

Portishead Church of England

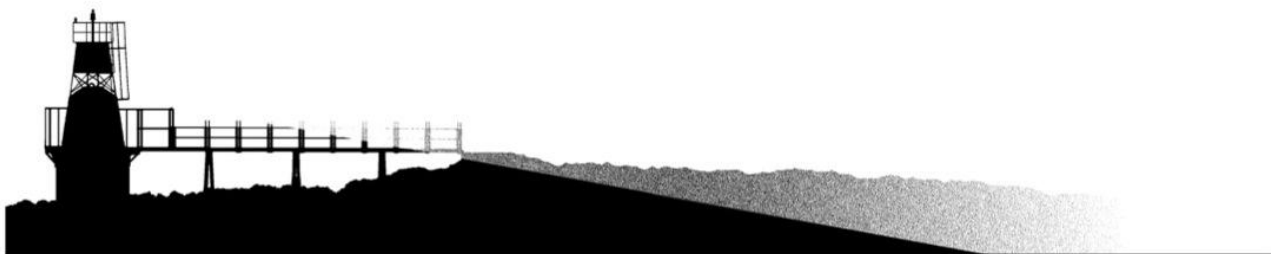
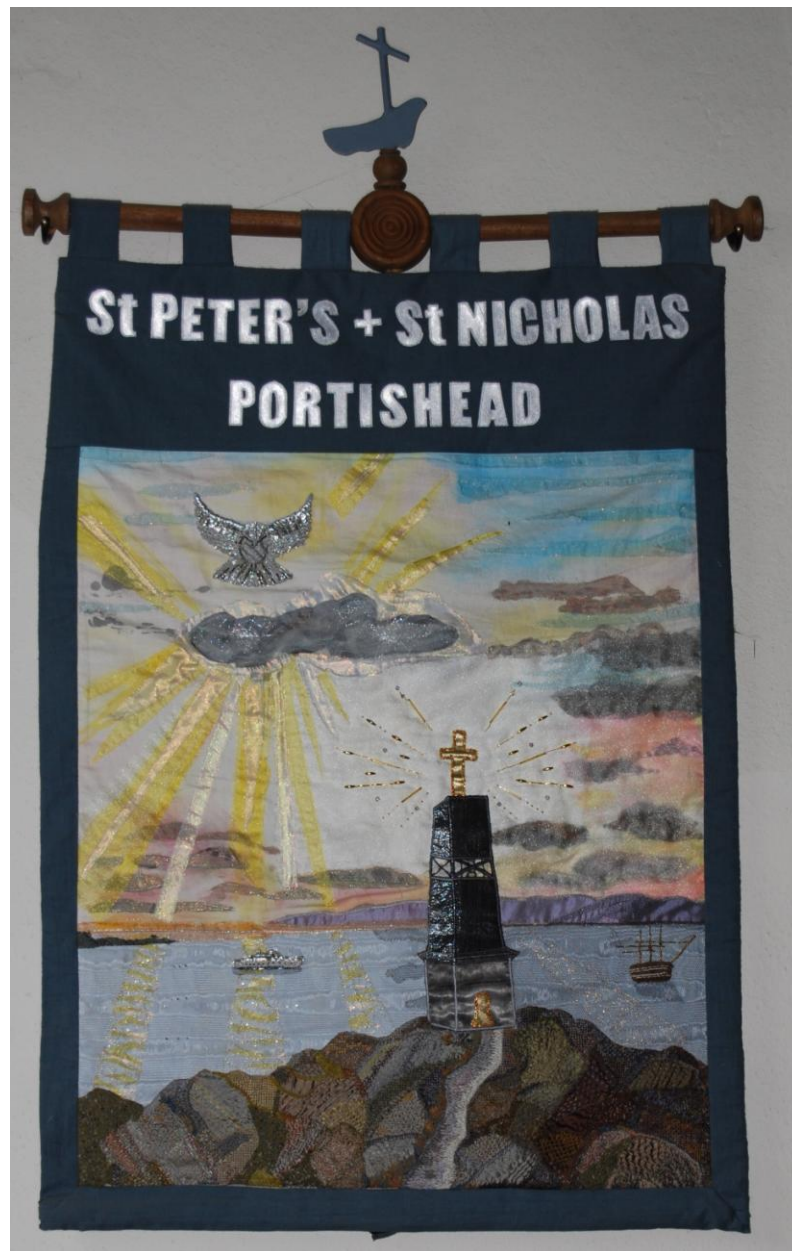
Chronicles 2010

with the churches of

St Peter & St Nicholas

in partnership with

St Peter's School, Trinity School & St Barnabas Centre.



