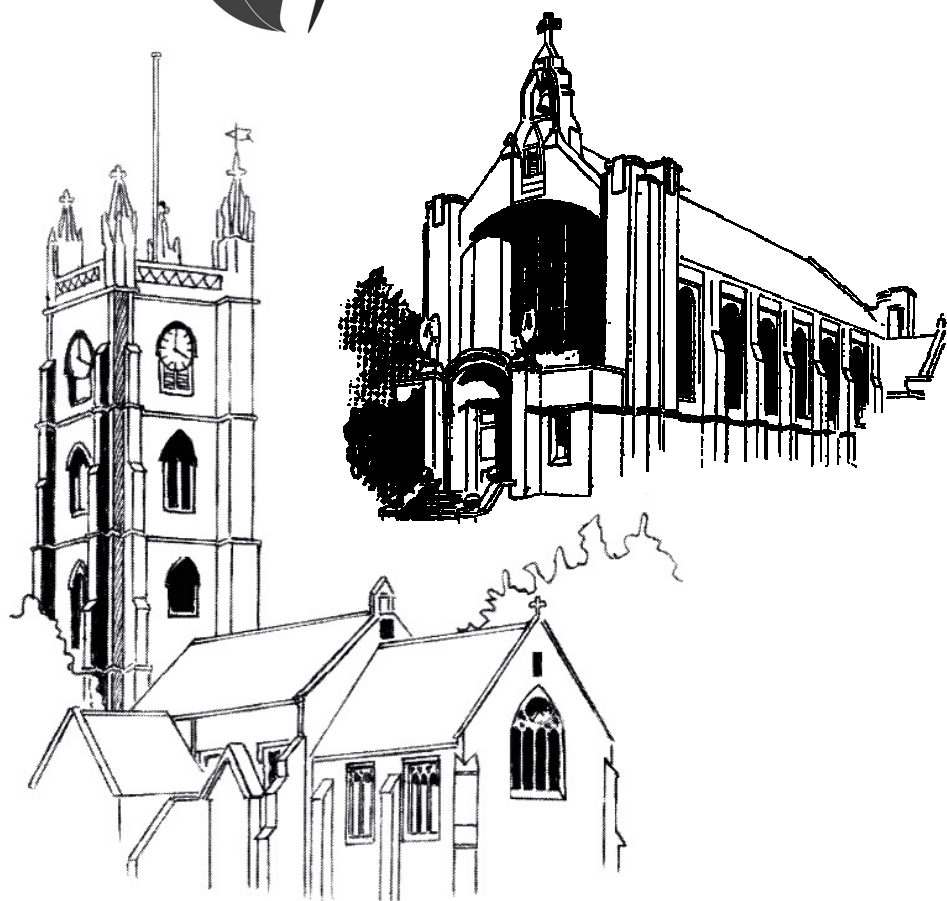


Portishead Parish Magazine



Portishead Church of England
Growing & Going in God's Love



January 2026

£1

Portishead Church of England · St Peter's & St Nicholas' Churches
in partnership with St Peter's C of E and Trinity Anglican-Methodist Schools

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Parish website	www.portisheadparish.co.uk  Portishead Church of England
Church Wardens	John Knightbridge · 843113 Kathryn Phillips · 07834 097595
PCC Secretary	Gill Colston · 845970
St Peter's School	Head Teacher: Catrin Battista · 843142 www.st-peters.n-somerset.sch.uk
Trinity School	Headteacher Claire Howell · 397710 www.trinityprimaryschool.co.uk

For initial enquiries about Baptisms, Weddings, Banns and other special services
please contact the Church Office.

Sunday Services See Church Calendar (middle pages)
or check the website calendar

We welcome contributions to our parish magazine.

Please submit items to **portisheadparishmageditors@gmail.com**
or hand in to the Church Office. Please mention the Parish Magazine when contacting any
of the advertisers.

New Year's Journey

I remember driving home from a friend's house after seeing in the New Year in London a few years ago, listening to the radio as I travelled up the M4. The phone-in discussion had turned to something that has apparently become a thing: a particular day at the start of January when retailers brace themselves for an influx of returned Christmas gifts.

