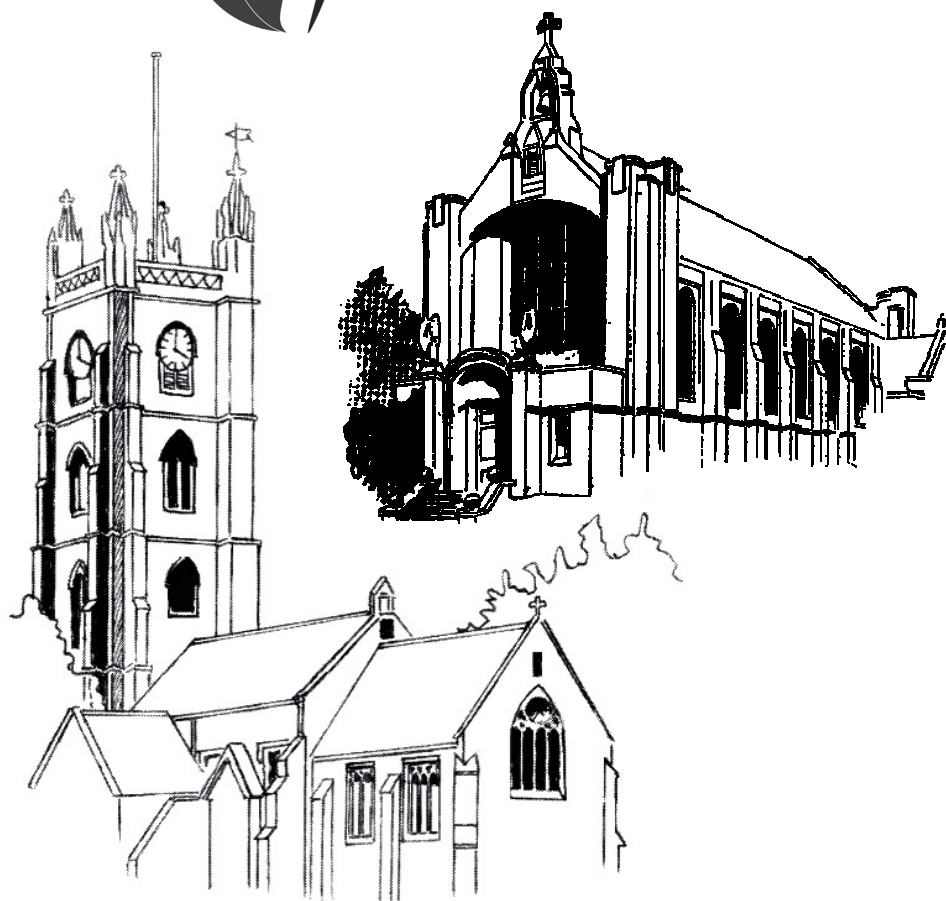


Portishead Parish Magazine



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



October 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

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
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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.

The Gift of Slowing Down

In a world full of constant demands, tight schedules, and a culture that often glorifies busyness, it's easy to overlook the value of simply slowing down. With so much vying for our attention, how often do we truly pause - to reflect, to notice, to be present?

I've come to realise that my children are often much better at this than I am. While I rush from one task to the next, they pause to notice the small things. As I constantly think ahead to what needs to be done, they move with a freedom and playfulness that comes from being present in the moment - and that is something I need to learn from. This doesn't mean that life's responsibilities go away, and there will always be something demanding our attention. But perhaps it's precisely because life is so full that we need to be even more intentional about slowing down.

In response to this, we've recently begun introducing a simple rhythm of prayer - deliberate moments to pause and reconnect with God and ourselves. This happens online via Zoom: at 9pm on Monday evenings and at 6:45am on Thursday mornings for around 10 minutes.

Monday's gathering is a short time of night prayer using the Examen, a reflective practice that invites us to look back over the day. We take time to notice where we've seen God at work, where we've felt joy or peace, and what we are thankful for. It's also a gentle space to acknowledge the harder moments - to recognise where we might have acted differently, and to offer that honestly to God without harsh judgement. Thursday mornings, meanwhile, offer a quiet way to start the day in prayer and stillness before the busyness begins again.

