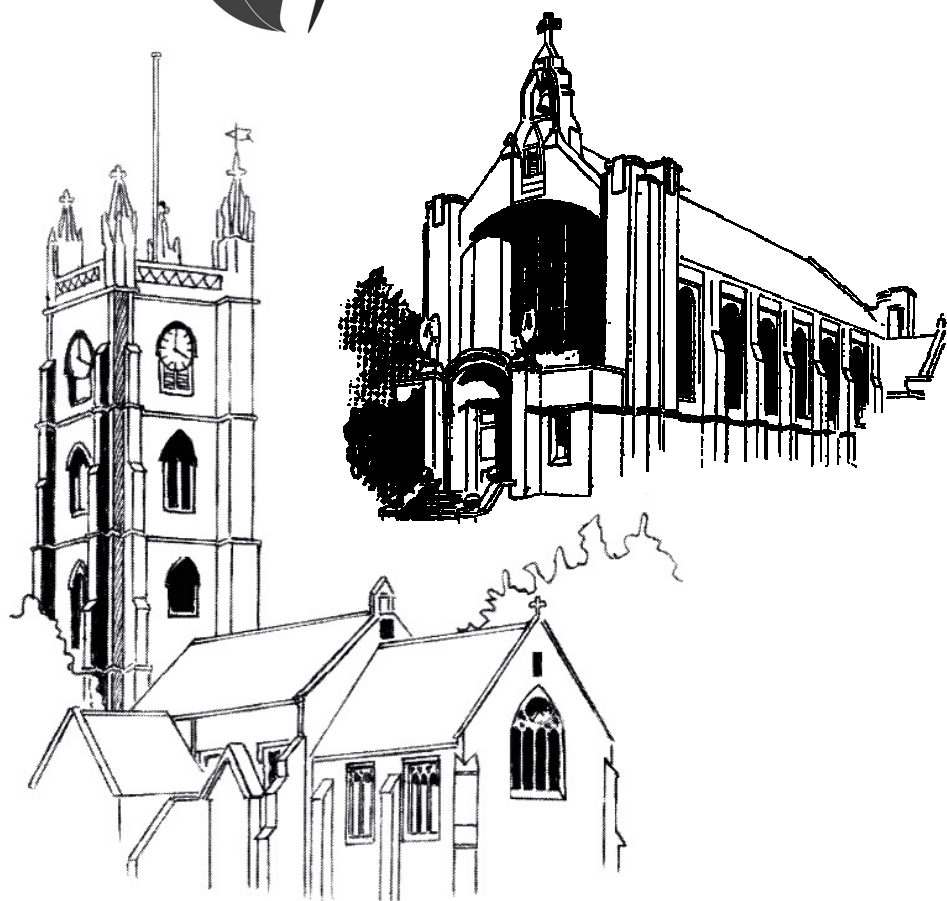


# Portishead Parish Magazine



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



September 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

<b>Team Rector</b>	The Reverend Rob Eastwood Dewing 2 Brambling Lane, Portishead BS20 7NN 846592 · rector@portisheadparish.co.uk
<b>Team Pastor</b>	The Reverend Tonya Nixon 840016 · 07341 328682 pastorportishead@outlook.com
<b>Team Pilgrim</b>	The Reverend Mark Fuller 25 Lambourne Way, Portishead, BS20 7LQ 0776 631 0509 · pilgrim@portisheadparish.co.uk
<b>Assistant Curate</b>	The Reverend Lindsay Smith · 07483 932608 8 Clevedon Rd. North Weston BS20 6TA pioneer@portisheadparish.co.uk
<b>Safeguarding</b>	The Rector (contact details as above), Sarah Stevens and Linda Taylor <b>safeguarding@portisheadparish.co.uk</b>
<b>Church Office</b>	<b>St Barnabas Centre, West Hill, BS20 6LN</b> <b>846230 · office@portisheadparish.co.uk</b>
<b>Parish website</b>	www.portisheadparish.co.uk  Portishead Church of England
<b>Church Wardens</b>	John Knightbridge · 843113 Kathryn Phillips · 07834 097595
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Gill Colston · 845970
<b>St Peter's School</b>	Head Teacher: Catrin Battista · 843142 www.st-peters.n-somerset.sch.uk
<b>Trinity School</b>	Acting Headteacher · 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.

# Here I am, Lord. Use me

There's a phrase that's echoed through the centuries in monastic communities around the world: "*Ora et labora*" — *pray and work*. It's the heartbeat of the monastic life, where no job is too small, no task too humble, and everything — from singing psalms, making jam or tending the garden- is done as an offering to God.