A welcoming light amidst the changing tides of life

Welcome to the Portishead Church of England Chronicles which report on the life of our parish over the past year. These reports should be read alongside the more formal Annual Report and Accounts. The Chronicles seek to give a more detailed and personal summary of all the different groups and activities which go make up our church life.

Parish life is always changing and evolving as we continue our Christian pilgrimage in an ever-shifting world. In particular this past year has seen significant changes to our clergy team. But through all the comings and goings the wonderful faithfulness of the people of this parish has remained.

These reports are testimony to the commitment of so many who help support and sustain the ongoing work of the Church in Portishead. In addition to all that is listed in these pages are all those who help in a myriad of different ways behind the scenes including the coffee makers, cleaning teams, magazine distributors, flower arrangers, grass cutters, office volunteers, linen washers and many, many more. We are so grateful to you all; your commitment to your Church is greatly appreciated.

Please take time to read these reports and use them to inform your prayers for the parish. The coming year will bring its own changes and opportunities but let us never forget to give thanks for all that is already happening within the Church here in Portishead.

May God continue to bless you in all you do for His Church and may God guide us in all that we shall need to do in the future, that in all things we may seek both to serve and glorify His name.

Andy.

Church Wardens Report

Fabric & Ornaments

This report covers items bought or donated to the church during the year, repair works undertaken and works ongoing.

Items bought:

- Hymn books for St Nicholas, with money donated
- Two stoles
- Daily Office books and bibles with money donated
- New floodlights for St Peter's church, with money donated
- One set of lockable drawers for use in the church office.

Building Fabric

The PCC decided not to accept a grant from English Heritage towards the cost of repairing the roof of St Nicholas Church due to conditions placed upon the grant.

At St Peter's Church:

- The doors are still awaiting painting with lead paint.
- The lead on top of the tower and north aisle has been repaired.

- A quote has been obtained for an electrical survey in both churches.
- Audio Visual System. Quotes have been received and approval is being sought from the diocese.
- Approval is being sort from the diocese for the disposal of the previously removed Rood Screen.

C Brownlie, M Duncan

Children's Ministry

Church Tots

Church Tots meets every Tuesday in term time in St Peter's Church at 2.15pm to around 3.30pm. Some leave just after 3pm to collect other children from school. Around 20 children from 0 to 4 years attend with their carers. There are 7 regular helpers who set up for the session and provide drinks and biscuits, help with the activity, play and chat.

We start with a short service in the chancel with the children sitting on kneelers or on chairs in a circle. There are action songs, a story and a prayer. We then go round the church with instruments. We meet for a drink and biscuit back in the chancel when the children play with toys in the nave and make something to take home. The babies tend to stay in the chancel on the carpeted area. They also take

home a sticker each week and birthday card, when appropriate. We are now the third largest service in the church's week and we would welcome more help.

Pebbles Group

Pebbles meet during the 9.15 service to give our 4 to 7 year olds an opportunity to learn about Jesus through stories, play and craft work. The group is led by two members from a group of volunteers, each of whom is CRB checked. After the New Testament reading the children go over to the Guide hut, with any mums who want to support their children.

At the start of the session the Pebbles sit on their blanket and say hello to each other. There is a pebble for each child with their name on, which we find and place on the blanket. Often we have a game to let off steam! We try to link our teaching to the weekly readings but this is not always possible. After the teaching the children are given the opportunity to make, or colour, something to take home. Finally, we say a prayer together that reinforces our learning, and the children take a copy home to pray with their families.

At the end of the session we return to church in time for the Eucharist. During the 'celebration session' the Pebbles are invited up to the front of the church to talk about, and show, what they have been up to. They also repeat their prayer to the congregation.

