

# Saltash Team Newsletter

"Discovering God's Kingdom, Growing the Church"

Dear Friends



On 20<sup>th</sup> May, we celebrated Pentecost Sunday. Pentecost Sunday is the 50<sup>th</sup> day after [Easter](#) it is the day, some 2000 years ago, that the Apostles were filled with the gift of the Holy Spirit and they began to preach the Gospel in all of the languages that the people, who were gathered, spoke. And we are told that about 3,000 people were converted and baptized on that day.

Jesus began his ministry by making these words his own: "The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour". What a beautiful mission, and most certainly not a bad manifesto to begin with, but unlike some politicians, that I am sure we could all name, He was faithful to it and he keeps his promises, he keeps his manifesto.

Jesus continues to pour out the Holy Spirit on us so that we too can carry on his mission, because today, we are his Disciples, we are his hands and his feet. The Holy Spirit descended on the apostles, individually and collectively and filled with the Holy Spirit, they began their mission. And we see the great courage and confidence with which they did so. We too can take heart and learn from them, because we too need not only courage, but also encouragement and confidence as we continue Jesus' mission.

Pentecost was the beginning of the new era of the Spirit and it brought to the Apostles what they needed for their special role. Christ had appointed them to be his primary and authoritative witnesses and on that day the Apostles spoke a new language, a new language of love and forgiveness, just as much for today as then. And what was this language?

It was the language of peace rather than of war;  
the language of cooperation rather than of competition;  
the language of forgiveness rather than of vengeance;  
the language of hope rather than of despair;  
the language of tolerance rather than of bigotry;  
the language of friendship rather than of hostility;  
the language of unity rather than of division;  
the language of love rather than of hate.

That is the real miracle of Pentecost. That through the gift of the Spirit, people of different languages learned to profess one faith, to the praise and glory of God. And it is a miracle, which, thankfully, continues to this day. So let us go and practice this “new language” of love and forgiveness wherever we may journey.

Yours in Christ

*Cathy*

### **Parish Giving Scheme ( PGS ) – Statistics & Facts**



SS. Nicholas & Faith and St. Stephens have now been using the PGS system of giving for some 18 months, and Chris Cook, Treasurer at St. Nicholas now shares some of his thoughts regarding some facts regarding the scheme and also to allay some PGS ‘myths’

“The new form of planned giving using direct debits was specifically created by the Church of England parish churches, and is administered centrally. The Diocese of Truro joined the scheme back in June 2015 and 60 churches within the Diocese are signed up, statistics are as follows :-

60 churches within the Diocese of Truro are on PGS.  
750 donations per month are processed within the Diocese.  
Over 50% of donors opt to inflate their annual giving.  
Monthly, across the Diocese over £12,000 is generated in gift aid through PGS.  
Over half of ALL Church of England Dioceses have joined the PGS.

So why should you, as an individual church member sign up to PGS instead of another planned giving scheme such as standing orders or weekly envelopes.

Well, here are 12 good reasons :-

1. The PGS scheme is the easiest and most efficient way to process regular giving using the direct debit scheme. Direct debits are after all commonly used by all for a host of payments such as mortgages, utility accounts and membership fees for other organisations.
2. Your PGS giving amount is taken on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month and is transferred into the Parish's bank account on the 10<sup>th</sup> each month.
3. The scheme is hugely flexible allowing you to cease, reduce or increase the monthly amount given month by month if you wish by simply contacting the PGS. Unlike Standing Orders in that if they are cancelled, a new one must be started.
4. Many people's income increases annually, whether through a pay rise, inflation or increase in the pension. PGS offer a choice of increasing giving in line with these increases should you so wish. More than half of the givers tick the box to increase amounts by inflation and you are notified well in advance of the proposed increase which you can choose to accept or decline.
5. Unlike any other method, giving by direct debit is covered by the direct debit guarantee, so if you need to, you can ask for a refund.
6. Should you wish, giving can be made anonymously. Clearly PGS would need to know who you are, but nobody in church need know, including the Treasurer.
7. People don't always like to pass on the Eucharist collection without contributing. PGS tokens are provided to put into the collection as it passes, and then typically, the tokens can be collected at the end of the service, or simply recycled ready for the next service.
8. PGS claims gift aid tax at the beginning of each month and transfers it into the Church's bank account. Clearly this improves cash flow immensely and avoids the usual waiting to receive gift aid monies some 6 to 9 months in arrears and also saves the individual having to make the claim to HMRC in the first place. This is of huge benefit to the Treasurer.
9. Whilst the management of gift aid is a major benefit for parishes, PGS is not just for tax payers as anybody with a bank account can use it.
10. As mentioned under 8 (above), the scheme is much more user friendly for the Treasurer as processing standing orders, gift aid envelopes and weekly envelopes is a time consuming business for other church officials having to open envelopes, record amounts on spreadsheets, transfer monies to other and make the trip to the bank, and eventually recover gift aid tax. All of these activities are done away with using the PGS scheme as an online facility direct to the parish bank account for the Treasurer to manage.....Happy Treasurer.
11. From later in 2018 individuals will be able to manage PGS payments through a secure login process, thus amending monthly payments, approving or amending annual increases. Of course you can always speak to a real person if you wish.
12. Finally, PGS is free to the parish, as the Diocese pays the central administration costs. With all these facilities and all this flexibility being free, it would be a shame not to use it. Of course, any form of giving as well PGS is very much appreciated."

