

IN TOUCH



OCTOBER 2025

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Reader Emeritus	Rosemary Ball	862294
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Retired Clergy	The Reverend Colin Burke	
Assistant Treasurer	Peter Fosker Oakwing Office, St Dubricius School, Parsons Street, Porlock	c/o 862284
Assistant Treasurer & Gift Aid Co-ordinator	Bill Ball Oakwing Office, St Dubricius School, Parsons Street, Porlock	c/o 862284
Churchwardens- St Dubricius	Wendy Flint	c/o 862284
Choir leader, St Dubricius	Stephen Kingdon	07454271931
Tower Captain	Nicholas Kingdon	c/o 862284 porlocktowercaptain@yahoo.com

CHURCH EMAIL

The church email has changed to dubricius465@yahoo.com

This is our main account from which all pew sheets, magazines etc. are sent and which we would encourage you to use.

The old email stdubriciuschurch@yahoo.co.uk is however still in operation for continuity and is checked for mail on a regular basis.



OPEN DAY

SATURDAY 18th OCTOBER

10AM – 4PM

A church at the heart of Porlock; the setting for baptisms, weddings and funerals for over 700 years. You are invited to commemorate some of the

‘Hatched, Matched & Dispatched’

events held at St Dubricius church for Porlock’s locals over the centuries



Plus: Children’s Mouse Trail,
History, Architecture,
Refreshments, Talks, Demos and



FREE ENTRY & FREE

Visit Porlock's Grade I Listed Church and learn about its history, culture, artefacts and architecture.

EVENT PROGRAMME

Time	What	With
10.00	Event opens	
11.15-12.15	Have a go at Bell Ringing	Nick & Rachel Kingdon
12.15-12.35	MUSIC: Lullabies for Babies & Baptisms	Gibby Swaine & friends
12.45-13.05	DEMO: Creating a Beautiful Table Decoration for Weddings/Celebrations	Kim Rowe
13.15 -13.35	TALK: 'The Memorial Lady': Elizabeth Courtenay; her marriages and life in Porlock	Rev Ann Gibbs & Wendy Flint
13.45-14.05	TALK: The Ancient Churchyard	Clr Duncan McCanlis
14.15-14.35	TALK: Funerals – Traditions & Changes	Luke Kurty, Hedley Price Funeral Directors
14.45-15.15	MUSIC: 'Love & Marriage' Singalong	Friends in Harmony
15.30-15.50	MUSIC: Organ Recital	Stephen Kingdon
16.00	Event closes	

THERE ARE CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES TOO

All Are Welcome!

The background of the entire page is a light cream color with a subtle, embossed floral pattern. It is framed by a decorative border of autumn leaves in shades of red, orange, and brown, interspersed with small, round, reddish-brown berries.

Harvest Festival Celebrations 2025 in our Benefices

5th Oct **St Dubricius, 10.30am**
Porlock (*Holy Communion*)
(*followed by Harvest Lunch*)

5th Oct **St Mary's, 3.00pm**
Oare

12th Oct **St Mary's, 3.00pm**
Luccombe

DATES FOR DIARIES & NOTICES

Open Door meeting in St Dubricius Church every Friday at 11am. All welcome.

Me & U Prayers – the first Friday of every month at 10.30am in St Dubricius Lady Chapel before Open Door – everybody welcome.

Weekday Morning Prayer – This takes place at 9.00am weekdays at St Dubricius, Porlock or St Mary's, Oare; details each week can be found in the pew sheet.

GIFT & OPEN DAY – Saturday 18th October. Sheets are now at the back of church for you to sign up as 'Welcomers' and to bake/donate cakes if you would be so kind. Ann Spence will be organising a team to serve refreshments and wash up at the Open Day. Please speak to Ann if you would like to help. There's also a sheet for the distribution of Gift Day Letters. (Folders containing the letters for distribution will be available on Saturday 4th October and they should be distributed by Saturday 11th October please).

There is a lot being packed into this year's '**Hatched, Matched & Dispatched**' themed Open Day, so I would encourage you all please to put the date in your diary and come along to see what's happening. Bring your family and friends and neighbours. Let's make it a bumper event. Full details of the entertainment programme (music, talks, demonstrations plus Singalong with Friends in Harmony etc) will be on the St Dubricius railings shortly. THANK YOU. Wendy Flint

Church Giving

If you wish to give a donation via regular giving, please leave your offering in the chest at the back of the church, or give your envelope to Bill Ball. He will then process the donation in the regular giving register and pay it into the bank.

Festivals and feasting, light and dark

Dear Friends,

In case you hadn't noticed, we have reached that time of the year when the darkness is occupying more of each twenty four hours than the light. It is also chillier, the season when my Australian relatives tell me I should "rug up" and get cosy in front of the fire. While I have not done it yet, I suspect it will not be too long before I do light my fire and draw the curtains against the darker evenings.

