

IN TOUCH



DARK SKIES EVENT AT ST DUBRICIUS

NOVEMBER 2025

IN SUPPORT OF ST DUBRICIUS CHURCH SPIRE PROJECT



QUIZ NIGHT



Gather your friends and join us
for Quiz Night with buffet!

Saturday 22nd November

6.30 PM - 9.30 PM

St Dubricius School Hall

£10 per person

Max 6 people per team

**ADVANCE BOOKING ESSENTIAL
FOR CATERING PURPOSES**

email - alison.curate@hotmail.com
or sign up on sheet in church

RENEWING FAITH DURING THE ADVENT SEASON



Week 1 - THE SEARCH FOR HAPPINESS

The impossibility of sitting still. What is happiness? How to press the pause button.

Week 2 - A GOD WHO SPEAKS?

The hiddenness of God. When God broke the silence. Discovering the face of God.

Week 3 - THE BIBLE

What is the bible? Can we trust the bible? How the bible can change your life.

Week 4 - THE POWER OF PRAYER

What is prayer? Does prayer make a difference? How to pray.

**We will meet at Porlock Rectory
for 4 Thursdays, 2pm - 3.30pm
starting on November 27th**

**for more information please contact
Rev Ann or Rev Alison**



Rector	The Reverend Ann Gibbs porlockposse@gmail.com	863593
Curate	The Reverend Alison Tolson Alison.curate@hotmail.com	07496 248789
Retired Clergy	The Reverend Stephen Humphreys srbh@mac.com Stowey Farm, Timberscombe	841265
Reader Emeritus	Rosemary Ball	862294
Retired Clergy	The Reverend John Rogers	07785 977771
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.

DATES FOR DIARIES & NOTICES

Open Door meeting every Friday at 11am.

Open Door on Friday mornings will be in the Castle instead of St Dubricius from now until the weather gets warmer again. Everyone is most welcome to come and join us for a cup of coffee and a chat.

Me & U Prayers – the first Friday of every month at 10.30am in St Dubricius Lady Chapel before Open Door – everybody welcome. **(This coming Friday, 7th November)**

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.

Pre-Christmas Clean-up at St Dubricius is on Monday 10th November from 10am to 12.30pm. Please sign up at the back of church and bring with you a duster, broom, polish, etc., if you can. As always, many hands make light work! Thank you in advance.

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

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.

The Heart of the Matter

My thoughts this month come whilst I am undertaking my placement with a parish in Taunton; this is something all curates undertake in their final year as part of their ongoing training. As you look to discern where your future may take you, you are encouraged to find a placement in a context different from where you currently are and as I was planning for this I reflected on the fact that I had experienced a variety of contexts prior to ordination, both in style of worship and in location. However, I have come to appreciate, now that I am ordained, both these things take on a different weight of relevance particularly in terms of how things are done and what they mean to different people. I realise too that as I have grown in confidence in the rural context, in a middle of the road tradition, I have come to appreciate my ministry could benefit more from exploring those areas both of tradition and location which appeal to me less.

The travelling to and from Taunton has given plenty of time to ponder on both location and tradition of a centre of worship, and have led me to consider not only what is important to me but why it is, which is something I think we still all at times take the time to do, but also to ponder on how as a church leader that impacts on the communities and congregations that we serve.

One thing I have found is that although the location is quite different, at the heart of that are the people, and it is the people that matter. I cannot with any honesty say I would prefer to live there than where I do, but it is the place those I have met call home and where they feel they belong. It is these people that make up the worshipping community that I have been made to feel welcome at. A worshipping community that does things in a slightly different way to what we are used to here but in some respects the way they do things is the icing on their cake, just as our way of doing things may be the icing on our cake. It works for them at this time; they have not always done things exactly the same and as time goes by maybe it will change again. The same may be true for our parishes here - we do things the way we do because it is comfortable for us at this time and in this place, but it may change and we should not be anxious about that but continue to pray and journey together.

As my time in Taunton comes to an end, as I prepare to lead a communion service in a different way to that to which I have become accustomed, I know I will continue to ponder on the experience and wonder about the future.

