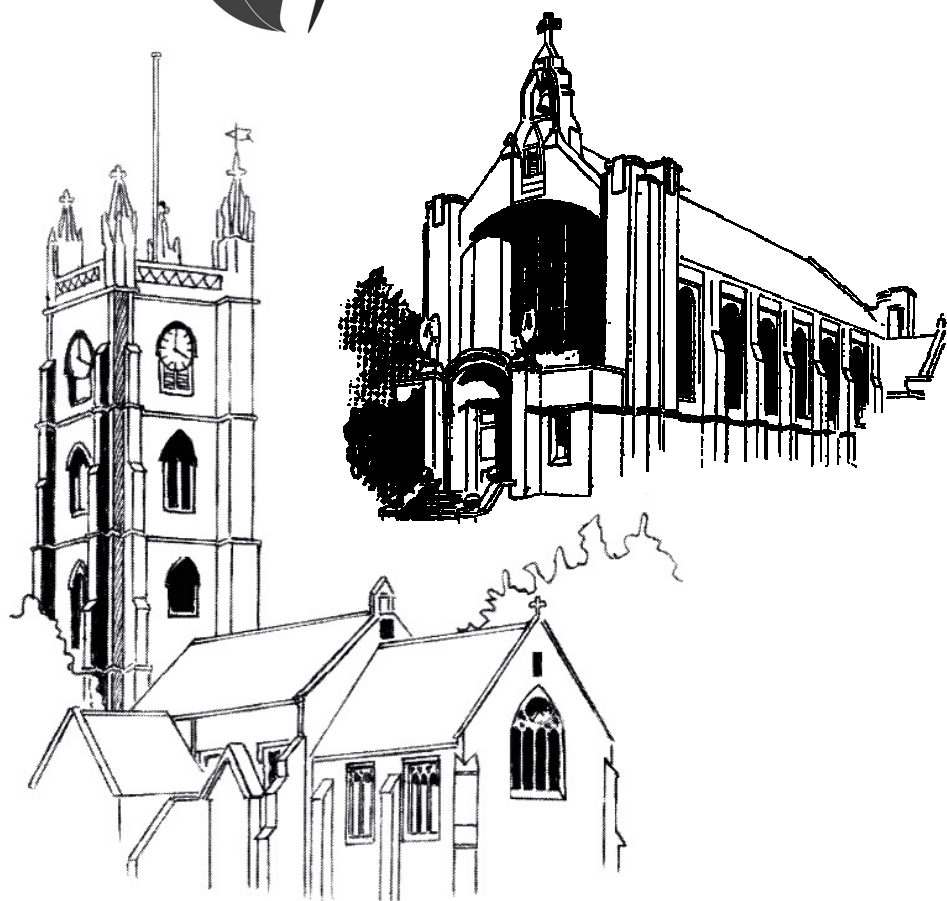


# Portishead Parish Magazine



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



December 2025

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

# Letter from Rob

Mary had an impossible job.

Did she have any idea what she was letting herself in for when she said 'yes'?

Parenthood always has its moments of course. Perhaps the writing was on the wattle and daub for Mary when God's bountiful provision of a place to give birth was one usually inhabited by animals.

When I was on retreat during my recent sabbatical, I spent some time pondering the passage in Luke 2 where the 12-year-old Jesus goes to Jerusalem with his parents for the Passover. Unbeknown to them he doesn't go back with them but stays in the city so that he can go and chat to the teachers of the law in the temple. It's the only story the Bible gives us of Jesus' childhood, and it is rather startling. What we don't see here is the Jesus of the schmaltzy Christmas Carols which present us with a Jesus who was such a picture of Victorian perfection that he never even shed a tear. Oh no! This Jesus deliberately deceives his parents into thinking that he is with them on their trip home and leaves them in a state of high anxiety for 3 days before he consents to be found. Pondering this story I was struck by Luke telling us that it was Mary who gently rebukes Jesus when they find him. Joseph remains silent. I wonder whether this was because Joseph was so cross that he didn't trust himself to say anything at all to Jesus (or Mary said 'let me deal with it, dear.')

This story may lead us to re-explore what it means for Jesus to be the son of God. It is also an important, challenging, but I hope also encouraging, picture of God's relationship with his world. Mary's experience of being Jesus' mother would have been a challenge from his birth to his death – a sword really did pierce her soul as Simeon told her it would. But this was not a sign that God was absent. He was very much present in everything that happened. He never promised her a rose garden and he duly delivered.

