Sunday 29th November – Advent 1

Isaiah 64.1-9; 1 Corinthians 1.3-9; Mark 13.24

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St Nicholas' Church

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

Join online https://youtube.com/live/Y5D_f9plR24

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

11.30am Parish Eucharist at St Peter's Church
6.00pm Portishead Churches Advent Carol Service at St Nicholas' Church

We depend on the regular faithful giving of the church family to continue our mission and ministry to Portishead and maintain our church buildings. If you do not already do so, please prayerfully consider giving regularly to the church – no matter how small the sum you can afford. Visit www.portisheadparish.co.uk/welcome#Giving for more information of how to do this.

Please think of God's creation when coming to church; walk or cycle if you can or consider car-sharing.
If there is anything that we can do to make worship or information about what we do more accessible please speak to one of the clergy or call Jessica in the office on 846230 / office@portisheadparish.co.uk

Parish Calendar for the Week Ahead:

Mon 30th Nov	7.15am	Monday Prayer – online
Tuesday 1st Dec	9.00am	Refresh Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter's Church
	10.30am	Lighthouse Carers Group at St Nicholas' Church
Weds 2nd Dec	10.30am	Morning Prayer in St Peter's Church
	2.00pm	Setting Sail at the Rectory
	2.30pm	An Afternoon of Craft & Prayer in St Peter's Church
Thurs 3rd Dec		'Thought for the Day' available from 8.00am via our website, YouTube and Facebook
	6.45am	Morning Prayer - online
	10.30am	**No Midweek Communion at St Peter's Church**
	10.40am	Midweek Church Coffee – online
	2.00pm	Lighthouse Café at St Nicholas' Church
Friday 4th Dec	10.30am	Table Talk – Portishead Library
Saturday 5th Dec	09.00pm	Children's Society Coffee Morning at St Peter's Church

There will be no Communion on **Thursday 3rd December** because there will be some test drilling being done in the Church.

Sunday 6th December – Advent 2

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
11.30am Parish Eucharist at St Peter's Church
3.00pm & 5.00pm Christingle Services at St Peter's Church

Dear Friends

On Monday I was in Wells for the annual Pre-Advent Retreat for Diocesan Clergy, and Lay Ministers. The speaker was Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani, the Bishop of Chelmsford. She was speaking on Listening to the Music of the Soul. This was an apt topic as we prepared to move into Advent and drew on both Bishop Guli's background in music and as a refugee in the UK from her native Iran.

There was lots to ponder, as well as time to chat to colleagues from around the Diocese. But I would like to share just one thought that I had during the day.

It is very easy for us to bemoan the loss of Advent in our current culture and society. Christmas now effectively begins on 1st December and we find it difficult to make the most of the gift of the season of waiting and preparation which Advent has traditionally been. However, this can easily echo the rest of life. Bishop Guli reflected on how many of us find our identity in busyness but then, when illness or old age strike, we feel that who we are has been taken from us. The challenge we all face is to find time and space in the midst of activity to pause, breathe and connect with God who is the ground of our being. We can complain that Advent and life are too busy to allow for that, but perhaps that can be an excuse. Simone Weil once wrote, "We do not have to search for God, we only have to change the direction in which we are looking. It is for God to search for us." Maybe this is the road to deep and lasting joy that goes beyond and deeper than a 'Happy Christmas'.

I pray that you may find some moments to change the direction in which you are looking this Advent, that God find you and you may discover joy.

With God's blessing



Rev Rob Eastwood Dewing

Our Prayers



Those in need Mary Powell, Judith, Ann Field, Pat Jouxson, Maureen Noakes, Brenda Greenham, Wendy Burrell, Tony Peacey, Ray Gullock, Pauline Tuckwell, Jo, Linda, Nigel Selvey, Caroline Howe

Those who have recently died Andrew Cole, Carole Appleton, John Cross, James Hawker, Kathleen Wilson, Pamela Beadman

(We announced last week that Carole Jenkins had died. We apologise for this mistake and any hurt caused. Carole Appleton has died. Carole Jenkins when Tonya saw her on Wednesday was fit & well)

Please remember those being Baptised or Married in December Wedding of Tammy & Darron

Sunday 29th November has been designated by the UN as *International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People*. Please do particularly remember the Palestinian people in your prayers.

