IN TOUCH



DECEMBER 2025 / JANUARY 2026

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	The Reverend Stephen	
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	Stowey Farm, Timberscombe	
Reader Emeritus	Rosemary Ball	862294
Retired Clergy	The Reverend John Rogers	07785 977771
Retired Clergy	The Reverend Colin Burke	
	Peter Fosker	c/o
Assistant Treasurer	Oakwing Office,	862284
	St Dubricius School,	
	Parsons Street, Porlock	
Assistant Treasurer	Bill Ball	c/o
& Gift Aid	Oakwing Office,	862284
Co-ordinator	St Dubricius School,	802284
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St Dubricius		
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Church Facebook Page (The Churches of the Porlock Pilgrim's Trail): https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61553342729470

WEB PAGES: St Dubricius, Porlock - https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11306/All Saints', Selworthy - https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11308/St Mary's, Luccombe - https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11300/





Join us as we journey through the village retelling the story of Jesus' birth

Friday 12th December

The journey begins at Dovery Manor Museum at 6.00pm



ST DUBRICIUS CHURCH, PORLOCK

TRESTIVAL CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL Even MORE local group

THIS YEAR'S THEME: 'MATERIALS'

Even MORE local groups and organisations creating and displaying trees this

Woorl





CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Saturday 20th December at 7.00pm

St Dubricius Church, Porlock

A magical, musical evening by Friends in Harmony and the Young Performers

* Mulled Wine * Mince Pies * FREE ADMISSION

Donations for Crisis at Christmas



SATURDAY 20TH DECEMBER
STARTING IN OARE CHURCH AT 2.00PM
AND MOVING ON TO THE RECTORY



We will share the familiar story in a variety of ways, children are particularly welcome!

We will finish by singing carols and sharing refreshments with the shepherds around their campfire.

As some of the experience will be outside please wear suitable clothes and footwear

For further information please contact Rev Alison. 07496 248789 or alison.curate@hotmail.com



SUNDAY 4TH JANUARY 2026 STARTING AT 2PM IN LUCCOMBE VILLAGE HALL

BEFORE MOVING TO THE CHURCH FOR 3PM

All are very welcome to join us for this time of activity and worship in a very relaxed and informal atmosphere!

Drinks and snacks will be available!

children partiulary welcome!

For further information please contact

Rev Alison. 07496 248789 or alison.curate@hotmail.com



DATES FOR DIARIES & NOTICES

Open Door meeting every Friday at 11am.

Open Door on Friday mornings at the Castle, Porlock (until the weather gets warmer again when we hold it in St Dubricius Church). Everyone is most welcome to come and join us for a cup of coffee and a chat.

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

<u>Weekday Morning Prayer</u> – 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.

LATE NIGHT SHOPPING/CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL: This year's Christmas Tree Festival opens late afternoon at the Late Night Shopping event which is on Saturday 13th December. As usual, we are keeping the church open until about 8.30pm and will be offering hot drinks and home-made cakes and biscuits for villagers and visitors who will be enjoying the event. Granny's Attic will be open but we are still looking for help to serve refreshments during the evening, to bake biscuits or treats to eat, and to welcome visitors. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church. Can you please add your name accordingly. With thanks, Wendy Flint

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: Reg Higgins and Angela Duffy

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.

Letter from Reverend Ann

Dear Friends,

As we step once again into the rich tapestry of a new Christian year, we are invited to journey through three seasons that draw us into the mystery of God's coming: Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. Each season, in its own way, teaches us something essential about waiting, receiving, and responding.

Advent begins quietly, like the first hint of dawn. It is the season of holy anticipation—an invitation to wait not with anxiety, but with hope. Our world is full of noise, full of hurry, full of longing; yet Advent gently reminds us that God often arrives in the stillness, in the small moments, in places we least expect. In Advent we can discover that waiting is not passive but purposeful. We learn to prepare room in our hearts, to watch for signs of light even in the longest nights, and to trust that God's promises hold firm.

