

Saltash Area Newsletter

Dec 2022 / Jan 2023



St Michael Landrake



St Mary Botus Fleming



St Terninus St Erney



SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash



St Stephens Saltash

A holy place in Saltash, a holy place for Saltash, and a place to encounter the holiness of God in Jesus Christ our Lord. www.saltashteamministry.org

Diary Dates

Mondays until 19 Dec

6.30 for 7pm

St Stephen's Church

Alpha Course

Saturday 26 November

Open daily until

Sunday 11 December

SS Nicholas & Faith Church

Christmas Tree Festival

See p3 for opening times

Friday 2 December

7pm, St Stephen's Church

An evening with

Johnny Cowling

Friday 9 December

7.30pm, SSNF Church

Tamar Valley

Male Voice Choir

Thursday 15 December

1.30pm, St Stephen's Church

Christmas Concert with

Pelynt Male Voice Choir

Saturday 17 December

10am to 1pm

SS Nicholas & Faith Church

Coffee Morning plus Grand

Christmas Draw

3-5pm, St Stephen's Church

Messy Church

Christmas Party

Saturday 4 February

9.30am to 11.30am

St Stephen's Church

Food Fair & Table Top Sale



God bless us, every one

"Marley was dead, to begin with," says Dickens. "It's a good beginning," adds Rizzo the rat, "It's creepy and kind of... spooky!"

Yes, it's *A Christmas Carol*, one of the most filmed or televised books of all time. The result of which is, we all know the plot, but how well do we really know the story? (Indeed, even if one has read the book, it is easy to get confused: was it Fezziwig or Fozziwig? did Charles Dickens really write that bit where the Ghost of Christmas Past kicks and slaps Bill Murray? or the truly harrowing scene where Scrooge McDuck falls into the fires of hell?)



Did you know there is a scene in the original book where The Ghost of Christmas Present takes Scrooge to Cornwall (which Dickens himself had visited the previous year):

"And now, without a word of warning from the Ghost, they stood upon a bleak and desert moor, where monstrous masses of rude stone were cast about, as though it were the burial-place of giants; and water spread itself wheresoever it listed, or would have done so, but for the frost that held it prisoner; and nothing grew but moss and furze, and coarse rank grass. Down in the west the setting sun had left a streak of fiery red, which

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 11 December

Carol Service

6.30pm St Erney

Friday 16 December

Carol Service

7pm St Stephen

Sunday 18 December

Christingle

11.15am St Mary

Carol Service

6.30pm SS Nicholas & Faith

7pm St Michael

Christmas Eve

Crib Service

3pm St Stephen

4pm St Michael

Carol Service

7pm St Mary

Midnight Mass

11.30pm SS Nicholas & Faith

11.30pm St Stephen

Christmas Day

Christmas Holy Communion

8am St Erney

9.30am St Michael

10.30am St Stephen

11.15am St Mary

St Stephen's Day

Holy Communion

10am St Stephen



DECEMBER SERVICES

See page 1 for Christmas Services

Advent 27 November

St Stephen-by-Saltash
9.30am Holy Communion
St Michael, Landrake
9.30am Holy Communion
SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash
11.15am Holy Communion
6.30pm Darkness to Light
St Mary, Botus Fleming
11.15am Holy Communion

Sunday 4 December

St Stephen-by-Saltash
9.30am All Age Service
St Michael, Landrake
9.30am All Age Service
SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash
11.15am Holy Communion
St Mary, Botus Fleming
11.15am All Age Service
6.30pm Evensong
St Erney, Landrake
11.15am Matins

Tuesday 6 December

SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash
12pm Holy Communion

Sunday 11 December

St Stephen-by-Saltash
9.30am Holy Communion
St Michael, Landrake
9.30am Holy Communion
SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash
11am Holy Communion
St Mary, Botus Fleming
4.30pm Christingle

Tuesday 13 December

St Stephen-by-Saltash
2pm MU Advent Service

Sunday 18 December

St Stephen-by-Saltash
9.30am Holy Communion
St Michael, Landrake
9.30am Holy Communion
SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash
11.15am Holy Communion
St Mary, Botus Fleming
11.15am All Age Service
St Erney, Landrake
11.15am Holy Communion

Every Wednesday

St Stephen-by-Saltash
10am Holy Communion

glared upon the desolation for an instant, like a sullen eye, and frowning lower, lower, lower yet, was lost in the thick gloom of darkest night. ‘What place is this?’ asked Scrooge. ‘A place where Miners live, who labour in the bowels of the earth,’ returned the Spirit. ‘But they know me. See!’