The world today is a mess. We see climate breakdown, tyrannical or incompetent leadership and unspeakable suffering all around. Mary reminds us that this does not speak of God's absence. She was very aware of tyranny and suffering if not climate catastrophe. Christmas and the coming of Jesus as God with Us stand as a sign of hope in the presence of God in the midst of the all the pain and suffering in the world. Mary's life reminds us of the importance of standing firm through, holding on to hope and shining as a beacon of that hope. God calls us as his people to do the same. God invites us to be people of hope in the worst of times.

I pray that your Christmas will be joyful and hope-filled.

**Rob Eastwood Dewing**

# From the Church Registers

**Funerals:** Lilian Marsh, Audrey Savory

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## 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 December:**

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> - both 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

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## Tawny Owl Nesting Boxes

We would like to offer a heartfelt thank you to the Hawk and Owl Trust for working with us to install a Tawny Owl nesting box in the glade at St Nick's Church.

Although the glade contains many trees, it lacks the older, mature trees that provide natural nesting sites for Tawny Owls. The new nesting box will help fill this gap, providing a safe, secure home for the wonderful owls that already inhabit the Glade. The box will also be monitored by the Hawk and Owl Trust, which will check it for nesting birds and help us learn more about the owls and ensure their welfare.

This project is especially important, as Tawny Owl populations in the UK are declining, leading to their classification on the Amber List of Birds of Conservation Concern. Their decline is linked to the loss and fragmentation of woodland habitats, as well as to the effects of pesticide use on their prey species.

By providing a safe nesting site here at St Nick's, we are helping to care for God's creation and give these wonderful birds a better chance to thrive once again.

**The eco Group.**

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 18<sup>th</sup> December.

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December**

Time: **9.45**

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# News from our Mission Partner

## **Kanamai Development Trust, Kenya - The Effects of Climate Change**

This summer in the UK has given us just a glimpse of what effect climate change has on gardens, and farmers are reporting the changes the hot weather has had on their crops. It is, therefore, maybe a little easier to understand what it is like in Africa.

Because the weather in Africa is generally more extreme than in the UK, people are more used to extreme changes. Droughts have always been hard, but the intense heat now means that the earth becomes compacted and impossible to dig with manual tools. Our local villagers have tended to grow maize and other crops around their homes, but this has become harder and harder to do, for not only is the ground rock solid, but water also becomes harder to source. Earlier this year, we spent quite a lot of money to deepen the school well, as it had dried up. In the past, Kenyans have relied heavily on imported grain (from Ukraine) but that source has understandably almost disappeared and is very expensive. Needless to say, importers are doing very well! Oil, petrol, kerosene, and vegetables are all very expensive too.

Until 20 years ago, it was possible to forecast pretty accurately when the first rain would appear. There would be the first small monsoon, then more sun, followed by the main monsoon. With the first rain the soil would be softened, crops could be started, and then the sun would help them to grow, allowing them to be harvested before the main monsoon. The first rains just did not appear this year, and finally the monsoon came, but it was so heavy and long, that roads, bridges and homes were washed away. Homes are mostly made of sticks, stones and mud, and cannot withstand the battering that heavy rain brings.

Our school is brick built, so is safe, but the effect the extreme weather has on the buildings and the ground is devastating, not least on the sewage tanks, as they tend to flood, so instead of having them emptied once or twice a year, it becomes a costly monthly necessity. A couple of kilometres away from the school is a crocodile farm, and earlier this year their tanks flooded and the walls fell apart, so the area became a place of danger for everyone. Waterborne diseases have become commonplace, so our children are exposed to very serious illness; typhoid, dengue fever, malaria, to name but a few.

**Pearl Walker**

# Lindsay Needs Your Help with Church Flowers

Over the past year, I've had the joy of helping to ensure that fresh flowers regularly brighten St Peter's Church—watering displays, removing wilted blooms, and arranging flowers in vases, among other tasks.

As my role in the parish will be changing in January, I need to be realistic about what I can continue to do. I'll still be around and involved, but I'd love to invite others to step into this gentle rhythm of care, of regularly bringing in a little bit of creation inside the church.