Gift-giving itself is an interesting business. At Christmas we choose things we hope will be wanted or needed, but once given, a true gift is something the recipient is free to use, treasure, quietly set aside, or even return. It stops being a gift if the giver tries to control what happens next. I'm not making any judgements, many of us have perfectly good reasons for returning presents. Still, we feel guilty about it. One presenter admitted a fear of being 'found out' and upsetting the gift-giver if their returned present ever came to light.

As the New Year begins we celebrate Epiphany, remembering the Wise Men arriving at the home of the holy family bearing their famous gifts. I couldn't help smiling as I imagined Mary and Joseph turning up at a branch of Mothercare, wondering whether they could exchange gold, frankincense, and myrrh for nappies, a pushchair, and perhaps a giant teddy bear. Who knows what the Wise Men would have made of that!

But the Wise Men are both givers and receivers of a gift. Having seen a star 'at its rising' - a celestial sign they believed heralded the birth of a new king - it is perhaps not surprising that they first went, as Matthew's Gospel tells us, to Herod's palace before they finally found their way to a far more unexpected and surprising king. I've always found the final verse of this story especially telling: Matthew notes that after encountering Jesus, the Wise Men 'went home by another road'. On one level this may simply have been to avoid Herod, yet it may also hint at something more profound. Their encounter with Jesus had changed them; their journey now looked different as, quite literally, they took a new path.

As a new year begins, perhaps we too can reflect on our journeys. What roads do we need to leave behind? What new directions should we take? And what gifts might we offer - and receive - along the way? Like the Wise Men, may we travel with eyes open to the unexpected blessings and gifts all around us. And may we discover, as they did, that Jesus invites us on a journey more surprising and more beautiful than we could ever plan for.

Mark

From the Church Registers

Funeral: Trevor Lench

Unless the Lord Builds the House. Week of Prayer 10th - 18th January

Unless the Lord builds the house the builders labour in vain. Psalm 127

Jesus invited his followers to approach God as their Father in prayer. That is a huge privilege that we enjoy too. Let's begin 2026 in prayer and learn to make this more and more the foundation of all that we do.

This coming January I would like to invite you to make 10th-18th Jan a week of special focus on prayer. On Saturday 10th the chancel at St Peter's will be a space where all are welcome to pause for a while and pray for the church and for the world and for themselves. There will be resources to help us do this, the chance to light a candle or just sit and be still for a while.

During the week that follows there will be a number of opportunities to join others in prayer and encouragement for us to stop at midday each day wherever we are and join others from the church in a moment of prayer.

On Sunday 18th we will draw the week to a close with a special service of Evensong in St Peter's where prayer will again be the focus.

Rob Eastwood Dewing

Rev Lindsay Smith

Lindsay Smith has been a Training Curate in the parish since July 2022. That training post, funded by the Diocese, concludes at the end of January. We are delighted that Lindsay will continue her ministry in the parish beyond that time. The exact shape of her future work is still unfolding (watch this space).

Lindsay's current license from the Diocese concludes on 31st January. On Monday 2nd February at 7.30pm, Archdeacon Charlie Peer will be present to license Lindsay into her new role as Associate Minister in the Portishead Team at St Peter's Church. This joyful occasion coincides with the Feast of the Presentation of Christ – or Candlemass – which will be celebrated together at the same service.

Everyone is warmly invited to join in this celebration of Lindsay's continuing ministry within the parish and wider community.

