

Embrace the Future

Welcome to our campaign for the development and repair of our church buildings.

We invite you to read this booklet and discover more about our exciting plans for St Peter's and St Nicholas' churches.

We are proud of the long history represented by our two church buildings and are determined to ensure our buildings continue to serve our town as it grows.

Past generations have handed down to us a wonderful legacy, now it is our turn to embrace the future.

We are asking both new and long-standing members of our congregations, and well-wishers in the parish, to consider making a one-off gift for the future well-being of our buildings. We invite you to take time to study this leaflet and to prayerfully consider how you can respond.

Remember the church is your church.

Claire Short
Campaign Chair

Andy Bryant
Team Rector

***To Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus
to all generations, for ever and ever.***

Ephesians 3:21

The Story so far.

St Peter's Church is the second church to stand on this site. The first church dated from at least 1100 but for reasons unknown it was demolished in the 14th century and the present church was built. All that remains of that first church is the font, said to be the oldest piece of carved stone in Portishead.


Churches are buildings that have always been changing; indeed it seems likely that St Peter's was once called St Mary's. Over time a tower has been added to the original building and a north aisle, the chancel has been extended, the altar, pulpit and font have all moved location and the minstrels in the gallery were replaced by an organ - and all before we even consider the 20th Century.

St Nicholas' Church started life as the chapel of the Nautical School one hundred years ago. With the closure of the school, twenty six years ago it became a parish church and at this time a welcoming narthex was created.

Changing Churches for Changing Times

Our churches are the wonderful buildings they are because they have kept changing and adapting throughout the ages. As communities have changed and our approach to and understanding of God has developed, Christian communities have wanted to reflect this in the buildings they use.





In our own time Portishead has gone through a period of rapid expansion. For some years now there have been discussions as to how our church buildings should adapt to meet the changing needs of our growing town and support that strong sense of community that makes Portishead such a special place to live.

Where there is no vision the people perish.

Proverbs 29:18

Our Vision

We want St Peter's and St Nicholas' churches to be at the centre of the life of our growing town, to be available to all who wish to use them. These historic buildings need to be well maintained, welcoming and accessible, with good community facilities, reflecting the 21st century needs people have when visiting and using our buildings. Built for the greater glory of God we want our churches to be places where the best possible worship can be offered to God and in which and from which we can continue to serve the people of Portishead,

Our Priorities

The congregations have been widely consulted through the formation of our Mission Action Plan and through study and congregation days about proposed building changes. From these conversations three priorities have emerged:

1) Welcome and Hospitality

We want our churches to be welcoming places, reflecting the welcoming love of our Heavenly Father. Towards this we want to provide better signage to our churches,

improve the entrances and welcome areas, provide better facilities for providing refreshments, improve our church heating and provide accessible toilets.

2) Enabling Participation

We want our churches to be places where everyone can feel involved and take part, remembering Jesus' call to us all to follow him. To enable this we need to improve the sound system at both churches, introduce an audio visual system at St Peter's and also bring the altar forward to improve its visibility to those in the North Aisle.

3) Space

We want our churches to offer a sense of space, a place where we can encounter God's Spirit, our comforter and guide. To achieve this we need to provide a variety of different spaces to respond to the different events that happen in our buildings. At St Nicholas' we want to upgrade the Narthex to give us the best possible meeting room for the parish. At St Peter's we want to create an improved children's area in the North Aisle and create a small meeting room under an extended gallery. We also need to explore how we can make St Peter's feel less cluttered whilst also increasing the seating capacity for our larger services.

These priorities have helped us understand how we need to adapt our buildings to help us embrace the future.

Thanks to existing PCC reserves and generous donations we have been able to complete our first project, installing a new sound and audio visual system at St Peter's and undertaking important upgrades to the church's electrical system.



The Plans

Plans for the proposed changes have been displayed for the last twelve months at both our churches. In moving these forward our priority must now be making St Nicholas' Church watertight:

Re-roof St Nicholas' Church **£330,000**

The 2008 Quinquennial Survey indicated that the tiles have reached the end of their life and need to be replaced. This along with other high level stone repairs, has to be our priority at St Nicholas so that the building fabric is protected.

Meanwhile we are also preparing for the following developments:

St Peter's Church

Re-ordering of the Chancel **£10,000**

The 1970's re-ordering of the chancel was a temporary arrangement. To complete this unfinished work the main altar will be returned to the East end and a new smaller nave altar introduced and brought nearer to the people to improve visibility. The font will also be re-located to a more visible position.

Re-ordering of the Porch & Welcome Area **£15,000**

To make the heating at St Peter's more effective and efficient we propose replacing the existing porch gates with doors to reduce the heat escaping from the church and introducing glass to the existing church doors to improve the welcome to the building. There will also be new purpose made cupboards for storing hymn books etc and displaying leaflets and other information.

Creation of new choir & clergy vestry **£198,000**

Whilst the main aims of these proposals have been to work within the existing footprint of our two buildings, we are seeking permission to add a small extension to the north east corner of the church for new choir and clergy vestries and an accessible toilet. This will release valuable additional space within the church.