“A light shone from the window of a hut, and swiftly they advanced towards it. Passing through the wall of mud and stone, they found a cheerful company assembled round a glowing fire. An old, old man and woman, with their children and their children’s children, and another generation beyond that, all decked out gaily in their holiday attire. The old man, in a voice that seldom rose above the howling of the wind upon the barren waste, was singing them a Christmas song – it had been a very old song when he was a boy – and from time to time they all joined in the chorus. So surely as they raised their voices, the old man got quite blithe and loud; and so surely as they stopped, his vigour sank again.”

The wind is howling even as I write, and the Rectory garden is full of moss and furze and coarse rank grass. It is easy to be cynical about ‘Dickensian’ Christmas: all home and hearth and roasting chestnuts, like a sentimental Christmas TV ad for things we now can’t afford. (This forgets, of course, that *A Christmas Carol* was primarily written to draw attention to the plight of London’s poor.)

But home and hearth are powerful things, and rather than seeing Dickens delivering us up to some trite, modern, commercial Xmas, we can instead see him channelling something instead very ancient; a spirit perhaps now best seen in some old Christmas carols.

And that’s why I love Dicken’s image of the miner’s family in *A Christmas Carol*, in their primordial surroundings, singing a Christmas song that had been a very old song when the old, old man was a boy. Once he had gathered tin from the timeless rocks with his own two arms; now he brings his family a different treasure, likewise of ancient origin, carried through the experience of a lifetime; something which will burn with a better heat than coal, something that can warm the very soul.

Such is Christmas; such is the gift of God in Jesus Christ: something old, even ancient; something solid, part of the landscape that seems to have always been there – but look! Take it out, pick it up in your own hands, and see how it burns – just when you need it – to give light and warmth (and hope and joy) even to you, even today.

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JANUARY SERVICES

Sunday 1 January

St Stephen-by-Saltash
9.30am All Age Service
St Michael, Landrake
9.30am All Age Service
SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash
11.15am Holy Communion
St Mary, Botus Fleming
11.15am All Age Service
6.30pm Evensong
St Erney, Landrake
11.15am Matins

Sunday 8 January

St Stephen-by-Saltash
9.30am Holy Communion
St Michael, Landrake
9.30am Holy Communion
SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash
11.15am Holy Communion
St Mary, Botus Fleming
11.15am Holy Communion

Sunday 15 January

St Stephen-by-Saltash
9.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evensong
St Michael, Landrake
9.30am Holy Communion
SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash
11.15am Holy Communion
St Mary, Botus Fleming
11.15am All Age Service
St Erney, Landrake
11.15am Holy Communion

Sunday 22 January

St Stephen-by-Saltash
9.30am Holy Communion
St Michael, Landrake
9.30am Holy Communion
SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash
11.15am Holy Communion
St Mary, Botus Fleming
11.15am Holy Communion

Sunday 29 January

St Stephen-by-Saltash
10.00am United Service

Every Wednesday

St Stephen-by-Saltash
10am Holy Communion



Christmas Tree Festival 2022

Saturday 26 November
to Sunday 11 December

FREE ENTRY – donations invited



Well over 70 trees will be on show including several new entries

Opening Times

Saturday 26 November: 10am to 6pm

Refreshments available until 4pm

Sunday 27 November: 2pm to 6pm

Monday to Friday: 2pm to 6pm

Saturday 3 December: 10am to 8pm*

Refreshments available until 4pm

then Mulled Wine and Shortbread from 6-8pm

Grace Notes Acapella will sing in the afternoon

Sunday 4 December: 2pm to 6pm

Burraton Boys will sing at 3pm

Monday to Friday: 2pm to 6pm

Saturday 10 December: 10am to 6pm

Refreshments available until 4pm

Sunday 11 December: 2pm to 6pm

Grand Christmas Draw

Trees will be taken down on Monday 12th, Wednesday 14th and Friday 16 December (2-4pm) and our Grand Christmas Draw will be drawn at noon at our Coffee Morning on Saturday 17 December.

*Depending on the town festivities, please watch the pew sheet for more information.

Recent Events

MOSSAF

In November we had our end of year meal at the Chaddlewood Inn where many of our members enjoyed a yummy two course meal together.

Whilst we were waiting for our food to arrive we raised our glasses in

remembrance of our friend and brother Gordon

Richards. Gordon was a huge promoter of our group and until recent times was enjoying the good times we had together. Gordon will be sorely missed by all of us.