## **Would you be willing to help?**

- Placing flowers in a vase from time to time
- Removing dead flowers and keeping displays fresh
- Or perhaps taking on the task of organising the flowers more regularly

It's a peaceful way to serve—creative, hands-on, and quietly prayerful. If this sounds like something you'd enjoy, please contact Lindsay - 07483 932608 – [Pioneer@portisheadparish.co.uk](mailto:Pioneer@portisheadparish.co.uk)



Contributions to the parish magazine can be emailed to  
[portisheadparishmageditors@gmail.com](mailto:portisheadparishmageditors@gmail.com)

Copy date for the January edition is Friday 5 December





# PORTISHEAD

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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 noticesheet for up-to-date details and changes.

Mon 1 <sup>st</sup>	7.15am	Mission Prayer - <a href="https://teams.live.com/join/9399632380155?p=x10GS1guFQs7vCocPK">https://teams.live.com/join/9399632380155?p=x10GS1guFQs7vCocPK</a>
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.00am	Refresh Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter's Church
Weds 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30am	Morning Prayer via Zoom <a href="https://bit.ly/wednesdaymorningprayer">https://bit.ly/wednesdaymorningprayer</a>
Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup>		'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 <a href="https://bit.ly/midweekchurchcoffee">https://bit.ly/midweekchurchcoffee</a>
	2.00pm	Lighthouse Café at St Nicholas' Church
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Table Talk at Portishead Library

## Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December – Advent 2

Isaiah 11.1-10; Romans 15.4-13, Matthew 3.1-12

**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 8 <sup>th</sup>	7.15am	Mission Prayer - <a href="https://teams.live.com/join/9399632380155?p=x10GS1guFQs7vCocPK">https://teams.live.com/join/9399632380155?p=x10GS1guFQs7vCocPK</a>
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Refresh Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter's Church
	2.30pm	Bereavement Support Group at St Nicholas' Church
Weds 10 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Morning Prayer via Zoom <a href="https://bit.ly/wednesdaymorningprayer">https://bit.ly/wednesdaymorningprayer</a>
	4.00pm	Portishead Pre-School Nativity at St Peter's Church
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup>		'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 <a href="https://bit.ly/midweekchurchcoffee">https://bit.ly/midweekchurchcoffee</a>
	2.00pm	Lighthouse Café at St Nicholas' Church
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	LLaDs at St Barnabas Centre
	7.30pm	Posset Singers Concert at St Nicholas' Church

## Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Advent 3

Isaiah 35.1-10; James 5.7-10; Matthew 11.2-11

**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**

Mon 15 <sup>th</sup>	7.15am	Mission Prayer - <a href="https://teams.live.com/join/9399632380155?p=x10GS1guFQs7vCocPK">https://teams.live.com/join/9399632380155?p=x10GS1guFQs7vCocPK</a>
	6.00pm	Portishead Primary School Carol Service at St Peter's Church

Tues 16 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Refresh Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter's Church
	10.00am	The Lighthouse Carers Group Christmas Meeting at St Nicholas' Church
Weds 17 <sup>th</sup>	5.00pm	High Down School Carol Service at St Peter's Church
	9.00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom <a href="https://bit.ly/wednesdaymorningprayer">https://bit.ly/wednesdaymorningprayer</a>
	12-2pm	Lunchtime Carols in St Peter's Church
	6.00pm	Portishead Primary School Carol Service at St Peter's Church
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup>		'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 <a href="https://bit.ly/midweekchurchcoffee">https://bit.ly/midweekchurchcoffee</a>
	2.00pm	Lighthouse Café at St Nicholas' Church
	2.30pm	Mothers' Union at St Peter's Church
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	St Peter's School Carol Service at St Peter's Church
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	9am-1pm	'Deck the halls' – Decorating St Peter's Church for Christmas

### **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December – Advent 4**

Isaiah 7.10-16; Romans 1.1-7; Matthew 1.18-25

**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 Community Carol Service at St Nicholas' Church**

**6.00pm Traditional Carol Service at St Peter's Church**

Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup>	7.15am	Mission Prayer - <a href="https://teams.live.com/join/9399632380155?p=xl0GS1guFQs7vCocPK">https://teams.live.com/join/9399632380155?p=xl0GS1guFQs7vCocPK</a>
Weds 24 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Crib Service at St Peter's Church
	3.00pm	Crib Service at St Nicholas' Church
	4.00pm	Crib Service at St Peter's Church
	5.00pm	Crib Service at St Nicholas' Church
	11.15pm	Midnight Mass at St Peter's Church

