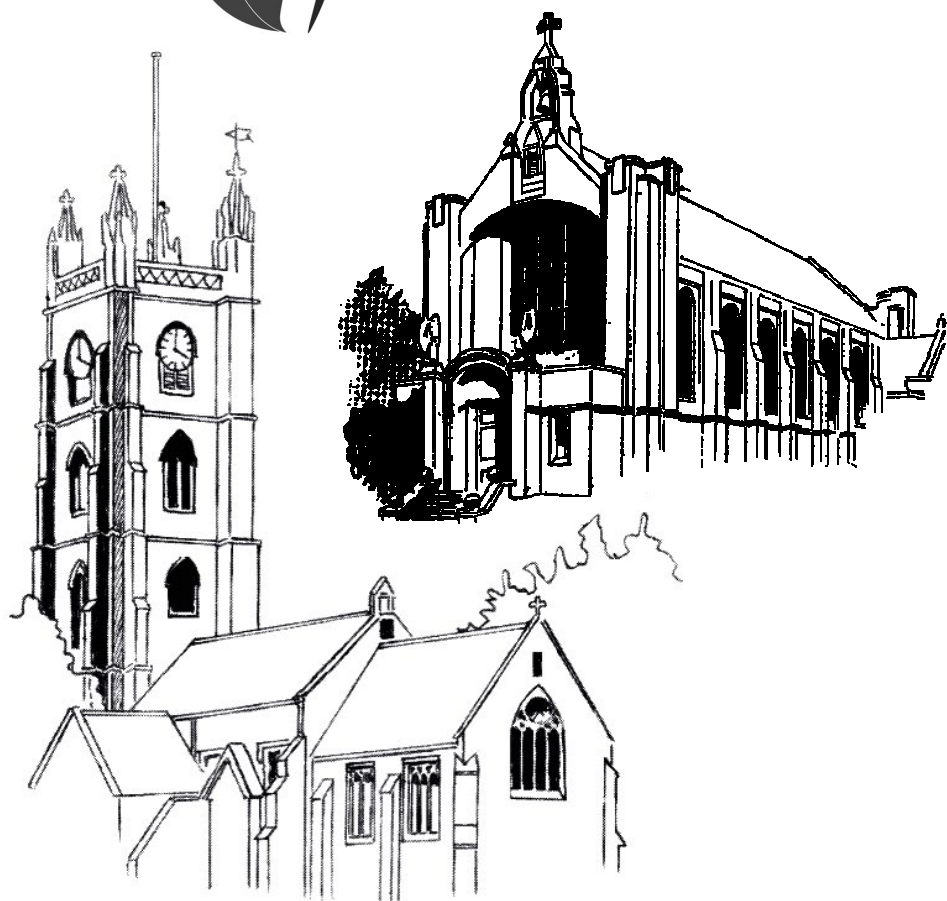


Portishead Parish Magazine



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



September 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	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.

Greetings from Rev'd Tonya

Noah's Ark is one of those Bible stories many of us have known since childhood: the animals, the rain, the rainbow and the promise of a fresh start. The popular version has Noah sending the animals out two by two — although that is not quite what the Bible says! — but the heart of the story remains powerful. It is a story about new beginnings, hope, and the faithfulness of God.

Perhaps it is my teaching background, but September has always felt more like the start of a new year than January. There is something about sharpened pencils, changing routines, and the turning of the season that invites us to pause and ask: what might God be beginning in us now?

New beginnings are woven right through the Big Bible Story. The Gospel tells us that God loved the world so much that He sent His only Son to save us. In Jesus, God offers humanity a new beginning. Through the resurrection, we are assured that even death does not have the final word. Through forgiveness, we are given fresh starts in our relationships with God and with one another — not just someday, but here and now.

Noah sent out birds from the ark to search for signs of life. Jesus, too, sends people out — first the twelve disciples, then the seventy-two, and finally all who follow Him. From a small beginning, the Good News spread across the world. It still spreads in the same way: through ordinary people willing to step out in faith and love their neighbours.

Here in Portishead, we see that spirit at work all around us. People quietly and faithfully make things better: helping at the food bank, taking part in Portishead in Bloom, giving time and energy so that Martha's Kitchen can flourish, cleaning and caring for our churches, visiting, listening, encouraging, and offering practical help where it is needed. My list could go on.

And then there is A.R.K.

Acts of Random Kindness.