Christmas, by contrast, bursts forth in the wonder of a new life. A Child is born, and everything changes. Our eternal God draws close—closer than we dare imagine—in the fragile form of a newborn. Christmas reminds us that God's love is not distant or abstract; it is embodied, gentle, and real. The message of the manger is that God steps willingly into our humanity, into our vulnerability, into the mess and mystery of life. This is good news for all who feel weary, overlooked, or overwhelmed: God has come among us, not once long ago, but again and again, seeking hearts open to His grace.

And then Epiphany comes, the season of revelation. The star over Bethlehem does more than guide the wise men; it illuminates the truth that Christ's light is for the whole world. Epiphany is about recognising God's presence in unexpected places and people. It calls us to pay attention—to the nudges of the Spirit, the quiet gifts of others, the surprising ways God breaks into ordinary days. As the Magi brought their gifts, we too are invited to offer what we have: our worship, our service, our love, our willingness to follow the Light wherever it leads.

Together, these seasons lead us from waiting, to wonder, to witnessing. They shape our faith not as something static and complete, but as a journey: a movement deeper into the mystery of God's love, and outward into the life of the world.

As we move through Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany this year, may we learn again to wait with hope, rejoice with gratitude, and walk with confidence in the light of Christ. May these holy days renew our courage, strengthen our compassion, and open our eyes to God's presence all around us. With every blessing for the season,

Revd Ann

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you." (Isaiah 60:1)

Thoughts from the Curate

So, with a great joint Benefice's service at Luccombe, a really special Carol Service at Stoke Pero behind us, Advent is here, and the busyness of the season is tangible. As Rev Ann and I walked across to the church together, I commented how quickly this past year has gone, and as she replied, it has been an eventful one, in all sorts of ways. My first year with you I shared a picture from my time at Ripon College, Cuddesdon where I had been studying, which I share again now,



It was a reminder from Facebook of an extraordinary moment, as I walked through the dining room, and stood wondering, and I wrote at that time, "And so the last night of my first term here, it's been an amazing experience so far with so many wonderful people to share it with."

I was still a long way from ordination at that point, no concept of where any future curacy might take place, I just knew I had to stay focused on the time and the place where God had brought me, the future would unfold in his time.

I wrote the following for you, forgive me if I repeat myself, but it seems right to do so –

It seems appropriate at this time of waiting in active anticipation of Christ's birth in Bethlehem, to be a guiding light for us all, that the light shines on His figure on the cross in the picture. His light is there for each and every one of us to focus on and follow, His love is there to enfold us all. I know it is not easy to keep our focus on what God wants, either as individuals or as communities and I've realised as my ministry begins to unfold across both benefices I can see that each church community has its own challenges to face. However, as well as their challenges each parish has some wonderful and faithful people who call it their spiritual home. I really do consider it a privilege to be amongst you and to be part of the unfolding story of the Christian presence in this awe inspiring part of the country.

And it has been exciting to journey with you all as we have explored and experimented together, we have looked to the guiding light of Christ and we have been enfolded by his love, in the joys and in the sorrows.

It is still very much a joy and a privilege to be amongst you, to journey together, and I thank you all for the support you continue to give me as I come up with my random ideas and develop ideas I have tried before. I look forward particularly to sharing more over the coming Advent, Christmas and Epiphany seasons that form the road ahead for the next few months. It is our joy to be able to host the Christmas Experience once more at Oare Rectory this year, and I do hope that some of you, especially if you have younger members of the family staying, will be able to come and experience a familiar story in this different way.

Then on Sunday 4 January, we are having the Epiphany Experience – some of you may remember the service we had previously at St Mary's, Oare followed by a procession with the kings to the 'stable' at the Rectory – this will be slightly different, and accessible to all ages – starting at Luccombe Village Hall at 2pm before moving across to the church, it would be really great to see you there and if you know of any families who might be interested then please do invite them.

