

IN TOUCH



OCTOBER 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/>

The background of the poster is a light cream color with a subtle, embossed pattern of large, stylized leaves. The edges of the poster are decorated with a border of autumn leaves in shades of red, orange, and brown, interspersed with small, round, reddish-brown berries.

**Please join us
for our**

HARVEST FESTIVAL

10.30am, Sunday 4th October

**at St Dubricius Church,
Porlock**

ST MARY'S CHURCH LUCCOMBE,

A SERVICE FOR HARVEST

INCORPORATING
SCARECROW
SUNDAY

followed by refreshments

**Sunday 18th October
starts at 3pm**



SCARECROW COMPETITION

Categories

(a) under 10 (b) 10 - 15
(c) over 70's (d) everyone else!

TO BE JUDGED AT
LUCCOMBE HARVEST FESTIVAL
SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER



*if you are unable to bring it to the church and
want to display it in your garden,
please let me know and I will come and take a
photograph instead
alison.curate@hotmail.com*

DATES FOR DIARIES & NOTICES

Open Door meeting every Friday at 11am.

Open Door on Friday mornings at the back of St Dubricius Church, Porlock. 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.

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.

Harvest Lunch – Following the Harvest Service at St Dubricius on Sunday 4th October there will be a lunch in the school hall. Please add your name to the list at the back of the church.

Help needed on Saturday 3rd from 4pm onwards to help set the school hall up.

Friday House Group – this will not happen on 2nd October due to school harvest service or the 9th October due to a funeral. We will resume on the 16th October. Thank you.

We pray for...

Ivor Ellis, Rosemary Cape, Nick Simpson, Aaliyah, Iris Savery, Martin Spence, Dori Dawes, Steve Godfrey, Nicola Madeley, John Rogers, Pauline Clarke, Hazel Leeves, Malcolm Bleasby, Holly Bloys and Mike Rowe



Recently departed: Ron Savery, Clara Lawrie

Clara Lawrie's funeral will be held at St Dubricius at 2pm on Friday 9th October

Ron Savery's funeral will be held at St. Dubricius at 2pm on Friday 30th October

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.

Porlock Accommodation needed

Our main contractor for PorlockInSpired, is asking whether I can suggest local accommodation for probably three of their workforce. They say the ideal would be a three /four bedroomed self contained & self catering flat/house/cottage with ensuites for each, but since that is unlikely they will consider anything. Are you able to suggest anyone suitable in the village who may have something to rent please. I have no idea how much they are able to pay. I am assured they are “clean and tidy, mature and responsible” but can’t offer any guarantee not having met them.

Requirement would likely start by October/November and continue through the winter and spring, but I don’t know how long they would initially want to commit to. Suggestions to Peter Fosker please or porlockinspired@yahoo.com

Message from Reverend Ann

Dear Friends,

A couple of meetings have prompted me to write the following reflecting on poetry and music. I have done more than one funeral visit recently and sometimes those who are mourning have found it difficult to explain how they feel but, as we have looked at options for a funeral service, pieces of music or poetry have come to mind and through these emotions have been brought to the surface and helped people to speak.

There are some things in life that are difficult to put into ordinary words. Love, grief, wonder, longing, joy, hope, beauty, and even faith can sometimes seem too large for everyday conversation. And perhaps that is why human beings have always turned to poetry and music.

Poetry can say something that prose sometimes cannot. A few carefully chosen words can open a door in the imagination, allowing us to see something familiar in a completely new way. A poem can make us pause, notice, remember and wonder.

The Bible itself is full of poetry. The Psalms give words to almost every human emotion: joy and sorrow, anger and peace, fear and confidence, loneliness and belonging. Psalm 23 does not simply tell us that God cares for us; through the image of the shepherd it allows us to feel what that care might mean: “The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.”

Perhaps this is one reason poetry can be good for our spiritual health. It slows us down. It asks us to linger rather than rush. In a world filled with messages demanding our immediate attention, poetry invites us to listen.

Music does something similar, but in a different language. A piece of music can move us deeply even when there are no words at all. A familiar hymn can transport us back to a particular church, a particular person, or a particular moment in our lives. Sometimes we may not even remember all the words, yet the tune remains somewhere within us.

There is something especially powerful about singing together. When a congregation sings, we lend our voices to one another. Some sing loudly, some quietly; some have beautiful voices, while others are simply enthusiastic! Yet together we make something that none of us could make alone. Music can also carry us when our own words fail. At a funeral, a hymn may express grief and hope when we cannot find the words ourselves. At a wedding, music can express joy. In worship, a hymn can become a prayer. And sometimes, sitting quietly and listening to music can be a form of prayer in itself.

St Augustine is often credited with saying, “He who sings, prays twice.” Whether or not those were precisely his words, the sentiment has endured because it rings true. Music engages not only our minds but our emotions, memories and bodies. It can reach places within us that ordinary speech cannot easily reach. Poetry and music therefore remind us that faith is not simply about having the right answers. Christianity is also about wonder, mystery, beauty and relationship. We encounter God not only through what we understand, but sometimes through what moves us.