MOSSAF now closes down for the winter months but will be back in 2023 where another exciting dairy is already building including a visit from Bishop Hugh. We wish all our members a very Happy Christmas. See you next year.



Record Breaking November Fair



Wow! With the current cost of living issues, we didn't expect much from St Stephen's annual November Fair. However the folk from our town didn't let us down and came out in great numbers to support us.



We were gobsmacked as figures came through and we discovered that we had done our best ever, beating our previous best total back in 2015, with an amazing amount of £2,562.79. Thank you so much to everyone who helped and supported this event.

Recent Events continued

START



Our October Meeting transformed into an excellent meal down at the Saltash Community Kitchen followed by a gathering of members back up at Wesley for another of our entertaining *Part of My Life Story*.

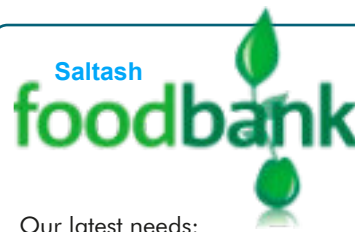
This time we learnt how Bob Austin joined the Merchant Navy to see the World. He certainly achieved this and the only time he asked for a new posting was to get off the Oil Tanker that ploughed the sea between two ports with few opportunities to explore other countries or cultures. The years went by and, meeting Jacky, he came ashore, got married and started a new career.

Our second speaker was Bill Ryan, who concentrated on his great passion of Rugby, first as a player and then as a coach. With help from a fellow enthusiast in Plymouth he was instrumental in starting the Saltash Rugby Club to engage the youth of the town. He outlined the history from renting land out at Carkeel and then at Moorland Lane. Eventually I believe they purchased this site and built the Club House using three old huts sold by the MOD. Bill showed us various items associated with the Club including photographs of his family carrying out site works.

At our November meeting, after lunch at Carkeel Nursery, we plan to repair to Wesley for a talk by Bruce Hunt on the *History of Saltash Hospital*.

This year members of START and the Probus Club are joining together for a Christmas lunch at the China Fleet Club.

In the New Year we will meet in January to formulate the programme for the year and we would welcome new members to our ranks so please speak to Len Maddock or John West.



Bank the Food

Please point the camera on your mobile phone at this QR code. Click the displayed link to download the 'Bank the Food' App. This will enable you to see which items Saltash Foodbank needs right now!

Our latest needs:

- Milk Powder
- Puddings
- Coffee
- Razors
- Deodorants
- Shaving Gel / Foam
- Orange Juice / Squash
- Tinned Meat
- Tinned Fruit
- Jam
- Christmas Treats



Make a difference this Christmas!

Please donate food at Waitrose, Lidl, Food Warehouse or the Co-op and/or donate money via the Saltash Foodbank website: saltash.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money

The Oxen

by Thomas Hardy

Christmas Eve, and twelve of the clock,
'Now they are all on their knees,'
An elder said as we sat in a flock
By the embers in hearthside ease.

We pictured the meek mild creatures where
They dwelt in their strawy pen,
Nor did it occur to one of us there
To doubt they were kneeling then.

So fair a fancy few would weave
In these years! Yet, I feel,
If someone said on Christmas Eve,
'Come; see the oxen kneel,

'In the lonely barton by yonder coomb
Our childhood used to know,'
I should go with him in the gloom,
Hoping it might be so.

Recent Events continued

Messy Church

On 19 November, fifty family members met to think about the coming season of Advent. We talked about preparing ourselves to celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ into our lives. Of course the children are very excited about Christmas! We made decorations for our tree to be entered into the Festival at St Nicholas and St Faith Church and we also made a different kind of Advent Calendar – where rings are removed each day until Christmas.

Each ring should remind us of a blessing from God. After a few teething problems we succeeded in producing balloon powered cars that were very popular. We thank John West for his hard work and the dads who helped us.

What have cars got to do with Advent? They will enable us to make our journey to the stable without having to learn to ride or control a donkey! Mary and Margaret helped the children to fashion an Advent Wreath to take home.



A wonderful town has been built on the display board with the road to the stable where it will soon be welcoming a new baby who will change the world.

After a delicious tea prepared by Sylvia and Carol it was time for worship. We sang a couple of special Advent songs to the enthusiastic accompaniment of the children with shakers. We considered the meaning of the candles in the Advent Ring and thanked the Lord for the hope, love, joy and peace that he places in our hearts at this time of year. We ended the worship with the Messy Grace read by one of the children.

Our Messy Church Christmas Party is on 17 December. If you have not signed the attendance sheet but would like to come, please ring the Church Office on 01752 844456 and leave your name and contact number.