Go well my friends this Advent time, and take care.

Every blessing

Rev Alison

Benefice Services (& Culbone and Oare) - December 2025

Friday 5th December

St Dubricius 2.30pm Christingle Service

Sunday 7th December Advent 2

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

St Dubricius 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
St Dubricius 10.30am Holy Communion (CW)

Lynch Chapel 11.00am Matins (BCP)

(Joint service with Luccombe)

St Bueno's, Culbone 11.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

St Mary's, Oare 3.00pm Compline

St Nicholas, P. Weir 3.00pm Patronal Service

Monday 8th December

St Mary's, Luccombe 7.00pm Carols by Candlelight

Friday 12th December

Living Nativity

Starts Porlock Museum 6.00pm

Saturday 13th December

St Dubricius (from) 5.00pm Christmas Tree Festival starts

Porlock Village 5.00pm Late Night Shopping

Sunday 14th December Advent 3

(P) Isaiah 35: 1-10, James 5: 7-10, Matthew 11: 2-11

St Dubricius

St Mary's Luccombe

9.30am

Holy Communion (BCP)

Holy Communion (CW)

(Joint service with Selworthy)

St Dubricius

10.30am

Holy Communion (CW)

Holy Communion (CW)

Holy Communion (BCP)

St Mary's, Oare 11.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
Porlock Methodist 2.30pm Methodist Carol Service

Saturday 20th December

(starting) St Mary's, Oare 2.00pm Christmas Experience

moving on to the Rectory

St Dubricius 7.00pm Christmas Concert

Sunday 21st December Advent 4

(P) Isaiah 7.10-16, Romans 1.1-7, Matthew 1.18-25

Lynch 8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

St Dubricius 10.30am Morning Prayer

Lynch Chapel 11.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

(Joint service with Luccombe)

St Bueno's, Culbone 2.00pm Carol Service St. Dubricius 6.00pm Carol Service

Wednesday 24th December Christmas Eve

St Dubricius 3.30pm Crib Service St Mary's, Oare 6.00pm Carol Service

St Mary's, Luccombe 9.30pm Christmas Holy Communion (CW)

St Dubricius 11.30pm Midnight Mass

<u>Thursday 25th December</u> <u>Christmas Day</u>

(W) Isaiah 9.2-7, Titus 2.11-14, Luke 2.1-14[15-20]

St Beuno's, Culbone 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
St Dubricius 10.30am Family service followed by

Holy Communion

Selworthy Church 11.00am Family Matins (BCP)

Sunday 28th December Christmas 1 (Holy Innocents)

(R) Isaiah 63.7-9, Hebrews 2.10-18, Matthew 2.13-23

St. Mary's, Luccombe. 9.30am Morning Prayer (CW)

(Joint service with Selworthy)

St Dubricius 10.30am Holy Communion

St Mary's, Oare 11.00am Matins (BCP)

Benefice Services (& Culbone and Oare) - January 2026

Sunday 4th January Epiphany

(W) Isaiah 60.1-6, Ephesians 3.1-12, Matthew 2.1-12

St Dubricius 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
St Mary's, Luccombe 9.30am Holy Communion (CW)
St Dubricius 10.30am Holy Communion (CW)

Lynch Chapel 11.00am Matins (BCP)

St Bueno's, Culbone 11.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
Luccombe 2.00pm The Epiphany Experience

(Starting in the Village Hall at 2pm & moving to St Mary's Church for 3pm)

St Mary's, Oare 3.00pm Compline

Sunday 11th January

Baptism of Christ

(W) Isaiah 42.1-9, Acts 10.34-43, Matthew 3.13-17

St Dubricius 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) St Mary's Luccombe 9.30am Holy Communion (CW)

(Joint service with Selworthy)

St Dubricius 10.30am Holy Communion (CW) St Mary's, Oare 11.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