These moments, though brief, are deeply grounding. They create space in the week to breathe, to reflect, and to be reminded of God's presence in the ordinary and extraordinary moments in our days.

If you're curious about developing a rhythm of life that makes space to slow down - or if you'd simply like to know more about the rhythms of prayer emerging in the church - I'd love to hear from you. Feel free to get in touch at pilgrim@portisheadparish.co.uk.

Let's make space for stillness in the midst of the noise and rediscover the gift of being present

**Copy date for the November edition is
Friday 17 October**

From the Church Registers

Funerals: Barbara Hall, Gregory Iles, Terry Kilvington,
Antoinette Stratford

Weddings: Kate Vivian and Daniel Cottle

Baptisms: Winifred Massey

Families Worker (Maternity Cover)

The Parish of St Andrew's, Backwell seeks to appoint a part-time Families Worker for a ten-month fixed term contract, starting on 1st October, to cover for the permanent office-holder whilst they are on maternity leave. The work is primarily associated with the Pupil Chaplaincy work at Backwell Junior School and is therefore mainly a term-time role. The work will take around fifteen hours a week (flexible but will need to be able to commit to Wednesdays) and will be paid at the rate of £14 per hour. A full DBS clearance will be required.

For more information and a job description please contact either Timi Booy, the present office holder at childrensworker@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk or the Rev Sam Norton at revsamnorton@gmail.com

An invitation to the annual


All Souls Service

Sunday 2nd November
4.30pm
St Peter's Church, Portishead

All Souls is a service where we remember those who have died. Hymns will be sung, prayers said and candles lit as we remember those we have loved.

Refreshments will be served after the service.

The Church Office, St Barnabas Centre, West Hill,
Portishead, BS20 6LN
01275 846230 | office@portisheadparish.co.uk



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 30th October.

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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 October:

Weds 1st, Weds 8th, Weds 15th, Weds 22nd - all 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

Helper Needed for Portishead Day Care Centre

Portishead Jubilee Day Care is a voluntary group who provide a Fun-Day for up to 14 elderly folk, many of whom are normally housebound with mobility and /or loneliness difficulties.

We meet every Monday at Jubilee Hall in Slade Road (10.00-2.30 p.m.) and provide various forms of entertainment as well as a hot meal together.

We have lost one of our key helpers due to retirement, whom we urgently need to replace.

Is there anyone out there who has a love of working with older folk and who would like to join our happy team ?

If you think this role could be you, please get in touch with Mike Burt on 01275 847857.

Organ Coffee Concert

The Organ Coffee Concert on Saturday 23 August was a great success and a superb start to a new venture at St. Nicholas'. The café area was full to bursting by 10.30, and Linda Taylor and her excellent team of helpers worked tirelessly to serve coffee and slice cake to satisfy the demand. By 11.00 the audience were seated and enjoyed a tremendous organ recital by Rosemary Reid, encompassing music from three centuries. Paul Reid introduced each item briefly to give Rosemary time to change the stops for the next piece. The variety of sounds which Rosemary conjured from the organ was remarkable and she received a well deserved ovation from a delighted audience and enthusiastic praise from Revd Tonya in her vote of thanks. Some 75 people attended and, with donations, the total raised towards our new piano was exactly £400.



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 7th Oct 8am – 9.30am
 Tuesday 14th Oct 8am – 9.30am
 Tuesday 21st Oct 8am – 9.30am

Venue: Impero Lounge


60 High St, BS20 6EH,
 Portishead, UK

Rev'd Lindsay: 07483 932608. Email: Pioneer@portisheadparish.co.uk

Poetry Group

The Poetry Group that Sue Giles has been leading is moving to a new home in Portishead Library. This means that there is the opportunity for more people to join us to read and share poems with one another.

Meetings will be on the first Wednesday of each month from 1.30 – 3.00pm. If you would like more information, please contact Paul Jeffery 07932 909066 or Sheila Frankcom 07968 599928



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01275 814400

www.portisheadfunerals.co.uk
portisheadfunerals@outlook.com

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.

