

Portishead Parish Magazine




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



May 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 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.

A letter from Lindsay

Where am I now?

May arrives, and with it the fourth month of my new role as community pioneer — a traveller of very familiar roads that somehow feel changed. People ask me, “How’s it going?” and the honest answer is that I’m still learning the shape of the path beneath my feet.

Some days this familiar path feels uneven, different, as though the map has been redrawn while I wasn’t looking. Most of the places are the same, the faces are the same, and yet the journey feels different — changed in a way that’s hard to explain.

But if you asked me where God is in all of this... the honest answer is everywhere.

In the tears of those who quietly queue outside the foodbank, where hope feels like a distant dream — and yet God lingers in the murmured conversations, in the whispered prayers, in the tins of baked beans and teabags, in the fragile dignity of giving and receiving.

In the silence of shame carried by those who dare not ask for help,

and yet God is in the voices of those who listen, those who challenge our broken systems and seek change so all can thrive and have a secure place to call home.

In the prayers of children wrapped in tangled wool, threads of hope looped and knotted by small hands — their laughter, their questions, their bright imaginings quietly stitching God’s presence into worship in ways we don’t always notice but deeply need.

In the dawn, and in the sudden bright flight of the greenfinch; in the newly planted hedgerows where bare roots begin to take hold — the promise of tomorrow grows quietly.

So even though the familiar paths are uneven and the way through is not always clear, the journey is full of Spirit filled mystery, wonder and joy. Joy in being with God and with you in this place where God has called us to serve — with love, generosity, compassion, courage, and joy.

Lindsay

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

Copy date for the June edition is Friday 15 May

From the Church Registers

- Weddings:** 2 May - Callie Jane Kingdon and James Walker - St Peter's Church
16 May - Chris Thornell and Sarah Brimble - St Peter's Church
- Baptisms:** 17 May - Sophie Sarah Morton - St Peter's Church
17 May - Billy Kenver Jowan Biggins - St Nicholas' Church
-

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 May:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Wednesday 6 th | 10.15am - 11.45am |
| Wednesday 13 th | 10.15am - 11.45am |
| Wednesday 20 th | 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

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.

Dates & time:

- 5th, 12th, 19th May - all 8.00–9.30 am

Venue: Impero Lounge 60 High St, BS20 6EH, Portishead, UK

For more information, contact: Revd Lindsay: 07483 932608.

Email: Pioneer@portisheadparish.co.uk

Come and Join our Fantastic Finance Team

We have a wonderful team of people involved in overseeing our church finances. This does not just enable our mission and ministry to take place but it is a vital part of it. How we manage the resources that God gives us really matters. We are looking for a new Church Treasurer to join this team. We can offer you great support and the satisfaction of being a vital part of what God is doing in the parish. If you have some financial knowledge and experience and could offer us about 4 hours a week (on average) that would be fantastic. Please contact Rob (rector@portisheadparish.co.uk / 01275 846592) , Adi Phillips or one of the Church Wardens if you are interested in finding out more.

May – Generosity Month

This May we are going to have a focus on Generosity – reflecting on what God has given to us and how we can respond to his abundant love, grace and provision. Each week we will have readings reflecting a particular aspect of this theme of Generosity, as well as hearing stories from individuals about what they have received and how they give.

Date	Theme
Sunday 3 rd May	God's Generosity to Us
Sunday 10 th May	Giving as Worship and Trust
Sunday 17 th May	Generosity as Justice and Compassion
Sunday 24 th May	Generosity as Kingdom Living

Thank you so much



Rev Rob Eastwood Dewing

Team Rector of Portishead and Co-Area Dean of Portishead Deanery

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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 3 May – 5th Sunday of Easter

Psalm 103:1-13 2 Corinthians 8:1-9 Luke 12:22-34

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

9.45am The 9.45 at St Peter's Church

YouTube link <https://youtube.com/live/91DnwMcKf4o?feature=share>

10.30am Joint Service with the URC at St Nicholas' Church

11.30am Parish Eucharist at St Peter's Church

Mon 4 th	7.15am	Monday Prayer - online
	9.00pm	Evening Prayer – online
Tues 5 th	9.00am	Refresh Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter's Church
Weds 6 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer - online
Thurs 7 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
Sat 9 th	10.30am	LLADS at St Barnabas Centre

