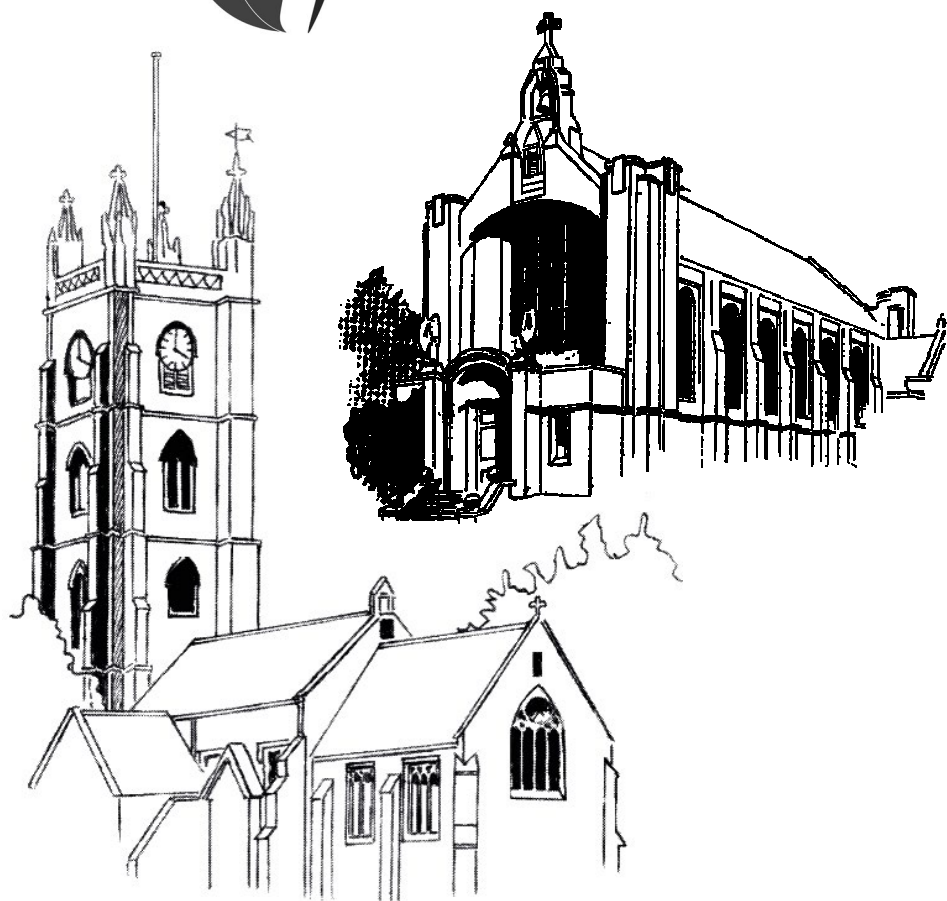


Portishead Parish Magazine



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



November 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	Head Teacher Emma Howe · 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.

Greetings from Revd Tonya

Gabby took her Mum to an evening service at St. Paul's cathedral and a short concert afterwards, the usual combination of organ and pianola. Walking back to the tube station on their way home, Gabby said that she often spent her lunchtime break sitting quietly in a nearby Catholic church where she was not alone, other workers doing the same. This would be unremarkable but for the fact that Gabby, although having gone through the stages of baptism and confirmation in her childhood and having been a chorister, abandoned church-going in her late teens, and would have claimed that she was at least an agnostic in religious matters. She nevertheless said after a service at St. Peter's that she 'felt comfortable' there.

I daresay a number of people would feel the same about a place of worship which holds its own atmosphere of calm and reassurance, somewhere to 'just be'. Indeed, we have just such a place, more than one here in Portishead, veritable resources in these hectic times, open to all of whatever belief or none, open daily, freely to 'slip-in' in order to recharge the batteries. St. Peter's Church, visible across the town, welcomes us home. It gives us so much, standing as it does through centuries of community here, and it depends on us for its continued existence. Let us enjoy and cherish it, and make sure that future generations can do the same.

When you're next in St. Peters, you'll see that it's a building in need. Sadly, the cracks are growing and the repair needs are increasing...I wonder, how can you help this building return to its former glory?

Blessings to you all.

Revd Tonya

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 November:

Wednesday 11 th	10.15am - 11.45am
Wednesday 18 th	10.15am - 11.45am
Wednesday 25 st	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

Hope

Hope, it's easy to write, simple to spell and for those of us who live in a world of certainties it can be easy to take this little word for granted. For those who live without hope the world can seem dark, nothing is guaranteed and hope can be a complex four-letter word, penned into a fairy tale. Hope is fragile, it can be distorted and destroyed by the pressures of the modern world, consumed by debt and insecure housing. Driven into darkness by the conscious nightmare that obliterates all hope and dispels all dreams.