Rob Eastwood Dewing

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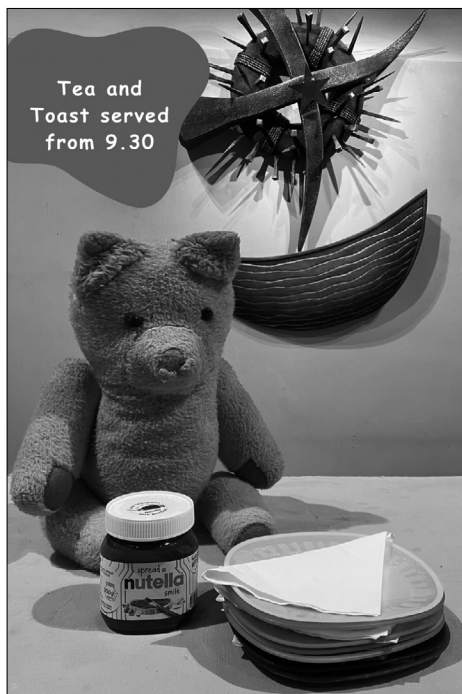
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Tea and
Toast served
from 9.30

9:45 SPECIAL

Informal and Creative Service

Date: Sunday 18th
January

Time: 9.45

St Peter's Church, Portishead



Martha's Kitchen @ Impero Lounge!

Volunteers from Martha's Kitchen will be in the Impero Lounge, on the following Tuesdays. Children can stop by on their way to school for a FREE breakfast of cereals and toast, while parents can enjoy an early morning coffee and chat. They will also be available to issue foodbank vouchers and lunch bag Vouchers.

Date & time:

Tuesday 6 th Jan	8am – 9.30am
Tuesday 13 th Jan	8am – 9.30am
Tuesday 20 th Jan	8am – 9.30am
Tuesday 27 th Jan	8am – 9.30am

Venue: Impero Lounge

60 High St, BS20 6EH,
Portishead, UK

For more information, contact: Revd Lindsay: 07483 932608.

Email: Pioneer@portisheadparish.co.uk

Contributions to the parish magazine can be emailed to
portisheadparishmageditors@gmail.com

Copy date for the February edition is Friday 16 January

News from our Mission Partner

Pasture Valley in ESWATINI: Climate Change Action

Pasture Valley is situated in southern Eswatini and comprises a working farm (including dairy, horticulture, and timber), a children's home, a school, and STREEC renewable energy training centre. The children's home looks after around 60 orphaned and vulnerable children living on-site and supports more than 450 children in the nearby community. Eswatini has felt the impacts of climate change, including rising average temperatures and shifts in seasonal rainfall patterns that were once more predictable, with increased droughts sometimes followed by intense, damaging bursts of heavy rainfall. Grid electricity is mainly imported from South Africa, where it is generated primarily using fossil fuels. Most rural homesteads lack access to mains power and rely on gathered wood, paraffin, or expensive bottled gas for cooking, heating, and lighting.

Michelle McCubbin, owner of Pasture Valley Farm and director of the Children's Home, shares what Pasture Valley is doing in Eswatini regarding climate change.

In 2021, we established a non-profit organisation called STREEC (Solar Training and Renewable Energy Entrepreneurship Centre). The Centre aims to raise awareness of environmental issues and climate change among the youth of Eswatini and to train vulnerable young people in renewable energy. By 2025, STREEC was officially accredited as a college and offered programmes in solar, thermal, electrical, wind, and biomass energy, as well as finance and entrepreneurship training. It has attracted the attention of many organisations and countries, such as Kenya and Mozambique, which hope to follow suit. International students also attend the College. A bus has been purchased to transport high school students for visits to our Innovation Centre, where they can tour our facilities, including an agrivoltaics farm, a wind turbine, a solar panel car park, recycle bins, a biogas plant, and other devices that demonstrate how the resources provided by God can be utilised.

Another project that started last year, sponsored by UK Innovate, supports around 12 staff members and has been innovative in introducing biogas* use in Eswatini. Technicians have been trained to conduct assessments, install biogas units, and measure the biogas produced. This project is called Vutsela, which means "to ignite". So far, 29 biogas installations have been completed, and more recently, the World Food Programme may partner with Vutsela to install six biogas units at children's care points across the country where feeding is needed.

Greetings in Jesus' Name, Michelle McCubbin

David Tyers is the parish link with Pasture Valley.