Christmas Quiz

1. Which great Prophet is quoted with the words: "A virgin will conceive..."?
2. Of which country is the brother of St Peter patron Saint?
3. December 6th is the feast day of someone closely associated with Christmas. Who is it?
4. Who was the governor of Syria when Jesus was born?
5. What sign were the shepherds to look for?
6. Where do we hear the words: "With justice he will rule the world, he will judge the peoples with his truth"?
7. What town in Galilee did Joseph set out from?
8. What was a great throng of the heavenly host singing?

Answers on p8



Prayer for Advent

O Come, O come, Emmanuel. Come and renew our faith this Advent. Awaken our hearts and fill us, with such confidence in your presence, always and everywhere that we may live fully and gladly in your world, always facing towards your grace.

As we prepare our own hearts this Advent season, give us time for reflection, space for prayer and a hunger for more of you in our lives.

Amen



Recent Events continued

Mother's Union

At our November meeting, Mothers' Union members gathered to watch a demonstration of flower arranging – presented by our own Carol Jones.



By the end of the afternoon, there were twelve beautiful table arrangements to be taken home – made by twelve new experts in the art! We thank Carol for her time and patience.

We recently spent a day at Truro, joining other branches for a Members' Day. After morning service we discussed the future of the National Mothers' Union. Like all organisations we sometimes struggle to find volunteer officers. Both in Cornwall and here in Saltash, we are lucky to have enthusiastic committees. All Mothers' Union members are supporting a campaign against Gender Violence and Domestic Abuse and on 27 November we shall wear the colour purple to show that we stand together.

Our meeting in December will be our Advent Service on Tuesday 13th at 2pm in St Stephen's Church and we invite visitors to join in the service and share a cuppa.

Anyone – male or female – who has been baptised is welcome to join our membership to help us promote family life within the community.

We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 2pm.

St Michael's and St Erney Christmas Bazaar

Hot off the press is the splendid news that the Christmas Bazaar for the combined Parish was a great success. Father Christmas was there (to the delight of many of our children), the attending stalls have already re-booked their slots for next year, and the new Chestnut Brazier and Pulled Pork Bap offerings were greatly appreciated.

Many thanks to our expanded team of helpers, as well as all who came along, as a wonderful profit of £580 has been raised for the PCC.

Please see page 1 for details of the Christmas services offered at both churches – carols at both and a crib service in Landrake on Christmas Eve.

For January, we are going to hunker down and simply enjoy meeting at the regular services. All are welcome and we look forward to seeing you there.

Peninsula Holiday West Midlands

19-23 June 2023



Are you interested in joining our group at the Best Western Strathallan Hotel, Birmingham?

£420: with £100 single supplement.

There are 12 singles available and 18 twins.

If so, please contact Fr Brian ASAP:

☎ 07710231219 sherioc42@yahoo.co.uk

Carol Singing in Botus Fleming



**19 & 23
December
starting at
6.30pm**

Dear friends,

I want to convey my sincere thanks and appreciation to all who have sent cards, letters and messages of sympathy to me in recent weeks following the death of my mother,



Elsie Lobb

Elsie Lobb. Thank you also to all those who attended her funeral service

at St Germans Priory Church on 11 November. The huge attendance in church was an overwhelming confirmation of the number of people mum had been associated with both locally and wider afield in her long life.

Your prayerful support has been so valued.

Thank you and love and blessings one and all,
Revd Josephine Lobb

Samaritan's Purse



Many thanks to everyone who supported this year's Samaritan's Purse Appeal. Once again, I was overwhelmed by the response, especially in the current situation.

Boxes were packed, and are now on their way. Other boxes were done online and generous donations of money were received.

I will pass on details of numbers collected in Saltash and their destination when known.

Margaret Dell

WANTED

St Stephen's Church are looking for someone who can do Calligraphy to keep the Church Memory book updated. It will only be as and when required. If you are able to help, or know of anyone who can, then please contact the Church office on 01752 844456, leave a message if the office is not open and someone will get back to you, or send an email: office@saltashteamministry.org.



ON THE WAY

What's Been Happening?

You may have been wondering what has been happening with regard to the Deanery Plan that was agreed by the Synod, back in June. The answer is quite a bit. The Archdeacon began conversations with our incumbent clergy, as a precursor to starting the formal process to realign and combine benefices into three groups – geographically North, Central and South. This culminated in a joint meeting of all the PCCs in the Deanery when she explained the formal process that now had to be followed. She also stressed that this is nothing to do with closing churches, as some people have feared. The next step is for each PCC to put forward two representatives to work with the others in their group to formulate a “Profile” – much in the way we had to do when recruiting for our recent vacancy.