As Christians, we build our lives around a biblical hope, trusting in God's faithfulness and presence no matter the circumstances. Even in the darkest days we know God walks with us. Hope along with faith and love are Christian virtues, familiar simple words that, when lived out through a Christian heart, have the power to change and transform lives.

Another four-letter word that has the power to change lives and bring hope is AFIA. Unlike faith, hope and love many don't know what it is, and if we do know what it is we might not know of anyone that has experienced these four simple letters. The letters stand for Away From It All and it is one of the Mothers' Union's longest-running projects, supporting families through the provision of holidays and trips. This year I had the privilege of seeing these four little letters in action, and witnessed first-hand the hope that it brought to a local family in our parish. For the first time, I heard hope whispered gently through the family's conversations; a quiet confidence grew in their voices as the world not only began to see them but believe in them.

Hope continues to grow and bring changes to this precious family, and they will hold and treasure the precious memories of a AFIA holiday, where they played on the beach and stayed in a caravan that they all dreamed could be their forever home.

AFIA reignited a lost hope, and our prayers are that this hope will continue to grow, and that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide and equip us to serve the communities that we have been called into- so that God's love may be made visible.

Lindsay

'Will Aid' Month

If you've been considering leaving a legacy to a charity, then now is a good time to proceed. Every November, participating solicitors draw up a basic will for clients without charging their usual fee. They will offer in-person appointments, or take your instruction by video call, or on the phone or provide both options. Your Will Aid solicitor will then write your basic will, waive their usual fee and instead invite you to make a donation to Will Aid. Will Aid represents eight charities including Christian Aid. Go to <https://lookup.willaid.org.uk/lookup> to find a local participating solicitor. The suggested donation is £120 for a single will and £200 for mirror wills.

Although not part of the Will Aid initiative, you may also like to consider leaving a legacy to Portishead Parish Church. A leaflet on how to leave a legacy is available in both St Peter's and St Nicholas' churches. All charities, including the church, rely heavily on the gifts of legacies to continue their vital work in the communities in which they seek to serve and are very grateful that your legacy will help them to do this.

Thank you in advance!

Let's Crack This Together Update

We spent quite some hours with the ITV reporters as they worked on our story after the yarnbombing on 1st October. Our little stunt to highlight the plight of St Peter's did make it to the TV on 13th October. Here's the link and you can still view it

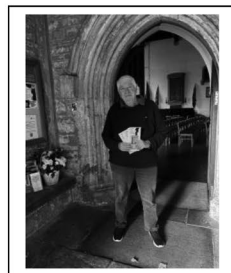
<https://www.itv.com/watch/news/climate-change-takes-its-toll-on-700-year-old-portishead-church/zv9lwxp>



Interest in the town has been aroused. We capitalised on this by visiting



all the businesses in Kestrel Court and the High Street. Now we need to ask for your help to keep the message alive. If you can take a few leaflets from the back of the church and keep them with you to hand out when you get chatting with friends and neighbours that would be



brilliant. We need to reach all the households in the town and all the businesses in the town but, market research has shown that leafletting indiscriminately doesn't produce results, we need to talk to people individually.

The Crackometer is slowly moving upwards. As I write it stands at a little over £117,000. More than a third of the way to our total.

There are Grant applications in hand (thanks to Jess and Chris who are masterminding this approach). Grant bodies require us to have raised a significant proportion of the funding before we can even apply. So, the more we can raise the more funding opportunities available to us and the greater the chance of success. However, grants require details of plans, costs and – in the case of churches – Faculties. This all takes time.

So, what happens next? The Community Appeals Group are preparing to approach all the larger businesses in the town. Some of these businesses have funds available for community projects (like Waitrose and Viridor) - this is what we are investigating. There is work going on behind the scenes! Any suggestions and ideas from you, the reader would be welcomed.

Just email letscrackthisttogether@portisheadparish.co.uk

Repairing our church and then reordering the space to make it fit for future generations is a gargantuan task but we're in this together and TOGETHER we can do it.

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A Chat with...Chris Young

Young by name, young by nature! Nick McDuff talked with Chris Young recently about his life and times.

Nick: Where did it all begin for you, Chris?