New Kitchen

£20,000

The current kitchen facilities at St Peter's do not meet modern health and hygiene requirements. With the building of the new vestry extension we will be able to re-order the former choir vestry to provide more adequate facilities for providing hospitality.

Re-Ordering of the West End.

£86,000

By re-locating the clergy vestry to the new vestry extension we will be able to restore the West doors of the church and extend the seating available in the nave. At the same time it is proposed to extend the gallery forward to increase its seating capacity whilst, with the use of folding glass screens, creating a small meeting room underneath that can easily be heated for midweek meetings. With the re-location of the font, the existing children's corner will be enlarged and made more comfortable.

St Nicholas' Church

Improvements to the Narthex

£46,000


The narthex was created 26 years ago and is now in need of refurbishment, with improved lighting, heating and acoustics. We need to install an accessible toilet and upgrade the kitchen to meet modern hygiene standards. As the parish has no church hall this is our main meeting space and so we need to make the best use of the space available.

Improvements to the Church

£20,000

Within the main body of the church we need to make a number of improvements including a better dais for the lectern, a new sound system and the introduction of pew heaters to replace the overhead heaters, which will be both more efficient and effective.

The above figures are inclusive of fees and VAT. Each of the outlined projects will be subject to further consultation and to faculty approval. Further updates on the progress of our plans will be posted on www.portisheadparish.co.uk



***I am the Lord your God,
who takes hold of your right hand
and says to you:
'Do not fear. I will help you'.***

Isaiah 41:13

The Challenge Ahead

The total cost of the planned works is £725,000. This clearly represents a considerable challenge. However we believe that our churches continue to have a vital role to play in our growing community. Past generations have played their part in ensuring the on-going place of the church in Portishead and we, in our turn, must take up the challenge.

Towards this we are launching a campaign, ***Embrace the Future***, to help us raise the funds over the next three years. We will be launching a public appeal, approaching charitable trusts, local groups and businesses and organising fund-raising events. Together, with God, we can embrace the future.

But first...

Before we go public we believe that it is essential that as church congregations we commit to supporting our church buildings so that we can show the wider community that we are playing our part. We cannot just look to “them” to help us; first we have to show that we are doing all we can ourselves.

The Church is our church

Please will you consider making a one-off donation to support our church buildings and help us embrace the future for the place of our churches in our growing town. We invite you to prayerfully consider how you might respond to this request. We are very grateful for the wonderful generosity of so many that supports the day to day running costs of the mission and ministry of our church life. This is a request for a one-off donation to help us develop and maintain our buildings in support of that mission and ministry. **Please will you help?**


24hour Prayer Vigil

All that we do together as a parish needs to be undergirded in prayer. Beginning at 6pm on **Friday 3rd February** we are holding a 24hour prayer vigil for our parish and for wisdom and discernment in the use of our church buildings. We hope you will be able to come and join us at some time during this vigil. At particular times there will be opportunities to share in worship and join with others for refreshments. We hope this will be a special time when we can come together in prayer and fellowship and affirm our shared sense of common purpose as we seek to be God's co-workers in this town.

Gift Day

At the heart of the Prayer Vigil, on **Saturday 4th February**, there will be a Gift Day when we invite you to bring your gift to church - prayer and response hand in hand for we are the means by which God builds his Kingdom in this place.





During our Gift Day we invite you to bring your gift to either St Peter's or St Nicholas' to ensure the future mission of our church buildings. You may either leave your gift discreetly at the altar or if you wish, a member of the clergy team will be available to pray with you.

If you are not available on that day your gift may be sent to the church office. **All gifts will be treated in the strictest confidence.**

Gift Aid

Remember, if you are a UK tax payer, by signing the Gift Aid declaration on the Response Form, we can claim the tax back on your gift making your gift worth even more at no extra expense to yourself. So each £100 you give will be worth an extra £25 and each £1000 you give will be worth an extra £250.

**Please complete the enclosed Response Form
and join in the Gift Day for our buildings.
Together, with God, we can embrace the future
and ensure our church buildings
continue to serve this town.**

***Commit your plans to the Lord,
and he will sustain you.***

Psalm 55:22

If you have any questions about our Church Development Campaign please contact any member of the clergy or the Campaign Chair Claire Short 01275 848991 or courtshort@tiscali.co.uk for further information.

Prayer Vigil & Gift Day

Friday 3rd February

6pm Evening Worship to mark the beginning of the Vigil at St Peter's

A rota of two people per hour will then sustain the vigil through the next 24 hours - if you would like to be part of this chain of prayer please sign the list in either church.

Saturday 4th February

8.30am Morning Prayer at St Peter's

9.00am Breakfast served at both churches

Gift Day begins at both churches: please bring your gift to either church at any time during the day.

Vigil continues at both churches: please pray for the work of our churches and the life of our town.

One of the clergy will be at each church throughout the Gift Day to be available to pray with any who wish as they make their gift.

11.00am Coffee and Cakes served at both churches

12noon Mid-day Prayers at both churches

12.30pm Soup Lunch at both churches

2.30pm Tea and Cakes at both Churches

4.00pm Gift Day and Vigil end at St Nicholas'

5.30pm Evening Praise at St Peter's

6.00pm Vigil and Gift Day end at St Peter's



A welcoming light amidst the changing tides of life