* Biogas is a renewable gas produced from the anaerobic breakdown of organic matter (including food scraps, manure, and sewage). Small-scale biogas digesters offer sustainable energy and economic benefits for rural Africa by converting animal and food waste into cooking fuel and fertiliser. Biogas contributes to the circular economy by transforming waste into energy and reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

Masonry Works at St. Nicholas Church: January 2026

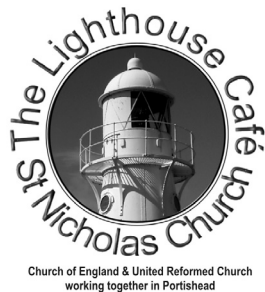
Beginning on 5th January 2026, St. Nicholas Church will undergo essential masonry repairs which are due to be completed by Friday 16th. To accommodate any unforeseen delays, an allowance has been made for the work to extend into a third week if necessary.

The primary focus of the repairs will be inside the church. This includes resetting and repointing both archways in the Lighthouse and work within the choir vestry. The masonry on the west wall above the Lighthouse will also be affected. In addition minor repairs will be carried out on the external masonry to ensure the building remains weatherproof.

During the construction period, both the Lighthouse and kitchen will be unavailable for use but Sunday services will continue as usual in the nave. Please be aware that there may be temporary changes to entry routes and access to the toilets.

Our administrator and clergy will contact groups affected by the work. Updates regarding any changes will be communicated through the weekly Notice Sheet and at the church.

John Neate



Lighthouse Cafe

Please note that the Lighthouse Cafe will be closed from December 18th to January 22nd due to the Christmas and New Year holidays followed by building repair work at St. Nicholas Church.

We look forward to seeing you again on January 29th.

The monthly Cruse bereavement support Drop in is held on the last Thursday morning of each month at the Methodist Community Hub. Many people find meeting up with others who are facing similar situations very supportive.

Refreshments are provided. Trained Bereavement Volunteers are available. Just come along between 10 am and 12 noon. The next meet up is on Thursday 29th January.

Cruse
Bereavement
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Church Calendar

Please use this as a focus for prayer this month. Please note that the churches may be in use at other times so check the website and notice sheet for up-to-date details and changes. *Please note building work will be taking place in St Nicholas' Church from Monday 5th – Friday 16th January. This may extend into the following week. There will be no activities in the Lighthouse during this time. Sunday worship in the Nave will take place as normal. Please check the website for updates.*

Sunday 4th January - Epiphany

Isaiah 60.1–6; Ephesians 3.1–12; Matthew 2.1–12

8am Holy Communion (BCP) at St Peter's Church

9.30am Morning Worship at St Nicholas' Church

9.45am The 9.45 at St Peter's Church

11.15am Morning Worship with The URC at St Nicholas' Church

11.30am Parish Eucharist at St Peter's Church

Mon 5 th	7.15am	Mission Prayer - https://teams.live.com/join/9399632380155?p=x10GS1guFQs7vCocPK
Tues 6 th	9.00am	Refresh Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter's Church
Weds 7 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer via Zoom https://bit.ly/wednesdaymorningprayer
Thurs 8 th		'Thought for the Day' available from 8.00am via our website, YouTube and Facebook
	10.30am	Midweek Communion at St Peter's Church
	10.40am	Midweek Church Coffee via Zoom https://bit.ly/midweekchurchcoffee
Sat 10 th	7am -9pm	Day of Prayer at St Peter's Church
	10.30am	LLaDs at St Barnabas Centre

Sunday 11th January – The Baptism of Christ

Isaiah 42.1–9; Acts 10.34–43; Matthew 3.13–end

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St Nicholas' Church

9.45am The 9.45 with Communion at St Peter's Church

Youth Church and Pebbles will be meeting as part of this service

11.30am Morning Worship at St Peter's Church

2.00pm The Gathering at St Peter's School

Mon 12 th	7.15am	Mission Prayer - https://teams.live.com/join/9399632380155?p=x10GS1guFQs7vCocPK
Tues 13 th	9.00am	Refresh Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter's Church
	2.30pm	Bereavement Support Group, St. Nicholas vestry tbc
Weds 14 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom https://bit.ly/wednesdaymorningprayer
Thurs 15 th		'Thought for the Day' available from 8.00am via our website, YouTube and Facebook
	10.30am	Midweek Communion (MU) at St Peter's Church
	10.40am	Midweek Church Coffee via Zoom https://bit.ly/midweekchurchcoffee

