."

CAT will seek to inspire all Churches about the urgency of creating fairer and more effective tax systems to fund healthier public services, both in the UK and internationally.

Dr Rowan Williams, the Chair of the Christian Aid Board, commenting in advance, said: "The creation of this new Church-wide movement is timely. Many of the world's largest companies seem to have forgotten that they have moral duties, as well as legal ones. They must support human flourishing, not least by paying their fair share of taxes in all the countries where they do business - and being fully transparent about the relevant data."

Ending financial secrecy in UK tax havens like the British Virgin Islands is one of the reforms CAT will pursue, along with changes to the way large multinational companies are taxed. In addition, the new campaign will call on Churches themselves to make more vigorous and vocal use of their power as investors in major companies.

CAT has developed out of the Methodist Tax Justice Network and seeks to be more ecumenical, embracing all Church denominations.

One recent sign of the success of the worldwide movement for tax justice has been the decision by Vodafone to publish its country-by-country reports from 2019 onwards. Christian Aid, the Tax Justice Network and others have long campaigned for major multinationals to publish such data, because it can throw up suspicious patterns that alert tax authorities and civil society to potential tax dodging. This, in turn, helps them to hold companies to account.

UNIVERSAL CREDIT IS DRIVING FAMILIES TO FOOD BANKS

Universal Credit must ensure families are fed:

- 51% rise in food bank use in Universal Credit Areas; 13% rise in other areas.
- The Trussell Trust's report on the impact of Universal Credit report is clear - families are being pushed into financial crisis and towards foodbanks.
- Churches welcome this important report and call on Government to focus on ensuring Universal Credit meets families' basic needs.

"A benefit system that allows families to go hungry is a benefit system that is failing," said Paul Morrison who advises a group of national Christian Churches on poverty.

"The Government's drive to reduce spending and to focus on work incentives means we have lost sight of the purpose of a welfare system – ensuring that families are fed. Cuts to Universal Credit have been justified as providing an incentive to work. It is now clear that reducing and delaying the incomes of some of the poorest families has significant consequences including hunger.

"The work of the Trussell Trust and the others providing emergency food aid is vital. Many churches are committed to hosting and supporting these projects, but it is a source of sadness and anger that emergency food is needed more and more."

Over the past year there have been increasing reports from churches and ministers of numerous families seeking help because of Universal Credit.

The Rev David Hardman, a minister based in Southwark, commented on his recent experiences: "A new father called at my door. He was struggling; waiting for a delayed Universal Credit payment and doing his best to keep his family going."

"The foodbank had helped but it became clear that his baby needed nappies and other supplies, he just didn't have the money to pay for them. The church helped by buying what he needed for his baby I also made sure he had money on his travel card so he could keep looking for work and avoid being sanctioned. It is a privilege to be able to help families like these – but we shouldn't need to and certainly not so often."

Paul Morrison concluded: "Most people who struggle because of Universal Credit will not visit a food bank or knock on a church door. The food bank clients are the tip of the iceberg, a warning sign that must be heeded if we are to prevent disaster for many families".



ZA FOUNDATION CONCERT

Verdi's La Forza Del Destino, Polovtsian Dances by Borodin and Rimsky-Korsakov's Symphony No 2 are just some of the music that will be played by the hugely popular Long Ashton Orchestra, at a FREE concert at Portishead Methodist Church, starting at 7.30pm on Saturday 12th May. FREE teas and coffees are available at the interval and scrummy homemade cakes will be for sale.

A retiring collection will be in aid of Za Foundation and all funds raised will go directly to our projects in South Africa supporting the local community but most especially orphans and vulnerable children.

COME AND SING

A "Hymn Drop-in" where you can sing your favorite hymn or Worship Song with others plus inspiring organ music or lively piano accompaniment, is held on the last Tuesday of each month from 3.30 to 4.30 pm at Redcliffe Bay Methodist Church.





PORTISHEAD

Office: 01275 844917

Website www.portisheadmethodistchurch.co.uk

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

CHURCH & GARDEN WORK DAY 12th MAY, 10 am – 12 pm

Now that Spring is here we have arranged a work day in May to spruce up the church buildings and tidy the gardens. There will be jobs for everyone and all abilities so we hope to see as many of you as possible on the day. You know what they say.....many hands make light work!

The Finance and Property Team

BOOKING PORTISHEAD METHODIST CHURCH

Please remember that any use of the Church and the rooms in the Wesley Centre must be booked via Peter Mortlock in advance. This is to avoid any possibility of a double booking and the embarrassment this causes. If you would like to book any of the Church premises please contact Peter on 01275 840449.