Weds 1 st	9.30am	Morning Prayer via Zoom https://bit.ly/wednesdaymorningprayer
Thurs 2 nd		'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
Fri 3 rd	10.30am	Table Talk at Portishead Library
Sat 4 th	10.00am	Sustainable Flower Workshop at St Peter's Church
	6.00pm	Sustainable Harvest Supper at St Peter's Church

Sunday 5th October – Harvest

Deuteronomy 26.1-11; Philippians 4.4-9; John 6.25-35

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 6 th	7.15am	Mission Prayer - https://teams.live.com/join/9399632380155?p=x10GS1guFQs7vCocPK
Tues 7 th	9.00am	Refresh Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter's Church
Weds 8 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer via Zoom https://bit.ly/wednesdaymorningprayer
Thurs 9 th		'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 11 th	10.30am	LLaDs at St Barnabas Centre

Sunday 12th October – Trinity 17

Jeremiah 29.1,4-7; 2 Timothy 2.8-15; Luke 17.11-19

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 13 th	7.15am	Mission Prayer - https://teams.live.com/join/9399632380155?p=x10GS1guFQs7vCocPK
Tues 14 th	9.00am	Refresh Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter's Church
	2.30pm	Bereavement Support Group at St Nicholas' Church
Weds 15 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom https://bit.ly/wednesdaymorningprayer

Thurs 16 th		'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 https://bit.ly/midweekchurchcoffee
	2.00pm	Lighthouse Café at St Nicholas' Church
Sat 18 th	7.00pm	Auction of Promises at St Peter's Church

Sunday 19th October – Trinity 18

Jeremiah 31.27-34; 2 Timothy 3.14-4.5; Luke 18.1-8

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
1.45pm & 3.00pm Baptisms at St Peter's Church
6.00pm Evensong at St Peter's Church

Mon 20 th	7.15am	Mission Prayer - https://teams.live.com/join/9399632380155?p=x10GS1guFQs7vCocPK
Tues 21 st	9.00am	Refresh Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter's Church
Weds 22 nd	9.00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom https://bit.ly/wednesdaymorningprayer
	7.30pm	PCC Meeting at St Nicholas' Church
Thurs 23 rd		'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 https://bit.ly/midweekchurchcoffee
	2.00pm	Lighthouse Café at St Nicholas' Church
	2.30pm	Mothers' Union at St Peter's Church
	7.30pm	PCC Vision Group at St Peter's Church

Sunday 26th October – Bible Sunday

Isaiah 45.22-end; Romans 15.1-6; Luke 4.16-24

9.30am Parish Eucharist at St Nicholas' Church
9.45am The 9.45 with Communion St Peter's Church
11.30am Parish Eucharist at St Peter's Church

Mon 29 th	All Day	Church Office Closed for the week
	7.15am	Mission Prayer - https://teams.live.com/join/9399632380155?p=x10GS1guFQs7vCocPK
Tues 28 th	9.00am	Refresh Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter's Church
Weds 29 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom https://bit.ly/wednesdaymorningprayer
Thurs 30 th		'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

Silent Prayer Walk



Revd Tonya will be undertaking gentle silent prayer walk around the marina, which will definitely include a coffee stop, with chatter, along the way!

Why don't you join her?

When: Monday 6th October
Time: 10am
Start point: Outside Hall & Woodhouse
Length of walk: 40-50 minute with pauses



Tea and
Toast served
from 9.30

9:45 SPECIAL

Informal and Creative Service

Date: Sunday 19th
October

Time: 9.45

St Peter's Church, Portishead



A Pilgrimage to Holy Island

In late July my husband and I joined a four-day pilgrimage to Lindisfarne, led by Revd Kevin Dunn and local guide John McManners, and based in the beautiful city of Durham.

Day 1. A guided tour of the Cathedral where we viewed the tomb of the Venerable Bede. Unfortunately, we couldn't get to see the tomb of St. Cuthbert as a magnificent visiting Canadian choir was rehearsing, but were lucky enough to be seated in the choir stalls just behind them during Evensong.

Day 2. Off to Hartlepool where in 648 A.D. St Hilda took charge of a monastery, later moving to Whitby Abbey as the first Abbess. We visited the historic church of St. Hilda. Local people explained how not so long ago the shipbuilding industry was flourishing, with large shipyards employing thousands of people. Next port of call, Whitby, where the Synod of Whitby took place in 664 and the ruins of the Benedictine Abbey founded by Oswy, King of Northumbria, still stand on a headland.