Friday Club

We used to call this 'the Sunday School that meets on Friday', but it has evolved into more of a youth group for those of primary age. The 17 or so children from a mix of church and non-church backgrounds meet in term time with 4-6 adult leaders: in winter, in the relative luxury of St Barnabas hall; as the days get longer, moving to St Peter's Church. On the programme might be noisy and silly games, Bible stories (this year we have been following David, lots of bloodthirsty bits, very popular!), craft activities, DVDs, board games, parties – and food, whenever we can think of a good excuse (Fair Trade product tasting coming up soon!). The only constant is the sharing of the 'Messy Grace' at the end of each session, so that the children know that God is with them every day of the week, not just on Friday evening.

Trinity Twins & Toddlers

Trinity Twins & Toddlers is held in Trinity School community hall on Tuesday morning from 9.00-11.00 and we hold a register with a waiting list for families wishing to join. We are a very full group with families of all ages from 0-4 including a good number of twins from around Portishead.

The children enjoy playing with all the different toys, puzzles, books, role play and dressing up clothes. We also have a craft table set up with various crafts including painting, stickers, Playdough, making cards, colouring and making presents. We all help tidy up at 10.30 so that we can enjoy singing, stories or parachute games. The children and parents all join in with this activity.

We have also had a visit from the fire engine and some visitors from church. We enjoyed a trip to Noah's Ark at the end of the summer term.

Rachel Rowe

LLADs at St Barnabas

St Barnabas LLADs group meets at the St Barnabas centre from 10.30-12.00 on the second Saturday of the month.

We started in the Autumn as a result of requests to the parish to open a new group, based on the success of the Trinity ecumenical venture. It is already proving popular with

a growing attendance and steady support from different groups in the community.

Dads and their children (Lasses and Lads) can come and have a relaxing time. Mums can come too, though some like the free time it generates at home. There is an opportunity for play in a social group. There is a wide set of resources from Meccano for parents, to messy play for the artistically inclined. The children also have a wealth of larger apparatus which can be used in a safe environment.

It is a good chance to have tea, coffee or squash, and have a chat with people. There are also delicious bacon rolls to keep off the hunger while the activities are going on. For more details, please contact the church office, 846230

John Oakley

LLADs at Trinity

Lads, Lasses and Dads (LLADS) meet in the Community Hall at Trinity School on the first Saturday of each month at 10.30. The time is an opportunity for Dads to play with their children, with other dads and other children: a time to build family relationships and community relationships. It is also a time to have a coffee and a bacon sandwich – facilitated by members of various churches in Portishead. During the last

year we also ventured to Glenny Wood for a more adventurous time. On an average Saturday morning we attract around 30-40 (dads and children) with a mixture of ad-hoc visitors and regulars. We plan to continue with the current format, which is also working at St Barnabas and hope to continue building in 2011 and '12.

Alan Baker

Church Schools

This has been a very busy and exciting year for all at Trinity Anglican Methodist Primary School. At the end of the Autumn Term there were 276 pupils in the school including 57 in the nursery, and this number is set to increase rapidly as the Phase 2 Building Project gains momentum. The builders started work in December to extend the school to 420 + 60 capacity, and aim to finish at the beginning of July 2011.

The church continues to play an important role in the life of the school. The whole school and individual classes have been welcomed at St Peter's Church on several occasions, for Easter and Christmas services, class visits and of course Star Trail. Members of the clergy from both

the Anglican and Methodist churches are involved with collective worship on Wednesday mornings.

Trinity pupils have been busy getting involved in the local community in various ways. Their carol singing at Waverley Court and Haven Lodge was greatly appreciated by some of Portishead's senior citizens. Avon Wildlife Trust is working with the school to help them develop a nature trail in the grounds, and there have been several class visits to the nearby Nature Reserve. This work even involved members of the school community taking part in the BBC programme *Inside Out West* and Radio 4's *Open Country* programme which was very exciting for everyone involved. All the children have been able to get to know an animal as the school's Pets' Corner has one hen (sadly the other one died) and 2 guinea pigs. A rabbit will soon be joining them.

