

Saltash Area Newsletter

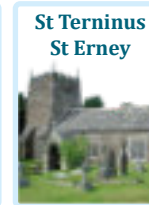
October 2022



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

A Monster Unto Many

I am become as it were a monster unto many : but my sure trust is in thee. – Psalm 71

“Do you like scary movies?” asked a masked villain in a once-well-known ‘90s horror film. “Er, yes,” would be my own answer, if I was being honest. Not all of them of course: 90% are terrible – though as someone once said, 90% of everything is terrible.

I also very much like autumn: as a reflective, melancholy sort of person who gets sunburnt very easily, autumn is an improvement over summer. Adding these two things together I would even go as far to say that (whisper) I like Halloween.

How horribly awkward it is to admit this, though! Among the clergy it

would be seen as somewhere between gauche and utterly unchristian. I suspect if I spent this column writing about Lucio Fulci’s *Zombie Flesh Eaters* (aka *Zombi*, aka *Zombie Zombie Zombie*) someone would write to the Archdeacon to complain.

But was it always thus? The Rev’d Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924), author of *Onward Christian Soldiers* and vicar just over the border, also wrote books on ghosts and on werewolves. Perhaps

England’s greatest ghost story-writer, M.R. James, was by day a Cambridge don who did important work on the New Testament. His ghost stories are markedly ‘churchy’: in one, a family are cursed after introducing new material into the *Book of Common Prayer*.



Where then did the idea come from that the horrible and the clerical don’t mix? ‘America’, I suspect, is the answer: the country that introduced the modern hyper-commercialised Halloween – pumpkin deelyboppers in Waitrose and an animatronic black cat in your neighbour’s garden –

also led the way in hating Halloween and all it stands for. Roger Clarke, in *A Natural History of Ghosts*, suggests that 17th century Puritans reinterpreted ghosts etc. in a more thoroughgoing negative way: no longer were they ambiguous and mysterious; now they were clearly demons from hell. And they took this with them to America.

(My pet theory is that this also explains the curious American reaction to Harry Potter – a book series written by a

Coming Up

Sunday 2 October

SSNF Church Rooms
Harvest Lunch

Monday 3 October

6.30pm, St Stephen’s Church
Harvest Supper

Saturday 8 October

10am-1pm, St Erney Church
Working Party

Monday 10 October

7pm MOSSAF
Adventure Golf at the Barcode

Tuesday 11 October

2pm, St Stephen’s Church
Mothers’ Union

Saturday 15 October

3-5pm, St Stephen’s Church
Messy Church

Saturday 15 October

8pm, The Rising Sun,
Botus Fleming
Harvest Auction

Friday 21 October

12.30pm S.T.A.R.T.
Bruce Hunt (Heritage)

Mondays

starting 10 October

6.30 for 7pm
St Stephen’s Church
Alpha Course – see p6



OCTOBER SERVICES

Sunday 2 October

St Stephen-by-Saltash

9.30am All Age Harvest Festival

St Michael, Landrake

9.30am Harvest Festival

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash

11.15am Harvest Holy Communion

St Mary, Botus Fleming

11.15am All Age Service

6.30 pm Sung Evensong

St Erney, Landrake

11.15am Matins

Sunday 9 October

St Stephen-by-Saltash

9.30am Holy Communion

St Michael, Landrake

9.30am Holy Communion

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash

11.15am Holy Communion

St Mary, Botus Fleming

11.15am Harvest Festival

Thursday 13 October

St Mary, Botus Fleming

6.30pm Evensong

Sunday 16 October

St Stephen-by-Saltash

9.30am Holy Communion

6.30 pm Evensong

St Michael, Landrake

9.30am Holy Communion

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash

11.15am Holy Communion

St Mary, Botus Fleming

11.15am All Age Service

St Erney, Landrake

11.15am Harvest Festival

Sunday 23 October

St Stephen-by-Saltash

9.30am Holy Communion

St Michael, Landrake

9.30am Holy Communion

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash

11.15am Holy Communion

St Mary, Botus Fleming

11.15am Holy Communion

Sunday 30 October

St Erney, Landrake

10am United Service

Every Wednesday

St Stephen-by-Saltash

10am Holy Communion

nice Church of Scotland lady that ends on a distinctly Christian note. To a British reader, witches and wizards and so on live in a big box labelled 'folklore'; to a certain sort of American reader, one feels, they are mostly known from that verse in Leviticus: "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live".)