Day 3. Chester-le-Street, to visit the Parish Church of St. Mary and St. Cuthbert, which was for many years St. Cuthbert's shrine. Eleven years after his death, his coffin was opened and his body was found to be incorrupt, the Saint's fame was established and he became the patron saint of the northern church. In 875, following Viking incursions, the monks decided to leave Lindisfarne and in 883, carrying St. Cuthbert's coffin, built a small wooden church here, which became the home of the saint and the precious Lindisfarne Gospels for next 112 years. A facsimile of the Gospels is on display in the Baptistry. The church is also known for its Anker's House, described as the most complete example of its kind in England. Next, on to Hexham Abbey, the site of another Benedictine Monastery established in 674 by St. Wilfred.

Day 4. The highlight of these few days in beautiful Northumbria. Bishop Mark Bryant, Assistant Bishop of Newcastle, led us barefoot across the sands to Holy Island. Parts were soggy, grassy, mostly sandy with water making warm pools.

Here follow some of the prayers we recited together at three stops along the causeway.

We are here God, and there are others here with us;

Angels who have walked with us, saints who have been here before us,

Little ones who have met us on our way.

Gathered with your people, warmed with the wonder of your welcome.

We are glad to be here with you.

Listen to the words of Jesus, words that we can trust:
"Don't be afraid. I love you, I forgive you, you are my friends,
I will always be with you. Come and follow me."

Thanks be to God. Amen.

On reaching dry land:

I was glad when they said to me

Let us go into God's house.

Friends and strangers, travellers and pilgrims

Let us go into God's house.

From this place, as from all creation

Let us go into God's house.

After washing our feet, that is precisely what we did, gathered in this very special place for a service of Holy Communion in the Parish Church. A fitting and lovely way to finish our walk to Lindisfarne.

A very quick packed lunch and we were off again to Seahouses for a boat trip to visit the Farne Islands, home to many seals and seabirds, no puffins though; they had departed a few weeks earlier.

Day 5. Homeward bound. Having met so many lovely people from around the country and made friends along this pilgrimage, I can think of no other way to end this reminiscence than to quote the last prayer on our way to Holy Island.

For the joys of God's creation and for the friendship of God's people

We give thanks.

For days of prayers and stories and safe journeys.

We give thanks

For the love of God within us and for the hope that shines before us

We give thanks.

And now for all our days we ask God's blessing on our lives as we say together:

May the peace of God possess us; the love of God caress us; the grace of God bless us. Amen.

Pat Higgins

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

Re:Creation News

Christian Climate Action (CCA)

CCA is a community of Christians supporting each other to take meaningful action in the face of imminent and catastrophic, anthropogenic climate breakdown. It is inspired by Jesus Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit. Following the example of social justice movements of the past, it carries out acts of public witness, nonviolent protest and civil disobedience to urge those in power to make the changes needed.

CCA's website – www.christianclimateaction.org – contains a huge amount of information about the community's activities and is well worth regularly checking. In particular, the website features a recently released seminal document entitled 'Stop Crucifying Creation', a call to the Church to exemplify radical and transformative Christian living in the face of climate collapse.

Caring for Creation this Harvest

Three events at St Peter's Church on Saturday 4th October!!

10am–12pm: Decorate the church with guidance from Sarah Lewis from St John's, Clevedon. Learn eco-friendly flower arranging—perfect for beginners and seasoned arrangers alike. Bring flowers or foliage if you can. We'll keep you fuelled with tea, coffee & cake!

11am–12pm: Salt Dough Harvest Gifts for children - hands-on fun to celebrate the season creatively.

Everyone is welcome. Come and be part of something beautiful, joyful, and caring

6 pm Sustainable Harvest Supper

Tickets £5 each (under 5's eat free)

Spaces are limited so please contact Rachel in the church office to book.
office@portisheadparish.co.uk. - 01275 846230

Contemporary Ethics Forum:

Social Media, Self-esteem and Mental Wellbeing

St. Peter's Church, Portishead, BS20 6PS:

Monday, 20th October 7:30 - 9:30 pm

We are delighted to welcome Katharine Hill, a Director of Care for the Family, as our speaker for the next Ethics Forum. The new Online Safety Act (2023) is currently being implemented in the UK, bringing in new rules and regulations. The forum will be of particular interest to parents and anyone working with children and young people.