Life in Portishead can sometimes seem far removed from monastic life; we don't live behind monastery walls or wear habits. But around 1883, Portishead was home to a Franciscan friary mission, the Conventual Franciscans (also known as the Greyfriars due to the grey colour of their habits) were invited from France to establish a friary and mission in Portishead, based at Claremont and Belle Vue on West Hill.

While Franciscans, including the Greyfriars, do value prayer and work, their core motto emphasises poverty, service to the poor, "*Pax et Bonum*" (Peace and Good). This motto reflects their Franciscan values of peace, simplicity, and service to others, stemming from the teachings of St. Francis of Assisi.

We might be unaccustomed to the monastic way of life, but to live a prayerful life, of peace, work and service to others, is something we can all learn from.

Our church communities don't need more volunteers or more rotas, we simply need to learn from those who have been before us, those disciples who understand that being part of the Body of Christ means *doing* as well as *believing*.

It means spending time in prayer, rolling up our sleeves, offering our time, and seeing every task — even the unglamorous ones — as part of our shared calling.

When you visit a monastery, you will notice that all the work is shared. The monks can't choose their duties; getting out of the washing up isn't an option! Each person serves the community as needed, serving not as a volunteer, but as someone who has said "yes" to a life following Christ.

In our own church life, it's tempting to see requests for help — with cleaning, tidying the churchyard, taking down old notices, removing wilted flowers — as optional extras, things we might consider *if* we have time.

But that's the language of volunteering. Discipleship speaks differently. It says: *Here I am, Lord. Use me.*

Of course, there are tasks that we can't physically do, tasks that make us feel uncomfortable and would cause us anxiety. As we need to learn to say yes, we also need to

know our limitations and not forget that the monastic way of life has a discipline of Sabbath and rest. Some people can do more; some only a little. But if everyone does *something*, the whole community thrives. And that's the point. Church is not run by "them" — it is us. All of us.

So next time you hear a quiet plea for help — whether it's cleaning and tidying the churches, helping on a rota, or simply praying regularly for the parish — don't hear it as a burden. Hear it as an invitation. A way to join in the life of the church, not as a helper-on-the-side, but

as someone deeply rooted in the mission and ministry of Jesus.

And if you are one of those faithful people who already give your time and energy, thank you. Truly. You are a blessing. As it says in Matthew 25:23, *"Well done, good and faithful servant... come and share your master's happiness."*

Let's all commit to the work and prayer of the church — not as volunteers who come and go, but as disciples, who belong.

With every blessing,

**Lindsay**



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# From the Church Registers

**Funerals:** James Cooke, Joyce Kerigan, John Oakley,  
Hazel Burgess

**Baptisms:** Silver Rose Maslen

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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.

**Date & time for August:**

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> 10.15am – 11.45am; Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> 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

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on business or for pleasure.

# Psalms, Prayer & Contemplation

## A short course

Do you need time to refresh yourself spiritually? Time to reflect on prayer? If yes, then the following might be of interest to you...

A different psalm will be pondered on each week.

Questions on the psalm will be posed which might help us to deepen our understanding of God and ourselves. A time of quiet will be included, along with a time for sharing.

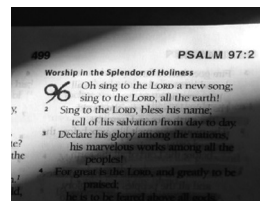
Sounds interesting? Then read on...

Where **St. Nicholas' Church**, Nore Road

When Tues 16<sup>th</sup> September, Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September  
Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September

Time 7.15 ~ 8.45pm. With refreshments served from 7pm

For further information speak to Revd Tonya 01275 840016



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## An Auction of Goods & Promises

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October – St Peter's Church.**

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

Our Auction of Promises event is returning this October.

We're currently gathering promises and any donations to auction! Could you offer:

- A skill you're proud of (think: cake decorating, guitar lessons, gardening advice)
- A helpful service (perhaps dog walking, ironing, or tech support)
- A prize or experience (an afternoon tea, a boat trip, or even homemade jam?)

If you have an idea or a talent to share, we'd love to hear from you.

OR

What would you love to know or have a go at??? (We may be able to provide a coach!)

Every promise helps us build a fun-filled auction.

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

Thank you in advance for your support and creativity—we can't wait to hear from you.



