

Portishead Parish Magazine




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



April 2024

50p

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	Paul Jeffery · 845150 Pearl Walker · 817765 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	Head Teacher: Ms Sandy Nickells · 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 kathrynphillips018@gmail.com, stuart_sarah_iles@hotmail.co.uk
or hand in to the Church Office.

A letter from Rob

A Hallelujah! Christ is Risen!

Happy Easter

While many great artists have tackled the subject of Christ's Crucifixion there are fewer good representations of the Resurrection. It is a difficult subject to tackle well and I have not seen many that have been very effective or helpful. One that I do like very much is by one of my favourite artists, the Dutch 17th Century painter Rembrandt; Christ and St Mary Magdalen at the Tomb. In it we see Mary kneeling at the empty tomb. She is just noticing the figure of Jesus behind her. Jesus is wearing a big wide brimmed hat and carrying a spade to remind us that, according to John's Gospel, Mary mistook him for the gardener. There is some humour in that. The casual observer thinks it unlikely that Mary confused the risen Christ for the gardener because he was wearing a floppy hat.

However, Rembrandt, like the Gospel writer John before him, is making a theological point. The reference to the risen Christ as the gardener takes the more thoughtful observer back to Genesis and that other garden – the Garden of Eden. There we see God walking in the Garden in the cool of the day, enjoying his perfect and flawless creation epitomised by Eden.

Perhaps, John and Rembrandt are saying, Mary was not mistaken in thinking that Jesus was the gardener after all. The Resurrection shows us that this is exactly who he was. Not just another common criminal or freedom fighter executed by the Romans, but the creator of all things. Hence death had no hold on him and at the end of the darkness of Holy Week we come to Easter Day.

The world we live in is hugely challenging. There are wars and conflicts in many places while all of us face the uncertainty of climate change. However, the Resurrection reminds us that we are people of hope. In Christ's resurrection from the dead we see the promise that however bleak the situation may be God has not given up on his world. As he came in Christ to live and die among us so he calls us to do whatever we can do to show his love in the dark but beautiful world we live in. The Resurrection reminds us that we do so with Christ alongside us and in hope and conviction that the world will one day be restored and transformed.

Let's consider how we can live as people of resurrection hope.

He is Risen indeed! Hallelujah!

Rob

From the Church Registers

Weddings: Claire Ralph and Matthew Aston

Funerals: June Johns, Pamela Austin, Michelle Pickles

Bereavement Support Group

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Worship is key

***From Michael Langrish,
Assistant Bishop for Bath and Wells***

In January I was back in my old Diocese of Exeter, marking the death of Sabine Baring Gould 100 years before. What an extraordinary person he was, with an incredible range and roundedness of learning and interests, in an equally full and fulfilled life. He was a great traveller and prolific writer of biographies, folklore, travel books, theology, novels and hymns, including some, such as 'Onward Christian soldiers' that remain popular today. He was a linguist and translator; and, as an archaeologist on Dartmoor, very much a pioneer in the field. For many, his greatest achievement was his collecting the old folk songs of Devon and Cornwall, providing inspiration for such composers as Elgar, Vaughan Williams and Holst. He was also the Squire of Lewtrenchard and, being ordained, he appointed himself as parish priest as well!

This he saw as his true vocation. His responsibility, and that of the local church, was the cure of souls from cradle to grave. This meant a care for the spiritual wellbeing of all in the community and for their bodily and social welfare too. Striving for good health and housing must go hand in hand with growth in faith and prayer. All should be

encouraged to full humanity, to holy discipleship, to the recognition, and use, of whatever gifts anyone possessed for the common good.

But, underlying all of this, one other aspect of this great man's life speaks very strongly to me now. That is how he understood worship and its relationship to the whole of life. 'To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God'.

This edition of Manna contains encouraging stories of New Christian Worshipping Communities in Bath and Wells. Worshipping is key. I am reminded of the later words of Archbishop William Temple: 'It is sometimes said that conduct is supremely important, and worship helps it. The truth is that worship is supremely important, and conduct tests it.'