Not only organised projects, important though they are, but the everyday acts of goodwill that often go unnoticed: a kind word, a lifted bag, a phone call, a shared meal, a patient smile, a quiet prayer. These small acts may not make headlines, but they can change the atmosphere of a home, a street, a church, or a town.

If we want things to change, perhaps this is where we begin. If we want to change ourselves, perhaps this is the path: one act of kindness, then another, then another. Like seeds scattered in good soil, such acts can grow in ways we may never fully see.

ARK will spread wherever there are people willing to act. So, as this new season begins, why not start today? Offer an Act of Random Kindness. Take one small step. Make one small difference. And trust that God can use it for something much bigger.

Blessings

Tonya

Impero Lounge - September

Volunteers from **Martha's Kitchen** will be in the Impero Lounge on the following Tuesdays, 8.00–9.30am. Children can stop by on their way to school for a FREE breakfast of cereal and toast, while parents can enjoy an early-morning hot drink. Volunteers will also be available to issue foodbank vouchers .

Dates & times for September:

- September 8th 8.00–9.30am
- September 15th 8.00–9.30am
- September 22nd 8.00–9.30am
- September 29th 8.00–9.30am

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

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

Email: Pioneer@portisheadparish.co.uk

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Cleaning Angels Needed!

Our church is only ever as welcoming as the care we put into it – and for years, a faithful team of “cleaning angels” has quietly kept St Peter’s looking its best for worship, weddings, funerals and visitors alike.

Sadly, our numbers are dwindling, and we’re looking to welcome new helpers to join our rota-based teams. It really is just an hour or two a month – no experience needed, just a willing heart and maybe a duster!

If you feel you could spare a little time to serve in this simple but meaningful way, please contact **Kathryn Phillips on 07834 097595**, or have a word with **Jennie McDuff** or **Paul Jeffrey**.

Many hands make light work – and every pair adds up to a church we can all be proud to welcome others into.

**Copy date for the October edition is
Friday 18 September**

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



People's Emergency Briefing

16

On the climate and nature crisis

Portishead

Film screening and discussion

1st Sept - Avon Way Hall

10th Oct - St Peter's Church

Doors open at 7pm

Film starts at 7:30pm



Visit **HelpOurPlanet.Earth** for details & book free tickets

SAVE THE DATE



The St Peter's Arms (church) will be hosting a Pub Quiz on the evening of Saturday 31st October 2026

£5.00 per person

Up to five in a team

More information to follow shortly

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 September:

Wednesday 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th - 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

Cruse Bereavement Support Meetings 2026

Cruse
Bereavement
Support

The 'Walk and Talk' meeting starts outside Waitrose on Thursday 10 September at 10:00am 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 24 September at the Methodist Church Community Hub from 10:00am to 12:00 noon. Many people find meeting up with others who are facing similar situations very supportive. Trained Bereavement Volunteers are available and refreshments are provided.

Pebbles and Youth Church - Autumn Term

September is the start of a new term for Pebbles and Youth Church. Both Youth Church and Pebbles meet during the 9.45 am service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month

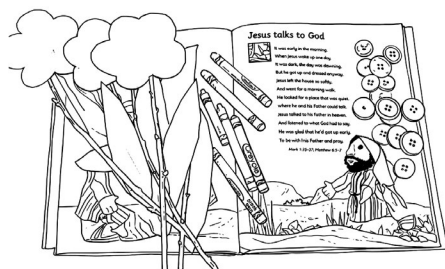
Youth Church (Years 6+)

Young people in school years 6 and above are very welcome to be part of Youth Church. Partway through the 9.45 am service, they climb the old stone stairs of the bell tower and settle into the bell ringers' room — a tucked away space that feels wonderfully their own. For around forty minutes they connect with God and with one another, playing games, chatting about life and praying together. It's relaxed, friendly and full of energy.

Pebbles (Reception – Year 5)

Children from Reception to Year 5 are invited to Pebbles, which also meets as part of the 9.45 am service. Pebbles meet at the back of the church and offers a gentle and creative way to explore faith together. Each session includes a story, time to reflect, and a chance to respond in hands on ways — whether that's junk modelling Solomon's temple, sharing homemade bread or maybe even snowballing Goliath.

Whether your family is returning after the summer or joining for the first time, you are warmly invited to be part of these groups. For more information, please contact Rev Lindsay pioneer@portisheadparish.co.uk or Rev Mark portisheadpilgrim@gmail.com



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cafe@portisheadparish.co.uk

Silent Prayer Walk



Revd Tonya will be undertaking a gentle silent prayer walk around the marina.

Why don't you join her?