Years ago I wrote a (probably quite bad) defence of Halloween for a Christian blog in response to an 'anti-' article by the evangelist J. John. I leaned heavily on G.K. Chesterton: "*Fairy tales do not give the child his first idea of bogey. What fairy tales give the child is his first clear idea of the possible defeat of bogey. The baby has known the dragon intimately ever since he had an imagination. What the fairy tale provides for him is a St George to kill the dragon.*"

But now I wonder – is that really the case today? Or does the man in the street (to his own chagrin) lack an imagination, and so both dragon and St George? Then the benefit of horror to the modern world would be that, by sending in the dragon, it also at least implies the existence of St George. The man facing zombies gets a clear indication that there is more to life than government pamphlets and 'smart thinking' books can advise on. The woman tussling with cultists and witches has evidence of an evil that can't just be solved by online petitions and Acts of Parliament. A space is created in the imagination for a 'something more': something more than the closed modern world of common sense, 'scientific explanations' and buying things to make us feel better.

To introduce someone to the Christian faith is, in part, to shake them out of a modern complacency (cf Romans 1): things are worse, but also better, than you had ever thought. Indeed, YOU are worse (being a sinner) but also better (beloved by God) than you had ever suspected! Now I am not saying that horror films are necessarily doing the Lord's work – but neither do I think it is useful or fair to claim the opposite. As someone once said in a film of a different genre, "The greatest trick the devil ever played was convincing the world that he did not exist."

Happy Halloween.

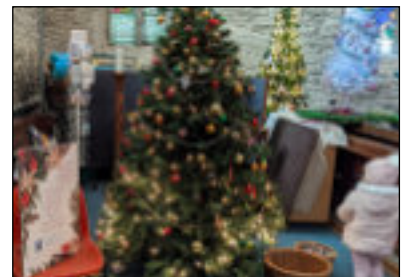
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Sunday 30 October



Ian is trying to arrange extra parking at St Erney for the united service, but please car share if you can.

Christmas Tree Festival



The closing date for entering a tree in the festival is 31 October

October Quiz



1. How old was King Charles when he was invested as the Prince of Wales?
2. What is King Charles' full name?
3. Which King was King Charles maternal grandfather?
4. Which Cambridge University College did King Charles attend?
5. When the King left Gordonstoun school in 1967, he had two A-levels in history and which other subject?
6. What is the name of the children's book written by the King, which he read on BBC's Jackanory programme?
7. When did King Charles marry Camilla Parker Bowles?
8. Which soap opera did the King appear in as himself for the show's 40th anniversary in 2000?
9. Which musical instrument did King Charles enjoy playing as a child?
10. What East Lancashire Football Team does King Charles support?

Answers on p6



If there is somebody who could spare an hour once a month on a Saturday to operate the computer/TV for our Messy Church Worship, please will you contact Sandra McKee at St Stephens.

Recent Events

Mother's Union

In September, Mothers' Union members met in St Stephens Church to listen to Len Maddock talking about his many years of serving the Scouting organisation. Len joined the scouts in the fifties, long before the days of Health and Safety Committees. At that time boys would meet at

Devonport Station and take the train to Dartmoor for the day or overnight camping. Such a trip these days would involve many forms to be filled in, kit to be double-checked and permission granted!

Len had many stories to relate about Scout camps and oversea trips and we thoroughly enjoyed his company. We'd like to thank to him for coming to talk to us and for his many years of serving our community.

On Tuesday 11 October, the Mothers' Union will be visited by Mrs Sue Hooper who will talk about Mother Theresa.



Messy Church



In September, Messy Church celebrated God's Bounteous Gifts to His people. Fifty children, parents and grandparents enjoyed crafts – showing fish in the sea, fruit from the trees, and making a design with bread and vegetables. They also modelled a tractor, the farmers' most used tool.

In our worship we thanked God for providing our food and teaching is how to look after the earth. We remembered those who are less fortunate than us, such as those suffering drought and crop failure. We also remembered the work of the foodbanks.

Our next meeting is on Saturday 15 October.

Recent Events continued

MOSSAF

We were delighted to welcome Bishop Graham James to our men's group for our September MOSSAF meeting.

Graham was born in Torrington. His father, who Graham described as not much of a catch really, was a South Crofty tin miner from Pool and his mother was from Illogan Highway. They attended the Methodist Chapel and his father wanted to become a Methodist preacher, but in the 1950s the age limit was 25 so he went into tin mining instead.



Bishop Graham then went on to tell us how a Cornish chapel boy ended up as the Bishop of Norwich.