Sunday 18th January – Second Sunday of Epiphany

Isaiah 49.1–7; 1 Corinthians 1.1–9; John 1.29–42

8.00am Holy Communion at St Peter's Church

9.15am for 9.30am Café Church at St Nicholas' Church

9.45am The 9.45 Special at St Peter's Church

11.15am Café Church with The URC at St Nicholas' Church

11.30am Parish Eucharist at St Peter's Church

5.00pm Evensong at St Peter's Church

Mon 19 th	7.15am	Mission Prayer - https://teams.live.com/join/9399632380155?p=xl0GS1guFQs7vCocPK
Tues 20 th	9.00am	Refresh Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter's Church
Weds 21 st	9.00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom https://bit.ly/wednesdaymorningprayer
Thurs 22 nd		'Thought for the Day' available from 8.00am via our website, YouTube and Facebook
	10.30am	Midweek Communion (MU) at St Peter's Church
	10.40am	Midweek Church Coffee via Zoom https://bit.ly/midweekchurchcoffee
	2.30pm	Mother's Union at St Peter's Church

Sunday 25th January – 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Isaiah 9.1–4; 1 Corinthians 1.10–18; Matthew 4.12–23

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St Nicholas' Church

10.30am St Peter's United Communion at St Peter's Church with

Youth Church and Pebbles followed by

St Peter's Church: Looking to the Future meeting

6.00pm Haven at St Peter's Church

Mon 26 th	7.15am	Mission Prayer - https://teams.live.com/join/9399632380155?p=xl0GS1guFQs7vCocPK
Tues 27 th	9.00am	Refresh Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter's Church
	10.30pm	Lighthouse Carers' Group at St Nicholas' Church
Weds 28 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom https://bit.ly/wednesdaymorningprayer
Thurs 29 th		'Thought for the Day' available from 8.00am via our website, YouTube and Facebook
	10.30am	Midweek Communion at St Peter's Church
	10.40am	Midweek Church Coffee via Zoom https://bit.ly/midweekchurchcoffee
	2.00pm	Lighthouse Café at St Nicholas' Church

Dwelling in The Word – a Focus for 2026 from Isaiah

In recent years we have taken a passage of scripture each year and reflected on it at the start of meetings and gatherings as we can. Many of us have found this a profoundly helpful practice and allowing a passage of scripture to root within us has helped create a space for the Holy Spirit to form us.

During 2025 we dwelt in Luke 10.38-11.4 which includes the story of Jesus at the home of Mary and Martha and the Lord's Prayer. This has challenged us in many ways, not least about striving to get a balance between prayer and activity.

In 2026, in response to a suggestion by our team of Lay Readers, we will use Isaiah 6:1-8. The passage is reproduced here:

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. 2 Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. 3 And one called to another and said:

*'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.'*

4 The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. 5 And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!'

6 Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. 7 The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.' 8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'

I hope you agree that there is much here to reflect on.

Rob Eastwood Dewing

Macular Support Group

The Portishead Macular Support Group meet on the last Thursday of the month in The Folk Hall from 2 - 4pm. The group is open to everyone who suffers from Macular Degeneration to enable them to be able to get together with others in the same position so they don't feel so alone and try to make life easier. We make new members very welcome. For further information please phone Hazel on 01275 845238.

New Bible Markers

Two new hand-made and embroidered sets of Bible markers have been made for the St Nicholas lectern Bible; purple for Advent and green for Ordinary time, after the old ones wore out. They are very beautiful and will last a long time to come. Many thanks to Christine English for her exquisite work.



Pastoral Care

Revd Tonya will be loitering most weeks in a café in Portishead. Should you have something pastoral you'd like to discuss or just to say hello, why not drop by.