Notices



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.

Date & Time for December:
Wednesday 2nd 10.15am - 11.45am
Wednesday 9th 10.15am - 11.45am
Wednesday 16th 10.15am – 11.45am
Wednesday 23rd 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



An Afternoon of Craft & Prayer

Enjoy being creative?

In need of a little peace this winter…

An afternoon together to bring along any craft that you enjoy doing.

Whilst listening to a little of the Bible, then praying and chatting

together. Lingering over a cuppa…now doesn't that sound nice?

When Wednesday 2nd December 2026

Time 2.30pm – 4.00pm

Where St. Peters Church



Let's Crack This Together

Help repair St Peter's and make the church fit for our community now and for future generations.

The total raised to date is £136,262



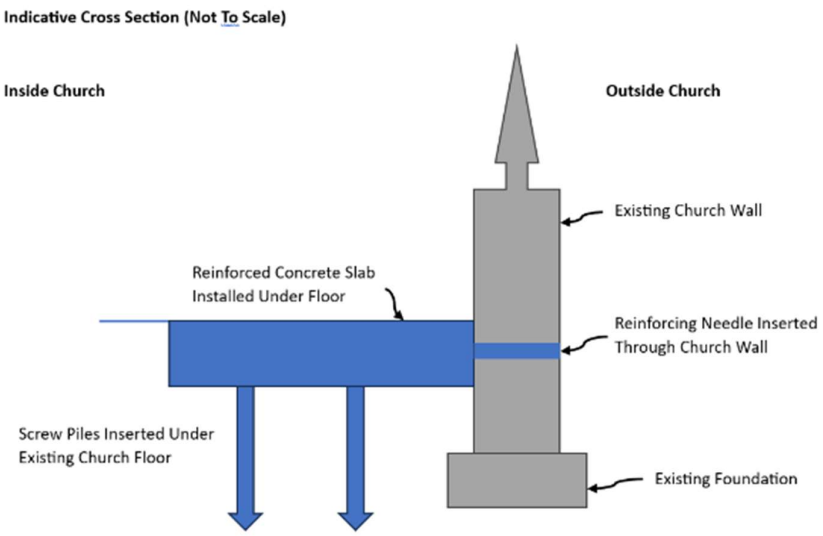
Thank you so much to everybody who is working so hard to raise funds for the work that needs doing to repair St Peter's and make the church fit for our community now and for future generations. There is lots happening behind the scenes as our buildings team works with our architect, structural engineer and the diocese to establish what needs to be done and to get the necessary permissions. We also see this as a two-stage project. Not just fixing the church but making it fit for future generations.

Peter Mansell is central to this and he shares here a little of the progress made so far:

St Peter's Church Building – Progress Report – November 2026

Phase 1 - Additional ground investigation will be taking place at St Peter's on 3 rd and 4 th December 2026. This will establish the depth of the rock beneath the ground, which is required for designing the screw-piles that will stabilise the NW corner. In addition, the existing floor in the NW corner will be investigated to find out what is underneath.
Following this our structural engineer will be able to design the underpinning that will be needed.
Graves prevent piling externally and so the piles will be installed internally within the church under the existing floor. The following indicative diagram shows the principle of the repairs.

Phase 2 - Whilst stabilising the NW corner of the Church is the priority, work is also continuing to prepare a scheme that addresses the visions and dreams identified in the Church Meeting on 25 th January 2026. We hope to be able to consult the Church Family with the emerging plans early in 2027. The aim is to create four separate meeting spaces that will allow an enhanced worship environment for all, meeting our current needs but also to serve future generations.