Sunday 18th January Epiphany 2

(W) Isaiah 49.1-7, 1 Corinthians 1.1-9, John 1.29-42

Lynch 8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

St Dubricius 10.30am Morning Prayer

Lynch Chapel 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

Sunday 25th January

Epiphany 3 (Conversion of Paul)

(W) Isaiah 9.1-4, 1 Corinthians 1.10-18, Matthew 4.12-23

St Dubricius 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
St. Mary's, Luccombe. 9.30am Morning Prayer (CW)

(Joint service with Selworthy)

St Dubricius 10.45am Celebrate St Mary's, Oare 11.00am Matins (BCP)

Sunday 1st February

Presentation of Christ

(W) Malachi 3.1-5, Hebrews 2.14-18, Luke 2.22-40

St Dubricius 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
St Dubricius 10.30am Holy Communion (CW)

Lynch Chapel 11.00am Matins (BCP)

St Bueno's, Culbone 11.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

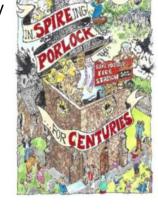
St Mary's, Oare 3.00pm Compline

Porlock InSpired Project Appeal

The Porlock InSpired project needs your help to raise an extra £50,000 by June 2026 in order to unlock a grant of £1.6m from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. It is thanks to the National Lottery players who have made the funding possible and this is an opportunity which Porlock will not witness for maybe another 100 years.

Deteriorating Church spire

St Dubricius Church has stood at the centre of Porlock for centuries, but today both the building and the community it serves are under strain. The church, with its rare truncated oak-shingled spire is in a state of



serious deterioration. The shingles, last replaced in 1933, are failing and exposing 13th-century timbers to water damage, while rotting beams and fallen bell shutters highlight the urgency of repair. The 2023 Quinquennial Report and a dedicated Spire Condition Report confirm that patch repairs are no longer viable; full re-shingling is the only way to prevent irreversible damage. The spire is a rare survival of traditional oak-shingle construction, and both skills and materials for such work are under threat, making timely action essential. Parts of the church roof are also compromised by "nail sickness" and hence slipped slates, already causing internal water damage. Without intervention, the risks of structural failure, escalating costs, and possible eventual closure grow more likely, threatening an architectural landmark.

The spire project is now much bigger and broader than first envisaged. Our project will enable traditional crafts to be revived through demonstrations and school workshops. There will be hands-on activities which will bring the village history to life, we will also support Porlock's local economy, delivering wider community benefits.

At the same time, Porlock InSpired will address urgent social needs through heritage activities. For older residents, we will work with partners to reduce loneliness through heritage-based wellbeing activities and intergenerational activities.

For young people, who face rural isolation and limited opportunities, creative, environmental and skills-based programmes will be delivered with partners to build confidence and broaden horizons. Our partnership with St. Dubricius school will enable children to explore local history. The research from this community project will then be available to benefit schools and local residents.

QR code to donate please

Email: porlockinspired@yahoo.com

Thank you

The Porlock Inspired Team





Porlock InSpired Project Appeal How you can Donate

Please be as generous as you can and help us to raise funds that will enable us to re-shingle the spire. The funds will be used solely for the works to the spire and tower.

Cheque	donation to Porlock	vable to 'Porlock PCC Spire Appeal'. Please send or deliver your completed form and Porlock InSpired Appeal Treasurer, The Oak Wing Office, C/O St Dubricius First School, et, Porlock, Somerset. TA24 8QJ			
QR code		BACS	NatWest Minehead. Sort code 60-14-30 Porlock with Stoke Pero PCC Account number 95306994 please quote reference 'Spire'		
	回教育	On Line	https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11306/ then News & Notices and choose the item about the Spire. This includes a link which will take you direct to a webpage at which you can donate by debit, credit, or charge card.		
git	Please, if you are a UK taxpayer and eligible to Gift Aid your donation. This will increase your gift by 25p for every £1 donated, at no extra cost to you or us Thank you.				