### **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day**

Isaiah 9.2-7; Luke 2.1-14

**8.00am Holy Communion**

**9.30am Christmas Parish Communion at St Nicholas' Church**

**10.30am Christmas All-Age Family Communion at St Peter's Church**

### **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas 1**

Isaiah 63.7-9; Matthew 2.13-23

**10.30am United Service at St Peter's Church**

# Reflections on Returning from Sabbatical

Over the past few months, I have been incredibly fortunate to have been granted the opportunity to take a sabbatical – three months away from my usual work commitments. This period was partly a time for rest and reset, and partly a chance to do some reading, thinking, and praying. It has truly been a wonderful experience, and I am deeply grateful to the team and to the entire church for making this possible.

Since returning from my sabbatical, several people have expressed interest in hearing about what I did and what I experienced during this time. This reflection aims to provide an overview of the past three months, as well as to share some significant thoughts that have arisen in me.

A significant part of my sabbatical was dedicated to rest, and I was fortunate to spend quality time with my family. Both my daughters were with us for the whole of August and it felt like a rare opportunity for all four of us to be together for an extended period. We enjoyed a wonderful holiday cycling and camping in Brittany and the break also allowed me to spend uninterrupted time with my family, free from the usual evening meetings and daily pressures.

In addition to family time, I took the chance to go on retreat at St. Beuno's in North Wales, a retreat centre I have visited several times before. It was valuable to spend a few days there,

doing business with God. I also spent some time at Lee Abbey in North Devon, where I serve as a trustee, and attended the lectures for an MA module called "Relocating Religion" at Sarum College in Salisbury. This module explored the place of religion in the modern secular world and was complemented by reading and thought about my ministry and the church's role today.

Overall, my three months away were relaxed, without any far-flung travel, but they were deeply restorative and insightful. I am truly thankful for the experience.

During my sabbatical, my thinking was influenced by both the "Relocating Religion" module and a recently published report by the Bible Society titled "The Quiet Revival." This report has generated considerable discussion and highlighted several fascinating trends regarding church attendance and its impact on well-being.

One of the key findings was a noticeable shift in church attendance patterns. Approximately 12% of adults in England and Wales are attending church at least monthly. However, there is evidence of a substantial uptick in younger adults attending church, particularly young men. According to the research 21% of men aged 18 to 24 say they attend church at least monthly, and 33% of adult churchgoers in England and

Wales are between 18 and 34 years old. These figures are significant and suggest emerging trends that warrant attention.

The report also explored the positive effects of church attendance on well-being. Notably, 75% of regular churchgoers felt their lives were meaningful, compared to 49% of non-churchgoers. Furthermore, 55% of those who attended church regularly felt close to people in their local area, versus only 28% among those who did not attend. These are remarkable findings that underline the social and emotional benefits of church involvement.

While some have questioned the absolute accuracy of the figures, the general consensus is that the report reflects genuine shifts in attitudes and behaviours, particularly among younger adults. These trends have been observed in various denominations, including the Church of England in Portishead, though the specifics may differ locally.

Looking around us on a Sunday morning we will probably reflect that we are not seeing much of this shift in our own church. Interestingly, much of the growth among young people, especially young men, has been seen at the edges of the church spectrum – in Pentecostal churches with vibrant, spirit-filled worship, and in more liturgical Catholic or Orthodox churches where the sacraments and sensory experiences are emphasised.

Reflecting on these insights led me to consider afresh what kind of church we are called to be. It is crucial to remember why we gather as a

community and the value that church brings to our lives. The evidence is clear: attending church is good for our mental health and our sense of connection.

There are four key aspects I believe we should emphasise as a church:

- **Place of Welcome:** Church must be a place where everyone is invited and accepted just as they are. This unconditional welcome is foundational to our identity.
- **A Place of Encounter:** Church should be a space for deep and profound encounters – both with God through the Holy Spirit and with one another. Our relationships and interactions are essential.
- **A Place of Transformation:** Together, we seek transformation, aspiring to be shaped into the likeness of Christ through the Holy Spirit. This ongoing formation is central to our purpose.
- **A Place of Preparation:** Church is also a place of preparation, equipping us to engage with and participate in God's work in the world beyond our gatherings.