He went to Theological college in 1969, despite his history teacher telling him he was wasting his time and would be better off as a history lecturer. He was ordained in 1975 and served for nine years in two council estate parishes, first in Peterborough and then in Welwyn Garden City. When a vacancy came up in Luton at another council estate parish, he turned it down as he wanted to try something different. When he saw an advertisement in the *Church Times* for a position on the Advisory Council for the Church Ministry, Graham successfully applied for the role.

Four years later, he became the Archbishop's Chaplain at Lambeth Palace where, during his six years there, he visited about 67 countries with the Archbishop. In 1993 he was consecrated Bishop of St Germans and became Bishop of Norwich in 1997. He served in Norwich for twenty years before retiring back to Cornwall with his wife Julie.

As Sandringham is in the diocese of Norwich, Bishop Graham spent time in the company of the Royal family and was impressed by the Queen's memory and admired her deep Christian Faith.

A fantastic evening was had by all from our last guest speaker this year. Our October meeting sees our ever-growing group going for a game of Adventure Golf.

August Lion's Club Quiz



The St Stephen's Church Men's team gathered once again at the Ashtorre Centre to support Saltash Lion's Club quiz late in August. The quiz, which is getting more and more difficult each month, was in aid of Saltash Regatta. We were extremely surprised to be announced as winners, yet again, but more importantly, helped to raise funds for Saltash's traditional and annual event. This time we won a pouch of Quality Street which we donated to the Mothers' Union cream tea raffle.

Autumn

by John Clare

**The thistledown's flying, though the winds are all still,
On the green grass now lying, now mounting the hill,
The spring from the fountain now boils like a pot;
Through stones past the counting it bubbles red-hot.**

**The ground parched and cracked is like overbaked bread,
The greensward all wracked is, bents dried up and dead.
The fallow fields glitter like water indeed,
And gossamers twitter, flung from weed unto weed.**

**Hill-tops like hot iron glitter bright in the sun,
And the rivers we're eying burn to gold as they run;
Burning hot is the ground, liquid gold is the air;
Whoever looks round sees Eternity there.**

HM Queen Elizabeth II

It has been, I think, an open secret that plans for the events following the Queen's death have been around for some time, code-named 'London Bridge'. It was mid-afternoon on Thursday when a clergy friend wrote asking if I had a copy. My heart sank. The Queen's ill health was on the news – but so it had been before. Now, however, the family were racing back to be at her bedside.

We were slow getting back from Plymouth in the rain. By the time we got home the news had changed: Queen Elizabeth II had died.

I confess I hadn't yet got round to going through 'London Bridge' with my churchwardens; after some slight panicking, I rang one of my wardens at SS Nicholas and Faith (central, civic, already used to opening up for visitors), who kindly agreed to go down there straightaway. I made some simple prayer cards – there were as yet no 'official' C of E prayers available, so I adapted the ones for the Duke of Edinburgh – and went down myself.



In the end we only had two visitors – but the post announcing the church opening on the Saltash Facebook group had 131 people interacting, so it seems many more were with us in spirit.

The following morning I decided we would hold a 'thanksgiving service' for HM the Queen that evening. Publicising a service at just 12 hours' notice was a challenge – I don't know if anyone spotted our posters in local shops!



But before then: early on Friday morning, the council had asked if the bell at St Nick's could toll 96 times at noon. Being unable to get bellringers at such short notice, again one of my wardens stepped in. This turned out to be more of a civic event than I expected, with a crowd gathered in the memorial gardens and mayor, clerk and council lined up ceremonially outside. (Afterwards I may have slightly crashed a meeting in the Guildhall – still in my wellies and wax jacket from Landrake – to discuss plans for the civic service (see below)). ▶

Prayer for October

Gracious God, in October as we enjoy the last fruits of the earth's generosity this year, may we in turn be generous in our care for the earth and make it our concern that every species of bird, animal, tree and plant survives and flourishes in its own way.

May we be among those committed to the environment, and show our determination not to harm the world as we journey through it.

Amen.



An Evening with Johnny Cowling

7pm, Friday 2 December
at St Stephen's Church



Johnny Cowling, a talented Cornish comedian and Pirate FM radio presenter, will sing a Gospel concert to raise funds for St Stephen's Church.

- Raffle
- Light refreshments available
- Pasty supper included in price

Tickets £10 (+50p booking fee):

<https://www.trybooking.co.uk/BUQZ>

Or contact Helen: ☎ 01752 844456

office@saltashteamministry.org

Stay Curious... Try Alpha



Mondays
6.30pm for 7pm,
beginning 10 October
St Stephen's Church

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 you'll be hosted in a group where you'll hear different topics on Christianity, and have time to chat through any thoughts. You can say anything you like or nothing at all.