Chris: I was born in 1932 in Derbyshire. My dad was a teacher at the local grammar school. My best subject was maths. I was offered a place at Cambridge on condition I did my National Service first. I hoped to avoid National Service by doing a degree first, so I accepted an offer from Birmingham. I confess I didn't entirely apply myself to my studies, extra-curricular activities such as the amateur dramatic society taking up a fair amount of my time. Once having graduated, I found National Service was still going strong. Having become a keen sailor I succeeded in joining the Royal Navy. With a science degree I was eligible for a short term (3-year) commission in the Instructor Branch. It suited me so well that I applied to stay on for a full-career a regular commission and ended up serving for 32 years.

Nick: At what point did you go to sea?

Chris: My first ship was the anti-submarine frigate HMS Ulysses, in which I spent a very pleasant and confidence-building year in the Mediterranean. When we returned to our base, Devonport, at Christmas we found that instead of staying in the North Atlantic we were going via the Panama Canal to Christmas Island in the Pacific to be the naval guard ship for the 1958 hydrogen bomb test. Our return voyage to the UK was to the west. So I'd been right round the world at age 26 in 1958! Back in Devonport I was teaching technology to artificers – and doing a lot of sailing. This was followed by brief stints lecturing at Dartmouth Royal Naval College and taking a meteorology course at Royal Naval Air Station, Culdrose.

Nick: How did you start the new decade?

Chris: I had been told I would go to Antarctica but, again, plans changed: Ghana gained its independence in 1961 and a tri-service military training team was sent out. Once back in UK I was at the Admiralty. After that I had a variety of jobs. A significant change of career direction was a posting to HM Naval Base Clyde in Faslane, my introduction to the 'submarine world'. After that I joined the Commander-in-Chief's training team in Portsmouth, was promoted to Commander and joined the amphibious assault ship HMS Bulwark. In 1979 I was promoted Captain and posted to Fleet HQ Northwood. There followed a two-year posting to the NATO HQ in Norfolk, Virginia, US, leaving our daughter and elder son at boarding school in UK and taking our

4-year-old younger son with us. I then returned to the Electrical Training school followed by another posting to the Fleet HQ at Northwood but, by then my first wife Pat was becoming seriously ill with cancer, leading me to resign in 1986. Pat died in 1989.

Nick: Was this retirement or 'retirement' (in quotes)?

Chris: Very much the latter! I took on a full-time job at the SS Great Britain Project, ending up as a trustee. I finally properly retired in 2010.

After marrying my second wife Jean in 1993 we lived in Wells. Once the children had all left home we moved to Nore Road in Portishead in 1998 and later here, in Adlington House. Jean died in 2021

Nick: How did you come to faith?

Chris: My parents were lapsed non-conformists, so actively non-religious. While at university I'd met a former Battle of Britain fighter pilot who'd lost a hand. He had perhaps the greatest single spiritual influence on me. I was baptised at Dartmouth and confirmed. I grew in faith and continue to do so.

Nick: That's quite a life story, Chris. Any regrets or things you'd do differently now?

Chris: I regret having turned down a place at Cambridge in the mistaken belief that I'd avoid National Service. But what a life I would have missed!

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Date: Sunday 15th
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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 November – All Saints Day

Revelation 7.9-end; 1 John 3.1-3; Matthew 5.1-12

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

Join us online - <https://youtube.com/live/76i6cytm9ik?feature=share>

11.30am Parish Eucharist at St Peter's Church

Mon 2 nd	7.15am	Monday 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 in St Peter's Church
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
Fri 6 th	10.30am	Table Talk at Portishead Library
Sat 7 th	10.00am	St Peter's Church Tidy Up
	2.00pm	Confirmation Service in Wells Cathedral

Sunday 8th November – 3rd Before Advent / Remembrance Sunday

Amos 5.18-24; 1 Thessalonians 4.13-end; Matthew 25.1-13

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St Nicholas' Church

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

Join us online- <https://youtube.com/live/qx9UKNgI2Wg?feature=share>

11.30am Morning Worship at St Peter's Church

Mon 9 th	7.15am	Monday 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' Church
Wed 11 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer in St Peter's Church
	11.00am	Armistice Ceremony – Waitrose Plaza
	2.00pm	Setting Sail at the Rectory
Thurs 12 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 14 th	10.30-12am	LLADS St Barnabas

Sunday 15th November – 2nd Before Advent

Zephaniah 1.7, 12-end; 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11; Matthew 25.14-30

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

5.00pm Evensong at St Peter's Church

Sun 15 th	3.00pm	Easter in a Box Taster Session
Mon 16 th	7.15am	Morning Prayer - online
	9.15am	Café Prayers – Lighthouse Café, St Nicholas'
Tues 17 th	9.00am	Refresh Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter's Church
	7.30pm	Deanerywide Meeting in St Peter's Church – Is the God of the Old Testament different from the God of Jesus Christ?
Weds 18 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer in St Peter's Church
	2.00pm	Setting Sail at the Rectory
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
	2.30pm	Mothers' Union at St Peter's Church