Meanwhile a Deanery Implementation Team (DIT) has been appointed by the Synod to start working on other aspects of the Plan. This group (which includes myself) is currently meeting fortnightly. So people can follow progress, notes from the meetings will be on the Deanery website: <https://sites.google.com/view/east-wivelshire-deanery/on-the-way>

A first “sub-group” meeting has been held for Parish Treasurers. The main topic was the need for and likelihood of the Deanery being able to meet its Ministry and Mission Fund (MMF) target for 2022, as this underpins future sustainability and the release of Lowest Income Communities Funding, which is restricted to mission and other support in low income communities. MMF is paid by the parishes to the diocese as a contribution towards the cost of ministry – clergy stipends, pension and housing and various costs associated with Readers/Licensed Lay Ministers and PTO Clergy. We have a moral duty to pay this – it is not an “optional extra” item of expenditure!

Quite apart from underlying financial issues, and the need for us all to be generous in our giving, there are undeniably going to be challenges as we all look at new ways of working together and supporting each other in sharing the good news of our faith within our communities. Please continue to pray for the successful implementation of the Plan, and in particular for our clergy, for whom this is an unsettling time, and for our PCCs, the DIT and its sub-groups. If you would like to do this with others, there is an online Diocesan Prayer Group on Thursday mornings at 8.30 (Zoom Meeting ID 868 9605 6715 – P/W 933071) and a Deanery Prayer Group has recently started at 9am on Monday mornings (Meeting ID 252 179 2902 - P/W w0uL6Z).

For an overview of how *On the Way* is developing across the diocese, you may want to look at: <https://trurodiocese.org.uk/resources/ministry/next-steps-on-the-way/>. There is a link to the Diocesan Prayer Group at the bottom of the page. Also, do feel free to contact me at any point if you would like more information. This is a project not just for the Deanery Synod, or the DIT, or our PCCs, or our clergy, but one for all of us!

Richard Margetts 📞 01752 847044. warden1@saltashparishchurch.org.uk

What's On

Stay Curious... Try Alpha

St Stephen's Church
Mondays, 6.30 for 7pm
until 19 December



Alpha is a series that explores the basics of the Christian faith in a welcoming, open and friendly environment.

It's free and there's no pressure or follow-up. Each session starts with a meal then you'll be hosted in a group where you'll hear different topics on Christianity, and have time to chat through any thoughts.

Contact the vicar for more details.
vicar@saltashteamministry.org

Christmas Tree Festival

SSNF Church

Saturday 26 November
to Sunday 11 December



See page 3 for details.

Answers to Quiz on p 5:

1. Isaiah
2. Scotland
3. St Nicholas
4. Quirinus
5. A baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.
6. Psalm 95
7. Nazareth
8. "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to those who enjoy God's favour"

An Evening with Johnny Cowling

St Stephen's Church
Friday 2 December, 7pm



Johnny Cowling, a talented Cornish comedian and Pirate FM radio presenter, will sing a Gospel concert.

A pasty supper is included in price.

Tickets £10 (+50p booking fee):
www.trybooking.co.uk/BUQZ or
contact Helen: ☎ 01752 844456
office@saltashteamministry.org

Tamar Valley Male Voice Choir

SSNF Church

Friday 9 December, 7.30pm



Tamar Valley Male Voice Choir is coming to sing among the trees. Tickets from members of the social committee or Piglets in Fore Street.

Christmas Concert Pelynt Male Voice Choir

St Stephen's Church
Thurs 15 December, 1.30pm



A great afternoon of Christmas Carols and songs is in store so come along and get into the festive spirit and enjoy *White Christmas*, *In the bleak mid-winter*, *Twelve days of Christmas* and many many more.

Tickets at £5, on the door, from Piglets in Fore Street, or ring Roger on ☎ 01752 843766 or email ststephenschurchsaltash@hotmail.co.uk

Coffee Morning

SSNF Church Rooms

Sat 17 Dec, 10am to Noon



Come and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea. Bring your Christmas Grand Draw tickets as the winners will be drawn at noon.

Food Market and Table Top Sale

St Stephen's first event of 2023 is on Saturday 4 February from 9.30am to 11.30am. There is an exciting list of Food Traders already lined up.

Bacon Rolls and Toasted Tea Cakes will be on sale. Entry is free.

Make a note in your 2023 diary.

Please email articles for the next issue to: newsletter@saltashteamministry.org by 20 January.