Smartphones, Snapchat, TikTok, gaming, AI... technology forms the backdrop to our lives - there are many advantages but also huge challenges. In this forum we will not only look at the evidence and highlight the dangers but more importantly offer practical help, and renewed confidence in navigating the digital age in the context of family life. Discover how to keep our young people safe online, while forging good habits ourselves. Learn how to shape our digital lives so they don't shape us!

Katharine Hill is a Director of Care for the Family, a national charity which aims to strengthen family life and help those who face family difficulties. As an established speaker and broadcaster, she has addressed thousands of people both across the UK and internationally on marriage and parenting issues. She is the author of several books, including the popular *"Left to their own Devices? confident parenting in a digital world"* and *"A Mind of Their Own – building your child's emotional wellbeing in a fast changing world"*. A former lawyer she is married to Richard, and they have four children and eight grandchildren.

All are welcome. No tickets needed. Admission is free but donations are welcome (Suggested donation £5). We also plan to livestream the forum to the church YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/yvU7h88GnDI>

Contact: David on 01275 840 245 or david.tyers@gmail.com for further information

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.

An Auction of Goods & Promises

**Saturday 18th October –
St Peter's Church.**

7pm start

Get ready for a wonderful evening full of fun, fellowship, and fundraising!

Please join us. Bring your own drinks we'll provide the nibbles & entertainment.

We're still gathering promises to auction too so if you have a skill or talent you could share with others, we'd love to hear from you!

To offer a promise, an item to donate or learn more, get in touch:
Church Office – office@portisheadparish.co.uk / Tel; 01275 846230
Kathryn Phillips – kathrynphillips018@gmail.com / Tel; 07834 097595

No tickets required just bring yourselves and friends along on the evening.



Bereavement Support Group



Grief doesn't stop after the funeral

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

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

Portishead Church of England

For or against: slavery & salvation

Much of our world operates around the challenge to be 'for' or 'against'. And generally, it is easier to be against things than for them! Look at the tendencies of the media, politics and religious disputes.

On Anti-Slavery Day, people across the UK will recommit themselves to the fight against modern slavery and human trafficking, one of the great evils of our time. Like William Wilberforce and what we now call historic slavery, we need to fight against the oppression and exploitation of our sisters and brothers today. Abolition is the proper aim of being anti or against.

And the challenge is growing with:

- More vulnerable people susceptible to false promises
- Police and prevention resources being ever overstretched
- Increasingly flexible working arrangements which gives space for criminal agencies to provide goods and services based on exploitation and slave labour
- And our own insatiable appetite for cheap products

There is much we need to learn to oppose and abolish. But, in facing these almost overwhelming challenges we must not neglect what is primary for our Christian witness, the call to notice, reach out,

rescue and restore. The call to love, to be for those who are hidden, neglected, hurting and ignored.

In Anti-Slavery Week, give time to thinking how you or your church or home group could better learn how to contribute to the fight against modern slavery. Consider how you could go the extra mile in the way of the Good Samaritan. Going beyond the indifference of the priest and the Levite, too busy to stop, notice, reach out, rescue; rather how can we better contribute to establishing systems like the partnership between the Good Samaritan and the innkeeper— systems to provide care and the basis of restoring proper health and opportunities to those whose cries represent the voice of Jesus for those willing to listen.

Be against modern slavery this October, but more, be for those who need our friendship and our partnership.

Bishop Alistair

Hon Assistant Bishop and Chair of the Clewer Initiative

Visit clewer.org.uk for Modern Slavery resources.



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At F H Halliday we hold traditional values, whilst realising the importance of choice and have a modern view. We offer a truly bespoke service and help families at such a difficult time, aiming to make arranging a funeral as stress free and easy as possible and taking care of all the arrangements in accordance with your wishes. We are located just down the road from St Peter's Church, and full address can be seen below.

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