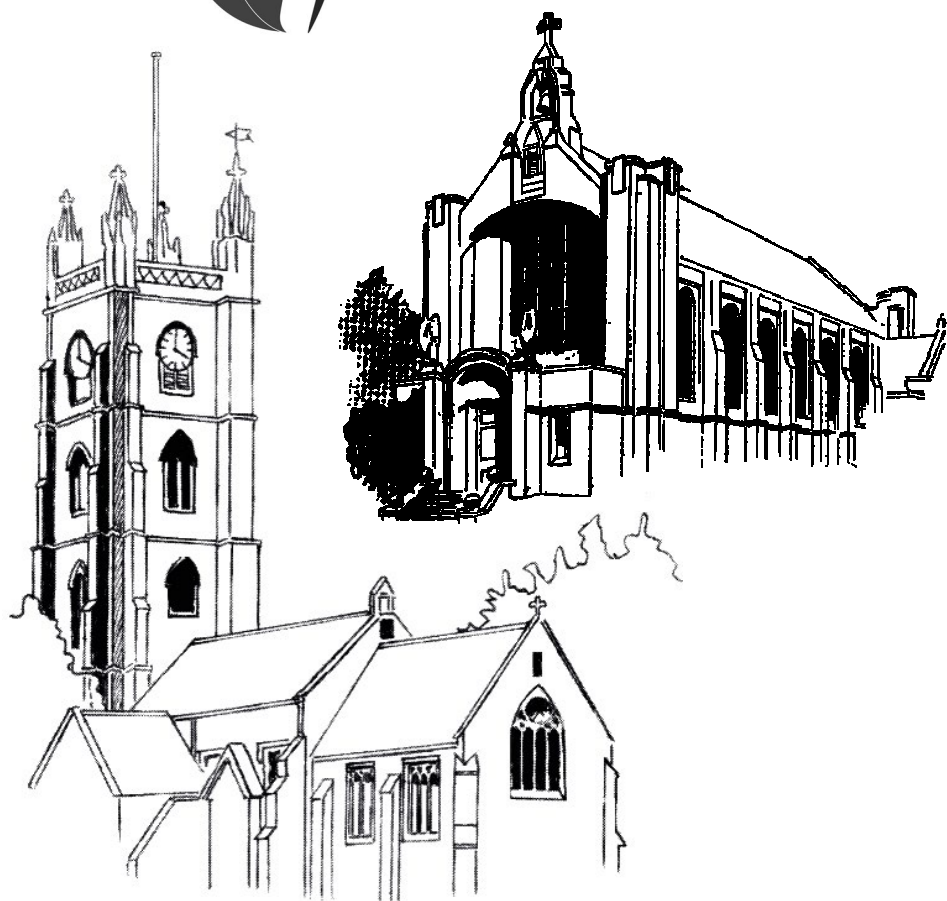


Portishead Parish Magazine



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



August 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

Team Rector	The Reverend Rob Eastwood Dewing 2 Brambling Lane, Portishead BS20 7NN 846592 · rector@portisheadparish.co.uk
Team Pastor	The Reverend Tonya Nixon 840016 · 07341 328682 pastorportishead@outlook.com
Team Pilgrim	The Reverend Mark Fuller 25 Lambourne Way, Portishead, BS20 7LQ 0776 631 0509 · pilgrim@portisheadparish.co.uk
Team Pioneer	The Reverend Lindsay Smith · 07483 932608 pioneer@portisheadparish.co.uk
Safeguarding	The Rector (contact details as above), Sarah Stevens and Linda Taylor safeguarding@portisheadparish.co.uk
Church Office	St Barnabas Centre, West Hill, BS20 6LN 846230 · office@portisheadparish.co.uk
Parish website	www.portisheadparish.co.uk  Portishead Church of England
Church Wardens	John Knightbridge · 843113 Kathryn Phillips · 07834 097595
PCC Secretary	Natanya Alder · 07872 047651
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.

Letter from Rob

Do you remember when telephones used to be attached to the wall and you had to sit in the hall to use them? I had a friend when I was in my twenties. She told me that on one occasion, while on the phone to her mum, she left the phone, went into the kitchen and made a cup of tea and went back to find that her mum was still talking. She had not noticed she had not been there. It is not a great example of a parent child relationship, but it did make me smile and it left an image in my mind.

There is a children's worship song whose first line is 'Prayer is like a telephone, for us to talk to Jesus.' It's not a song I particularly like but I understand what its author intended; it's a reminder that we can pray any time and God is always there. However, most of us would say that hearing God speak can be a challenge. It certainly does not feel like having a chat on the phone with a friend or relative. Unless that is, like my friend's mum, we are able to sustain a conversation singlehandedly.