Dates & times for January:

Wednesday 14th, Wednesday 21st, Wednesday 28th - all 10.15am-11.45am

Venue: The Port, 3 The Precinct, Bristol BS20 6AH

Or you could contact her on: 01275 840016/07341328682
pastorportishead@outlook.com

George Wyatt's 1000th Quarter Peal

A Tradition of Sound and Skill

Bellringing, an ancient and cherished British tradition, has enthralled communities for centuries with its harmonious peals and intricate patterns. Amongst the many devoted practitioners, George Wyatt stands out as a notable figure whose contribution to the art of bellringing is both respected and celebrated.

Bellringing, or campanology, is far more than the simple act of sounding bells. It is a discipline requiring precise timing, physical coordination, and an ear for musicality. In British culture, bellringing is often associated with church towers, marking significant events, celebrations, and moments of reflection.

George Wyatt's journey into bellringing began in his youth, he was a ringer here in Portishead from the age of 8. Over the years, he mastered the techniques of change ringing—a uniquely British style where bells are rung in mathematical sequences rather than conventional melodies. George's dedication saw him become a mainstay in his local bellringing society, nurturing new talent and preserving traditional methods. He is currently Tower Captain in St Peter's and organises bellringing for Clapton in Gordano, Weston in Gordano and All Saint's Clevedon.

George is renowned for leading the ringing at important community events, including weddings, commemorations, and national celebrations. His meticulous approach and unwavering enthusiasm have inspired local ringers to achieve more than they ever could have imagined. For example, Portishead currently hold the 6 bell trophy for the best ringing in The Bath & Wells Diocese. His combined patience with a deep respect for the history and social significance of bellringing ensure that the tradition will continue for years to come. He has recently completed his 1000th Quarter Peal. A Quarter Peal is a sequence of changes lasting around 45 minutes. Few others achieve this milestone and those who do are usually much older than George.

Bath & Wells Diocesan Association

**on Sunday, 9 November 2025 in 43m Portishead, Somerset St Peter Tenor: 15 in F
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1 Janet K Wyatt

2 Andrew H Ball(C)

3 Will Rogers

4 Gerald V Skelly

5 George E Wyatt

6 Les Curwood

**Rung in Remembrance. 1000th QP for 5 who rang his 1st QP at Portishead in 2009
aged 12.**

Bellringing remains a symbol of unity and celebration across the British Isles. Figures like George Wyatt exemplify the enduring appeal of this tradition, blending technical skill with a strong sense of community. The sound of bells continues to evoke nostalgia and pride, connecting the past with the present in a uniquely British manner.

The story of George Wyatt's bellringing is a testament to the power of tradition, sound, and communal spirit. Through his lifelong commitment, Wyatt has carved a lasting legacy, reminding us that the peal of bells is more than just music—it is the heartbeat of a community.

St Peter's Church: Addressing Structural Concerns and Looking to the Future

Over the summer months, significant cracks have appeared—or worsened—in the northwest corner of St Peter's Church. These developments are a source of concern for us all. In response, our building team has begun working closely with our architect and structural engineers in order to determine the precise cause of the problem. This investigative and remedial process will require a considerable investment of both time and financial resources in the coming months.

While these structural issues present a challenge, we also recognise them as a God-given opportunity. The necessary work on the church building provides us with a chance to reflect, imagine and engage in conversation and prayer about what lies ahead for St Peter's Church. It is a moment to dream together and consider the future direction for our congregations and this cherished building.

In light of these circumstances, we will be holding a special event on Sunday 25th January. On that day, our usual two morning services in St Peter's will be combined into a single, shorter Communion Service at 10:30am. Following the service, we will set aside time to thoughtfully consider what God's future plans might be for us and for St Peter's Church. We warmly invite and encourage everyone to join us for this important occasion.

Bereavement Support Group

Grief doesn't stop after the funeral

A space to talk, to just be, a space to share memories

2nd Tuesday of each month 2.30pm – 4pm

St. Nicholas Church, Nore Road

Portishead Church of England

Celebrating Reader Ministry at Wells Cathedral



Recently, Readers from across the diocese gathered in Wells for the Annual Readers' Day. A Service of Admission, Licensing, Welcome, and Renewal of Commitment of Readers took place at Wells Cathedral.