Christopher Cook  
Treasurer for SS Nicholas & Faith Church (and a PGS giver ! )

## **The Annual Parochial Church Meeting – What is it all about?**

By Christopher Cook - Treasurer & Organist – SS. Nicholas & Faith Church

Several people in church have asked me questions concerning what the PCC does. I offer the following details as a broad brush, which I hope will help those interested in becoming more involved.

### What is the APCM

Every parish is legally required to hold an Annual Parish Meeting to elect Churchwardens and to conduct other parish business such as electing membership of the PCC and Deanery Synod. The Annual meeting(s) are required under statute through the Church representation Rules.

### What happens at the APCM

At the meeting reports are received from the Priest, a Financial Report from the Treasurer, and the Churchwardens will deliver their own reports, including a report on the fabric of the church. Reports are presented by other church members in connection with the Social Committee, Health & Safety, Safeguarding and Bellringing, to name just a few.

Those on the Electoral Roll will be eligible to vote and elect people into various roles such as Churchwardens, Deanery Synod and PCC members.

### Who should attend the APCM

Those who consider themselves to be either regular or congregational members of the parish who are on the Electoral Roll. The idea of the meeting is for all those present to contribute to the life of the parish and consider what has happened over the past year, and more importantly to 'look forward' with a view to change and improvement where necessary under Christian ministry and outreach.

### What is the Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll is a list of names and addresses of every person who can vote in the APCM. To be added to the Electoral Roll a person should complete and sign an application form which can be obtained from the Electoral Roll Officer or will be provided by the PCC Secretary weeks before the APCM takes place, and at the same time details of the existing PCC members are advertised on the church notice board along with the PCC constitution and number of vacancies.

### What is the PCC

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the elected governing body of the parish, usually chaired by the Incumbent, and is responsible for promoting the church in all aspects. The PCC are also responsible for the Financial affairs of the church, it's care and maintenance along with the church fabric and contents.

All PCC are Charities and all PCC members are Charity trustees. PCCs are also entitled to present motions concerning church issues of wider interest to their Deanery Synod representatives and to the Diocesan Synod.

The number of positions for members of the laity elected to a PCC depends on the size of the Electoral Roll according to the Church Representation Rules. Most commonly around 12 lay members are appointed and voted in for a 3 year term of service to be reviewed at the APCM, so don't worry, you do not volunteer for life !

Anyone can stand for election as a PCC member and although there is some criteria, briefly you have to be over 16, on the Electoral Roll, and ideally be an communicant.

### What is the Deanery Synod

A synod is a church council. In England there are three levels of Synod : General Synod, Diocesan Synod and Deanery Synod. The Deanery Synod is made up of two houses : the House of Clergy (all incumbents, assistant clergy etc) and the House of Laity (non-ordained people).

The Deanery Synod has at least one lay representative from each parish, and members are elected to the Synod for 3 years at the APCM. Deanery Synod are ex-officio members of their own PCCs.

The Flowchart for information goes as follows :-

PCC – Deanery Synod – Diocesan Synod – Diocese – Archdeaconry – Deanery – Parish and back again to the PCC.

### SS NICHOLAS & FAITH

First of all we still have a number of thimbles and royal memorabilia that was never collected after our exhibition to mark the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. If you are missing any of these items please contact Mrs. L. Stevens on 842521.

Saturday 14th July - there is going to be a Faith Picnic at Peddick's Field, 17 Higher Port View, by kind invitation of Mrs. Sarah Adkins, further details to be announced.

Saturday 21st July - An Evening with the Burraton Boys, Pasty and Cider Supper. Tickets will be £5 from members of the Social Committee.

