

IN TOUCH



FEBRUARY 2026

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	Vacant	
Administrator	Rachel Kingdon dubricius465@yahoo.com (Church postal address) Oakwing Office, St Dubricius First School, Parsons Street, Porlock, Minehead. TA24 8QJ	862284

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/>

ST DUBRICIUS CHURCH

PORLOCK INSPIRED PROJECT

40 days Lent Fundraising Challenge

Ash Wed 18th February – Maundy Thursday 2nd April
(Excl. Sundays)



TIME IS RUNNING OUT
PLEASE HELP
TO SAVE OUR SPIRE!

EITHER

Give up something each day and donate the money saved

OR

**Still enjoy your Coffee / Newspaper / Scratch card / etc
then put a matching amount into your pot each day**

**Return your collection to church at Easter
as a donation to the Spire appeal.**

THANK YOU!!!!





You are invited to a

Valentine's Quiz & Supper



**in St. Dubricius' School Hall
on Saturday 14th February at 7pm**

Teams of up to 6



Tickets £10 including Supper

available at **Porlock Hardware** or Text
07796 108 380 to reserve a place or let us
know your dietary needs.

Please bring your own drink of choice and
glasses

All proceeds to The Spire Fund





Wednesday

FEBRUARY 18TH 2026

WE WARMLY INVITE YOU
TO MARK THE BEGINNING OF LENT
BY JOINING US FOR A SERVICE
OF HOLY COMMUNION WITH IMPOSITION OF ASHES

**ST DUBRICIUS,
PORLOCK**

at 12 midday

using Common Worship Liturgy

**ST MARY'S,
OARE**

at 7pm

using Book of Common Prayer Liturgy



Lent House Group

We will be meeting on a Friday
afternoon for 6 weeks beginning on
20th February

Further details will be confirmed
soon.

**St Mary's Church ,Luccombe
hosting in the Village Hall**

LENT LUNCH



**Tuesday 3rd March
12 midday**



**ALL
ARE WARMLY
INVITED
TO JOIN US**





Walk Exmoor Weekend - The Porlock Pilgrim's Trail

Sat 28th to Sun 29th March 2026

Walk Exmoor - The Porlock Pilgrim's Trail offers routes for walkers of all abilities. Routes follow The Porlock Pilgrim's Trail, which links nine historic Exmoor churches. Pre-booking is essential @ £15 pp, to include a complimentary copy of the Trail guidebook. Sign up now for this unique opportunity to experience the exhilaration of walking on Exmoor!

Book here: www.WalkExmoor2026.eventbrite.co.uk

More info: porlockpilgrim@gmail.com

www.porlockpilgrim.co.uk



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.

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

‘Celebrate’ - For a variety of good reasons the numbers of people able to help with planning these services have dwindled and it would be really good to have a few more on board – the next planning meeting is on Tuesday 3rd February, 12 midday at the Methodist Church. All 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.

Coffee Morning at John Barnes Court – Saturday 28th February 10am - 12midday. Fundraiser for the Spire.

Luccombe Lent Lunch Tuesday 3rd March at 12 noon until 2pm at Luccombe Village Hall

Spar Account is Closing

Unfortunately the Spar organisation has decided to end the accounts facility at the Porlock store. For purchases for the church you will now need to pay. Please keep the receipt. Three options:- 1) Reclaim the money from the petty cash tin in the church office, leaving the receipt in the tin. If needed Rachel can help when she is there. 2) Give the receipt to me & I’ll refund it to you straight away. 3) Accumulate receipts for a while and then give me an expenses claim form with all the receipts attached.

Peter Fosker

Porlock InSpired Interpretation suggestions sought

There are two large sheets of paper on display on a table at the back of Church in front of the bookcases. One shows options being considered for promoting the church's heritage to visitors, including Wall Hangings, Display boards, QR codes, Touch Screen. The other one is a draft index for the touch screen, for which we are seeking suggested additions or amendments. Please write any suggestions on the sheet in the next week or two.

Peter & Marian

Pilgrim's Trail Walking Weekend – 28th 29th March

A weekend of walking to celebrate the Pilgrim's Trail is planned for the end of March. Organisation is well under way but we would like some more volunteers to be at checkpoints in one of the churches and possibly help with marshalling. If you think you could help with this please see 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



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 the seasons begin to shift, there is a quiet sense of anticipation in the air - well there is for me anyway. No doubt we all look forward to lighter days, new projects taking shape and others progressing, and fresh possibilities opening up in our life across our two Benefices. At this time of year we may lift our eyes and notice what God may be doing among us now, and what He may be calling us towards next.

