Saltash Area Newsletter

December 18 / January 19

DISCOVERING GOD'S KINGDOM – GROWING THE CHURCH
www.saltashteamministry.org

DEC / JAN

Special Events

Sat 1 Dec
10am
St Nicholas & St Faith
Christmas Tree Festival. Open daily until Friday 14 December
(see page 5 for opening times & weekend events)

Fri 7 Dec
7.30pm St Stephen's
Christmas Concert with Polperro Fishermens' Choir

Sun 13 Jan
1pm St Elizabeth House
Saltash Team Ministry Meal

Regular Events

Mon 3 Dec, 7, 21 Jan
2-3.30pm St Stephen's
Craft & Conversation

Thu 13, 27 Dec 10, 24 Jan
7.30pm St Stephen's
Mixed Blessings

Tue 11 Dec, 8 Jan
2pm St Stephen's
Mothers' Union

Fri 14 Dec, 18 Jan
Noon S.T.A.R.T Group

Sat 15 Dec, 19 Jan
3pm Baptist Church (Dec)
3pm St Stephen's (Jan)
Messy Church Christmas Party (Dec)

Tue 15 Jan
9.30am St Stephen's
Tea and Toast

…The time came for Mary's baby to be born; and she gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them at the inn.

So often at this time of year I see advertising campaigns that say, 'Let's put Christ back into Christmas.' But quite honestly how can we celebrate 'Christ-mas' without Christ?

For many, Christmas is a wonderful, almost magical time of the year, but in a recent poll, 52% of the population have no idea why they celebrate Christmas! If that is the case then why on earth do we, as a nation, spend on average some £868 each – if 52% of us don't know why we are spending it?

Just over 2,000 years ago, God came down to be with us here on earth, in the form of the baby Jesus, to experience what it was like to be one of us. But why decide to come to us in the form of a tiny, helpless baby, when he could have chosen to be anyone. And He really didn't seem to have a very promising start in life either. Born, to a young unmarried Mum, in a stable with all the animals round about. Then, Mum, Joseph and the baby become refugees as they flee for their lives.

I don't know about you, but it sounds a very familiar story – not just the nativity story from the Bible, but the story of so many families who are fleeing for their lives from Syria and many other countries around the world and recently we have heard and seen some 3000 migrants fleeing from central America travelling through Mexico trying to make their way to the United States. 2,000 years later, but still the same story. So rather than living a life of luxury and wealth, God chose to be one of those who lived on the outside. Perhaps He wanted to see how His fellow human beings would treat Him and his parents and to see how people would respond to His family in their particular situation?

How do we respond to those who have been forced to leave everything behind them – just as Mary and Joseph and their baby Jesus had to do? If Mary and Joseph arrived here, how would we greet them? ▸

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 16 December
6.30pm St Erney
Nine Lessons & Carols

Sunday 23 December
6.30pm St Stephen
Nine Lessons & Carols

Christmas Eve
4pm St Stephen
Crib Service
4pm St Michael
Crib Service
4pm SS Nicholas & Faith
Christingle
6.30pm St Mary
Carol Service
11pm SS Nicholas & Faith
Midnight Mass
11.30pm St Stephen
Midnight Mass

Christmas Day
9.30am St Michael
Holy Communion & Carols
10am St Stephen
Holy Communion & Carols
10am SS Nicholas & Faith
Holy Communion & Carols
11.15am St Mary
Holy Communion
11.15am St Erney
Morning Prayer

St Stephen's Day
10am St Stephen
Holy Communion

DECEMBER SERVICES

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services are shown on page 1

SUNDAYS

St Stephen's

10am Dec 2
All Age Service
Christingle

10am Dec 9, 16, 23
Holy Communion

6.30pm Dec 9, 16
Evensong

6.30pm Dec 23
Nine Lessons and Carols

St Nicholas & St Faith

8am Dec 2, 9, 16, 23
Holy Communion

10am Dec 2, 9, 16, 23
Holy Communion

10am Dec 30
United Service

6.30pm Dec 2
SCT – 'Darkness to Light'

St Michael, Landrake

9.30am Dec 2, 9, 16, 23
Holy Communion

St Mary, Botus Fleming

4pm Dec 2
Christingle

11.15am Dec 9, 23
Holy Communion

11.15am Dec 16
Morning Prayer

St Erney, Landrake

11.15am Dec 2
Morning Prayer

6.30pm Dec 16
Carol Service

WEDNESDAYS

St Stephen's

10am Dec 26
Holy Communion
Patronal Festival

10.30am Dec 5 12, 19
Holy Communion

Would we welcome them into our homes, give them food, drink, clothing and shelter? Or would we just shut the door in their faces and say, 'Sorry, no room for the likes of you here!'

Perhaps this Christmas you can consider giving to one of the many Christmas charities that support those who are on their own, have nowhere to live or won't have a Christmas lunch without our help and support. You may just be able to give someone the Christmas that they will always remember – and for the right reasons. Jesus, both God and man, born to be our Saviour said, 'What you do for the least of these, you do for me.'