October begins with harvest festivals and feasting. We celebrate the bringing in of the crops, the fruits and vegetables and express our gratitude for all the gifts God bestows upon us. Harvest suppers and lunches take place and it is an opportunity to share in fellowship and hospitality; it is always a blessing to break bread together. At the other end of the month we have All Hallow's Eve and, here on Exmoor at least, the celebration of dark skies.

Darkness can be difficult- in the dark we find it hard to see the way forward and it is all too easy to stumble over obstacles unseen. In the darkness we sometimes feel uncertain and anxious. As a child walking in the lanes after dark I always felt fearful and kept tight hold on my mother's hand for comfort. There are times in our lives when we feel like we are wandering in the dark. There may be many reasons for this; perhaps we are mourning a loved one, maybe we have been or are sick, possibly we have lost our way spiritually and cannot see what to do. When we are in such darkness, artificial light may not be the best help, we need something more than that.

Jesus, in one of the 'I am' sayings in John's Gospel, says this, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). Whatever is happening in our lives, Jesus' light is always more powerful than any darkness we experience. If you consider the night sky, the darker it is, the more the stars shine; however dark our lives may be the light of Christ is always stronger and always will cast out the darkness if we trust him to do so. His light brings us the courage and warmth that I found in my mother's hand all those years ago.

As we move into the darker, colder months it is good to spend time in fellowship, learning more about our Lord and praising him for all that he gives us. Perhaps now is the time to think about joining in with the Bible study group, coming to a service that you have not attended before, sharing a meal - whatever it is, let us find ways to invite Christ's light into our lives and to walk with him through each day,

God bless you all,
Rev'd Ann

We pray for...

Ivor Ellis, Andrew Spence, Rosemary Cape, Nick Simpson, Aaliyah, Ron & Iris Savery, Martin Spence, Dori Dawes, Steve Godfrey, Nicola Madeley, Anthony Rose, John Rogers, Pauline Clarke, Ann Green and Jack Bell



We remember those who have died: Anthony Kenyon, Melody Keeling, Vernon Rush, Olga Miller, Gordon Green, Ruth Humphreys

Vernon Rush's funeral will be held at 2.30pm on Saturday 11th October at St Dubricius Church.

Gordon Green's funeral will be held at 2pm on Friday the 17th October at St Dubricius Church

Benefice Services (& Culbone and Oare) – October 2025

Sunday 5th October

(G) Deuteronomy 26: 1-11, Philippians 4: 4-9, John 6: 25-35

St Dubricius 8.00am
St Dubricius 10.30am
All Saints' Selworthy 11.00am

St Bueno's, Culbone 11.00am
St Mary's, Oare 3.00pm

Trinity 16

Holy Communion (BCP)
Harvest Festival Holy Communion (CW)
Matins (BCP)
(Joint service with Luccombe)
Holy Communion (BCP)
Harvest Service

Sunday 12th October

(G) Jeremiah 29: 1, 4-7, 2 Timothy 2: 8-15, Luke 17: 11-19

St Dubricius 8.00am
St Dubricius 10.30am
St Mary's, Oare 11.00am
St Mary's Luccombe 3.00pm

Trinity 17

Holy Communion (BCP)
Holy Communion (CW)
Holy Communion (BCP)
Harvest & Scarecrow Service

Sunday 19th October

(G) Jeremiah 31: 27-34, 2 Timothy 3: 14 – 4: 5, Luke 18: 1-8

Lynch 8.30am
St Dubricius 10.30am
All Saints' Selworthy 11.00am

St. Mary's, Oare. 11.00am
St. Dubricius. 6.00pm

Trinity 18

Holy Communion (BCP)
Morning Prayer
Holy Communion
(Joint service with Luccombe)
Holy Communion (BCP)
Holy Communion with anointing
and laying on of hands

Sunday 26th October

(G) Joel 2: 23-end, 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18, Luke 18: 9-14

St Dubricius 8.00am
St. Mary's, Luccombe. 9.30am
Methodist Church 10.45am
St Mary's, Oare 11.00am

Last Sunday of Trinity

Holy Communion (BCP)
Morning Prayer (CW)
(Joint service with Selworthy)
Celebrate
Morning Prayer (BCP)

Sunday 2nd November

(W) Daniel 7: 1-3, 15-18, Ephesians 1: 11-end, Luke 6: 20-31

St Dubricius 8.00am
St Dubricius 10.30am
All Saints' Selworthy 11.00am

St Bueno's, Culbone 11.00am
St Mary's, Oare 3.00pm
St Dubricius 5.00pm

All Saints' Day

Holy Communion (BCP)
Holy Communion (CW)
Matins (BCP)
(Joint service with Luccombe)
Holy Communion (BCP)
Evensong
Light a Life Service



ST. DUBRICIUS CHARITIES COMMITTEE

JAN TO JUNE 2025

I thought you would like to see the half year total to provide confirmation of what has been raised through our Charity of the Month scheme.