At the same time, the Church draws us towards Lent — a season that asks us not to rush ahead too quickly, but to prepare our hearts with care. Lent is not simply about giving things up; it is about making space. Space to listen more closely, to pray more honestly, and to allow God to shape us afresh. As we look forward to what is coming, Lent reminds us that growth often begins quietly, beneath the surface. Our Lent course will begin just after Ash Wednesday and is an opportunity for us to step aside from the hurly burly of our lives to focus on God and discipleship. I hope many of you will want to participate.

Preparing for Lent is a little like preparing the soil before planting. We reflect on what needs tending in our own lives — habits we might change, attitudes we might soften, relationships that need healing. In doing so, we ready ourselves not only for Easter joy, but for the new life God continually offers us here and now.

As a parish, this season is an invitation to journey together. Whether through worship, acts of kindness, or simply walking alongside one another, we move forward in hope. Let us use this time of preparation help us to welcome new beginnings with open hearts, trusting that God is already at work, bringing renewal among us.

With every blessing,
Rev'd. Ann

Benefice Services (& Culbone and Oare) – February 2026

Sunday 1st February

(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

Presentation of Christ

Sunday 8th February

(G) Genesis 1.1 - 2.3, Romans 8.18-25, Matthew 6.25-34

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)

2nd Sunday before Lent

Sunday 15th February

(G) Exodus 24.12-18, 2 Peter 1.16-21, Matthew 17.1-9

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 before Lent

Wednesday 18th February

(P) Joel 2.1-2,12-17, 2 Corinthians 5.20b - 6.10, Matthew 6.1-6,16-21

St. Dubricius.	12 noon	Holy Communion and imposition of ashes
St Mary's Oare	7pm	Holy Communion (BCP) and imposition of ashes

Ash Wednesday

Sunday 22nd February

(P) Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7, Romans 5.12-19, Matthew 4.1-11

St Dubricius 8.00am

St. Mary's, Luccombe. 9.30am

Methodist Church 10.45am

St Mary's, Oare 11.00am

Lent 1

Holy Communion (BCP)

Morning Prayer (CW)

(Joint service with Selworthy)

Celebrate

Matins (BCP)

Sunday 1st March

(P) Genesis 12.1-4a, Romans 4.1-5,13-17, John 3.1-17

St Dubricius 8.00am

St Dubricius 10.30am

Lynch Chapel 11.00am

St Bueno's, Culbone 11.00am

St Mary's, Oare 3.00pm

Lent 2

Holy Communion (BCP)

Holy Communion (CW)

Matins (BCP)

Holy Communion (BCP)

Compline

CHARITY OF THE MONTH

MARCH 2026 – THE SALVATION ARMY

The Salvation Army is a worldwide Christian church. Our mission is based on our faith in Jesus Christ who wants everyone to experience life in all its fullness.

That is why, here in the UK and Ireland, we put our faith into action by offering practical help for people without discrimination, sharing good news, seeking justice and reconciliation, caring for creation and nurturing disciples of Jesus. The services we offer are diverse and responsive to the realities of life in the communities we serve.

We run a range of services to help those experiencing homelessness, and we are committed to supporting people out of rough sleeping and helping them move into safety and accommodation.



The Salvation Army operates 77 supported accommodation services across the UK and the Republic of Ireland. We call these services ‘Lifehouses’ because they are more than a place to stay. They are places where people can get support with their housing issues – but also find support with other aspects of their lives such as employment, debt problems, training, spirituality, loneliness, addiction or mental health.

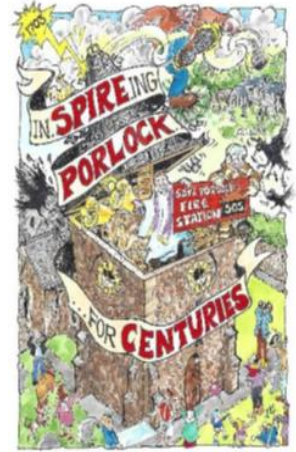
Night shelters are a type of temporary accommodation for people experiencing homelessness who would otherwise be sleeping rough.

Night shelters meet people's basic needs, offering a warm bed and a safe place to sleep. Some offer a shower and a hot meal.

Salvation Army night shelters support people in securing employment and housing, as well as in accessing training and other support. Some night shelters also offer specialist input for mental health issues and drug and alcohol use issues.

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	Cheques payable to 'Porlock PCC Spire Appeal'. Please send or deliver your completed form and donation to Porlock InSpired Appeal Treasurer, The Oak Wing Office, C/O St Dubricius First School, Parsons Street, 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'
		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.
<i>giftaid it</i>		<i>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.</i>	

Porlock InSpired project Gift Aid declaration

Anonymity. 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 Gift aid form to porlockinspired@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.

