

Portishead Parish Magazine




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



March 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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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	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.

Greetings from Revd Tonya

A comment was recently made to me, which went something like this:

‘Don’t you get fed up that many people come to church only at Easter & Christmas? Why is it that they don’t attend at other times?’

I found myself inwardly sighing and wondering what to say in response? As I feel these sorts of questions need to be asked in a different way. Being critical is not the way forward, rather I think the question ought to be: What is it that brings people to church at Easter and Christmas?

This is not an easy question to answer, people’s reasons for coming is I suspect complex. Perhaps ranging from, ‘it just feels right’, to ‘it’s what you do’ or ‘to belong to something bigger than yourself’.

Easter arrives at the end of this month. It’s the festival where chocolate eggs are eaten and enjoyed – of course! It is the festival which speaks of newness – birth, resurrection, hope; all these speak of our humanity.

I believe we are spiritual beings, as well as physical and emotional ones. And at times such as Easter and Christmas this can rise within us and we may reflect on questions such as beginning of new life and its ending.

Easter and Christmas are celebratory festivals and so those who do not normally come to church, come. And perhaps by coming they give themselves permission to ponder on the baby born and the man who died and rose again. And maybe during these festivals love is born again in each of us.

The services in the centre pages of this magazine give details of what is going on in church during Holy Week and the Easter period. If you feel the desire to come; for whatever reason (including the Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Day!), together we can share in the wonder and awe of the season.

Should you walk through the church door, welcome and not criticism awaits.....Come & see.

Easter Blessings to you all.

Tonya

From the Church Registers

Funerals

Anita Wright, Jason Webb, Mark Roydon



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Lenten Peace



St. Peters Church

Tuesday 5th March, 6.00pm – 6.30pm

30 minutes of quiet, in a candle lit church

No service, no hymns, no sermon, just peace

A time to be...

New life for all the world



Sowing seeds, chitting potatoes, choosing varieties. Easter acts as starter's orders for the gardening year. Beds are cultivated, lawns mown, plans for all the growth and new life that spring and summer will bring made and then turned into action.

There's a much greater connection between gardening and Easter than it merely being the time to dust off forks and spades. For in the Bible, a garden is the setting for Easter itself. In John's Gospel (Jn 20:1-18) Mary Magdalene meets the risen Jesus in a garden. Indeed, Jesus's appearance to Mary is so unexpected that at first she can't believe it's really him. So she mistakes the man she meets 'supposing him to be the gardener' (John 20:15).

In John's account, all the new life contained in the first Easter chimes with a much earlier story set in a garden too. This is of the new life of another man and woman, the creation story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and contained in the book of Genesis (Genesis 2:4- 3:24). In that story, Adam is the gardener (Gen 2:15), only for things to go wrong.

In John, Jesus is portrayed as the new Adam – come to bring new life that has no end.

What would happen if we were to think of our churches as gardens, primed to welcome the spring that is the new life of Jesus this Easter? What would happen if we imagined ourselves called to be gardeners – like our father Adam and the new Adam, Jesus? What would we expect to grow? What might need pruning or weeding? What new plans for the coming season would we make and turn into action? What would be the harvest that we'd sow for, tend and then reap?

For I reckon we should see Easter as the starting point of all that God wants to do among us and with us. Jesus's resurrection opens us to being part of God's new creation. Easter offers us a fresh start for life, relationships and the life of our churches: new life for all the world.

Happy gardening and a very Happy Easter to you all.

Bishop Michael

Copydate for the April 2024 issue of the magazine will be Friday 15th March

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 28th March.

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Night Prayer in Holy Week

(25th to 27th March 2024)

For the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week, at Night prayer, we plan to reflect on 1) The authority of Jesus, 2) The greatest commandment and 3) Betrayal. For about an hour each evening we will consider a piece of artwork to stimulate our minds, hear scripture readings and reflections, listen to music and pray.

We will gather at St Peter's on Monday and Tuesday and at Nicholas on Wednesday. All at 7.30. Do join us, it would be great to share Holy Week with you.

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.

Peter worked as a consultant psychiatrist in Bristol. He was for several years a special medical visitor for the Court of Protection and for the Public Guardian, writing legal

reports on capacity and assessing people when there were concerns about lasting powers of attorney. He was co-opted to advise on the NICE clinical guidelines on mental capacity and advance directives and has taught extensively on the Mental Capacity Act.

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

NOTICE

Revd Tonya is away throughout March to mid-June. There will be no loitering during this period.