I do truly appreciate and feel grateful for the opportunities I have to walk alongside others considering what is important to them and finding God at the heart of the experience in the variety of contexts I encounter.
Rev. Alison

Benefice Services (& Culbone and Oare) – November 2025

Sunday 2nd November

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

St Dubricius	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
St Dubricius	10.30am	Holy Communion (CW)
All Saints' Selworthy	11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
(Patronal Festival –Joint service with Luccombe)		
St Bueno's, Culbone	11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
St Mary's, Oare	3.00pm	Compline
St Dubricius	5.00pm	Light a Life Service

All Saints' Day

Sunday 9th November

® Job 19: 23-27a, 2 Thess. 2: 1-5, 13-end, Luke 20: 27-38

St Dubricius	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
All Saints' Selworthy	10.50am	Meet at War Memorial, followed by Holy Communion (BCP) (Joint service with Luccombe)
St Dubricius	<u>9.30am</u>	Holy Communion (CW)
St Mary's, Oare	10.50am	Service of Remembrance

Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 16th November

(R/G) Malachi 4: 1-2a, 2 Thess. 3: 6-13, Luke 21: 5-19

Lynch	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
St Dubricius	10.30am	Morning Prayer
All Saints' Selworthy	11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) (Joint service with Luccombe)
St. Mary's, Oare.	11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
St. Dubricius.	6.00pm	Holy Communion with anointing and laying on of hands

2nd before Advent

Sunday 23rd November

(R/W) Jeremiah 23: 1-6, Colossians 1: 11-20, Luke 23: 33-43

St Dubricius 8.00am
St. Mary's, Luccombe. 9.30am

St Dubricius Church 10.45am
St Mary's, Oare 11.00am

Christ the King

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

Sunday 30th November

(P) Isaiah 2.1-5, Romans 13.11-14, Matthew 24.36-44

St Dubricius 8.00am
St Mary's, Luccombe 10.00am

Stoke Pero 4.00pm

Advent Sunday

Holy Communion (BCP)
Joint Benefices Service
"Jesse Tree"
Advent Carol Service

Friday 5th December

St Dubricius 2.30pm

Christingle Service

Sunday 7th December

(P) Isaiah 11.1-10, Romans 15.4-13, Matthew 3.1-12

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 Nicholas, P. Weir 3.00pm

Advent 2

Holy Communion (BCP)
Holy Communion (CW)
Matins (BCP)
(Joint service with Luccombe)
Holy Communion (BCP)
Evensong
Patronal Service

CHARITY OF THE MONTH

NOVEMBER 2025 – RED CROSS UKRAINE

Three years of fear and uncertainty in Ukraine

For more than three years people in Ukraine have been living through a nightmare. The conflict, which escalated in February 2022, has affected millions of people, claiming lives and homes.



- 10 million people have been displaced and many are without access to food, water and electricity.
- More than six million have also fled the country, leaving behind everything they've ever known - often including their loved ones.
- Homes, hospitals and schools continue to be damaged, forcing further evacuations.

The Ukrainian Red Cross Society has worked around the clock to bring hope and support to all those in need, from distributing food parcels to treating people at Red Cross mobile health units across the country.

Here in the UK, British Red Cross teams have been on hand to provide support, financial assistance and a friendly, safe place for people to turn to while they rebuild their lives.

To date, Red Cross and Red Crescent staff and volunteers have been able to support more than 22 million people impacted by the crisis.

But urgent needs remain. Families have been separated, loved ones lost and schools and hospitals destroyed. These are lasting impacts that will affect people for many years to come.

The situation in Ukraine remains incredibly volatile. We can't be sure what will happen next or where the need will be greatest. But with your help we can be ready to help more of the people who are suffering.

St Dubricius Open Day 2025

When I thought up the theme Hatched, Matched and Dispatched for this year's Open Day it seemed like a good idea. Of course, the church has over the centuries been the venue for thousands of family events – baptisms, weddings and funerals – so there should be so much material to share. And indeed, families from around the village approached me with photos, stories, christening gowns and more to share with all those who would be attending on the day. Then I had to plan the talks. Baptisms and weddings were easy. But funerals? Hhhmm? That would be a more difficult subject to tackle. I wondered if I had picked a stupid topic instead of a good idea.



For any of you who haven't been to an Open Day at St Dubricius Church in recent years, the day comprises of entertainment – firstly music: this year there were superb lullabies and music for children and happy days from Gibby and Ruth; Friends in Harmony sang and Daphne organised a wedding themed singalong; and Stephen finished off with a rousing anthem on the organ. Secondly demonstrations: Nick and Rachel with other bell-ringers gave everyone the opportunity to try bell-ringing; Kim demonstrated her skills at flower arranging and encouraged us to have a go at home. Then there were the talks...

Rev Ann and I did a double header about Elizabeth Courtenay, the lady in the Harington Memorial, who spent much of her adult life in Porlock. We spoke about her family, the men she loved and her two weddings; one of which was here at St Dubricius church. It is easy to talk about weddings, but what on earth could be said about funerals that wouldn't upset someone? It was a dodgy path to tread, but one which I had still decided to go down. Fortunately, Councillor Duncan McCanlis, and Funeral Director, Kurt Luty, from Hedley Price came to my rescue.