For Christians, prayer is a wonderful gift. It is a vital part of nurturing our relationship with God. But prayer is something which all of us find difficult. It is good to know that God is always there and that we can tell him about all the things that trouble us. However, prayer is about much more than talking to God and much more than presenting God with a list of things that we would like him to do.

A wise person once said 'pray as you can, not as you can't.' That is a reminder that we are all different and we find different approaches to prayer helpful. Some of us are chatters, others love to pray through a list, others love to follow a set form of words while still others find the psalmist's invitation to 'be still and know that I am God' the most helpful model of prayer. It really doesn't matter which approach you use, as long as we make prayer a part of our lives.

Bishop Michael has invited the Diocese to make 2026 a year of particular focus on prayer. During August we are going to make prayer the focus of our Sunday services. Each week we will look at a different aspect of prayer. There will be some resources available at the back of both churches to help us to pray and we would love to invite you to join us on Wednesdays at 9.00am in the Chancel at St Peter's to pray. We promise not to put you on the spot and ask you to pray out loud.

My hope and prayer is that this month will help us all to reflect a bit more on prayer and to embed prayer more at the heart of our Christian walk.

With God's blessing



From the Church Registers

Weddings:	15 August - Terence Williams and Patricia Tyreman St Nicholas' Church
	15 August - Brian O'Dea and Tracey Burford St Peter's Church
Funerals:	29 - July Martin Walsh

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 & time for August:

Wednesday 5th 10.15am - 11.45am

Wednesday 12th 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

Bereavement Support Group



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2nd Tuesday of each month 2.30pm – 4pm

St. Nicholas Church, Nore Road

Portishead Church of England

Summary: St Peter's Crack Repairs and Re-ordering

We are responding to serious cracking in the north-west corner of St Peter's Church. Repairing the structural damage remains the immediate priority, but the situation is also being considered as an opportunity to improve the building for worship, children's and youth provision, community use and future sustainability.

Good progress is being made by the action groups working on repairs, fundraising and possible development of the church. The structural report has been submitted to the Diocese as part of the faculty application. The PCC has also commissioned outline designs for potential re-ordering, which will be shared more widely and subject to proper consultation and faculty approval.

Members of the DAC visited St Peter's on Tuesday 30th June and met with members of the Buildings Sub-Group and our architect and structural engineer. The DAC representatives supported the proposed structural approach, which involves installing piles inside the church to underpin the unstable corner. External work was considered impracticable because of limited space near the burial plots. Further investigation, including deeper boreholes, will be required before detailed design and tendering. The repair process is expected to include external shoring scaffolding, floor excavation, piling, a concrete slab, internal steelwork, masonry stitching, making good, and an archaeological watching brief. Surface water drainage, and possibly groundwater drainage,

will also need improvement to reflect climate change.

The DAC was also supportive of a draft proposal for developing the West end of the church to create space for children and youth and meetings. However, it is recognised that the repair work must remain the first priority, and we will make sure that we have the finances available to do this work before we turn our attention to further developments. Temporary netting over affected walls will take place shortly and is considered a sensible way to allow reuse of the fenced-off area.

The work is likely to take place next summer and is currently estimated at £200,000–£250,000 plus VAT. Raising this money will clearly require grant funding and wider fundraising. Inclusion on Historic England's At Risk Register has been applied for and may support this.

Fundraising has already begun. Separate fundraising programmes are likely to be developed for different projects, recognising that each may attract support from different sources. Initiatives may include community events, grant applications and wider engagement across the town, so that everyone who values St Peter's can contribute. The formation of The Friends of St Peter's has been approved, and existing church funds, including legacies, are also being considered. A prayer group meets on the first Monday of each month at 10:00 to pray for the projects.

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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.

Mon 27 th	7.15am	Monday Prayer - online
Tues 28 th	10.30am	Lighthouse Carers Group – St Nicholas’ Church
Weds 29 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer - online
Thurs 30 th		‘Thought for the Day’ available from 8.00am via our website, YouTube and Facebook
	6.45am	Morning Prayer - online
	10.30am	Midweek Communion at St Peter’s Church
	10.40am	Midweek Church Coffee - online
	2.00pm	Lighthouse Café at St Nicholas’ Church

Sunday 2nd August – Trinity 9/Prayer 1

Lord, Teach us to Pray Psalm 63.1-8 Luke 11.1-4

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

9.30am Morning Worship at St Nicholas’ Church

10.30 Summer Sunday Worship with Communion at St Peter’s Church

Mon 3 rd	7.15am	Monday Prayer - online
	10.30am	Summer Refresh at St Peter’s Church
Weds 5 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer - online
Thurs 6 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 - online
	2.00pm	Lighthouse Café at St Nicholas’ Church
Sat 8 th	10.30am	LLADS at St Barnabas Centre