There have been lots of occasions to congratulate all members of the Trinity School community; In March 2010 The Healthy Schools Quality Assurance Group awarded the school Healthy Schools Status; North Somerset Council has recently presented the school with a Silver Sing Up award; Key stage 2 pupils participated in the fabulous North Somerset Christmas Concert at the Colston Hall; Year 5 pupils won the inter-school It's a Knock Out competition

organised by Gordano School; the school took part in the Portishead in Bloom competition, and several pupils had their poems published in an anthology of children's poetry.

St Peter's School

St Peter's School has had a busy year with inspections by Ofsted and SIAS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools) in March 2010. Both were very successful with Ofsted rating the school as good with many outstanding features and SIAS rating it as an outstanding Church of England school. The SIAS report made particular mention of the school's very strong partnership with the parish church.

This strong partnership has been forged with the help of the "Reading Buddies" – church members who regularly go in to school to listen to pupils reading. If there are any potential reading buddies out there please do contact Helen Ellis for details via the school office (843142); you will be very welcome! The school also enjoyed visiting St Peter's Church on several occasions during the year and particularly for the Star Trail again.

As far as the foundation governors are concerned, John Littler retired after many years service as a governor to the school, including being Chairman. Bill Walford was

appointed a foundation governor during the year. Helen Ellis and Christine Gullock are continuing.

Portishead Bellringers

St Peter's church, Portishead has a dedicated band of bellringers. We aim to ring every Sunday from 10.30am to 11.15am and again, if possible, for the evening service. We are always looking for new ringers to join the tower, and this year we have welcomed just one new young recruit who is learning to ring.

This year there are two special achievements by members of the band.

- Jan Wyatt has been elected President of the national Ladies Guild of Change Ringers at their Annual General Meeting in June 2010.
- One of our youngest ringers, Leah Gill, has been awarded the national Dorothy L Sayers Award for young lady ringer of the year. She will be presented with her award in May 2011.

Two quarter peals were rung during the year – one was in celebration of an 80th birthday, and the other celebrated the marriage of the son of our Tower Captain.

The concept of Special Occasion ringing was introduced, and was advertised in the Parish Magazine. We rang on three special occasions – a service of thanksgiving, an 80th birthday and a 55th wedding anniversary. We hope that special occasion ringing will become more popular, particularly for landmark birthdays and anniversaries.

Significant times at which we have rung have been on All Saint's Day, Remembrance Sunday, the Christingle and Carol Services, Sharon Crossman's last service at St Peter's, and Chris Judson's installation. A band also went to Highbridge to ring for Sharon's installation at St John's. We rang at the Wedding Preparation Day and must have made some impact as there were several bookings for wedding bells during the year.

Our tower had visits from other bellringers over the year (bands from Cannington, Wells, Wookey & Wedmore), and we gave a guided tour of the tower to the confirmation class. The church's summer fair kept us busy, with a lot of people wanting to climb the tower to see the bells and the view.

We were contacted by the Portishead Lights Committee to see if it would be feasible to place lights on the tower over the Christmas period. After several visits this was accomplished, and George our steeple-keeper had the

honour of turning the tower lights on in sequence with those through the High Street. We also rang for this occasion but were not sure if anyone could hear us above all the excitement in the High Street.

Our AGM was held in January with the Rector in the chair. All existing officers were re-elected.

We practice on Tuesday evening and warmly welcome visitors and anyone who might like to learn to ring.

Church Music

Music Group

Your 9.15 Music Group is a small but dedicated band which meets weekly at 7.45-9pm on Wednesdays. We have a team of 4 regular pianists and a guitarist, and we aim to keep all your favourite music in practice while introducing something new every few months. It would be lovely to have more singers – only qualification needed is enthusiasm! And any instrumentalists would be equally welcome. We have recently advertised for a Music Director to give us a professional lead, so please pray that we find the right person to help us to enhance this vital part of our worship.

St Peter's Choir

In my last report I referred to the major events that the choir are involved in and how that contribution is an important benefit to the life of the Parish. I also tried to convey the pleasure and support we gain whilst being in each other's company. Let us be clear – we have to work very hard, especially at this time of year for the approach to Easter and the Wells Choral Festival, and again from October to prepare for the Carol Service. However, to sing together is a great joy, and it is this truth that is difficult to convey to those who can sing but do not join us. Actually, we are very lucky that the church has active support, is well maintained and has a decent organ. I am saddened when I hear of churches being neglected, choirs disbanding and organs being removed.