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# Advance Notice to all Readers

## Parish Magazine Cover Price Update

### From January 2026

**Effective Date:** January 2026

**New Cover Price:** £1 per month

#### Why the Increase?

For the first time in **over 20 years**, we are increasing the magazine price to help cover **rising print costs**. This small adjustment ensures we can continue producing the magazine each month for our parish community.

#### Save with an Annual Subscription!

Pay in **January or February 2026**, and get the whole year for just **£10** (That's **2 months FREE!**)

#### Thank You!

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who writes, edits, prints, and delivers the magazine each month. Your continued support keeps our parish connected and informed.

**The Parish Magazine Team**

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## Please donate any

### **COINS or NOTES, BRITISH or FOREIGN, OLD or NEW**

Thank you to all those people who have put their coins and notes into the Coin Jars. We're thrilled to say the first batch has raised over £80! The second batch has just been sent off to be valued. Please continue bringing your notes and coins in to either church or the Church Office.

All proceeds go to Portishead Parish.

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 25<sup>th</sup> September.

## Cruse Bereavement Support

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**Please note new address for Portishead**





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[www.portisheadfunerals.co.uk](http://www.portisheadfunerals.co.uk)  
[portisheadfunerals@outlook.com](mailto: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.

Mon 1 <sup>st</sup>	7.15am	Mission Prayer - <a href="https://teams.live.com/join/9399632380155?p=xl0GS1guFQs7vCocPK">https://teams.live.com/join/9399632380155?p=xl0GS1guFQs7vCocPK</a>
Weds 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30am	Morning Prayer via Zoom <a href="https://bit.ly/wednesdaymorningprayer">https://bit.ly/wednesdaymorningprayer</a>
Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup>		'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 <a href="https://bit.ly/midweekchurchcoffee">https://bit.ly/midweekchurchcoffee</a>
	2.00pm	Lighthouse Café at St Nicholas' Church
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Table Talk at Portishead Library
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup>	1.00pm	The Wedding of Kate Vivian and Daniel Cottle at St Nicholas's Church

## Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September – Trinity 12 / Back to School

Jeremiah 18.1-11; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14.25-33

**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**

**11.30am The Nautical School Reunion at St Nicholas' Church**

**11.30am Parish Eucharist at St Peter's Church**

Mon 8 <sup>th</sup>	7.15am	Mission Prayer - <a href="https://teams.live.com/join/9399632380155?p=xl0GS1guFQs7vCocPK">https://teams.live.com/join/9399632380155?p=xl0GS1guFQs7vCocPK</a>
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Refresh Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter's Church
	2.30pm	Bereavement Support Group at St Nicholas' Church
Weds 10 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Morning Prayer via Zoom <a href="https://bit.ly/wednesdaymorningprayer">https://bit.ly/wednesdaymorningprayer</a>
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup>		'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 <a href="https://bit.ly/midweekchurchcoffee">https://bit.ly/midweekchurchcoffee</a>
	2.00pm	Lighthouse Café at St Nicholas' Church
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	LLaDs at St Barnabas Centre

## Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September – Trinity 13

Jeremiah 4.11-12, 22-28; 1 Timothy 1.12-17; Luke 15.1-10

**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 15 <sup>th</sup>	7.15am	Mission Prayer - <a href="https://teams.live.com/join/9399632380155?p=xl0GS1guFQs7vCocPK">https://teams.live.com/join/9399632380155?p=xl0GS1guFQs7vCocPK</a>
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Refresh Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter's Church

Weds 17 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom <a href="https://bit.ly/wednesdaymorningprayer">https://bit.ly/wednesdaymorningprayer</a>
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup>		'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 <a href="https://bit.ly/midweekchurchcoffee">https://bit.ly/midweekchurchcoffee</a>
	2.00pm	Lighthouse Café at St Nicholas' Church
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Craft & Prayer at St Peter's Church
	2.00pm	Church Tots Celebration at St Peter's Church

### **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September – St Matthew**

Proverbs 3.13-18; 1 Corinthians 4.1-6; Matthew 9.9-13

**8am 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**

**6.00pm Evensong at St Peter's Church**

Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup>	7.15am	Mission Prayer - <a href="https://teams.live.com/join/9399632380155?p=x10GS1guFQs7vCocPK">https://teams.live.com/join/9399632380155?p=x10GS1guFQs7vCocPK</a>
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.00am	Refresh Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter's Church
	10.30am	Lighthouse Carers Group at St Nicholas' Church
Weds 24 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom <a href="https://bit.ly/wednesdaymorningprayer">https://bit.ly/wednesdaymorningprayer</a>
	7.30pm	PCC Meeting at St Nicholas' Church
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup>		'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 <a href="https://bit.ly/midweekchurchcoffee">https://bit.ly/midweekchurchcoffee</a>
	2.00pm	Lighthouse Café at St Nicholas' Church
	2.30pm	Mothers' Union at St Peter's Church