CHURCH COUNCIL

The church council met on 9th April and discussed a variety of topics, including the development of a new vision and strategy for High Street. There will be lots of exciting news at the ACM on Sunday 17th June! (This is a new format taking place during morning worship that day.) The visioning process over the last few months has revealed some interesting thoughts and views, and a small group is being formed to look at the use of the building and possible redevelopment of the undercroft and welcome area. If you would be interested in being on this group please speak to Nick.

It was agreed that our Season of Invitation would remain with a focus on Harvest and Christmas, and discussion took place about adding other dates.

Fran reported back about the imminent implementation of the General Data Protection Regulations and how this might affect the church.

We heard from Colline about the appointment of Sandy Nickells as Headteacher at Trinity School and the work that is going on there. It was good to hear that the school have re-established their link with Za Foundation.

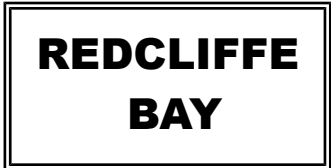
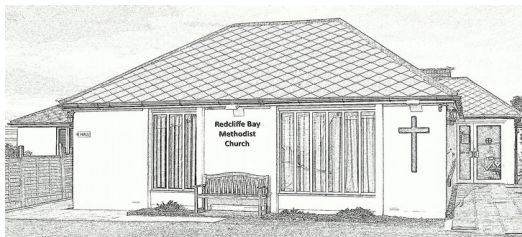
WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

will meet every Wednesday at 2.30 pm, as usual.



YOUTH EVENT

The next meeting will be on Friday 18th May 5.30 – 7.00 pm for primary age children. All Welcome.



Website: www.redcliffebaymethodistchurch.org.uk

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

It was good to see Rev Christine Legge in church with Marjorie recently. Christine has been serving in the Channel Islands but expects to be moving to Ashton-under-Lyne in August.

Maureen Harris is in Southmead Hospital, but hopes to be home soon.

TREASURER AT REDCLIFFE BAY

After 20 years of being our treasurer Derek has decided to step down. We will have other opportunities in coming weeks to thank him for all the work he has done over that time. And so we are looking to replace Derek.

The Leadership team have talked about it and we are exploring ways in which this position could be filled. We are looking whether one person could take on the role completely or whether a small finance team could be formed to undertake the tasks together. More information will be available in the next few weeks.

If you are interested in the role, either taking on the role yourself, being part of a team or have any ideas how to take this forward please could you speak to Nick (by speaking to him doesn't mean that you are signing yourself up for anything!)

BAYCON BUTTY CLUB

The next meeting for men is on Thursday 4th May. Any time between 10.00 am – 12.00.

ALDERSGATE SUNDAY

20th May is Aldersgate Sunday and Pentecost. Our service, which will include Holy Communion, will be led by Rev Mandy Briggs who was at Nailsea but is now on the staff of the John Wesley Chapel (The New Room) in Bristol.

SPRING SALE

Plants, Cakes and Books will be on sale on Saturday 26th May from 10.30 am. All proceeds to go to our chosen charity – St Andrew's House Clevedon. Please bring items for inclusion in the sale at 9.30 am

WORKING PARTY

The monthly Saturday morning Working Parties are on the 3rd Saturday of summer months, the next on 19th May. It's mostly keeping the garden tidy. Come between 9.30 am and noon for as short or long a period as you can spare.

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



POSTSCRIPT

THE LONE RANGER AND TONTO

The Lone Ranger and Tonto went camping in the desert. After they got their tent all set up, both men fell sound asleep.

In the middle of the night Tonto wakes the Lone Ranger saying: "What do you see?"

"The Lone Ranger replies, "I see millions of stars."

"What that tell you?" asked Tonto.

The Lone Ranger ponders for a minute then says: "Astronomically speaking, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially millions of planets. Astrologically speaking, it tells me that Saturn is in Leo. Time wise, it appears to be approximately a quarter past three in the morning. Theologically speaking the Lord is all powerful and we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically speaking, it seems we will have a beautiful day tomorrow.

What does it tell you, Tonto?

"You dumber than a buffalo, It means someone stole the tent."

*Please pass copy for the June 2018 issue to
Ray Burgin, 11 Hillcrest Rd. Portishead BS20 8HS
e-mail rayburgin@hotmail.co.uk Tel. 844115
by **SUNDAY 27th May***