No matter your background or beliefs, you're invited.

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

Answers to Quiz on page 3:

1. 20 2. Charles Philip Arthur George 3. George VI 4. Trinity College 5. French 6. The old man of Lochnagar 7. 2005 8. Coronation Street 9. Cello 10. Burnley

HM Queen Elizabeth II continued

The Friday evening service was an unexpected success. I had asked Ruth to film* it because I wasn't sure anyone would show up, so it was quite a surprise to step out of the sacristy at 7pm to find about 50 people there. The highlight of the service was Fr Brian preaching about the Queen and her Christian faith (see p7). It felt important to celebrate her, not just as a beloved national figure, but a sister in Christ now gone to glory, trusting in his promises.

The following Sunday, some of our team used the special set of readings and prayers provided for the period of mourning. At Landrake, however, where I was, we had a baptism in the service – so we had reason to celebrate as well! As we welcomed Henry as the newest member of the 'church militant here on earth', one thought of Her Majesty now among the 'church triumphant' in heaven.

The main event however was the big civic service on the evening of Sunday 18 September. This was organised by the council and the Rev'd Tim Parkman, the Mayor's Chaplain, based on the C of E commemorative liturgy. St Nick's was a busy, buzzing place that evening: among all the civic dignitaries, flag-bearers, and mace-bearers, it was great to have servers from both St Stephen's and St Nick's present, as well as St Nick's choir. I was pleased to have the chance for the first time to meet Fr Gilmour, our local Roman Catholic priest, as well as Canon Maynard, my august predecessor. Tim preached powerfully as always, and I wore a big black-and-gold Victorian cope. It was the largest civic service I have taken part in, to date, and it was a great privilege to be there.



As I write this it is evening on Monday 19th, and having watched on TV both the funeral and the committal, I also said a prayer for the Royal Family as they gathered for that last, private liturgy of laying Elizabeth to rest alongside Prince Philip, Princess Margaret and others.

The strange thing about Queen Elizabeth, it now strikes me, was that she always seemed like a figure from the history books, but somehow still living among us. With her death, it seems the long 20th century has now closed. Rest in peace, Ma'am.

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*you can watch the Friday evening service here:

<https://www.saltashteamministry.org/special-service-to-give-thanks.html>

Remembering Queen Elizabeth II

The talk given by Father Brian at the Friday evening Service

'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.'

The Queen had a sense of humour – during January and February various Bishops are invited to preach at Sandringham Parish Church. Bishop Graham James, formerly of St Germans, became Bishop of Norwich in which Diocese stands Sandringham. One day when with the Queen he enquired after a Bishop who had preached the previous Sunday, The Queen replied, 'He preached a very good sermon and then he preached another one.' I promise not to do so tonight.

Our world seems to have dimmed a little today. Heaviness pulls at our hearts. Our Queen has passed away, leaving a painful void throughout the nation. No one can deny her grace, her wisdom, her humour or her faith in the King of Kings.

As we mourn, we remember the Lord is still here, present in our sadness to comfort and to guide. So we turn in hope to his word, where we are reminded: **The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they**

are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Many Monarchs have been given an addition to their names to emphasise their contribution to public life or explain their characteristics (Alfred the great, Charles the Bold, Elizabeth the

I am sure that each of you will have a particular memory of her late Majesty: Perhaps you have met her, or attended a function when she was present, or remember a television appearance? I shall remember her not for her various Christmas Messages, but on Christmas

morning – entering and leaving Sandringham Parish Church. To worship the Christ Child whose servant she was. How good it is to think that our late Queen is now in Jesus' presence,



Virgin Queen and we could name many others). Our late Queen, for me, will always be **Elizabeth the Steadfast** for she embodied in her life a loyalty and dedication that was immovable; one who was unalterable; utterly dependable.

Such dedication and dependability was founded in her when she took the Coronation Oaths: taken not lightly but with an earnest determination to keep them. They were oaths made in the presence of her living Lord and in the presence of her people.

welcomed and precious. Even through tears, let us give thanks for the life of a faithful servant and the legacy of blessings and goodness that will linger on for many years.

This our late Queen's Christmas Message from 1957 – found on the back page of *The Times*:

'I cannot lead you into battle. I do not give you laws or administer justice but I can do something else: I can give my heart and my devotion to these old islands, and to all the peoples of our Brotherhood of nations.'

Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord and may light perpetual shine upon her. Amen

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