

Saltash Area Newsletter

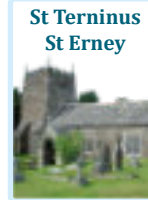
April 2023



St Michael Landrake



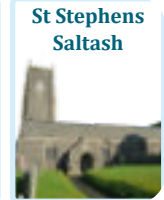
St Mary Botus Fleming



St Terminus 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

'Tis Mystery All

I have never been very good at guessing 'whodunnit'. Kayleigh is – and so I always demand she keep her theories to herself – no spoilers please! – or at the very least put them in an email so later she can prove that she was right.

But, aside from one particularly simple episode of Scooby Doo, I have never managed to solve a mystery myself. This may be a problem, since clergymen are so often called upon to investigate crimes (Father Brown, Grantchester, Cadfael). And we do spend our time immersed in the tantalisingly-named 'holy mysteries'.

But obviously, 'mystery' in this sense is entirely different from 'murder mystery'... or is it? Is there maybe more of a link between the Bible and Agatha Christie

than just the fact that David Suchet reads both the audiobooks?

The great Argentine writer Jorge Luis Borges suggested there were two kinds of mystery story. The first kind, which he

traced back to Edgar Allen Poe's *Murders in the Rue Morgue*, is essentially a bit of a logic puzzle. The second kind, descended from Wilkie Collins, is more character-based. And I would throw in a third, which I associate with Dame Agatha: the story where the solution turns the whole book inside-out, so that everything appears

inverted, or in a different light.

This feels strangely similar to different aspects, or ways into faith. One person might take the 'logical' route, like C.S. Lewis' famous argument: Jesus can't have



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER DAY SERVICES

Holy Wednesday, 5 April

10.00am Holy Communion, St Stephen's

Maundy Thursday, 6 April

7.30pm Holy Communion, St Nicholas & St Faith

7.30pm Holy Communion, St Mary's

Good Friday, 7 April

10.00am Tenebrae Service, St Michael's

10.00am Walk of Witness, SCT

3.00pm Good Friday Liturgy, St Stephen's

Holy Saturday, 8 April

7.30pm Easter Vigil Eucharist, St Nicholas & St Faith

Easter Sunday, 9 April

6.00am Sunrise Service, Celtic Cross (SCT)

9.30am Holy Communion, St Michael's

9.30am Holy Communion, St Stephen's

11.00am Holy Communion, SS Nicholas & Faith

11.15am Holy Communion, St Mary's

11.15am Holy Communion, St Erney (tbc)

Coming Up

Mondays (except 10 April)

7.30pm St Stephen's Church Bible Society Bible Course

Saturday 1 April

4pm, St Stephen's Church South West Chamber Choir

Saturday 8 April

From 10am, Hatt House Easter Egg Hunt

Monday 10 April

7pm, St Stephen's Church MOSSAF – Guest: Rev'd Lynn Parker (Former Priest in Charge of St Germans' Benefice now retired)

Tuesday 11 April

2pm, St Stephen's Church Mother's Union AGM

Saturday 15 April

SSNF Church Rooms Beetle Drive (time tbc)

Saturday 15 April

3pm to 5pm St Stephen's Church Messy Church

Tuesday 18 April

10am to Noon St Stephen's Church Children's Society Box Opening

Friday 21 April

12.30pm S.T.A.R.T. Lunch at Who'd Have Thought It (St Dominic) & Cothele House

Sunday 23 April

5pm, St Stephen's Church St George's Day Meal

Saturday 29 April

7.15pm, St Michael's Church Annual Birthday Concert

APRIL SERVICES

Palm Sunday 2 April

St Stephen-by-Saltash

9.30am Family Service

St Michael, Landrake

9.30am Family Service

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash

11.15am Holy Communion

St Mary, Botus Fleming

11.15am Family Service

6.30pm Sung Evensong

For services in Holy Week
and on Easter Day
see page 1

Sunday 16 April

St Stephen-by-Saltash

9.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evensong

St Michael, Landrake

9.30am Holy Communion

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash

11.15am Holy Communion

St Mary, Botus Fleming

11.15am Family Service

Sunday 23 April

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

St Erney, Landrake

11.15am Holy Communion

Sunday 30 April

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash

10am United Service

Every Tuesday

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash

4pm Evening Prayer

Every Wednesday

St Stephen-by-Saltash

10am Morning Service



been just a good moral teacher, but had to be either a madman, a monster, or the Messiah indeed.

“A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic ... or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronising nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

Another person might instead be drawn on by the remarkable character of a Christian they know – their holiness, their hopefulness, their quality of love – and through them be directed on to the character of Christ: the elusive, unforgettable, terrifying yet comforting personality revealed by the gospels.

And, lastly, what more astounding, turning-the-world-upside-down reveal is there, than the Resurrection of Jesus: the abandoned, rejected, shamefully executed man being revealed by the very power of God himself to be God’s man indeed.

“He was in the world ... yet the world did not know him,” wrote St John the Evangelist. Like a character in a mystery novel, Jesus was among the people all the time, but so many didn’t recognise who he was: his importance; that he is the central character; the very man they were looking for.

But, of course, you might think, the chap they’re all looking for in a mystery novel tends to be a murderer. And the characters want to find him, not just because they like solving mysteries, but because their very lives are in danger until they do. It is a matter of life and death.