Sunday 22nd November – St Nicholas' Patronal Festival

TBC

10.30am Patronal Festival Service at St Nicholas' Church

6.00pm Haven at St Nicholas' Church

Mon 23 rd		Star Trail – St Peter's Church – All Week
	7.15am	Monday Prayer - online
Tues 24 th	10.30am	Lighthouse Carers Group at St Nicholas' Church
Weds 25 th	2.00pm	Setting Sail at the Rectory
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 (MU) at St Peter's Church
	10.40am	Midweek Church Coffee - online
	2.00pm	Lighthouse Café at St Nicholas' Church

Sunday 29th November – Advent 1

Isaiah 64.1-9; 1 Corinthians 1.3-9; Mark 13.24-end

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 Advent Carol Service – St Nicholas' Church

Mon 30 th	7.15am	Monday Prayer - online
Tues 1 st	9.00am	Refresh Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter's Church
	10.30am	Lighthouse Carers Group at St Nicholas' Church
Weds 2 nd	10.30am	Morning Prayer in St Peter's Church
	2.00pm	Setting Sail at the Rectory
Thurs 3 rd		'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
Fri 4 th	10.30am	Table Talk – Portishead Library
Sat 5 th	9.00pm	Children's Society Coffee Morning at St Peter's Church

Looking Ahead Dates – December 2026 – February 2027

Wednesday 2nd December 2.30pm – 4pm – Prayer and Craft in St Peter's Church

Sunday 6th December – Christingle Services at 3.00pm and 5.00pm in St Peter's Church

Friday 15th January – Wassail Evening at St Peter's Church

Sunday 20th December – 5.00pm Community Carol Service at St Nicholas' Church
– 6.00pm Traditional Carol Service at St Peter's Church

Monday 18th – Monday 25th January – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Sunday 31st January – Let's Crack this Together Talents Fundraiser - Launch

Saturday 27th February – Spoken Word Event at the St Peter's Arms in St Peter's Church

Links for Online Meetings

7.15am Monday - Monday Prayer– online – Click for Link

<https://teams.live.com/join/9399632380155?p=xl0GS1guFQs7vCocPK>

9.00am Wednesday - Morning Prayer – online – Click for Link

<https://short-url.org/WedMorningPray>

06.45am Thursday - Morning Prayer – online – Click for Link

<https://www.google.com/url?q=https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84019088287?pwd%3DTGdlbVV0YWwwdEp5dXhweHRrTGgyZz09&sa=D&source=calendar&usd=2&usg=AOvVaw1VEfkOPUuLFY-Z9ZpyWvdA>

10.40 Thursday - Midweek Church Coffee – online – Click for Link

<https://www.google.com/url?q=https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84562565696?pwd%3Da2gvMEdwcdVBVTFnUUtaQUUp1ZXZTZz09&sa=D&source=calendar&usd=2&usg=AOvVaw1HZ7ru3pFUNm9jEbfvHLN1>

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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.

Caring for Creation Together

During the season of Creationtide, the parish hosted a screening of *The People's Emergency Briefing*, welcoming people from across Portishead and beyond. What struck me most was not just the film itself, but how many people from beyond the church walls came together to watch, listen, reflect, and discuss the climate emergency the world is facing.

The film did not shy away from the realities of the climate crisis. At times, it was challenging and uncomfortable to watch. One phrase in particular has stayed with me: *"This is as good as it gets for a long time."* Yet alongside that challenge was a deep sense of hope. As one attendee remarked afterwards, it is far better to face these things together than alone.

As I write this, autumn is arriving. The birds are busy in the garden, leaves are beginning to turn, and dappled sunlight streams through the trees. These everyday moments remind us just how beautiful, fragile and precious God's creation is. The film brought home the importance of not taking these gifts for granted, but instead cherishing and protecting them for future generations.

Creation care is not simply about environmental action. It is part of our Christian calling. The earth is the Lord's, entrusted to us to nurture and sustain. Whether through prayer, practical action, advocacy or learning together, each of us has a part to play.

Over the last few years, the parish Eco Group has led a variety of activities, including showing the climate emergency film, sustainable flower projects, Earth Day prayers, dawn chorus walks, and owl boxes. All of these projects have grown from a simple desire to love God and to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

If you would like to find out more about the Eco Group, please contact Lindsay at pioneer@portisheadparish.co.uk or 07483 932608.

Together, let's continue to pray for, celebrate and care for God's beautiful creation, and play our part in ensuring it flourishes for generations to come.

Lindsay and the Eco Group

**Copy date for the December edition is
Friday 4 December**

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