When: Wednesday 23rd September

Time: 10am

Start point: Outside Hall & Woodhouse

Length of walk: 40-50 minute with pauses

Followed by optional Coffee at H&W



9:45 SPECIAL

Informal and Creative Service

Date: Sunday 20th
September

Time: 9.45



St Peter's Church, Portishead



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



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Arrangements can be made within our modern office, or in the comfort of your own home. To discuss funeral arrangements that reflect your personal wishes please contact us.



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 notice sheet for up-to-date details and changes.

Mon 31 st	7.15am	Monday Prayer - online
Weds 2 nd	9.00am	Morning Prayer - online
Thurs 3 rd		'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 - online
	2.00pm	Lighthouse Café at St Nicholas' Church
Fri 4 th	10.30am	Table Talk at Portishead Library

Sunday 6th Sept – Trinity 14/Back to School Sunday

Exodus 12.1-14; Romans 13. 8-14; Matthew 18.15-20

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

9.30 am Morning Worship at St Nicholas' Church

9.45 am The 9.45 at St Peter's Church

11.30 am Nautical School Reunion at St Nicholas' Church

11.30 am Parish Eucharist at St Peter's Church

Mon 7 th	7.15am	Monday Prayer - online
	10.00am	Looking to the Future Prayer at St Peter's Church
Tues 8 th	9.00am	Refresh Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter's Church
	2.30pm	Bereavement Support Group at St Nicholas' Church
Weds 9 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer - online
Thurs 10 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 12 th	10.00am	St Peter's Church Tidy Up
	10.30am	LLADS at St Barnabas Centre

Sunday 13th Sept – Trinity 15

Exodus 14.19-31; Romans 14.1-12; Matthew 18.21-35

9.30 am Parish Eucharist at St Nicholas' Church

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

Pebbles and Youth Church will be meeting during this service

11.30 am Morning Worship at St Peter's Church

Mon 14 th	7.15am	Monday Prayer - online
Tues 15 th	9.00pm	Refresh Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter's Church
Wed 16 th	9.00pm	Morning Prayer – online
Thurs 17 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 20th Sept – Trinity 16

Exodus 16.2-15; Philippians 1.21-30; Matthew 20.1-16

8.00 am Holy Communion at St Peter's Church
9.15 for 9.30 am Café Church in the Lighthouse at St Nicholas' Church
9.45 am The 0945 Special at St Peter's Church
11.30 Parish Eucharist at St Peter's Church
6.00 pm Evensong at St Peter's Church

Mon 21 st	7.15am	Morning Prayer - online
	9.15am	Café Prayers at Lighthouse Café at St Nicholas' Church
Tues 22 nd	9.00am	Refresh Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter's Church
	10.30am	Lighthouse Carers' Group at St Nicholas' Church
Weds 23 rd	9.00am	Morning Prayer - online
Thurs 24 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 27th Sept – Trinity 17

Exodus 17. 1-7; Philippians 2. 1-13; Matthew 21. 23-32

9.30 am Parish Eucharist at St Nicholas' Church
9.45 am The 9.45 with Communion at St Peter's Church
 Pebbles and Youth Church will be meeting during this service
11.30 am Parish Eucharist at St Peter's Church
6.00 pm Haven at St Peter's Church

Mon 28 th	7.15am	Monday Prayer - online
Tues 25 th	9.00am	Refresh, Parent, Baby and Toddler Group at St Peter's Church
Weds 30 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer - online
Thurs 1 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
Fri 2 nd	10.30am	Table Talk at Portishead Library
Sat 3 rd	10.00am	Decorate St Peter's Church for Harvest Festival

Magnifica Humanitas

I was talking to a mum of a young child in our community when the subject of Magnifica Humanitas ("Magnificent Humanity" - Pope Leo XIV's first encyclical (official pastoral letter)) came up in conversation. This was the first I had heard about this letter, which focuses on safeguarding our human intelligence, our humanity, in the age of artificial intelligence (AI).

What does it mean to be human, to stay human, to hold onto our humanity in an age of AI?

Woven through the letter are references to human-made culture, music, art and creativity, the gifts bestowed to each of us from God. We live in a society that can sometimes seek to reduce people to what they produce or achieve; we are invited to remember that creativity is not simply something we do; it is part of who we are.

We are called to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth, to care for it as humans.

The Eastern churches have a word for this kind of creativity: synergy — the co-working of God and human hands. The theologian Nikolai Berdyaev, drawing from that tradition, described human creativity as the eighth day of creation. God leaves the world deliberately unfinished, and trusts us with the continuing creation and recreation of the place we all call home.