***Bishop
Michael***



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Christian Aid Week 2024



Christian Aid Week this year runs from Sunday 12th May to Saturday 18th May.

For over 60 years the Churches in Portishead have supported Christian Aid, mostly by holding house-to-house collections. However, we have realised that this method of fundraising is no longer feasible.

The advent of "No Cold Calling Zones" - which don't apply to charities, but many people think they do - started the problems. Since the Covid-19 pandemic, fewer people have cash at home and fewer people want strangers knocking on their doors. Meanwhile the organising group and the number of available volunteers has shrunk.

In future we will concentrate on running the Christian Aid Week Appeal from within the individual Churches (as we did last year).

There will be means of donating to Christian Aid in Church, including via the usual red envelopes, which will be available to use personally or to offer to friends who we know are

supporters. We will encourage online donations, including on posters in the town.

There will be an exhibition about the work of Christian Aid in St. Peter's Church, where there will be a Coffee Morning in Aid of Christian Aid on Saturday 18th May.

The theme of this year's Christian Aid Week is "Pushing back against the inhumanity of poverty". More about this in next month's magazine.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has been involved with Christian Aid Week over the decades of house-to-house collecting. You have done an amazing job. We will miss the camaraderie of seeing fellow-Christians around the town with their red bags, the fellowship of the united services and the counting day. However, the important thing is that we continue to promote and raise money for Christian Aid, to support our brothers and sisters throughout the world.

Jane Vian

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.

Our April meeting is on 25th when our Speaker is Dr. Serena Salvatora A Consultant at the Eye Hospital.

We make new members very welcome for further information please phone Hazel on 01275 845238.

Church Calendar *Please use this as a focus for prayer in April.*

Please check the website and noticesheet for up-to-date details and changes.

Weds 3 rd	9.00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom https://bit.ly/wednesdaymorningprayer
Thurs 4 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

Sunday 7th April - Easter 1

Exodus 14.10-31; 15.20, 21; Acts 4.32-35; John 20.19-31

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

11.30am Parish Eucharist at St Peter's Church

6.00pm Praise and Prayer at St Peter's Church

Weds 10 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom https://bit.ly/wednesdaymorningprayer
Thurs 11 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
Sat 13 th	10.00am	One Another Group at St Peter's Church
	10.30am	LLADs at St Barnabas Centre

Sunday 14th April - Easter 2

Zephaniah 3.14-20; Acts 3.12-19; Luke 24.36b-48

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St Nicholas' Church

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

11.30am Morning Worship at St Peter's Church

2.00pm The Gathering at St Peter's School

7.30pm Dwelling in Prayer over Zoom

<https://bit.ly/dwellinginprayer>

Mon 15 th	7.15am	Mission Prayer - http://bit.ly/3JlWqwX
	7.30am	Ethics Forum at St Peter's Church
Tues 16 th	9.15am	Refresh Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter's
	2.00pm	Church Tots at St Peter's Church
Weds 17 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom https://bit.ly/wednesdaymorningprayer
	3.30pm	Ragamuffins at St Peter's Church
Thurs 18 th		'Thought for the Day' available from 8.00am via our website, YouTube and Facebook

- 10.30am Midweek Communion at St Peter's Church (MU)
- 10.40am Midweek Church Coffee via Zoom
<https://bit.ly/midweekchurchcoffee>
- 2.00pm Lighthouse Café at St Nicholas' Church

Sunday 21st April - Easter 3

Isaiah 50.4-9a; Philippians 2.5-11; Mark 14.1-15.47 (or 15.1-39)

- 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**
- 11.15 Café Church with the URC at St Nicholas' Church**
- 11.30am Parish Eucharist at St Peter's Church**
- 1.45pm and 3.00pm Baptisms at St Peter's Church**
- 6.00pm Evensong at St Peter's Church**