One of the hymns we sing each Christmas is *O come, O come Emmanuel.* Emmanuel means 'God is with us' and that is my prayer for each and every one of us – and not just for Christmas, but for life.

I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

Yours in Christ,
Cathy

Thursdays 29 November, 6 December, 13 December, 10 January – 2-4pm

I will be leading an Advent Bible Study for three weeks before Christmas and one week after Christmas and would be delighted if you could join me.

1. **To us a Child is Born**
   Isaiah's Prophecy *Isaiah 9: 1-7*
2. **Nothing is Impossible**
   Mary and the Angel *Luke 1: 26-56*
3. **Season of Wonder**
   Jesus' Birth *Luke 2: 1-20*
4. **In Search of the King**
   The Magi Meet Jesus *Matthew 2: 1-18*

Bill has very kindly agreed that we can meet at his house: 40a Culver Road, Saltash – just down the hill from Station Road garage. If you would like to come along please let me know. Cathy ☎ 01752 842323

JANUARY SERVICES

SUNDAYS

St Stephen's

8am Every Sunday
Holy Communion

10am Jan 6
All Age Service

10am Jan 13, 27
Holy Communion

6.30pm Jan 6
Saltash Churches Together 'Epiphany'

6.30pm Jan 13, 20, 27
Evensong

St Nicholas & St Faith

10am Jan 6, 13, 27
Holy Communion

St Michael, Landrake

9.30am Every Sunday
Holy Communion

St Mary, Botus Fleming

11.15am Jan 6
Family Service

11.15am Jan 13, 27
Holy Communion

11.15am Jan 20
Morning Prayer

St Erney, Landrake

11.15am Jan 6
Morning Prayer

11.15am Jan 20
Holy Communion

Wesley Methodist

10.30am Jan 20
Covenant Service

WEDNESDAYS

St Stephen's

10.30am Every Wed
Holy Communion

Poem of the Month

Pretty Ugly

This brilliantly poem is written by Abdullah Shoaib and can be read both ways, and both messages are so incredibly powerful.

Our inner talk and how we feel about ourselves is very important. Take a moment to think about how you are treating yourself on a daily basis.

I'm very ugly
So don't try to convince me that
I am a very beautiful person
Because at the end of the day
I hate myself in every single way
And I'm not going to lie to myself by saying
There is beauty inside of me that matters
So rest assured I will remind myself
That I am a worthless, terrible person
And nothing you say will make me believe
I still deserve love
Because no matter what
I am not good enough to be loved
And I am in no position to believe that
Beauty does exist within me
Because whenever I look in the mirror I always think
Am I as ugly as people say?

Now read it bottom up!

Samaritan's Purse

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who supported the Shoebox Appeal. Approximately 300 boxes were collected in Saltash which is up on last year. They are now on the way to their final destination.

St Stephen's Early in 2019

Friday 15 February
7.30pm Tickets £5
Plymouth Area Police Choir

Saturday 13 April
Easter Event
Details to follow

Friday 26 April
7.30pm Tickets £5
Plymouth Ukulele Players

Friday 10 May
7.30pm Tickets £5
An Evening With
Ann Widdecombe

Recent Events

Skittles Evening

An extremely good evening was had by all who came to SSNF Church Rooms to play. Unfortunately we did not have enough people for a match between Churches, but as we had enough for two teams, we called the teams 'Us' and 'Them'. The 'Them' team won 203-191. Thank you to everyone who supported this evening.

At St Stephen's

Towards the end of October our fundraising stall attended Wesley Craft Fair where impressive sales of £253.50 were taken.

Thanks to those who supported our stall.

Our November Fair despite a rainy day was well attended and raised a superb £2,181.12. Thanks to all those who helped and supported in anyway especially, Barbara Welbourn and team who managed to sell over £500 of cakes.

The Little Craft Conservatory who supported us also made sales of £145.50. Thank you ladies.

Recent Events (continued)

Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union met in November and listened to Mr Kevin Downing, who works for Action for Children within Cornwall Council. He organises activities for Kernow Young Carers Group. A young person up to the age of 22 can be referrred to the group if they are helping to care for a sibling, parent or grandparent within a family unit.

There are outings and group sessions where youngsters can enjoy time off and individual sessions where worries can be expressed. For example, recently a school blazer was provided for a girl who could not afford it. The self esteem given was immense, she was no longer different to the other girls.

Many instances like these are fulfilled from funds raised by M.U. Branches round the diocese, including our Saltash team group.

We meet again on Tuesday 11 December at 2pm in St Stephens when we shall be thinking of Christmas.

Messy Church

Messy Church in November was well attended by all age groups, grandparents down to babes in arms.

The theme was 'Remembrance'. Cathy introduced the session and then it was time for crafts, we made poppies to remember lost love ones, a calendar to remember important dates and each child made a nativity scene to remember Jesus's coming.

On the notice board, the children placed symbols to remember stages of Jesus's life on earth. All enjoyed this busy time and it is surprising what knowledge the children have about our Lord.

After a short worship service, it was time for tea and socialising. Thanks to all those who helped on the day.

On December 15th at 3pm , Messy Church will host its Christmas Party at the Baptist Church, Culver road.

