

Portishead Parish Magazine



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



February 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
Assistant Curate	The Reverend Lindsay Smith · 07483 932608 8 Clevedon Rd. North Weston BS20 6TA 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	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.

An Induction to Febuary

For many of us, February can feel like a bleak month. The familiar festivals of Advent and Christmas are already fading into memory, and as we enter this last stretch of winter, some of us do so with a sense of dullness or emptiness. It can seem like a month in which very little happens.

Yet beneath our feet, the earth is quietly warming, beginning to stir, winter dormancy is breaking, and the ground is preparing to wake up for the coming spring. Spring makes her presence known in the snowdrops and crocuses that push bravely through the cold soil, brightening bare hedgerows and leafless branches. These small signs remind us that a new season is already unfolding.

The church calendar marks this turning of the year with Candlemas. This year, our Candlemas service will be held at St Peter's Church. During the service, we will bless the candles that will light our homes and churches throughout the coming year. Our celebration will also mark a special moment of transition: before the service begins, I (Lindsay) will be licensed into my new parish role as Team Pioneer.

As many of you know, I feel deeply called to live and serve here—a calling to both the people and the land. It is a calling rooted deep within me, a sense of connectedness and inherited belonging that stirs my heart and draws me into our beautiful community. Sometimes this stirring is a gentle whisper; at other times it feels like a crack of thunder rolling across the Gordano Valley. It is a longing, a restlessness of belonging, holding me within the gravitas of God's call, rooted and grounded in the place we all call home.

As this new season of Team Pioneer begins, I find myself stepping into a threshold space—an unknown edge between what has been and what is not yet. It is a space that feels both daunting and exhilarating. Moving from the security of a full-time role into a part-time one brings its own fears: fear of the unseen path, fear of not knowing. Yet alongside that fear is a wild, joyful excitement, a sense that God is opening new pathways and inviting not only me, but our whole parish, into a fresh season of ministry.

This is a journey we will take together. It is a time to look outward, to notice what God is already doing among us, and to wonder how we might join in. I know I will need to slow down, to listen, to be open to the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit. Through prayer and contemplation, she can ease our discomfort, steady our steps, and reveal the wisdom, rhythm, and richness of the paths we are called to walk.

As we move through February and towards the light of spring, may we

hold courage and curiosity close. May we trust that God is already at work in the quiet places, both within us and around us. And may this new season—of nature, of ministry, and of community—unfold with grace, hope, and the warmth of Christ's guiding light.

Rev Lindsay

'There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear'

1 John 4:18



Tea and
Toast served
from 9.30

9:45 SPECIAL

Informal and Creative Service

Date: Sunday 15th
February

Time: 9.45

St Peter's Church, Portishead



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.

Copy date for the March edition is Friday 13 February

Rev Lindsay Smith

Lindsay's role will be changing from the beginning of February. Her training curacy (paid for by the Diocese) finishes at the end of January. However, we are delighted that she will be continuing to live and work among us. We have a grant from the Growing Faith Foundation to encourage the formation of faith in children and families. Combining that with some money the church had in a fund for a Children and Families worker means that we will be able to employ Lindsay as Community Pioneer for 3 days a week for the next 2 years. She will be working to support children and families within and beyond the church.

She will continue to exercise her ministry among us as an ordained Deacon / Associate Minister but this will be in a self-supporting capacity.

Please pray for her as she settles into this new pattern of life and ministry.

Lindsay's Licensing & Candlemas Service

Monday 2nd February – 7.30 pm St Peter's Church, Portishead

Lindsay will be licensed as Associate Minister by Archdeacon Charlie Peer, during the service of Candlemas, where candles are lit and blessed—including any you'd like to bring for use at home in 2026.

All are warmly invited.

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 3 rd Feb	8am – 9.30am
Tuesday 10 th Feb	8am – 9.30am
Tuesday 24 th Feb	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

St. Peter’s Church, chore and tidy morning

On Saturday 14 February a small group would love some help with cleaning the church, litter picking in the churchyard, weeding, light gardening and preparing craft materials and organising them for the month ahead.

Every small job helps — and just a little time from a few people really does make a big difference. There’ll be plenty of friendly chat, coffee, and cake to enjoy along the way.