In our parish life, we are called into this eighth day of creation, into God's creation story. We do this when we worship together, when we care for and tend the land put before us, when we reimagine the spaces that we are called into, and when we tell God's story and participate in the creative work of God.

So, keep being you, beautifully and wonderfully made; keep using the gifts bestowed upon you and nurture the creative gifts of your own hands, remembering that to create, to cultivate, and to care is part of what it means to be human.

Each week, as part of my role as chaplain at Adlington House, I am sent a weekly prayer. This weekly prayer is written by Sam Cowling-Green in response to the Pope's letter, and it's this prayer that I am going to leave with you.

A prayer for the week

God our Maker,
the first thing you show us of yourself
is that you create:
light out of darkness,
order out of deep water,
and us, in your image,
makers in miniature.

We thank you for every sign of that image
in the people we serve:
the hymn remembered whole when other words are lost,
the hands that still knit and plant and mend,
the story told again, and told better,
the room made beautiful for one afternoon.

In an age of clever machines,
keep us wise about what only love can make:
a welcome,
a community,
a blessing,
a person seen and known by name.

Take the work of our hands this week
and make of it something
only a person made in your image could make,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Lindsay



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

New to St Peter's or St Nicholas' Church?

Come along for a Newcomers' Afternoon

Meet new people, hear more about our church, ask any questions you may have, & enjoy tea, coffee, & cake in a relaxed & friendly setting.

Date: Saturday 19th September 2026
Time: 2.30pm ~ 4pm
Venue: St. Peter's Church

Let's Crack this Together – Update and Gift Day

I hope you are aware that the beautiful St Peter's Church needs significant repairs. Recent dry summers have caused subsidence, leading to serious cracking in the north-west corner. We now know what work is needed and roughly what it will cost: probably between £250k and £300k, including VAT. Members of the church family did a fantastic job explaining the need at the Summer Show, and more than 700 people have completed a questionnaire showing how much they value the building.

The PCC has allocated £65k from a recent generous legacy. We also hope to raise substantial funds from grant-making trusts and will invite the Portishead community to contribute. Those of us who worship regularly at St Peter's will also want to play our part. This beautiful building is not only a place where we encounter God; it is also a powerful sign of God's love and presence within the local community. Its stones, standing for more than 700 years, hold many rich stories. As today's church members, we know we have a responsibility to pass the building on in good condition to those who come after us.

On the weekend of 12 and 13 September, everyone will have an opportunity to contribute to the Let's Crack This Together appeal fund. Envelopes will be available in both churches for those who would like to give by cash or cheque, and it will also be possible to give by bank transfer or through our contactless devices. We are hoping to use this challenge as an opportunity to make this beautiful building more fit for current and future needs. We are working on plans for this to share for wider consultation. Please be assured that you will be able to choose whether a donation goes to support the vital repairs, planned development or both.

Please look out for the envelopes in church. You can also find more information about giving directly on our website: **<https://www.portisheadparish.co.uk>**

If you have not yet completed our questionnaire, we would be grateful if you could do so. Grant-making trusts will use this as an important measure of how much the community values the church building. It takes less than a minute to complete. Copies are available in St Peter's Church, or you can complete it online here:



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob'.

Rob Eastwood Dewing

A chat with Mike and Edna Burt

Some folk seem to exude life. That's certainly the case with Mike and Edna, well established members of St Peter's Church. Nick McDuff recently had the pleasure of catching up with them.

Nick: Can you tell me something about your respective early lives?

Mike: My mother's side of the family lived in Portishead at least as far back as my grandparents' generation.

My dad, by contrast, was a London orphan sent to attend the Nautical School but who never went to sea and instead took up farming. I've lived here all my life. After attending Bath Technical School, I became a trainee at Portishead maritime transmitting station. Later, I worked at Goonhilly Satellite Station and finally became an Acoustics Engineer for the Central Electricity Generating Board.

Edna: I grew up in a tiny village called Norton Malreward. I went to school in Whitchurch and then to The Blue School in Wells.

Mike: So, you see, our education was very much 'Bath & Wells'!

Edna: Important leisure activities for me were tennis and dancing. I used to go to all the surrounding village dances alone on my pushbike. Prior to marriage I worked at Long Ashton Research Station in the food preservation section and attended Bristol Technical College on day release. It was at a college dance that I met Mike and we married in 1960. The rest is history!