Church Calendar

*Please use this as a focus for prayer in March.
Please check the website and noticesheet for up-to-date details and changes.*

Sunday 3rd March - Lent 3

Exodus 20.1-7; 1 Corinthians 1.18-25; John 2.13-22

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

Mon 4 th	7.15am	Mission Prayer - http://bit.ly/3JIWqwX
Tues 5 th	9.15am	Refresh Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter's
	2.00pm	Church Tots at St Peter's Church
	6.00pm	Lenten Peace at St Peter's Church
Weds 7 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom https://bit.ly/wednesdaymorningprayer
	7.30pm	Jesus at the Movies Lent Course at St Nicholas' Church '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 9 th	10.00am	Mothers Union Posy Making at St Peter's Church
	10.30am	LLaDs at St Barnabas Centre

Sunday 10th March - Lent 3 / Mothering Sunday

Exodus 2.1-10; Colossians 3.12-17; John 19.25b-27

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 11 th	7.15am	Mission Prayer - http://bit.ly/3JIWqwX
Tues 12 th	9.15am	Refresh Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter's
	2.00pm	Church Tots at St Peter's Church
Weds 13 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom https://bit.ly/wednesdaymorningprayer
	10.30am	Midweek Communion at St Peter's Church
	10.40am	Midweek Church Coffee via Zoom https://bit.ly/midweekchurchcoffee
		'Thought for the Day' available from 8.00am via our website, YouTube and Facebook
Thurs 14 th	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 17th March - Lent 4

Jeremiah 31.31-34; Hebrews 5.5-10; John 12.20-33

8.00am Holy Communion at St Peter's Church

9.15am 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
5.00pm Evensong at St Peter's Church

Mon 18 th	7.15am	Mission Prayer - http://bit.ly/3JIWqwX
Tues 19 ^h	9.15am	Refresh Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter's
	2.00pm	Church Tots at St Peter's Church
Weds 20 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom https://bit.ly/wednesdaymorningprayer
	3.30pm	Ragamuffins at St Peter's Church
	7.30pm	Jesus at the Movies Lent Course at St Nicholas' Church
Thurs 21 st		'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 24th March - Palm Sunday

Mark 11.1-11

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

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 25 th	7.15am	Mission Prayer - http://bit.ly/3JIWqwX
	7.30pm	Night Prayer in St Peter's: The Authority of Jesus
Tues 26 th	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
	7.30pm	Night Prayer in St Peter's: The Authority of Jesus
Weds 27 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom https://bit.ly/wednesdaymorningprayer
	7.30pm	Night Prayer in St Peter's: The Authority of Jesus
Thurs 28 th		'Thought for the Day' available from 8.00am via our website, YouTube and Facebook
	9.15am	St Peter's Easter Service 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
	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Service in St Peter's Church
Good Friday	11.00am	Walk of Witness starting at St Peter's Church
29 th	2.00pm	At the Foot of the Cross at St Peter's Church
Holy Saturday	6.00pm	Tenebrae Service at St Nicholas' Church
30 th		

Sunday 31st March - Easter Day

Acts 10.34-43; 1 Corinthians 15.1-11; Mark 16.1-8

6.30am Churches Together Sunrise Service at Battery Point
8.00am Holy Communion at St Peter's Church
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

Ammerdown @ 50 !



The Ammerdown Centre opened in 1973 and I have been a friend of the Centre since its early days. Last September, on a sunny weekend we celebrate the 50th anniversary. It was a joyful occasion and Lord Hylton who is now over 90, was there and spoke about the origins of the Centre. The Hylton family own Ammerdown House and estate near Radstock and in the 1970s he with John Todd the publisher and others, felt the need for an ecumenical Christian Centre, working for peace and reconciliation and for greater understanding between people of different faiths. Their dream became a reality and the extensive stable buildings were developed into a conference and retreat centre with bedrooms and a beautiful simple chapel. The horses must have been very well housed and the dining room is still on the site of their stables!

The first director was Andrew Aldrich, a Methodist and the house was run by the Sisters of Zion, a Catholic order who promoted good relations between Christians and Jews. We were delighted that six of

the Sisters came back in September and they told many tales of the early days! One of the Sisters had the job of catering for the resident community and guests, having had little previous catering experience.

From the start the programme was full and varied, including an annual Catholic week and many courses and retreats which were usually open to all. The Centre offered so much, a warm welcome from a caring community and a chance to meet others of different religious backgrounds, a rare opportunity for many of us at that time. I have vivid memories of a Christian Jewish weekend which started with the Passover meal on the Friday evening, when Rabbi Lionel Blue presided with his fund of stories!