Bishop Michael, who led the service said, "Readers bring so much to their ministry. They speak into the life of the Church from the contexts in which God has placed them in the world – in communities and workplaces, families and neighbourhoods. All Readers have undertaken extensive training and so they speak into our common lives as expert lay theologians. The significance of Reader ministry within our Church is reflected in their receiving the Bishop's licence and commission to serve within our diocese.

"All our Readers, have spent lots of time praying, learning, studying the scriptures and connecting the Gospel to their rich experiences of life and human relationships. They have much to teach us."

It was a joyful day as seven new Readers were commissioned at the cathedral, and four were welcomed to the diocese, surrounded by the love, prayers, and support of their families, friends, and parish communities.

The day was not only a day of celebration of Reader Ministry, but also a time for all Readers in Bath and Wells to reaffirm their commitment to serve God through their ministry. Readers' Day offers valuable time for fellowship, reflection, and encouragement. It is a chance for Readers to come together, to share experiences, learn from one another, and celebrate the ministry they share in God's service.

We give thanks for our Readers- Simon, Mary and Graham- and for their faithful ministry.

Fairtrade Worship

As a parish, we seek to make a difference in the lives of others, both in our local community and overseas, and to live out Jesus's call to love one another, as he loves us. We do this in so many wonderful ways. So, what better way to start the new year than by sharing that St Nicholas' and St Peter's have been recognised as Fairtrade Places of Worship.

This award is so much more than a certificate that we can pin to our church notice boards—it is a living sign of our faith in action. By serving Fairtrade tea, coffee, and sugar, etc, and by weaving Fairtrade into our worship and community life, we are joining a movement that seeks justice for farmers and workers across the world.

A way of living which is woven through scripture from Leviticus

"You shall not wrong one another in buying or selling". To Proverbs — *"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves... defend the rights of the poor and needy."* And into the New Testament, where James cries out — *"Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you."*

To choose Fairtrade is to choose love, to value another through the choices we make and as a parish we have pledged two simple practices:

- To serve Fairtrade tea, coffee, and sugar whenever possible.
- To weave Fairtrade into our worship and community life—through stalls, events, and celebrations during Fairtrade Fortnight.

These two pledges seem such simple acts of love, but with climate change, inequality, and fragile economies, buying fair trade is a constant reminder that the way we shop is never neutral, that living out our Christian calling to tend and care for all of creation also applies to what's in our supermarket basket.

The eco group would like to thank everyone in the parish who makes this award possible. We need to celebrate and also recommit ourselves to the journey. May our worship be not only in words but in the fairness of our trade, and may our shopping baskets become signs of the Kingdom where justice and mercy meet.

Rev'd Lindsay



FAIRTRADE

2026 Parish Magazine Subscriptions

Subscriptions for the Parish Magazine are due in January price £1.00 per copy.

The special discount rate is £10.00 for the year if paid by the end of February. After this time the subscription will be £12 per year.

Please pay your distributor when they call (making cheques payable to **Portishead PCC Magazine Account**) Alternatively, subscriptions can be sent to Sue Peacey 5 Denny Close or Gill Colston 22 Kings Road.

In case of any difficulty please phone 845970.

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Thank you to all subscribers for their continued support and a special thank you to all the people who deliver the magazine every month.

The New Year -a traditional song

Here we bring new water
From the well so clear,
For to worship God with,
This Happy New Year.
Sing levy-dew, sing levy-dew,
The water and the wine;
The seven bright gold wires
And the bugles they do shine.

Sing reign of Fair Maid,
With gold upon her toe-
Open you the West Door,
And turn the Old Year go:
Sing reign of Fair Maid
With gold upon her chin-
Open the East Door,
And let the New Year in.







Trinity Anglican Methodist Primary School

A+B=C

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IN EVERYWAY**





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