Mike: I reckon that was the best-value dance ticket I ever bought!

Nick: How did you first come to faith and how has it developed over the years?

Mike: Although I've belonged to St Peter's for 91 years, having been baptized there as an infant, I really started attending at age 16. I guess it was an act of the Holy Spirit. I became so committed that by the time Edna and I met I was already on the PCC. We've led and been members of various home groups over the years. I would describe my faith journey as moving on from simply being an Anglican to being a Christian - a follower of Christ. As well as regularly worshipping at St Peter's we used to attend Christ Church, Clifton on Sunday evenings and also we are 'Friends' of Lee Abbey. Both places have influenced our thinking.

Edna: I was involved with the church from an early age, even though my parents attended only for festivals. A Billy Graham Crusade was an important milestone. I've been a Mothers Union member for over 60 years.

Mike: We've been involved in mission here, having organised an ecumenical Tear Fund Group in Portishead for over 20 years, raising funds and sending out sewing machines, bikes for pastors etc.

Nick: And 'outside church' activities, hobbies and interests?

Mike: As a boy, Scouting was my life. I had an inspiring Scout Master. I went right through to being a 'King's Scout' and later being a Scout Leader myself. In terms of hobbies, I like photography, including computer manipulation of images, and gardening, I've had an allotment for 60 years.

A good deal of my time is now spent with running our Portishead Jubilee Day Care group which provides a 'Fun Day' for lonely or house bound folk as well as giving a break to their Carers.

Edna: I enjoy watercolour painting and belong to a group of like-minded friends.

Mike: Plus, we've never lost our love of dancing. We later took up Square Dancing and only gave that up because of Covid! We are still enjoying our lives together - thanks to that dance ticket!

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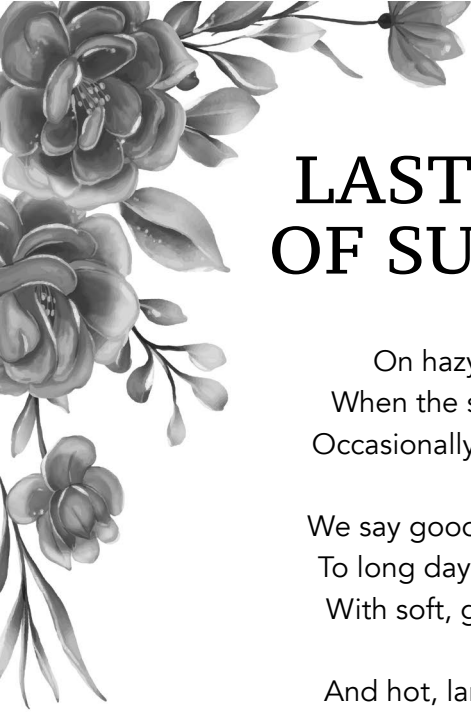
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PORTISHEAD

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Email: diyelectrical@hotmail.com

Please note new address for Portishead



LAST DAYS OF SUMMER

On hazy mornings
When the sun peeps out
Occasionally to cheer us up

We say goodbye to summer
To long days and evenings
With soft, golden sunsets

And hot, languorous days
To sunbeds, sandals and suncream
To bees humming around hollyhocks.

It is the poignant turn of the year
September has a different ring to it
To leaves drifting from dry trees

And ripe blackberries and elderflowers
To pick on hedgerows
To schoolchildren returning to school.

It's a time to meet good friends in coffee shops
And for walks through whispering woods.

Andrea Renwick



Looking Ahead Dates - Oct-Dec 2026

Thurs 1st October at 7.30 - Setting Sail Starts (provisional)

Saturday 3rd October 10.00 - 12.00 - Decorate St Peter's for Harvest

Sunday 4th October - Harvest Festival

Wednesday 7th October at 2.30pm - Craft and Prayer afternoon

Saturday 10th October at 10.00am - Tidy Up at St Peter's Church

Saturday 10th October at 7.00pm - National Emergency Briefing on the Climate and Nature Crisis film showing in St Peter's Church

Saturday 17th October at 10.00am - Quiet Morning at St Nicholas' Church

Sunday 25th October at 4.00pm - All Souls Service in St Peter's Church

Saturday 7th November at 10.00am - Tidy Up at St Peter's Church

Saturday 7th November at 7.00pm - Confirmation Service in Wells Cathedral

Sunday 22nd November at 10.30am - St Nicholas Patronal Festival

Monday 23rd - Saturday 28th November - Star Trail at St Peter's Church

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

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