In 2010 we said farewell to Morag Brownlie as she concentrates on her University course. We hope she will sing with us from time to time. Morag's departure means this is (probably) the first year ever the choir has no junior chorister. We wish Morag well and thank her for her stalwart support.

On 26th June the choir attended the Wells Choral Festival and two rehearsals prior to the event. It was a lovely day and a particularly good book to sing. As usual we

ended the day at Priddy with a “bit of a party”! The following day we celebrated St Peter and we were pleased to be joined by St Nicholas’ Choir.

At Wraxall on 25th July we joined with other choirs within the Deanery for a Songs of Praise service, and at Yatton we took part in the Deanery Evensong on 10th October.

The other highlights of the year were the well attended services to say farewell to Sharon on 3rd October and to welcome Chris on 1st November. Both of these services were boosted by having joint choirs. We thank St Nicholas Choir and St Peter’s Music Group for working hard with us on the music for these two special occasions. *Andrew Curtis*

St Nicholas Choir

I am pleased to report another busy year in the life of St Nicholas’ Church Choir. Apart from the occasional singing of anthems, with particular regard to festivals of the church year, extra rehearsals are sometimes required in respect of other events.

We were pleased to welcome members of St Peter’s Choir for the signing of Maunders “Olivet to Calvary” on

Good Friday and we were well served by our guest principals. For the Ascension Day service we were joined by members of the choir “Crescendo” with their Director of Music Anja van Albeck. The choir were here as part of the bi-annual twinning visit by our friends from Den Dungen. These reciprocal visits involve both choirs in the learning of new music, often with the text in a foreign language.

On June 26th, we joined choirs from the diocese for the annual Choral Festival at Wells Cathedral. The success of the festival is dependent on rehearsals of the chosen music by choirs, both independently and at Deanery rehearsals.

In both June and December we joined with St Peter’s choir for rehearsals in preparation for the combined services to celebrate the Patronal festivals of our respective churches.

On July 25th we joined with other choirs of the Deanery to rehearse and sing choral evensong. This is an annual event which will be held at St Nicholas on Sunday October 9th this year. A possible date for your diary!

On August 8th we ended morning service by singing our farewell to Des, “Go now in peace” and presented him with red and white wines at the BBQ which followed.

Monday November 1st saw joint choirs for the welcome and induction of Revd Christine Judson.

The annual Advent carol service at High Street Methodist Church has, for several years, been a most enjoyable co-operation with their choir and the afternoon tea is always excellent. We were invited to sing Christmas Carols at Brackenwood Garden Centre on Saturday 4th December and for this opportunity to promote churches locally we invited St Peter's and the Methodists to join us.

We have already met for our first Deanery rehearsal of music for the 2011 Wells Festival which, this year, takes the form of Choral Evensong, on Saturday June 25th. Rehearsals for the singing of John Stainer's oratorio "The Crucifixion" are well advanced and soloists and organist booked.

We are an active choir who would welcome new members. The ability to read music, though helpful, is not a pre-requisite.

Roy Jukes

St Peter's Servers

During the year our team has been depleted by the departure from Portishead of one member. However I am pleased to report that all services have been covered

although our resources have been stretched on a few occasions. In view of this I shall be very pleased to hear from anyone who would like to fill this gap. It is not an onerous task but one which is very helpful and rewarding and only requires being on duty on one Sunday a month. If anyone feels that they would like to help please either call me on 845631 or have a word with me in church. I shall be very happy to explain what it entails.

Ben Simper

Mothers Union

2010 has been a good year for the MU. Although we were sad to lose our branch leader when Anne Lovell moved to Kent the committee members took on their new responsibilities with Anne Lewins becoming branch leader and Carole Barnes secretary.

Unfortunately we had to close our prayer group which was led by Jeannie Hall for many years and we thank her for all the work she put into running it for us, however there now seems to be sufficient house groups to fill the need.

We have successfully raised about £1000 for MU work at home and overseas by donations from our members and by holding cream teas and an Advent lunch.

We had a varied and interesting programme of speakers at our meetings and outings to Wells for Cathedral Prayers and a mystery tour around Somerset with lunch in Cheddar.