Sunday 9th August - Trinity 10 / Prayer 2

Honesty in Prayer 1 Samuel 1.9-18 Mark 14.32-36

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St Nicholas’ Church

10.30 Summer Sunday Worship at St Peter’s Church

Mon 10 th	7.15am	Monday Prayer - online
	10.00am	Summer Refresh at St Peter’s Church
Tues 11 th	2.30pm	Bereavement Support Group at St Nicholas’ Church
Thurs 13 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 - online
	2.00pm	Lighthouse Café at St Nicholas’ Church

Sunday 16th August - Trinity 11 / Prayer 3

Persistence / Waiting on God Psalm 130 Luke 18:1-8

8am Holy Communion at St Peter's Church

9.15 for 9.30am Café Church in the Lighthouse at St Nicholas' Church

10.30am Summer Sunday Worship with Communion – St Peter's Church

Sun 16 th	12 noon	Community Picnic at Willow Gardens
Mon 17 th	7.15am	Morning Prayer - online
	10.00am	Summer Refresh at St Peter's Church
Weds 19 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer - online
Thurs 20 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 - online
	2.00pm	Lighthouse Café at St Nicholas' Church

Sunday 23rd August - Trinity 12 / Prayer 4

Listening Prayer 1 Samuel 3.1-10 John 10.1-5

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St Nicholas' Church

10.30 Summer Sunday Worship at St Peter's Church

Mon 24 th	7.15am	Monday Prayer - online
	10.00am	Summer Refresh at St Peter's Church
Tues 25 th	10.30am	Lighthouse Carers Group – St Nicholas' Church
Weds 26 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer - online
Thurs 27 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 - online
	2.00pm	Lighthouse Café at St Nicholas' Church

Sunday 30th August - Trinity 13 / Prayer 5

Christian Aid Update / Intercessory Prayer Luke 13:18-19

10.30 United Services – St Nicholas' Church

Summer Series – Prayer

During August we will be focusing on the theme of Prayer. In a month with fewer church activities why not look to explore prayer for yourself. There will be some resources from the Diocese at the back of each church and every Wednesday morning at 9.00am we would love to see you at Morning Prayer in the Chancel at St Peter's (up by the 'High Altar').

Don't forget that during the school holidays we will combine our two mid-morning services at St Peter's into a single united service at 10.30. Each Sunday this will be followed by a Picnic – usually in the Millennium Garden (if fine). On 16th August we will join in the Community Picnic in Willow Gardens (behind Portishead Medical Group). On 30th August we will have one United Service in the parish at St Nicholas – with a picnic in The Glade at Chaplain's Wood (behind the church).

Sunday 2nd August: Lord, Teach us to Pray

Psalm 63.1-8 - O God, you are my God, I seek you

Luke 11.1-4 – The Lord's Prayer

Followed by a picnic in The Millennium Garden

Sunday 9th August: Honesty in Prayer

1 Samuel 1.9-18 – Hannah's desperate prayer in the Temple

Mark 14.32-36 – Jesus in the Garden

Followed by a picnic in The Millennium Garden

Sunday 16th August: Persistence / Waiting on God

Psalm 130 - Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

Luke 18:1–8 – The Persistent Widow

Followed by a community picnic in Willow Gardens

Sunday 23rd August: Listening Prayer

Samuel 3.1-10 – The Boy Samuel in the Temple

John 10.1-5 – His sheep follow him because they know his voice

Followed by a picnic in The Millennium Garden

Sunday 30th August: Update from Christian Aid

Luke 13:18-19 – The Parable of the Mustard Seed

Followed by a picnic in The Glade at Chaplain's Wood
(behind St Nicholas')

Martha's Kitchen – Help Needed This Summer

Martha's Kitchen runs every Tuesday during the school holidays, opening its hatches to families across Portishead. It's a joyful piece of community work — but it's also a big weekly task.

In previous years, we've been able to move everything we need into the Methodist Hall for the full six weeks. It's heavy work, but it only had to be done once.

This year, the hall is booked for other events, which means we need to move all our equipment in and out every single week. That's a lot of lifting, loading, and unloading — usually filling at least two cars.

To make this possible, we're asking for help with setting up on Monday evenings and setting down on Tuesdays at midday. Even if you can do one date it will really help.