Please bring along your duster, any garden tools you have — and feel free to bring the family too

Saturday 14 February, 10am–12pm, St Peter’s Church

For more information, contact Rev Lindsay 07483932608 – pioneer@portisheadparish.co.uk

Cruse Bereavement Support Meetings 2026



‘Walk and Talk’ meetings start outside Waitrose, second Thursday of each month at 10:00 am for one hour’s guided walk in Portishead. Please contact cruseclevelandonyvette@gmail.com with your contact details, if wishing to join for first time.

‘Drop in’ meetings are held at the Methodist Church Community Hub, last Thursday of each month from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. Many people find meeting up with others who are facing similar situations very supportive. Trained Bereavement Volunteers are available and refreshments are provided.

‘Walk and Talk’ Thursdays 2026

8 January	9 July
12 February	13 August
12 March	10 September
9 April	8 October
14 May	12 November
11 June	10 December

‘Drop in’ Thursdays 2026

29 January	30 July
26 February	27 August
26 March	24 September
30 April	29 October
28 May	26 November
25 June	31 December



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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.

Sunday 1st February – 4th Sunday of Epiphany

1 Kings 17.8–16; 1 Corinthians 1.18–end; John 2.1–11

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 2 nd	7.15am	Mission Prayer - online
	7.30pm	Licensing Lindsay – St Peter’s Church
	7.00pm	Evening Prayer - online
Tues 3 rd	9.00am	Refresh Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter’s Church
Weds 4 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer - online
Thurs 5 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
	7.30pm	Setting Sail – 2 Brambling Lane BS20 7NN

Sunday 8th February – 2nd Sunday Before Lent

Genesis 1.1—23; Romans 8.18–25; Matthew 6.25–end

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 9 th	7.15am	Mission Prayer - online
Tues 10 th	9.00am	Refresh Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter’s Church
	2.30pm	Bereavement Support Group, St. Nicholas vestry tbc
	9.00am	Morning Prayer - online
Weds 11 th		‘Thought for the Day’ available from 8.00am via our website, YouTube and Facebook
Thurs 12 th	6.45am	Morning Prayer - online
	10.30am	Midweek Communion (MU) at St Peter’s Church
	10.40am	Midweek Church Coffee - online
	2.00pm	Lighthouse Café at St Nicholas’ Church
	7.30pm	Setting Sail – 2 Brambling Lane BS20 7NN
Sat 14 th	10.00am	St Peter’s Church – Tidy Up
	10.30am	LLaDs at St Barnabas Centre

Sunday 15th February – Sunday Next Before Lent

Exodus 24.12–end; 2 Peter 1.16–end; Matthew 17.1–9

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 Cafe 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 16 th	7.15am	Mission Prayer - online
	9.00pm	Evening Prayer - online
Tues 17 th	9.00am	Refresh Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter's Church
Weds 18 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer - online
	10.30am	Ash Wednesday Communion – St Peter's Church
	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Communion – St Nicholas' Church
Thurs 19 th		'Thought for the Day' available from 8.00am via our website, YouTube and Facebook
	6.45am	Morning Prayer - online
	10.30am	Midweek Communion (MU) at St Peter's Church
	10.40am	Midweek Church Coffee - online
	2.00pm	Lighthouse Café at St Nicholas' Church
	7.30pm	Setting Sail – 2 Brambling Lane BS20 7NN

Sunday 22nd February – 1st Sunday of Lent

Genesis 2.15–17; 3.1–7; Romans 5.12–19; Matthew 4.1–11

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 23 rd	7.15am	Mission Prayer - online
	9.00pm	Evening Prayer - online
Tues 24 th	9.00am	Refresh Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter's Church
	10.30pm	Lighthouse Carers' Group at St Nicholas' Church
Weds 25 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer - online
	7.30pm	Lent Course St Nicholas'
Thurs 26 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
	2.30pm	Mothers' Union at St Peter's Church
	7.30pm	Setting Sail – 2 Brambling Lane BS20 7NN

Letter from Holy Trinity School

Our school is a welcoming, inclusive community where every individual is valued and relationships are cherished. As part of our ethos, Trinity uses the Thrive Approach—a research based developmental framework—to support children's social and emotional wellbeing. This helps build resilience, nurtures confidence, and prepares children to engage positively with learning as they navigate the ups and downs of everyday life.