Later there were courses for sixth form students as part of their RE studies on Judaism and Islam. The opportunity to meet and share experiences with those of other faiths was challenging but very rewarding.

Over fifty years, we have seen a variety of directors and the Sisters left a few years ago when they were needed elsewhere.

The Centre buildings have been extended, the bedrooms updated and are now all ensuite and the facilities for people with mobility problems much improved. With inspired leadership Ammerdown weathered the challenges of the pandemic and a much reduced income. Rough sleepers were housed for a while, the rooms were redecorated and old mattresses replaced. Importantly using zoom to offer several short courses, meetings and events the Centre connected with many old friends and kept Ammerdown alive. One event I joined in was a Passover meal presided over by a woman rabbi and her son, a wonderful opportunity to understand the meaning of the rituals of this special meal.

Good relations with local groups, churches and other faiths in Bath and Bristol have been formed. Some evening events with speakers such as Lord Dibbs and Terry Waite have attracted large audiences and have also made the Centre and its objectives better known.

At the anniversary we started with the Passover meal and heard the traditional prayers and together we broke bread and drank grape juice. Over the weekend there were sessions looking at the history of Ammerdown and sharing memories and of course thinking how we go forward. Working for peace and reconciliation and justice remain central and the Centre is very aware of the demands of climate change.

Bishop Peter Price spoke movingly on Justice and Reconciliation, an excellent speaker who is a child of the Windrush generation spoke of the legacy of that time. On Sunday there was an interfaith "service" when we learned more of other faith traditions and which started with a young rabbi blowing the rams horn – very loud indeed!

Later that day a Christian ecumenical service was held and attended by many local people. A fitting close to a memorable celebration.

Ammerdown is at its heart a Christian Centre, open to those of other faiths or none. The work for peace and reconciliation, justice and interfaith dialogue remain central. There are retreats and a variety of courses on offer and a full programme is available each quarter. The house is warm and welcoming, the accommodation simple but comfortable, the food excellent and plentiful and the grounds are beautiful with many walks. In the spring the birdsong is amazing and in autumn the avenue of beeches is all reds and gold! What more could you wish for? Do go and see for yourself!

June Brailsford

Full details on the website for Ammerdown Centre

Tel 01761433709

Thoughts on the Rapture

One of the most astonishing promises in Scripture is contained in the prophecy recorded by the Apostle John in Revelation 7 9-17 where it is stated that a huge (too many to count) number of Christian believers will be taken by God, away from a future, very troubled world to serve Him for ever in heaven. That is, without having first gone through the process of dying. The Church has called this future event the Rapture, although that word is not a translation from the Greek.

The seven years preceding the Second Coming of Christ are often referred to as the Tribulation. It seems that the Christian Church will only be partly tolerated in the first half of that period. After the leaders of the ten most powerful nations hand over their authority to a single world dictator (Rev 17 12,13) otherwise known as the Anti-Christ or the Beast or Satan, the plight of believers will greatly increase. The Anti-Christ will proclaim himself as God and even set up an image of himself in Jerusalem for people to worship. John would have understood this prophecy only too well. In the second half of the first century AD, several Roman Emperors proclaimed that they were divine and expected that temples should be built to allow people to worship him or his image. In fact John had been exiled from Asia Minor to the Island of Patmos almost certainly for opposing Emperor worship.

The prophecy concerning 144,000 believers not taken to heaven at the time of the Rapture is perhaps even

more interesting than the above story. It appears that God will choose exactly that number of Jewish Christians, 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes, to witness to Him in an increasingly hostile world but God will take great care of these witnesses, in particular by marking their foreheads with God's special seal, probably the sign of the cross although John does not say this. This sign will be a direct challenge to an order from the Anti-Christ or in anticipation of such a ruling, that everyone should have the mark of the Beast on the forehead or right hand. Without this mark, no-one will be allowed to buy or sell or in effect conduct any business. The Beast's mark will be the number 666 which some commentators say is a code for the name Caesar.

We don't understand quite how, but God's seal will always be superior to the Beast's mark. When God's witnesses on earth are next mentioned, on the day of Christ's second coming, the number of these witnesses remains constant at 144,000 , demonstrating God's special care for his people (Rev 14 1) . The 144,000 will join Jesus in the air along with resurrected Christians taken from their graves and the whole assembly will enter Jerusalem in a latter day Palm Sunday type parade to initiate Christ's presence there and His rule on earth at the start of the millennium.

Rodney Wheeler

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

2024 Parish Magazine Subscriptions

Subscriptions for the Parish Magazine are due, price 50p per copy.

However, the special discount rate is £5.00 for the 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.

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