Advent Peace

St. Peters Church **6.00pm – 6.30pm**

Tuesday 8th December

30 minutes of quiet, in a candle lit church

No service, no hymns, no sermon, just peace

A time to be…

St Peter's Church

Church Road South, BS20 6PS

Sunday 6th December

Christingle 3pm & 5pm

Sunday 20th December

The 9.45am Special Nativity

Traditional Carol Service 6pm

Christmas Eve

Crib Service* 2pm & 4pm

Midnight Mass 11.15pm

Christmas Day

Holy Communion 8am

Christmas Communion 10.30am

St Nicholas' Church

Nore Road, BS20 8EN

Sunday 20th December

Community Carol Service 5pm

Christmas Eve

Crib Service* 3pm & 5pm

Christmas Day

Christmas Communion 9.30am

WILLOW GARDENS NEWSLETTER

December Newsletter
Be Merry and Bright



Chestnuts roasting on an open fire sounds like a great way to stay warm, we may not have chestnuts but the fire will be lit and there will be plenty of tea, coffee and warm conversation. As winter approaches we are reminded of the importance of light and warmth, and it is the season we really celebrate the joy of being warm. At Willow Gardens we will be keeping warm with lots of physical activity, warming our bodies, and warming in the company of our community. That being said, please remeber to wrap up, with gloves, scarfs and an extra pair of stocks. If the weather does prove to cold we will try to met for coffee so please keep an eye out for updates on emails or our facebook page.



A date for your diaries, Wednesday 16th December we will be having a Fish and Chip lunch after our normal gardening session. Please join us for a morning of warmth within nature, to find out more, contact **Lindsay** at **07483932608** or **portisheadgarden@outlook.com**

December Dates

Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just want to spend some time outdoors and trying something new, all are welcome.

2nd December
9th December
16th December - Fish and chip lunch from 12
23rd December
30th December

Wednesdays from 10am - 12pm



Growing in the heart of the community

Willow Community Gardens

Heatree Weekend 7th-9th May 2027

We're excited to be planning another fun and relaxed weekend away in 2027 to Heatree Activity Centre. Heatree is a Christian outdoor residential centre based in the beautiful surroundings of Dartmoor National Park in Devon. Expect a welcoming atmosphere, time to connect, optional outdoor activities, shared meals (and cooking and washing up!), gentle spiritual rhythms, and Messy Church-style worship. No pressure, just community and fun!



You can find more info, along with a letter to download, detailing how to book here:

https://www.portisheadparish.co.uk/my-post.

LEE ABBEY PARISH WEEKEND - 25-27 JUNE 2027

Lee Abbey is hosted by an international Christian community who enjoy welcoming guests to this comfortable and relaxing setting on the North Devon coast. The weekend will include not only times of worship and teaching but also plenty of time to enjoy the lovely scenery of the local area. There be will also be opportunities for us to meet as a parish group and to get to know each other in a deeper way than perhaps there is time for in our busy everyday lives. We have been allocated 25 places so do book as soon as you can to make sure you don't miss out, using the attached booking form.



Contact Valerie Lowe (vlowe132@gmail.com) for more information).
Click Here for 2027 Booking Form


PORTISHEAD YOUTH
Choirs
Christmas Concert
Friday 18th December
7.30pm
St Peter's Church,
Portishead
Musical Director: Katherine Everett
Accompanist: Lu Shephard
portisheadyouthchoirs@gmail.com
Free Entry
Retiring collection in aid of the
"Let's Crack This Together" campaign.

Links for Online Meetings

7.15am Monday - Monday Prayer– online – Click for Link
https://teams.live.com/meet/9399632380155?p=xl0GS1guFQs7vCocPK

06.45am Thursday - Morning Prayer – online – Click for Link

https://www.google.com/url?q=https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84019088287?pwd%3DTGdlbVV0YWwwdEp5dXhweHRrTGgyZz09&sa=D&source=calendar&usd=2&usg=AOvVaw1VEfkOPUuLFY-Z9ZpyWvdA

10.40 Thursday - Midweek Church Coffee – online – Click for Link

https://www.google.com/url?q=https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84562565696?pwd%3Da2gvMEdwcDVBVTFnUUtaQUp1ZXZTZz09&sa=D&source=calendar&usd=2&usg=AOvVaw1HZ7ru3pFUNm9jEbfvHLN1

Church Office opening times Mon – Fri 9.30am – 12.30pm Tel: 01275 846230 Email: office@portisheadparish.co.uk The office is not open on Wednesdays	To make a donation to the church please use:
Revd Rob Eastwood Dewing 01275 846592 rector@portisheadparish.co.uk	
Revd Tonya Nixon 01275 840016 pastorportishead@outlook.com	
Revd Mark Fuller 07766310509 pilgrim@portisheadparish.co.uk	
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