Sunday 10 May – 6th Sunday of Easter

1 Kings 17:8-16 Psalm 116:12-19 Philippians 4:10-20 Mark 12:41-44

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St Nicholas' Church

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

Pebbles will be meeting as part of this service - No youth church

11.30am Morning Worship at St Peter's Church

Mon 11 th	7.15am	Monday Prayer - online
	9.15am	Cafe Prayers - Lighthouse at St. Nicholas' Church
	10.00am	Prayers - Looking to the Future - St Peter's Church
Tues 12 th	9.00pm	Evening Prayer – online
	9.00am	Refresh Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter's Church
	2.30pm	Bereavement Support Group at St Nicholas' Church
Weds 13 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer - online
Thurs 14 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 17 May – 7th Sunday of Easter

Isaiah 58:6-11 James 2:14-17 Luke 10:25-37

8am Holy Communion at St Peter's Church

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

9.45am The 9.45 Special at St Peter's Church

11.30am Parish Eucharist at St Peter's Church

6.00pm Evensong at St Peter's Church

Mon 18 th	7.15am	Monday Prayer - online
	9.00pm	Evening Prayer - online
Tues 19 th	9.00am	Refresh Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter's Church
Weds 20 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer - online
Thurs 21 st		'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
Sat 23 rd	10.00am	St Peter's Church Tidy Up
	2.00pm	Plant Sale St Peter's Church

Sunday 24 May – Pentecost

Malachi 3:6-12 Psalm 112 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 Matthew 25:14-30

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	Monday Prayer - online
	9.00pm	Evening Prayer - online
Tues 26 th	9.00am	Refresh Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter's Church
	10.30pm	Lighthouse Carers' Group at St Nicholas' Church
Weds 27 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer - online
Thurs 28 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

Sunday 31 May – Trinity Sunday

Celebration of 150 Years of the Mothers' Union

tbc

8.00am Holy Communion at St Peter's Church

10.30am United Service at St Nicholas Church

Mon 1 st	7.15am	Monday Prayer - online
	10.00am	Prayers - Looking to the Future - St Peter's Church
	9.00pm	Evening Prayer - online
Tues 2 nd	9.00am	Refresh Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter's Church
Weds 3 rd	9.00am	Morning Prayer - online
Thurs 4 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
Sat 6 th	10.00am	Quiet Morning – St Nicholas' Church

Re:Creation News: A Rocha turns 25!

The Eco-Church scheme within which St Peter's and St Nicholas' Churches are seeking progressively to mitigate their climate footprint, and through which they have so far gained a Bronze-level award whilst pressing on towards silver, is run by Christian environmental organization A Rocha. 2026 sees A Rocha celebrating the 25th anniversary of its creation, and readers may like to know a little more about its history. It has come a long way! The following article by A Rocha CEO Andy Atkins and edited for reasons of length is taken from the organization's website.

This year, we celebrate our 25th anniversary. We've been reflecting on our story so far and God's goodness ...

The international A Rocha story began with Cruzinha, a Christian nature study centre in Portugal, founded in the 1980s. Inspired by [...] Cruzinha, much of A Rocha UK's early work focused on the creation of Minet Country Park in Southall, West London. We linked to the Lea Brook Valley Project, then came 'Living Lightly' and, in the late 2000s, we took on the management of EcoCongregation England and Wales, a collaborative initiative between several denominations. Building on that work, EcoCongregation was reformed into Eco Church in 2016, and as of now, over 9,000 churches have signed up. It's hard to believe Eco Church is also turning 10 this year! [...]

...] Our work is mission – for people and planet. We partner with our heavenly Father in obedience to his first commandment to care for his creation (Gen 1:26), which was always intended to demonstrate his love and care for the whole of creation. Many people have enabled this, and some of you have been with us since the beginning. [...] And then there are people like you. People who pray. People who give freely of their time, talents and finances. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

The world has changed since 2001. The planet is in a worse state now than then, but in many church movements, creation care is no longer a niche interest – you, our supporters, have helped to turn a niche into a movement. The work you and we do together is needed now more than ever before. [...]

...] Here's to the healing of a wounded creation.

God bless you

(Andy Atkins)

Nick McDuff, On behalf of St Peter's and St Nicholas' EcoChurch group

Cruse Bereavement Support Meetings

The 'Walk and Talk' meeting starts outside Waitrose on Thursday 14 May at 10am for one hour's guided walk in Portishead. Please contact cruseclevedonyvette@gmail.com with your contact details, if wishing to join for the first time.

This month's 'Drop in' meeting is on Thursday 28 May 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.