Our Summer exhibition this year will be 'Hatches, Marches, and Dispatches'. If you have any photographs, Wedding Dresses, Christening Robes etc., anything from past years that you feel may be of interest, please let Mrs. Stevens know (tel: 842521). Exhibits will be on show through July and August, and the Church will be open from 2 – 4 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays.

All Day Breakfast will be served on Saturdays during August from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Last orders 1.30 p.m.

Thursday 27th September with see the launch of this year's Christmas Tree Festival.

Saturday 6th October the Church will be open for visits to the Bell Tower etc. Teas and Coffees will be available.

Christian Aid event. Sunday 24th June, Potatoes and Puds lunch. Jacket potatoes with a variety of fillings followed by a Pudding £5.

## Recent Events At St. Stephen's Church

What a lovely evening our Poems and Puddings was. It was a bit play it by ear as we had no idea who would turn up and how many poems may be read but it really couldn't have worked out any better. Several people brought poems they had written themselves while others brought personal favourites. We had several people who hadn't been to our Church before but was attracted by the sound of the event and they were made very welcome and of course it was great to see them. Not forgetting all those scrumptious yummy puddings.

A simple and very enjoyable evening which raised £75 for Church funds.



We were blessed with a lovely day for Saltash May Fair this year and combined with being in a much better location to, our two fundraising stalls were extremely busy. Selling out of plants and doing extremely well in book sales. A big thank you to all who supported and helped on the stalls and must mention the amazing team work in getting the stalls up and packing away.



### Pentecost Crossword Competition

Many thanks to all who entered our recent Pentecost Crossword Competition to win some goodies from Polnoon Pasties. We had 24 entrants and the lucky winner drawn at the 10am Pentecost Service was Martin Lister of Hillside Road. A big big thank you to Polnoon Pasties for supporting this competition.



**Saturday 9th June – Saltash Regatta**  
10am – 5pm

We will have a fundraising stall present along Old Ferry Road more or less opposite the junction where it meets Lower Fore Street.  
Please pop along and support us.

If you can give an hour or two to help on the day then please get in touch with Steve Hookway.

**BBQ Time**

Bill Gall is kindly allowing us to host a fundraising Barbecue at his home (Cornerstone 40a Culver Road) on Friday 22nd June. 7pm Start - £7 a ticket. Tickets are now on sale from Roger Rowse (01752 843766) & John Petherbridge. The ticket will entitle you to a Hot Dog, Burger, Piece of Chicken, Salad Bar, pud plus Drinks (Squash/coffee/Tea etc). Extra items off the BBQ and Puds may be available on the night at extra cost.

Please bring your own chair  
You are also welcome to bring your own choice of drink.  
A raffle will be held on the night.  
Contact Steve Hookway for further information 07855 600241

**Events in July**

Saturday 7th July - Summer Fair 10.30am – 2.30pm

Friday 20th July – Rock Choir in Concert – 7.30pm Start - Tickets £5 each

**WANTED – BRIC A BRAC**

We will be running a Bric A Brac stall at our forthcoming Summer Fair. If you have items you can donate towards this then please leave at the back of our Church or contact Steve Hookway to arrange collection/delivery.

### Day Trip to Gloucester by Coach – Tickets Still Available

Friday 7th September - £18 per person

Leaving St. Stephen's Church at 8am and arriving at Gloucester Quays at 11am approx then departing home at 5pm and arriving back at 8pm approx.

There is so much to see & do at Gloucester Quays. Close to the historic city of Gloucester, you can enjoy an action-packed trip to the stunning new Outlets. More than 50 stores are on offer including many high street favourites. Gloucester Cathedral is only a 5 minute walk away of which there is a holy communion that takes place at 12.30pm for those who are interested.

Tickets are on sale now from Steve Hookway (Phone 07855 600241 – email [stevhookway@hotmail.com](mailto:stevhookway@hotmail.com))

### Some Thoughts on being a Christian

You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.

To those who dither about going to Church. Don't wait for the hearse to take you.

Life has many choices, Eternity has two. What's yours?

Worry is interest paid on trouble before it is due.

Your character is just like a fence. It cannot be strengthened by whitewash.

Atheist: "Do you honestly believe Jonah spent three days and three nights in the belly of a huge whale?"

Christian: "I don't know but when I get to heaven I will ask him"

Atheist: "But suppose he isn't in heaven"

Christian: "Then you ask him"

Please send your articles to: [saltashparishnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:saltashparishnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk) or pop it in to the Team Office. **Deadline 20<sup>th</sup> June.**