These elements are fundamental to who we are and we need to keep remembering that

In light of these reflections, I believe there are three practical steps for us to pursue:

- **Pray:** We need to pray for our church, for churches across Portishead, and for young people – especially young men – both within our community and beyond. We should also pray that we might be ready and equipped

to embrace the opportunities highlighted in the report.

- **Share:** Many of us have children or grandchildren in the 18–35 age group. The findings from the report offer an excellent opening to engage them in conversation about faith and church. We must also cultivate confidence in our faith, recognising its positive impact on our lives, and be prepared to share our experiences and beliefs with others.
- **Develop Pathways for Growth:** As a church, we should focus on fostering growth in discipleship, both for ourselves and for those exploring faith. Over the past few years, we have offered a course called “Setting Sail” early in the year, and we plan to do so again next year. I encourage everyone to consider participating or inviting others who may be interested in learning more about following Jesus and experiencing the benefits described in the report.

These steps will help us continue to grow as a community that welcomes, encounters, transforms, and prepares its members for service.

In summary, my sabbatical has provided not only rest and renewal but also fresh insights into our mission as a church. I hope this reflection has conveyed the essence of what I have been doing and thinking. I am grateful for the renewed sense of purpose and energy I bring back, and I see it as a gift from God for us all. I look forward to continuing this important conversation together, exploring who we are called to be as a church community.

Thank you for reading, and may God continue to work in and through each of us in the months and years ahead. I am eager to hear your thoughts and invite you to share your reflections, whether in person, via email, or through social media. Let us keep this dialogue open as we journey together.

**Rob Eastwood Dewing**

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## An Afternoon of Craft & Prayer

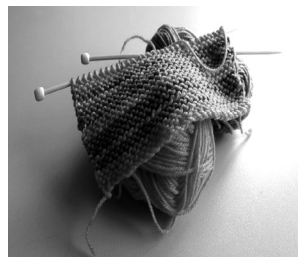
**Enjoy being creative? In need of a little peace this autumn...**

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?

**Tonya Nixon**

**When:** Tuesday 2 December 2025, **Time:** 2.30pm – 4.00pm

**Where:** St. Peter's Church





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## **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.

## **Bereavement Support Group**

### **Grief doesn't stop after the funeral**

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month 2.30pm – 4pm**  
**St. Nicholas Church, Nore Road**

**Portishead Church of England**

# Portishead Ethics Forum

## **Social Media, Self-Esteem and Mental Wellbeing**

### **Katharine Hill: Director, Care for the Family**

On 20 October the Portishead Ethics Forum was delighted to welcome as speaker Katharine Hill, a Director of Care for the Family, the national charity whose remit is the promotion of strong family life and the provision of help for those who face family difficulties, primarily in respect of marriage, parenting and bereavement.

Beset by the relentless pressures of the digital age, how can today's parents best foster a healthy confidence, not only in their children but also in themselves and, where appropriate, in grandparents, and in the family's involvement in schools. Today's children are growing up in an age so different even to that experienced by the immediately preceding generation that all society's ground rules about parenting are outdated and to some extent directionless. People who were of school age as recently as around the turn of the millennium had, at most, a computer on their desk. Children now have them in their pockets

In 2015, 73% of US and UK teenagers reported having access to a smartphone. Now the share is 95%. A similarly steep rise is observable in relation to much younger children. 40% of US two-year-olds own their own tablet, rising to 58% by the age of four.

Katharine showed an insightful video of children explaining what they spend time doing on their mobiles. All those portrayed admitted to being addicted to their phones. They spoke about cyber-bullying and the stressful impact of its social comparisons. Significantly, all wished they could spend less time on the phone and each said they would spend time on more positive things if only they could tear themselves away from their devices.

The social media world runs according to an 'attention economy', the most precious commodity for big tech companies being people's compulsive attention, which is why it is so hard for children to get off their devices. One of 'big tech's' most powerful weapons is the algorithm, sets of rules and calculations which sort and rank content, determining what a user will see, based on past behaviour. 'Attention' is now potentially expected 24/7, for example, leading some children to set alarms to wake them during the night to check for posts on social media. Attention span at school has worsened as a result of consequent sleep deprivation. Online games are designed to pull children in. A recent report concerned a child 'Jack', on a nine-hour relay game. Offered £500 to come off his phone, he refused! This kind of addiction is ruinous to family life. An Ofcom report has said that social media is becoming less and less social. Peer approval is the oxygen of adolescence. So peer disapproval is a powerful negative factor in children's development.