If you can help on any of the dates below, please contact Lindsay – 07483932608 – pioneer@portisheadparish.co.uk

Set-up dates: (Mon at 8pm)

27th July, 3rd August,

10th August, 17th August

24th August, 31st August

Set-down dates: (Tues at midday)

28th July, 4th August,

11th August, 18th August

25th August, 1st September

Cruse Bereavement Support Meetings 2026

Cruse
Bereavement
Support

The 'Walk and Talk' meeting starts outside Waitrose on Thursday 13 August at 10am for one hour's guided walk in Portishead. Please contact cruseclevelandonyvette@gmail.com with your contact details, if wishing to join for the first time.

This month's 'Drop in' meeting is on Thursday 27 August at the Methodist Church Community Hub from 10am to 12 noon. Many people find meeting up with others who are facing similar situations very supportive. Trained Bereavement Volunteers are available and refreshments are provided.

Tea with the Bishop!

Back in June, Bishop Michael extended a kind invitation to all Lay Pastoral Assistants to attend Evensong at Wells Cathedral followed by 'Pimms, Cake and Cornettos' at the Bishop's Palace in Wells. Five of us duly attended (it would have been rude to refuse!) The weather was bright and sunny and we enjoyed the countryside as Mary kindly drove myself, Carolyne and Sylvia



down, with Pat joining us there. We just had time for a quick cup of tea at the Palace Garden's tea room before walking over to the service. It was a delight to hear the Cathedral Girls sing. The Bishop then led us over to the Palace Gardens. The local croquet club were playing on the lawn and we met some of the Bishop's staff who kindly served us drinks. Bishop Michael thanked all those present for the pastoral work that we do in our parishes. As we chatted, his two children (years 8 and 9) passed round the cakes and Cornettos. We also had the opportunity to wander around the gardens, which were a real delight. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet the Bishop and his team and in such a beautiful setting.

The Pastoral Team has recently expanded with the welcome addition of Gill Daniels, Jennie McDuff and Sue Giles. They were recently licensed at a 9.45am service at St. Peter's by the Co-Area Dean, our very own Rob, (acting on behalf of Bishop Michael).

Tricia Margerison, Lay Pastoral Assistant

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.

Parochial Church Council (PCC) Update

The May meeting of the new PCC confirmed the appointment of officers and approved Standing Orders and various policies, such as Safeguarding, Bullying and Harassment, Lone Working and the Parish Risk Assessment. The Finance and Buildings Action groups continue to meet.

The PCC met in June as the Vision Group. We are trialling this new way of looking at where God has been at work in the life of the church and to discern where God is leading us as we seek to fulfil Christ's mission in Portishead. This is not a routine meeting but a time of spiritual reflection, discernment and action that we pray will lead us to **Grow Deeper** with God in our worship, discipleship, and our faith; **Grow in Love** for each other; **Grow Younger** by celebrating the gift of an intergenerational church and **Grow Missionally** by being attentive to the Spirit, taking risks, and joining in with God's mission in the world.

Our theme was 'Inclusion'. We considered what we do well, and then spent some time defining inclusivity. Why do we want to be more inclusive? Because God's love is for everybody. How do we become more inclusive? Certainly by being better informed of peoples' needs. Each of us has been tasked with asking someone 'What would make it easier for you to participate in church?' We don't know what people are carrying with them, God loves us all, just as we are.

'True belonging is not passive... it's a practice that requires us to be vulnerable, get uncomfortable and learn how to be present with people without sacrificing who we are.'

Brené Brown

Tricia Margerison, PCC Lay Chair



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

**Copy date for the September edition is Friday 14
August**

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

Looking Ahead Dates - Sept-Nov 2026

Sunday 6th September at 11.30 - Nautical School Service at St Nicholas' Church

Saturday 12th September at 10.00am - Tidy Up at St Peter's Church

Wednesday 23rd September 7.30pm – PCC

Thurs 1st October at 7.30pm - Setting Sail Starts (provisional)

Saturday 3rd October 10.00-12.00 - Decorate St Peter's for Harvest

Sunday 4th October - Harvest Festival

Wednesday 7th October at 2.30pm - Craft and Prayer afternoon

Saturday 10th October at 10.00am - Tidy Up at St Peter's Church

Saturday 17th October at 10.00am - Quiet Morning at St Nicholas' Church

Friday 23rd October at 2.00pm - Silent Prayer Walk

Sunday 25th October at 4.00pm - All Souls Service in St Peter's Church

Saturday 7th November at 10am - Tidy Up at St. Peter's Church

Saturday 7th November at 7.00pm - Confirmation Service in Wells Cathedral

Sunday 22nd November at 10.30am - St Nicholas Patronal Festival

Monday 23rd - Saturday 28th November - Star Trail at St Peter's Church



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