Season of Prayer for our new Bishop

Canon Philip Mounstephen was recently ordained and consecrated bishop at St Paul's Cathedral and we very much look forward to welcoming him to the diocese in the new year, when he will be installed as 16th Bishop of Truro at Truro Cathedral.

We have prayed as individuals, in our local congregations, deaneries and as a diocese throughout the appointments process. Our prayers continue now for Philip, Ruth and their family and for the diocese, as Philip prepares his ministry here in Cornwall.

For those who wish to make use of them, there are prayer resources available to help unite us in our prayers at this very significant time for Philip and for us all (https://bit.ly/2S5JdLu).

- a prayer calendar through to the end of January.
- prayer cards, to be sent out to the parishes
- a Diocesan Prayer written by Canon Vanda Perrett
- some suggestions (and a sample service) for local prayer gatherings around the time of Philip's installation

Scout Post

Town addresses only, please. Cards sent for 25p.
The last collection will be on the 14 December.

Decorated Post Boxes in:

- Church Road Stores
- Piglets, Fore Street
- Spar Shop, Mote Park
- The Bookshelf, Fore Street
- Spar Shop, Cross Park
- Saltash News, Fore Street
- Spar Shop, New Road
- Polnoon, Callington Road

St Nicholas and St Faith Christmas Tree Festival

1-14 December

Sat 1 Dec Church Open 10am to 8pm

- 10am to 4pm Bacon butties (10am-2pm), tea & cakes (2-4pm) available in the Church rooms with jams, pickles, cakes and other stalls
- 2pm Hand bell ringers
- From 6.30pm Mulled wines and shortbread served in the Church

Sun 2 Dec Church Open 2pm to 4pm

- 6.30pm Darkness to Light Advent Service

Sat 8 Dec Church Open 10am to 4pm

- 10am to 4pm Bacon butties (10am-2pm), tea & cakes (2-4pm) available in the Church rooms
- Afternoon Acapella singers

Sun 9 Dec Church Open 2pm to 4pm

- 3pm Carols with the Burraton Boys then meet the Boys in the hall (refreshments £1)

Weekdays Church Open 2pm to 6pm

Entrance £1.50

(accompanied children under 14 free)

What's On

Polperro Fishermen's Choir Christmas Concert

Tickets £5 Each

Friday 7 December
Doors Open 6.45pm for 7.30pm Start

Tickets are selling well and it looks as if it will be a busy evening. So don't delay get your ticket today from Roger Rowse following Sunday Morning Service or from John Petherbridge following Wednesday Morning Services or you can purchase from Piglets, Fore Street or pay on the night. Seasonal favourites *O Holy Night, In The Bleak Mid-Winter* and *Mistletoe and Wine* are all included in the festive set list. What with the very humorous compere Adrian's side splitting jokes it's a night not to be missed. Hope to see you there.

St Stephens Church Men's Quiz Team

We have recently supported the Saltash Town Quiz in aid of Children in Need and 2nd Saltash Scout group and The Lions Club Quiz in aid of Saltash Youth Council where we came second. It would be fantastic if a ladies team could also be formed.

Thank You!

A massive thank you to all the flyer distributors who have helped in making the people of Saltash aware of our events contributing greatly to their success. Thanks also to Carol and Barry Jones for preparing, transporting and displaying event banners.

Christmas Word Search

S G B A U G I I S T F O E H C
E H R S I K N T I C B U R F K
M B E F L C A R H S U S E J Z
M A T P E R I A Y N L G O L D
A S N N H P B E T H L E H E M
N G S G S E K W D Z S A M M D
U E U Y E N R X S I Y N P A R
E M L Y O R F D T T D G E R C
L O A D N E M E S I W E E Y A
H W O G Q L Y A X B H L H K D
B T F I I T E U R G B R S M J
G C O A Y T J O S E P H R H C
Y R W P I A F J W D A Q N Y I
N I F G V C D Q N Q E L T H M
J M X G M J R R B G H I W U I

ANGEL
BETHLEHEM
CAMELS
CATTLE
DONKEY
EAST
GIFTS
MANGER
MARY
MYRRH
SHEEP
SHEPHERDS
STAR
WISE MEN
GOLD
HOLY SPIRIT
EMMANUEL
INCENSE
JESUS
JOSEPH
MAGI

Joseph's Christmas Challenge

While Mary was giving birth
to the son of God,
Joseph was having his own problems.

Christmas Tree Quiz

1. Where did the Christmas tree originate?
   a) America b) Asia c) Europe d) Africa
2. In which century was the Christmas tree first used?
   a) 16th b) 17th c) 18th d) 19th
3. Where are most Christmas trees grown?
   a) Wild Forests b) Tropical Jungles c) Tree Farms d) Deserts
4. What were the first artificial Christmas trees made from?
   a) Goose Feathers b) Plastic c) Metal d) Chicken Feathers
5. What kind of origins does the Christmas tree have?
   a) Christian b) Buddhist c) Pagan d) Hindu

1c. 2a. 3c. 4a. 5c.

Please email articles to newsletter@saltashteamministry.org or pop them in to the Team Office. Deadline – 20 January.