Alcombe Food Cupboard	January 2025	£ 145.
Friends of Minehead Hospital	February 2025	£ 100.
Book Aid Charitable Trust	March 2025	£ 89.
Children's Hospice S.West	April 2025	£ 155.
Christian Aid	May 2025	£ 115.
Dementia UK	June 2025	£ 135.

Total: £ 739.

On behalf of all these charities, thank you so very much for your generosity and a thank you too, to all those members of our congregation who have put a charity forward to the Committee and obtained information to enable these charities to be promoted.

Rosemary Ball

On behalf of the Charities Committee

ST. DUBRICIUS CHARITIES COMMITTEE

OCT. 25 TO SEPT. 26

The Charities Committee met again recently and we have allocated charities for the twelve months Oct. 25 to Sept. 26. These are listed below with the initials of those sponsoring them:

October 25	Hamelin Fistula	A&M S
November 25	Red Cross (Ukraine)	A&M S
December 25	Wizz Kids	SH
January 26	Tearfund	RB
February 26	Marie Curie	A&M S
March 26	Salvation Army	A&M S
April 26	Children's Air Ambulance	SH
May 26	Love Musgrove	RB
June 26	Sightsavers	AT
July 26	RNLI	AG
August 26	Doctors without Borders	RB
September 26	Y.M.C.A.	AT

For all the charities we support, we will, as usual publish acknowledgment letters on the Charity Notice Board, behind our tea area.

May I also take this opportunity of thanking you on behalf of the charities we are promoting and to which you may give. We always receive really grateful letters and it is good to know we are putting Christ's message of caring for others into action.

Rosemary Ball on behalf of
Charities Committee

Below is a poem written by the Father of Rosemary Boaz about their family church, Guarlford, a village on the way to Malvern. This is close to Rosemary's Barn for which she has recently received a Rose Award for Visit England. Only 100 awards are made each year for outstanding service to people staying in different types of accommodation. Rosemary attended a special presentation tea in Newbury.

The East Stained Glass Window of Guarlford Church

**I often find at Matins that my thoughts
By stained glass windows are the more absorbed
Than by the service and attendant hymns.
Each window has a message for us there
And varies in accordance with the light
That inward percolates and shines on all,
Reminding us, as much as do the prayers,
Through sunlight change, of life's inconstancy.
And when there is no sun, or nightfall comes,
The windows lose such meaning for us then
And like the tombstones in the grounds outside
Become just tributes to some ancestors.**



**Today, the Sunday for the Trinity,
I pondered on the lack of prominence
In our window at the eastern end,
Accorded to the Holy Ghost, whereas
The life of Christ is fully encapsulated
Below the Father, dominant and stern.
A small dove, only, is therein revealed,
Discerned, with some dilemma, on the wing.
Yet this is the Spirit which we today
Should welcome for enrichment of our lives,
Sustains our faith, reminds us of Our Lord
His teaching and eternal constancy.**



**It surely does deserve more emphasis.
Without its inspiration and its spark
Our Church, like His apostles, would be mute.
It is the Holy Ghost which gives it life.**

*T G Boaz
June 1994*

CHARITY OF THE MONTH OCTOBER 2025 - HAMLIN FISTULA UK

Ending avoidable childbirth injuries in Ethiopia. Forever.

Join us to ensure the health and dignity of mothers by treating and preventing preventable childbirth injuries. We've changed the lives of over 70,000 women.

Tadelche's Story

Tadelche was married at 18. Soon after, she gave birth to her first child and her second child followed not long after. But it was during the birth of her third child that things went terribly wrong.



Tadelche experienced severe labour pains at home and she knew something was wrong. By the time she reached a health centre the damage had been done. Tadelche developed a fistula, a devastating injury that left her incontinent. She was ashamed. But she also worried about how she could care for her children while dealing with such a condition.

Fortunately, her family brought her to the Yirgalem Hamlin Fistula Centre, where she received specialised treatment completely free of charge. From the moment she arrived, her journey of healing began.

She was provided with a comfort package, which included one of the handmade knitted blankets produced by one of our dedicated knitters. The staff bathed her, fed her, and monitored her closely, all with compassion and respect.

During her treatment, naturally she was scared, but other patients reassured her that everything would be okay. After surgery, she felt something she hadn't felt in a long time: hope. Hope for her future and for her children.

For many women in Ethiopia, obstetric fistula remains a condition shrouded in stigma and isolation. But with hospitals like Yirgalem, staffed by people who care deeply and are trained to provide the necessary treatment that is both free and accessible, healing becomes possible.

<i>Methodist Minister</i>	Rev'd Andy Day	
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PCC Secretary All Saints, Selworthy	Vacant	
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