Contact. With whom are children in contact online? If they're off to meet 'Charlie', is that true? Is Charlie real, or a pseudonym?

Conduct. How are they behaving online? School bullies can now follow them home. 24% have been bullied online. Inappropriate messaging and images: 'Alice' and 'Carl' on their phones. He messages her. Tells her she's very pretty. Asks her to



partially undress and send an image. 25% of 14-yr-olds have received inappropriate messages online. (Alice hesitates when asked to send the image and, thankfully, declines.)

Content. Malign social media influencers? Average age for coming across online pornography is 13, often at a friend's house or somewhere similar. Many youngsters think that's what you watch to learn about sex.

From MRI scanning research we know that brain development is sped up by the use of devices. The pre-frontal cortex is not fully developed until early adulthood. Thus children use their amygdala, which works in a completely different way and is emotion-based. This plasticity of their brain means that parents can be involved in helping children to think. Rounding off her talk, Katharine gave a few bullet-points outlining positive ways forward for concerned parents:

Be intentional. We've under-protected our children online and over-protected them in the real world. We can challenge them to step out and be intentional in our encouragement. We can equally be intentional in regulating screen time and having conversations with them about what they consider is appropriate content, putting our values in place, not allowing values to be instilled 'down the road'.

Be together. It's no use if one parent confiscates a device and the other simply gives it back. Consistency is vital.

Be curious. Take an interest in what they're doing online.

Be positive. We can use technology to be positive. A 'family media agreement' is a worthwhile idea. Talk together about ground rules concerning use of technology in the home: at the table, in the bedroom.

Finally, this is all good when they're at home. But when they're not? Our job is to teach them wisdom, so...

Be an example. Adopt good, healthy practice in our own use of this technology and ensure the children see us doing so.

St Peter's Church Ethics Forum committee express their thanks to Katharine for a well-received and topical talk. Donations by attendees have enabled the sum of £150 to be donated to Care for the Family.

**Nick McDuff**

## 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 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	8am – 9.30am
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	8am – 9.30am
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	8am – 9.30am

### **Venue: Impero Lounge**

60 High St, BS20 6EH,  
Portishead, UK

Revd Lindsay: 07483 932608. Email: [Pioneer@portisheadparish.co.uk](mailto:Pioneer@portisheadparish.co.uk)

# Thoughts on All Saints' Day

## **Crusader Chorus**

*The Lord has need of me, His soldier I will be,  
He gave himself my life to win and so I mean to follow Him  
And serve Him faithfully. So although the fight be fierce and long  
I'll carry on He makes me strong.  
And then one day His face I'll see, and oh the joy when He says to me....  
"Well done, my brave Crusader!"*

How interesting that on All Saints' Sunday when Revd Tonya asked us to think about who is a saint and what makes a saint, that the word 'Crusaders' was mentioned.

Formerly known as 'Crusaders', 'Urban Saints' has for over 100 years been a Christian youth organisation aimed at helping young people develop a personal faith in Jesus through weekly meetings, camps and other programmes. Urban Saints retains Crusaders' founding principles unchanged but now has the additional aim of encouraging youth leaders to promote faith in young people with a focus on digital resources.

In recent times the original 'Crusader Chorus' has come to be seen as rather militaristic but is probably based on the chapter in Paul's Letter to the Ephesians which stresses the need for Christians to put on the full armour of God in order to engage in the battle against 'Sin, the World and the Devil.

The Bible is our sword that helps us to fight with the many Sins described in several New Testament books, so we should read the Bible every day to help in this battle. The World holds much that is wonderful and good but can also lure followers of Christ away from doing the will of God. Of course, the Devil is so often an unseen enemy. But, as the chorus says, we have Christ as leader, and our Captain in the fight, which is often 'fierce and long', and 'He makes us strong'.

So let's sign up as 'Soldiers of Christ' in the crusade against evil and all become today's 'urban saints'.

**Sylvia Knightbridge**



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