Our members have helped and supported parish events such as the marriage preparation day and fund raising events. Our membership has risen to 60 and we would love to welcome some new younger members at our meetings.

Anne Lewins

Men's and Women's Breakfasts

2010 was another successful year for the Men's and Women's Breakfasts held on Saturday mornings in February, May, July, October and November at the Royal Oak public house. As one of the parish outreach activities it offers an opportunity to meet as a community and consider a variety of contemporary issues and dilemmas facing Christianity and life in the 21st century.

The year got off to a very stimulating start in February with speaker Gordon Randall looking at 'Ethics & the Media'. Gordon worked as a journalist and spent thirty years at the BBC. As producer of Points West and news editor for all news output from the Midlands, he has handled several major news stories in his career.

May and July gave us the opportunity to consider 'Smuggling people in apartheid South Africa' presented by the Very Rev Ian Corbett who worked in South Africa as Principal of a Seminary in Lesotho and worked clandestinely for the ANC moving political refugees out of the country.

History buff, Michael Wigmore examined three key moments in the history of Christianity to explain why the Church is as it is today in his presentation 'Humble Jewish Carpenter to Worldwide Religious Institution: decisive moments in Christian history'.

The year was then rounded off in October and November with speakers Revd Terry Baillie and a return visit by The Very Revd Ian Corbett. Terry had a career in science and worked on the successful development of lead-free petrol before becoming a clergyman. For the men he considered the question 'Are Scientists too short-sighted?' His stance was that folk like Dawkins and Hawkins focus on

their one specialism. He argued that we need to look at the full scope of what science can and cannot discover. Thus when we look at the big picture we start to see the relation of science and faith in a different perspective. 'A Sacred Cosmos' was the subject at the women's breakfast.

Although a similar theme, it was presented from a slightly different perspective which focused less on the arguments and more on the spirituality of modern science.

Ian's second presentation was entitled 'Custer died for your sins; how immigrants destroyed the American Indian', and certainly provided 'food for thought'.

As can be seen, Des's legacy continues and is a prime example of the fellowship and fraternity of our parish.

Joy Murray

Men's Breakfast Report

The "post-Des" Team has comprised Joy Murray as Appointments Secretary, Tony Stubbs as Administrator with Gordon Randall, Michael Wigmore and Tony on Ticket Sales.

3 hugely successful events, with over 30 munching men at each (joined by 4 ladies last time) and many new faces:-

- 2 October – Rev Terry Baillie “Are Scientists too short-sighted?” A top quality mind-stretching presentation which put everything from the atom to the Milky Way in the context of the Almighty’s Plan
- 20 November – Rev Ian Corbett “Custer died for your sins: how immigrants destroyed the American Indian”. A humbling account of Ian’s work to bring the Gospel to Native Americans in incredibly remote and challenging conditions.
- 5 February – Rev Andy Bryant “A Team Rector's Past”. Andy regaled a capacity crowd with an account of how his Downs Syndrome Drama Group led to him finding himself up close and personal with Alan Titchmarsh’s tights.

Tony Stubbs

Society of Our Lady of Walsingham

We are still holding our monthly Masses at St Nicholas’ Church, and our Rector Andy is keen that we continue. Some of us have been to the Shrine at Walsingham during the past year. Rector Andy has now officially taken over as Cell Superior from Fr John Hall and a new set of Mass dates for the coming year have been arranged. It was with

sadness that one of our number Norna Wallis passed away just before Christmas. Although a member of All Saints Weston church Norna supported our Masses faithfully and came on the Shrine Pilgrimage most years, she will be sadly missed. Some of us will be going to Walsingham again this year so if you are interested in joining us please speak to the Rector or myself David Colston (845970).

Home Groups

Monday, Jean and Chris Young, 52 Lower Burlington Road

We have gained and lost members, so remain at about six, meeting approximately fortnightly on Monday evening.

We're now doing the Lent York course ***Rich Inheritance*** in slow time, enjoying the chance to take each session over two meetings – there are no prizes for speed!

Tuesday, Held in the home of Alan and Dorothy Adams, 6 Springfield House, Wetlands Lane

We are usually 7 in number – meeting on alternate

Tuesdays at 2pm – there is elbow room for one or two more!