Recently, our staff have refreshed and expanded their Thrive training so we can continue to offer the very best support and help every child experience fullness of life. Children are encouraged to grow and flourish through a wide range of wellbeing opportunities, such as spending time with our school pets, using calm breakout areas, working with highly trained staff who help them understand and manage their emotions, and enjoying our garden and outdoor spaces. Reflection areas around the school also offer quiet moments for children to pause and reset.

An important part of embedding Thrive is helping all children understand the social and emotional needs of their peers. This encourages a culture of grace, compassion, and mutual support—whether that means offering encouragement, seeking help from an adult, or simply giving a friend the space they need.

Claire Howell, Headteacher (ad interim)

Joy Mears, Assistant Headteacher

Somerset Levels Birdwatch

On 8 December 2025 seven intrepid birdwatchers set out from Portishead on an overcast day to travel to the Somerset Levels. The trip was organised by Malcolm Kemp as a result of a promise at October's Auction of Promises. Despite heavy rain on the journey down, it fortunately held off during our visit to the neighbouring RSPB Ham Wall and Shapwick Heath National Nature Reserves. The tranquil setting, far away from the hustle & bustle of everyday life and traffic noise, allowed us to enjoy fellowship and to wonder at God's marvellous creation. There were distant views of Glastonbury Tor and we were fortunate to see thirty different bird species, including a plethora of different ducks. The highlights were close views of a resplendent Kingfisher, a Great White Egret and a pair of Marsh Harriers. Unfortunately, we didn't see a Starling murmuration. A most enjoyable day in excellent company - and we didn't get wet!

Phil Margerison

From the Church Registers

Funerals:	4 Feb	Valery Evans – 2pm – St Peter's
	10 Feb	Rosie Weekes – 1pm – St Nicholas
	27 Feb	Brian Jones – 11am – St Peter's
Baptisms:	15Feb	Myah Godwin Nattress – St Peters
	15 Feb	Mack Alfred Scott – St Nicholas

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 February:

Wednesday 4th, Wednesday 11th, Wednesday 25th - all 10.15am-11.45am

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

Or you could contact her on: 01275 840016/07341328682
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The 1876 Portishead Flower Show – it was about more than just fruit and veg!

I was excited recently to be handed an 1876 edition of the Portishead Parish Magazine by my old friend David Welsh. Therein were the full results of the 13th annual Flower Show. The show on August 23rd, held in the field of Mr J Fisher, was reported the following day in the *'Bristol Times and Mirror'*.

The fulsome review of the committee's '...encouragement of local cottagers in the cultivation of their gardens and to foster the moral influence of such like avocations...' was taken up in particular by Dr Wigan and family of Clarence House. Dr Wigan did well with peaches, melons and grapes, which suggests good heated greenhouses.

There are some well known local names among the prize-winners, even a century and a half later: A G Heaven (apples, plums); Mrs Heaven (bouquet of flowers under glass); Ellen Cooling (nosegay, cut flowers); Andrew Knight (selection of ferns); George Tippet (flowers in pots); Albert Harding – market gardener - (selection of vegetables); George Stokes (six geraniums – 1st prize); Mary Atherton (best tray of vegetables). Even the Rector, Revd A J Arkell, managed a 2nd prize for his asters! The most prolific competitor in all classes was Mark Coombs (no relation, but it would be nice to know of any current connections...).

Prizes given to 'all amateurs in the county of Somersetshire' included the Virgo family of Clevedon (well known for their fields of violets, some of their delicate blooms sent to London by train)). Also to J W Miles of Kingsweston for the best collection of cut flowers 'not to occupy a space of more than three feet'.

It was of some local significance that the judges were the gardeners – Messrs Morse (to William Proctor Baker); Dodds (at Bishopstone); and Walters (to Mrs Gibbs at Tyntesfield).

Why was there so much interest in a local flower show? The landed gentry: the Miles family (Bristol bankers and Avonmouth landowners); the Gibbs of Tyntesfield (shipowners – including the SS Great Britain); and William Proctor Baker (Bristol Redcliff mill magnate) were all financially aware of future events. Avonmouth Dock was to open in 1877 and Portishead in 1879. What better way to 'keep in with the locals' than by supporting their local flower show!!

Nigel Coombes

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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.

I wish to receive the Parish Magazine for 2026 at the discount rate of **£10.00** (Cheque/cash enclosed.)

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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.

Bereavement Support Group



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