Duncan's talk was about the ancient churchyard around the church. He touched on the fact that as a 'closed' churchyard it is now the responsibility of the Parish Council to maintain. He spoke about the involvement of the National Park in looking after the 1000+ year old yew tree and the prospect that there are likely to be far more people buried in the churchyard from centuries gone by than we have documented.

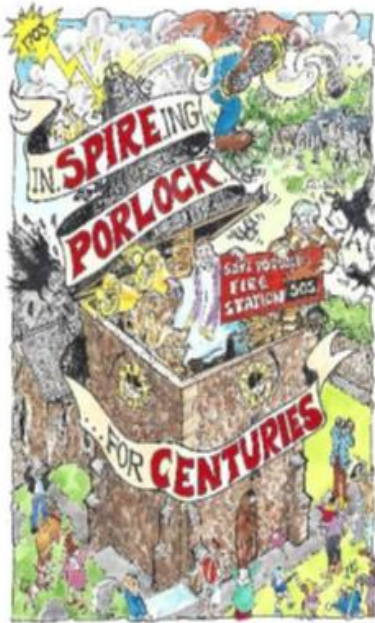
Kurt's talk was fascinating as he discussed traditions from the past. The influence of the Victorians and things that continue now and things that no longer apply. For example, when did you last go to a funeral where professional mourners were present? Kurt wore the traditional clothes of a funeral director and brought along his white gloves and top hat reflecting the solemn nature of the occasions that he oversees. But his talk wasn't solemn, it was funny and informative.



So, to everyone involved in Open Day 2025 I thank you. For the generosity of those sharing their time, talents, memories, memorabilia, music and knowledge. For the kindness of all those who baked cakes and served refreshments. And if you are reading this and came this year to support us, thank you too. If you had a good time, please spread the word. Our church Open Day occurs annually in October and is for everyone to enjoy. If you have never been before, or haven't been in years, do look out for next year's date – you may be surprised by what you see and you will certainly receive a warm welcome.

Wendy Flint (Churchwarden)

The Porlock InSpired Project needs you to help please



The spire project needs your help to raise an extra £50,000 by June 2026.

This is our contribution which the National Lottery Heritage Fund have suggested we raise in order to unlock additional funding from them.

It is to mitigate the loss of an estimated refund of £150,000 over the life of the Capital works. This is what we could have received from the Listed Places of Worship Scheme. These changes were announced in the government's budget earlier this year and we are naturally very disappointed.

The Heritage Fund cannot be expected to underwrite all of this and they are keen to see how the PCC and congregation plan alternative ways to raise the money.

This is where we need you, the congregation, to help! Please think of ideas for events or other ways you can help. A timetable of fundraising events will be drawn up which I am encouraging all of you to organise and participate in. It is a huge target but with the right ideas and enthusiasm we can manage it and it means that we will be able to unlock that additional funding.

Please put thinking caps on and email your ideas!

Email: porlockinspired@yahoo.com

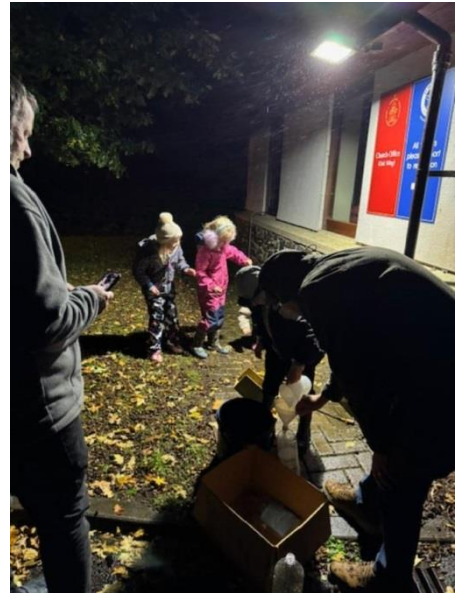
**Thank you,
Revd Ann**



Children's Church Dark Skies Night

Dark Skies was great fun. The water rockets went for miles. Aliens were hunted down and bounties claimed. We decorated Space cake, listened to stories, made constellation viewers and bats over the moon hangers and we finished off toasting marshmallows and drinking hot chocolate. The children were brilliant and the parents and grandparents did quite well too!

Ann



<i>Methodist Minister</i>	Rev'd Andy Day	
Church Wardens All Saints Selworthy	Vacant	
PCC Secretary All Saints, Selworthy	Vacant	
Churchwarden St Mary's Luccombe	Rosemary Gande eddiegande@gmail.com	862832
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