We based our Bible Studies for much of 2010 on the same passages as the Gospel readings for the Sunday morning before and after our meeting. Different members of the

group gained quite different insights from the same passage, and from the connecting up with Sunday sermons when they were based on the Gospel reading. More recently we have worked our way through the York Course ***Can we Build a Better World***, with booklets borrowed from Mike Charnick. We discovered that learning from the life of William Wilberforce is much more than just about the abolition of slavery in the British Empire. For one thing, we are all slaves in God's view until redeemed. William Wilberforce was not alone and placed much emphasis on friendship and prayerful fellowship, which our group tries to copy. He had a vision for change in British society, and so should we. His motivation was largely Bible based, which allowed us to think also about the significance of the four-hundredth anniversary of the King James Bible, and the course ends with the great Biblical overtones of new life, redemption and restitution. *R C Wheeler*

Tuesday, Heavens Lane, Redcliffe Bay

Every Tuesday there is a meeting of either Group 1 or Group 2, alternating. Meeting from 7.30 – 9.30, there are always hot drinks and chocolate biscuits!

Group 1 is studying Mark's Gospel and Group 2 is studying Revelations. There is a mix of younger and older members in both groups and anyone is welcome to join us. Contact Liz or Richard Altwasser, tel 846515

Tuesday Morning

We meet weekly in school term times to have fun, friendship, fellowship and bible study. Over the past year we have looked at Proverbs and at a variety of the supporting characters in the bible. Our general approach is for a practical consideration of the bible and how it affects our daily lives with a lower emphasis on an 'academic study'. We endeavour to support each other, pray for each other and help every member grow in faith. New members are always welcome; contact Mary Duncan 848609.

Thursday

Our Home Group meets 10.30–12.00 on alternate Thursdays in term time, even though most of our school-aged children have now moved on to university or adulthood. For all of us it is an oasis of support and encouragement in busy and demanding lives. The group has always been more about fellowship than scholarship,

and although we always have our Bibles and study guides in front of us, some sessions are simply taken up with prayer. Oh, and we laugh a lot!

Third Thursday

We usually meet at 11 Drakes Way on the third Thursday of each month, 11am -12.30pm. Mike Charnick and Hugh Capon share the leadership. For the last few years we have used York courses, with a booklet and tape/CD of speakers. This year it is “Rich Inheritance – Jesus’ legacy of love”. We now have 17 participants, with an average attendance of 11. We attend various churches and all are welcome from any church or none.

Mike Charnick

Friday

We are a small but lively and informal group that meets on a Friday evening. On the first and third Friday of the month we look at and discuss a passage of the bible. In the past we have studied various themes including Peter, Elijah, prayer, Genesis and John’s gospel. When there is a fifth Friday we meet for a social get together that always includes food and frequently wine! We would welcome new members.

Star Trail

Advent 2010 was our second year running the “Star Trail”. Following on from the previous year’s success when we invited our two church schools to participate, it was our aim this time around to be able to invite all the primary schools in Portishead to bring their chosen year groups, thereby reaching out to the wider community. Eventually all but one of the Portishead schools accepted our invitation, as well as St Mary’s primary school in Portbury and Ravenswood Special School. Over the course of three days, approximately 230 primary school children enjoyed this multi-sensory re-enactment of the journey of the wise men from Egypt to Bethlehem to bear witness to the birth of Christ. In addition we were able to run two open sessions for the general public, one on a Thursday evening and the other on Saturday morning. Both were extremely well attended and we welcomed over 160 visitors in total. Star Trail has already become a real community event on more than one level. It is only made possible by the generous amount of time and effort offered by people from both St Nicholas’ and St Peter’s Churches. This has ranged from helping to set up the trail, to welcoming visitors, baking star cookies, lending or finding resources, or participating in Star Trail itself. A

really big thank you for the commitment of everyone involved, as this event really would not take place without people pulling together to make it the success it is.

Already whispers of what is going on at “The Church” during advent have started to spread around the community. Many of our visitors to the open sessions had been encouraged to come along by children who had visited with school, or by friends and family. It is also particularly rewarding that schools from just outside the Portishead area were able to come along and join us.

So many people have complimented this venture and already asked that we run it again. So watch this space! Advent 2011 is just around the corner...