### **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September – Trinity 15**

Jeremiah 32.1-3a, 6-15; 1 Timothy 6.6-19, Luke 16.19-end

**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**

**2.00pm Pet Service at St Peter's Church**

Mon 29 <sup>th</sup>	7.15am	Mission Prayer - <a href="https://teams.live.com/join/9399632380155?p=x10GS1guFQs7vCocPK">https://teams.live.com/join/9399632380155?p=x10GS1guFQs7vCocPK</a>
Tues 30 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Refresh Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter's Church

# Leaving a Legacy

Have you ever considered leaving money to the church after your death?

As I write, last Sunday's (3/8/25) Gospel reading was Luke 12 v 13-21. A man in the crowd asks Jesus to intervene in a dispute with his brother over their inheritance. Jesus declines to act as a judge and cautions against all kinds of greed, as life does not consist in the abundance of possessions. Jesus tells the parable of the Rich Fool. He uses a story about a man who amasses wealth but neglects his relationship with God, to illustrate the dangers of greed and the importance of spiritual wealth. In the parable, a rich man's land produces a large harvest, and instead of sharing his abundance, he decides to build bigger barns to store his surplus. He plans to live a life of ease and comfort, but God tells him he will die that night, and his accumulated wealth will be of no use.

The Bible also tells us that it is hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 19:24)

And yet we find it so hard to put God first and instead make excuses for a bit of 'retail therapy', a bigger house or car! Or perhaps we find it hard to make ends meet with the cost

of living crisis, pressures to 'keep up with the Joneses' (no offence to any Mr. & Mrs. Jones out there!) or the perceived pressures of presenting a certain lifestyle on social media. There are many and varied reasons why we place a higher value on personal possessions than on our relationship to God and the stewarding and sharing of his resources. If we cannot manage it while on earth, perhaps we can through our death?

For many people, leaving a gift in their will is the final opportunity to make a last gift to God, in thanks for the gifts of our lifetime. It is also a way to make a lasting difference to the future of our church and community.

To ensure that our wishes are carried out, we need to take will writing and reviews seriously-setting our affairs in order, and stewarding them wisely to the end of our time on earth and beyond.

No matter how large or small, every gift in every will makes a difference.

After all, 'All things come from God, and of your own do we give you.' (1 Chronicles 29:14)

**Tricia Margerison on behalf of the Finance Committee**

## **Money raised for charities during May**

£1665 was raised for Christian Aid Week from the Unity Service and Christian Aid Envelopes

£220 was sent to British Royal Legion from the VE Service collection.

£126.34 was collected for Portbury Mission to Seafarers at the joint St Nicholas / URC Service

Thank you for your generosity-your gifts will make a difference!

# Day of Sustainability on Friday 4 October

A **family-friendly, all-age** harvest celebration at St. Peter's Church

**10:00am–12:30pm** – Join us as we prepare St Peter's for the Harvest Festival. Come and help decorate the church and **learn about creating sustainable flower arrangements and displays** – eco-friendly, fun, and suitable for all ages.

**Evening** – Harvest Meal

A joyful meal to bring the whole community together. **Keep an eye on the notice sheet for more details.**

Come celebrate creation, community, and sustainability with us!

## Pet Service

**St Peter's Church**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September @ 2pm**



### **Calling All Creatures Great & Small!**

Bring your furry, feathered, scaly, or even stuffed friends along for a joyful celebration of all God's creatures. Whether your pet barks, meows, chirps - or just sits and looks cute - we'd love to see you.

Everyone welcome - two legs or four!

# A Morning of Craft & Prayer



**Enjoy being creative?**

**In need of a little peace this Autumn...?**

A morning together to bring along any craft that you enjoy doing.  
Whilst listening to a little of the Bible, then chatting and praying together.  
Lingering over a cuppa...now doesn't that sound nice?

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

**10.30am – 12.00pm**

**St. Peter's Church**

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## Celebrating Church Tots

After far too many years to count, *Church Tots* has sung its final song and lovingly put away its coloured pens. This much-loved group has been a joyful and welcoming space for little ones and their grown-ups—a place of songs, stories, juice, and gentle introduction to faith.