The Verger's lament *(Submitted by Rev'd. Ann)*

Seen recently and it brought a smile to my face so I thought I would share part of it here. We do not have a verger at the moment - but if anyone would like to volunteer.....?

'Right. Vergers. We are the people who arrive before everyone else, leave after everyone else, and somehow get blamed for the weather in between. Officially, we "prepare the church for worship" and "support the ministry of welcome". Unofficially, we spend our lives preventing the House of God from becoming a community centre with candles.

So, in the spirit of Christian confession (and because I can feel my blood pressure increasing like the organ swell on a dramatic hymn), here are a few things that get under *this* verger's collar.

Firstly: the sacred art of moving things and not putting them back.

Some people enter a church and immediately think, "This chair is not living its truth. I will move it." Friends: the chairs are not having a personal journey. They are where they are because last Sunday you asked for "more space", and the Sunday before that you asked for "more intimacy", and the Sunday before that you asked for "something between a concert hall and a monastery."

If you have rearranged half the nave for Reasons, please return it to its original position afterwards. Do not leave it "for the verger to sort". I am not the Holy Spirit of Furniture.

Secondly: candles.

I love candles. I love the way they speak of prayer. I love the way they turn a gloomy Tuesday into something tender and human.

But if you light a candle and then push the match into the wax like you're sealing a medieval treaty, do not be surprised when I sigh deeply enough to power the church boiler.

Also: if you are going to pray for “Auntie Jean’s hip” (valid), please do not place the candle directly under the notice that says 'DO NOT PLACE CANDLES DIRECTLY UNDER THIS NOTICE.' That is not faith. That is testing the Lord.

Thirdly: the holy war of doors.

In winter: everyone shuts every door “to keep the heat in”, including doors that should not be shut, like the one that stops the fire exit being a fire exit.

In summer: every door is flung open “for a breeze”, including the one that invites pigeons to experience a profound sense of belonging in the sanctuary.

I have, at various points, conducted a one-man ministry to both draught exclusion and wildlife management. I do not feel called to either. Yet here we are.

Fourthly: microphones and “helpful” adjustments.

If you find a microphone and think, “I’ll just turn this up a bit,” please don’t.

Sound systems are like parish politics: one small tweak can unleash a howl that raises the dead and frightens the living.

The number of times I’ve been told “the mic’s not working” when it IS working: it’s just not pointed at the mouth... honestly.

And, readers and intercessors please note: microphones are unable to pick up a mumble and instantly transform it into an oration from the steps of the Roman Senate. They are just not built for that. So kindly speak up (with the thing actually pointing into your gob). Then we’ll all be able to benefit from your erudition and praying power.

Fifthly: weddings.

Ah, weddings. The day when people who have never been inside a church discover the aisle is, apparently, a catwalk.

A gentle reminder: the service is not improved by a photographer doing press-ups in the chancel for “the angle”.

And if someone says, “Can we just have the candles moved to that side for symmetry?”—yes, of course we can. We can also re-enact the Reformation while we’re at it. Shall I pop the kettle on?

Sixthly (and I say this with love): treating the church like a museum—OR like your front room.

Some folk behave as though God is terribly easily offended and must be approached on tiptoe, preferably in Latin.

Others behave as though the nave is an overflow café and the credence table is a convenient shelf for a half-eaten biscuit.

May I suggest a third way? The church is holy because people are HERE: grieving, rejoicing, doubting, bringing toddlers, bringing walking sticks, bringing questions, bringing themselves.

Which means: yes, it is a place of reverence. And yes, it is a place of welcome. The tension between those two is not a problem to solve; it’s the Christian life in miniature.

Because here’s the thing. The longer I do this job, the more I realise my “pet peeves” are often just my fear in a hi-vis jacket.

Fear that something will go wrong. Fear that someone will be hurt. Fear that the sacred will be trampled by the casual. And the Gospel keeps nagging me: “Perfect love casts out fear.”

Not perfect tidiness. Not perfect choreography. Love.

So yes: please stop hiding old service sheets behind the radiator. Please don’t wedge a fire door open with a hassock. Please don’t feed the pigeons “because they look lonely”.

But also: if you are new, unsure, scruffy, noisy, anxious, late, or burdened—come in anyway. Sit down. Breathe. God is not peering over the top of the pulpit waiting to tell you off. That’s my job. (Joke. Mostly.)

Right. I feel better. I’m off to find out why the processional cross has migrated again. It does that.

Verger’

(With acknowledgment to the unnamed author)

Choir leader, St Dubricius	Stephen Kingdon	07454271931
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