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mon 22 nd | 7.15am | Mission Prayer - http://bit.ly/3JlWqwX |
| Tues 23 rd | 9.15am | Refresh Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter's |
| | 10.30am | Lighthouse Carers Group at St Nicholas' Church |
| | 2.00pm | Church Tots at St Peter's Church |
| Weds 24 th | 9.00am | Morning Prayer via Zoom
https://bit.ly/wednesdaymorningprayer |
| Thurs 25 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 |
| | 2.30pm | Mothers Union at St Peter's Church |
| Sat 127 th | 9.30am | Quiet Day – Living Christ Shaped at St Nicholas' Church |
| | 12.00pm | The Wedding of Claire Ralph and Matthew Aston at St Peter's Church |

Sunday 28th April - Easter 4

Genesis 22.1-18; Acts 8.26-40; John 15.1-8

- 9.30am Parish Eucharist at St Nicholas' Church**
- 9.45am The 9.45 with Communion at St Peter's Church**
- 11.30am Parish Eucharist at St Peter's Church**
- 6.00pm Haven at St Peter's Church**

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mon 29 th | 7.15am | Mission Prayer - http://bit.ly/3JlWqwX |
| Tues 30 th | 9.15am | Refresh Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter's |
| | 2.00pm | Church Tots at St Peter's Church |

Re-Creation - with God making things new

I was chatting with a 15 year-old girl in Gordano school the other day, discussing what she was going to do next in her Art project. When we'd finished, I encouraged her to pop the piece of paper we'd been sketching ideas on in the recycling bin. To which, she rolled her eyes and said something to the effect of "what's the point in recycling – we're all doomed anyway!" This got me thinking. Is she right - are we doomed? Is any move to go 'greener' effectively just re-arranging the deckchairs...?

If it is all down to us then things do look pretty bleak. From an ecological point of view, we do seem to have made an almighty mess of things - using and abusing the planet's resources with no thought to the damage we are doing. It is a long way from the biblical imperative to till and keep, sometimes translated "serve" the land.

For sure we should lament at what we have done to the world, but we can never give up on it. Not out of some dogged or embattled misplaced sense of duty, but because God hasn't and doesn't and won't. It is not in his nature to give up on things. God has always been in the business of breathing new

life into things. Lives and planets, institutions & galaxies, habits and eco-systems. Always re-forming and re-creating. Look at what Jesus got up to in his earthly ministry – he was all about mending. He probably learned to right lopsided tables and chairs from Joseph, and then went around putting lopsided bodies, minds and systems right so that all (not just some) could flourish. And then it didn't end at Calvary – the Spirit is still constantly resurrecting, restoring, renewing, re-forming & re-creating. Lives and planets, institutions & galaxies, habits and eco-systems. Our God is a God whose spirit is constantly hovering over the chaos (some of which we've made) and seeking to make all things new.

So ours is no story of environmental hopeless doom, but an amazing invitation to respond and join in with an on-going spirit-filled, regenerative dance.

Of course, as we respond together as a church community to God's invitation to serve his planet and our fellow creatures, we will need to keep learning new steps in this dance. Happily, there are some wise and godly teachers who have been this way before us and some great resources to help

us. One of these is the Christian environmental group A Rocha (<https://arocha.org.uk/>) who lead the Eco-Church initiative (<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/how-eco-church-works/>). This project helps churches to think through how their worship, buildings, land use, community engagement, and individual lifestyles can all play their part in helping to flourish, protect and restore creation.

Some fantastic work has already been done in getting both of our churches near to achieving the "Bronze" Eco-Church status and we are now looking to secure this and even move us on to the "Silver" award level. We would love to hear from anyone interested in joining us in any way. There is much to do, and much of it fun. Indeed, we have decided to call this "church greening" project Re:Creation to

remind us of the joyful, creative invitation to join in with the great Re-Creator. So do keep your eyes and ears open for Re:Creation things going on. In the meantime, challenge the doom and gloom, remember that God is a God who loves this world utterly, wastes nothing and mends and upcycles with the best of them... so keep recycling that paper (and everything else) – you are joining in with the dance!