The poet Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote of the world being “charged with the grandeur of God”. Perhaps poetry and music help us to notice that grandeur. They teach us to pay attention—to the bird singing outside the window, to the changing light across the landscape, to the rhythm of the seasons, to the sound

of another person's voice, and to those quiet moments when we sense that life is somehow more than what we can see.

We might therefore think of poetry and music as part of our spiritual nourishment. Just as the body needs food, the soul needs beauty, imagination, silence, rhythm and wonder. So perhaps we should give ourselves permission to listen to a favourite piece of music without feeling that we ought to be doing something else. To read a poem slowly rather than scrolling past it. To sing a hymn even when we are not sure we feel particularly faithful. To allow beautiful words and beautiful sounds to settle somewhere deep within us.

For sometimes God speaks through Scripture and sermon, through prayer and silence—but sometimes God may also speak through a line of poetry, a familiar hymn, a melody we cannot quite explain, or a moment of beauty that catches us by surprise.

Enjoy the poetry and the music,
May God bless you,
Revd Ann

Volunteers to sort the 93 years old St Dubricius Shingles???



There have always been plans to re-use, re-purpose, re-cycle some of the shingles once they are off the spire. They will be available soon now, and we are looking for volunteers to help sort the good ones from the bad please. They will be suitable for a variety of uses, or as souvenirs. Please let us know if you would like to be involved and help in sorting them.

porlockinspired@yahoo.com

Thank you Peter & Marian

Benefice Services (& Culbone and Oare) – October 2026

Sunday 4th October

(G) Deuteronomy 28:1-14, 2 Corinthians 9:6-15, Luke 12:16-30

St Dubricius 8.00am
St Dubricius 10.30am

Trinity 18

Holy Communion (BCP)
Harvest Festival with
Holy Communion (CW)

Followed by bring and share Harvest Lunch in the school

All Saints' Selworthy 11.00am
St Mary's, Oare 3.00pm

Matins (BCP)
Harvest Festival

Sunday 11th October

(G) Exodus 32: 1-14, Phil. 4: 1-9, Matthew 22: 1-14

St Dubricius 8.00am
St Mary's Luccombe 9.30am

Trinity 19

Holy Communion (BCP)
Holy Communion (CW)
(Joint service with Selworthy)
Holy Communion (CW)
Holy Communion (BCP)

St Dubricius 10.30am
St Mary's, Oare 11.00am

Sunday 18th October

(R) Isaiah 35: 3-6, 2 Timothy 4: 5-17, Luke 10: 1-9

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

Luke the Evangelist

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

St. Mary's, Oare. 11.00am
St Mary's Luccombe 3.00pm

St. Dubricius. 6.00pm

Sunday 25th October

(G) Deut. 34: 1-12, 1 Thess. 2: 1-8, Matthew 22: 34-end

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

Last Sunday of Trinity

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

Methodist Chapel 10.45am
St Mary's, Oare 11.00am



Sunday 1st November

(W) Revelation 7: 9-end, 1 John 3: 1-3, Matthew 5: 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 Dubricius 5.00pm

All Saints

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

CHARITY OF THE MONTH – OCTOBER 2026

LEPROSY MISSION

Across Africa and Asia, leprosy is shattering children's lives. Without quick treatment, the disease is causing permanent disability. Children face heartbreaking isolation, bullying, and rejection. Young people are trapped in a vicious cycle of poverty.



Every three minutes, someone is diagnosed with leprosy. Although it is curable, millions of people worldwide are living with the effects of the disease, from physical disability to mental health problems, poverty and discrimination.

We are a global Christian organisation leading the fight against leprosy. Following Jesus Christ, we seek to bring about transformation; breaking the chains of leprosy and empowering people to attain healing, dignity and life in all its fullness.

In 2025 4,588 people were cured of leprosy in Africa and Asia, 254 young people in India affected by leprosy and disability enrolled on full-time job training courses, 1,462 people living in communities affected by leprosy in Nigeria received mental health support.

Please help us in our vital work:-

- Diagnosing and treating leprosy
- Caring for disabled people
- Fighting stigma and advocating for change
- Pioneering research

A Service Celebrating 150 years of the Mothers' Union

This was held in St Dubricius Church on Thursday September 24th 2026.

Lighting the Way - led by Rev Ann Gibbs

The service was thoughtfully prepared with prayers and hymns relating to the theme.

Everyone lined up in front of the altar, one at a time each person lit their candle from the one already lit passing the light on until there was a blaze of light from all the lit candles in front of the altar.

Ann's talk is summarised as follows

The Mothers Union started quietly in 1876, no television, no internet, one woman's vision, a need for people to bring light and hope to others.

Jesus said you are the light.

We are not asked to preserve everything as it is, every generation has its own challenges, a word of encouragement, small act of kindness.

Just as one candle can light another.

We have received light from those before us. We can carry it on.

What light are we passing on: kindness, courage, discover something of the love of Jesus Christ?

150 years of light have passed and the flame is ours to carry on.

There was a special tea served afterwards, with plates of attractive food followed by homemade cakes.

A very fitting way to celebrate 150 years of the Mothers' Union which supports family life today and into the future throughout the world.

Rosemary Boaz



Choir leader, St Dubricius	Stephen Kingdon	07454271931
St Dubricius Tower Captain	Nichoas 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