SPRING PLANT SWAP

Saturday 23rd May 2026

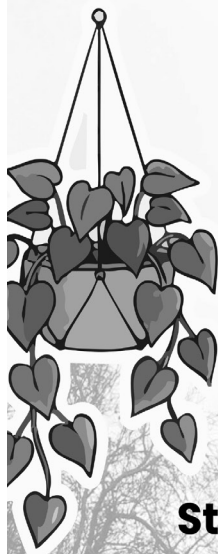
2.00pm - 4.00pm

St Peters church – Portishead

FREE ENTRY

**Bring along your spare seedlings,
houseplants, veg plugs or seeds and swap
them for something new!**

**No plants to swap? Donations welcome
everyone's invited to join in.**



Holy car wash!

I'm not aware Robin ever said that to Batman, although if he did, he could just possibly have been referring to the car wash at the Shell service station in Station Road, Portishead, whose machinery bears the name 'Christ'. (I am not joking. If you don't believe me, go and look!). Now I don't think there is any actual connection between the town's car wash and Jesus. But the same can't be said of a recent occasion when, for a couple of hours following the 09:45 Sunday service at St Peter's, a host of enthusiastic church kids (plus a few notionally supervising adults) turned the Portishead Medical Group's car park into a pop-up hand car-washing facility, with the aim of raising money towards the forthcoming church weekend away at Heatree Christian Activity Centre on Dartmoor. The event was a resounding success, with several hundred pounds gathered into the kitty, a procession of very happy car-owners (including your Editor!) and not a wet-sponge fight in sight. (Come on, kids – what a missed opportunity – especially with all those grown-ups as potential targets!). Seriously, well done to all concerned, and have a great time all together at Heatree.



It might not be the Batmobile but this is the cleanest it's been for at least a year! [Ed.] **Nick McDuff**

St Peter's Church – Community Morning Saturday 23 May, 10am–12pm

Join in a relaxed morning of tidying, crafting, and caring for our shared space. Whether you're sweeping, dusting, cutting out craft shapes, or pulling a few weeds, every bit helps keep St Peter's looking lovely. And of course, there'll be coffee, cake, and good conversation. Bring your duster, garden tools — and the family too!

Revd Lindsay Smith, 07483 932608



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Lighthouse Café

The Lighthouse Café, (see above) which is open 2pm-4pm each Thursday at St. Nicholas' Church, is looking for some extra help. We would like to recruit more drivers so we can offer lifts to people who would otherwise not be able to get to the café.

We are also looking for willing volunteers to help welcome folk to the café and assist with serving the coffee, tea and homemade cakes that are on offer.

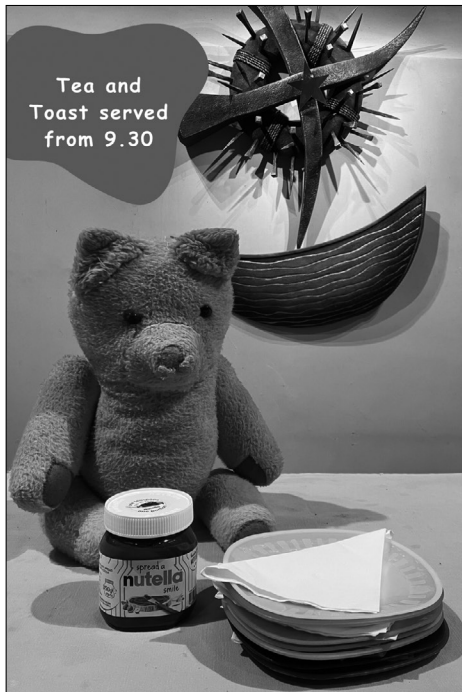
Please contact Pearl on 01275 817765 or Gill on 01275 845970 if you would like to find out more, or come along and visit us one Thursday afternoon for tea and cake.

We look forward to seeing you.

Gill Colston

'No Mow' May

Did you know? One of the best things you can do in May for your lawn – and indeed your whole garden – is not to mow it for the entire month. Longer grass allows wildflowers to thrive, facilitating the work of pollinators. Nest-building birds are also more likely to find suitable materials in less-manicured sward. So, leave the mower in the shed, dust off the deckchair, make a cuppa, and relax, in the satisfying knowledge that, just for once, you're actively helping the environment by doing nothing!



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from 9.30

9:45 SPECIAL

Informal and Creative Service

Date: Sunday 17th
May

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.

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