Verity Eastwood Dewing

For more information or to register interest please contact verityced@gmail.com

Cruse Bereavement Support

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 April.

Copydate for the May 2024 issue of the magazine
will be Friday 12th April

Reminder:

Contemporary Ethics Forum:

Support or Abuse?

The Mental Capacity Act in Practice

St. Peter's Church: Monday, 15th April 7:30 - 9:30pm

Most of us have concerns about what will happen if we are no longer able to manage our own affairs due to a loss of mental capacity. We are delighted to welcome Dr. Peter Carpenter, retired Consultant Psychiatrist, to lead the next Ethics Forum. Peter will help us explore mental capacity, principles and conundrums in practice, the Mental Capacity Act and other related legal issues. His presentation will be followed by questions and open discussion.

All are welcome. No tickets are required and admission is free (donations towards costs are invited). We also plan to livestream the forum to the church YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=98Am2Xs8nRk>

Contact: David on 01275 840 245 or david.tyers@gmail.com for further information

Kanami Development Trust - Thank You!!

An anonymous cash gift was sent to me this week, by post, via the church office – for the Kanami Development Trust. I just want to acknowledge it and say 'thank you'.

We are so very grateful, especially at the moment.

Whilst we are experiencing cold, wet weather, in Kenya the temperature has hit 40 degrees! This is extremely bad news, as the school – although it has electricity, does not have air conditioning, so it is

unpleasant for both staff and pupils alike. Over the past few years, there has been a growing lack of rain, and the temperatures have slowly risen. This is the first time it has reached 40 degrees. Paul is in Kenya at the moment and has really struggled, so I will send the equivalent Kenyan shillings out so that they can purchase some fans for some of the rooms. So, many thanks!

Pearl Walker

Electoral Roll 2024

The Revision of the Electoral Roll for the Parish of Portishead will take place from Sunday 31st March to Sunday 14th April.

If you are not currently on the Church Electoral Roll and would like to be, please fill out a form. Forms will be available in both churches from 31st March. The box for completed forms will be available each Sunday and removed for safekeeping at the end of worship. If the box is not available, please post your form to the Electoral Roll Officer, Paul Jeffery, 19, Mulberry Avenue, Portishead, BS20 7LG.

The closing date for the receipt of forms will be midday Thursday 18th April. Any names received after that date will not be able to be added to the Electoral Roll until after the Annual Parish Meeting on 9th May 2024.

Any queries please speak to Paul Jeffery on 01275 845150 or email him at paul@pauljeffery.force9.co.uk

Martha's kitchen

Martha's Kitchen is an ecumenical group working to bring some light into the lives of families in Portishead who are struggling financially or otherwise. On Tuesday mornings during the school holidays, we provide a hearty breakfast, time for families to meet one another and craft activities for the children. Over 50 meals were prepared and served in the February half term, and our families were shown love and friendship.

It would be great to have some more volunteers to make these mornings even better so if you would like to join the team and work together with folk from other

churches around Portishead to give a welcome to these families, please get in touch with Lindsay. There are various ways to be involved, such as setting up and/or taking down the tables and generally getting the room ready, praying partners, serving at the table and chatting with the families or helping with crafts. Just a couple of hours in the school holidays can make a lot of difference.

Contact Rev Lindsay Smith -
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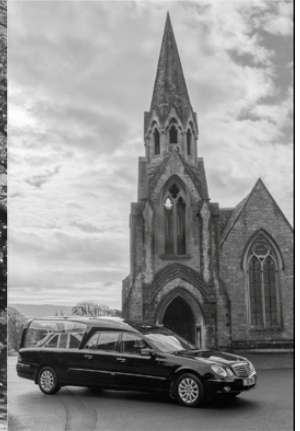
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