To honour the incredible ministry of Church Tots and the wider children's work in our parish, we invite you to **a Service of Celebration on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm at St Peter's Church.**

If you've ever sung "*If I Were a Butterfly*," drunk juice in a sippy cup, or been part of the Church Tots family in any way, please come along and join us. Bring your stories, your memories, and maybe even your old craft masterpieces—we'd love to celebrate together!

# Community is Everything!

We are always overwhelmed to see our Portishead community come together to help overcome challenges, build strong social connections and celebrate; as well as support one another! This is of course not only great to see.....it is also biblical.

Where else will you find children and adults in 'angel wing' activities? A therapeutic and calming colouring in activity that soothes the mind and soul? And where might you find fun, laughter, song, beautiful blooms and the largest carrots we have ever seen? It is of course at The Portishead Summer Show, where the blessings are numerous, so many acts of kindness were witnessed across this weekend, where the very young and those feeling more elderly cross paths and make time for each other.

Just walking along the Portishead High Street these past weeks has been a challenge for many, yet local folk still support their community of High Street stores; the small independents were both relieved and encouraged to see folk overcome the challenges that the road closures brought.

We honestly feel so blessed to be part of The Portishead Community and who knew this 'Fun fact'? In 1951 Vowles Ironmongery were awarded The Western Daily Press Perpetual Cup for the Best Non

Horticultural Trade display and the award for Steel work and collaboration was presented to John and I this year in 2025. Good old fashioned values and iron/steel may be the initial link however this really was an award for the theme of 'Shop and Appreciate what is Local' and the links we can foster with each other when living and working in a great community!

Hebrews 10: 24-25 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, but strongly encouraging one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.



May God Bless you All

**John and Karen Osborne**

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## Bereavement Support Group

### Grief doesn't stop after the funeral

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month 2.30pm – 4pm**

**St. Nicholas Church, Nore Road**

**Portishead Church of England**

## 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.

**Contributions to the parish magazine can be  
emailed to**

**[portisheadparishmageditors@gmail.com](mailto:portisheadparishmageditors@gmail.com)**

**Copy date for the October edition is  
Friday 12 September**





# 9:45 SPECIAL

Informal and Creative Service

Date: **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>  
September**

Time: **9.45**

**St Peter's Church, Portishead**



## 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 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sep	8am – 9.30am
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> Sep	8am – 9.30am
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sep	8am – 9.30am

### Venue: Impero Lounge

60 High St, BS20 6EH,  
Portishead, UK

Revd Lindsay: 07483 932608. Email: [Pioneer@portisheadparish.co.uk](mailto:Pioneer@portisheadparish.co.uk)

## Church Housekeeping Morning

**Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Sept, 10am–12noon**

Come lend a hand as we tidy St Peter's church and garden!  
Bring gloves, gardening tools, and a smile. All ages welcome.  
Tea, coffee & fellowship provided!

# Generosity begets Generosity

In August I was privileged to dedicate the restored clock in the tower of Montacute church. It's not just any old clock. In fact, Montacute's is amongst the oldest in the country. Built in the village in around 1400, the clock is so old that it is held in place by iron wedges. At the time of its construction, the nut and the bolt wouldn't be invented for another hundred years!

The Montacute clock is an artefact that seems to generate generosity. In the 1980s the clock was restored by Humphrey Hamlin, for whom it is now named. Humphrey poured time and energy into its mechanism, preventing it from being scrapped. During the last two years, heroic efforts by the people of Montacute have led to its further restoration. All this was marked last month by a whole village gathering. The community choir sang, morris men danced, the local pub provided a hog roast, cake was dispensed in huge quantities.

Montacute is a beautiful example of how generosity begets generosity. Like a chain reaction, one act of generosity, the restoration of the clock, led to another, another and another. As a result, a whole community was brought together in celebration and joy.

In his second letter to the Church in Corinth, Paul writes of the church in Macedonia that 'their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity' (2 Cor 8:2). Having nothing, the Macedonians discovered that they could still give. In turn, their generosity enabled Paul to challenge and encourage the church in Corinth to do the same. All to help the struggling Church in Jerusalem.

As I travel around our diocese, I see this pattern of generosity begetting generosity happening in so many places. One person starts, another adds their contribution, more join in and soon we learn that together we are so much more than the sum of our parts. This is the economy of God. It's an economy that all of us are invited to join.

**Bishop Michael**



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