Porlock InSpired project Gift Aid declaration

<u>Anonymity.</u> I wish my name to be recorded in the list of donors / I wish my donation to remain anonymous / I consent to my details being retained for use solely related to this Appeal.

Please cross through whichever do not apply. Your donation amount will not be published

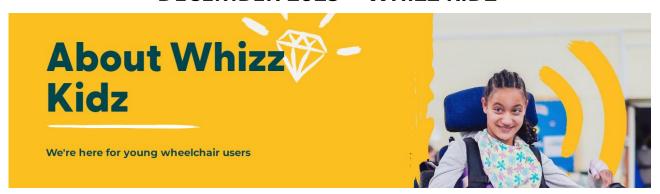
Please treat as a Gift Aid donation, all qualifying gifts of money made from the date of this declaration and in the past four years. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and / or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Title	£	Cash/Cheque/Credit/Debit
Full Name		
Address		
		Post Code
Signature	Date	
Please email your completed G	ift aid form to porlocking	spired@yahoo.com

Or post to: Porlock InSpired Appeal Treasurer, The Oak Wing Office, C/O St Dubricius First School,

Parsons Street, Porlock, Somerset. TA24 8QJ.

CHARITY OF THE MONTH DECEMBER 2025 – WHIZZ KIDZ



Our vision is a society in which every young wheelchair user is mobile, enabled and included.

Mobile: We provide high-quality, personalised equipment for young people who need wheelchairs.

Enabled: We create services and confidence-building activities that give young people the skills and tools to be more independent.

Included: We campaign and work with young wheelchair users to create societal change and develop a more inclusive world.

Our Purpose

We create opportunities for young wheelchair users to get the equipment, skills, and confidence to go further.

Why does Whizz Kidz exist?

- We are the UK's leading charity for young wheelchair users.
- More than 75,000 young people in the UK need a wheelchair to be mobile.
- Most have no access to a wheelchair that's right for them, leaving them at risk of social isolation, poor mental health, and physical injury. We want to change that.
- As the UK's leading charity supporting young wheelchair users up to 25 years old, we provide them with the equipment and skills they need to live life as independently as possible. To enjoy all the opportunities and activities that so many others take for granted at home, at school, at work and beyond.

For the first time in our history, we've had to close our waitlist because the demand for wheelchairs and mobility equipment is overwhelming, so please help our charity which is such a vital resource for so many young people.

CHARITY OF THE MONTH – JANUARY 2026

TEAR FUND

Tear Fund work with local churches and organisations in more than 50 countries to tackle the complex challenges of poverty.



Their approach to tackling poverty

Tearfund is a Christian charity with over 50 years of experience in international development. They believe that poverty is not God's plan, and an end to extreme poverty is possible.

They work directly, and/or alongside local partners and churches, in underserved communities in more than 50 countries to tackle complex poverty in three main ways:

Humanitarian response

Tear Fund work to prevent and respond to disasters by reducing risks and getting support quickly to those in need. They coordinate with other aid organisations to ensure effective and transparent use of resources, as well as adhering to international standards and protocol.

Community development

They partner with local churches and organisations, mobilising resources and empowering communities to lift themselves out of poverty. They train local churches to identify the resources they already have so that they can develop lasting solutions to the problem of poverty. This approach supports communities to rewrite their own stories and build a future filled with hope and opportunity.



Advocacy and influencing

They help individuals and churches speak out on issues of poverty and injustice, and challenge unjust policies and practices at a local, national and global level. Even when speaking to leaders and policymakers hundreds of miles away from the people they serve, their advocacy boosts the impact of their work within local communities by ensuring people can reach their God-given potential for generations to come.

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St Dubricius Tower Captain	Nicholas Kingdon	c/o 862284 porlocktowercaptain@yahoo.com
Church Wardens All Saints Selworthy	Vacant	
PCC Secretary All Saints, Selworthy	Vacant	
Churchwarden St Mary's Luccombe	Rosemary Gande eddiegande@gmail.com	862832