But then maybe our mystery – the mystery of the Word made flesh who dwelt among us – is not entirely unlike this either. We too are surrounded by danger and death. Our very lives are at stake, in the deepest sense. We have met characters, seen evidence; even David Suchet is here to explain what it all means. *In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed...* (Ephesians 3)

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REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY
“O, JESUS, HEREBY BEQUEATH MY CARPENTRY STUFF TO ZED, MY GOOD TUNIC TO ROB, AND I’LL BE BACK TO PICK UP THE REST. TO EVERYONE IN THE UNIVERSE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE ... I LEAVE LIFE.”



St George's Day Quiz



1. What colour is the cross on the flag of St George?
2. St George is also patron of the Scout movement, who founded this organisation?
3. Which English royal residence houses St George's Chapel?
4. What animal was George said to have slain?
5. Which medal awarded for civilian bravery has an inscription displaying George slaying the dragon?
6. Which English playwright was born on St George's Day and died on it 52 years later?
7. In 1992 on St George's Day McDonald's opened up their first fast-food restaurant in which country?
8. St Georges is the capital of which Caribbean island, known as 'The Spice Island'?
9. In which country did George die?
10. Why was 23 April chosen as St George's Day?

Answers on p6

Recent Events

Mother's Union

At our March meeting, we welcomed Leslie Stevens to talk about the St John Ambulance Brigade. From its beginnings as a hospital in Jerusalem, the organisation spread throughout Europe. We all recognise the work that is done by these volunteers. Many people learn their first aid from the brigade. Many join as Badgers and work their way through cadets to the adult ranks. Leslie joined as an adult and retired as the Officer in Charge of the Saltash Division. She attended a ceremony in London to be presented with the Officer Sister Award for her service. She was also awarded the Citizen of the Year Award in Saltash for her service to the community.

During the tea break we looked at many photos that Leslie had collected and recognised lots of faces from past and present. We thank Leslie for her interesting talk.

We will meet again at 2pm on 11 April for our AGM.



Messy Church



We had a very busy Messy Church in March, with 25 children plus their parents attending. They took part in various activities, including: junk modelling, making cardboard Easter eggs, Mother and baby cutouts to go on the board and making small gifts for their mothers. This was followed by a buffet tea and then our worship, which included the story of Ruth, songs of praise and prayers of thanks for all mother figures.

My thanks go to all those who helped with the crafts and the tea and Darren for the music and also to the clearing up team afterwards. If you are willing to join our team, please contact Sandra McKee at St Stephen's Church.

We hold Messy Church just once a month, on the third Saturday afternoon. It is our opportunity to meet local families and spread the word of Christ.



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

Our latest needs:

- UHT Milk
- Toilet Rolls
- Tinned Meat
- Sugar
- Puddings
- Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned Fish
- Toiletries
- Decaf Tea & Coffee
- Jam

Recent Events continued

MOSSAF



We held our first get together for 2023 at the Ploughboy Inn where we enjoyed social togetherness over a drink or two. We also welcomed new member, Norman, to our group.

Our next meeting will take place in the social area of St Stephen's Church on Monday 10 April at 7pm when Rev'd Lynn Parker (former Priest in Charge of the St German's benefice) will be our guest speaker.

New members always welcome. For more information on our group please speak to Steve Hookway.

Quiz Night



Eleven teams tightly squeezed into Ashtorre late in February for a fundraising quiz kindly organised by Mark and Sonia Fox of Saltash Lions.

The quiz was fun but challenging including rounds on Animals, Colours, Adverts and a Burt Bacharach themed Music Round. Winners on the night were 'The Boys are Back in Town' which included Steve Hookway in the team. Our Mothers' Union came in a close joint second.

Thank you to all who supported this fundraiser, it was superb to see so many in attendance. £190 was raised for Church Funds.

Saltash Churches Together



Covenant Service

We started 2023 with our traditional Covenant Service at Wesley Church on 29 January. This was a lovely service and was well attended with representatives from the principle churches in our town.

World Day of Prayer

Our next gathering was on 3 March at Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church to take part in this year's 'World Day of Prayer Service'. The ladies, from various local churches, had gone to great lengths to decorate the church with material and flowers in the colours of Taiwan – this being the theme for this year.

We formed part of a huge wave of prayer which circled the earth for at least 38 hours. It began at dawn in Western Samoa and Tonga in the Pacific Ocean and ended at dusk in American Samoa.

Each year the service is written by the Christian women of a different country and this time it fell to Taiwan. Our ecumenical service was led by several ladies giving us much food for thought and a delight. At the close of the service we all enjoyed tea and cake; one special offering being made to a Taiwanese recipe with bananas.

As the older people in Taiwan traditionally greet one another, "Have you eaten yet? Are you full?" a characteristic of their friendly hospitality; so we were treated by our hosts that day.

Palestine

Looking ahead the theme for 2024 is Palestine. Which church will step forward to be host and co-ordinate the event in 2024?

Easter

Coming up are the 'Walk of Witness' on Good Friday (from Wesley down Fore Street to St Nicholas and St Faith and the Baptist Churches) and also the dawn gathering at the Celtic Cross on Easter morning.

Easter Dawn

He blesses every love which weeps and grieves
And now he blesses hers who stood and wept
And would not be consoled, or leave her love's
Last touching place, but watched as low light crept
Up from the east. A sound behind her stirs
A scatter of bright birdsong through the air.
She turns, but cannot focus through her tears,
Or recognise the Gardener standing there.
She hardly hears his gentle question 'Why,
Why are you weeping?', or sees the play of light
That brightens as she chokes out her reply
'They took my love away, my day is night'
And then she hears her name, she hears Love say
The Word that turns her night, and ours, to Day.

By Malcolm Guite

Recent Events continued

St Mary's, Botus Fleming

We celebrated Richard's first 12 months as our priest-in-charge with an anniversary card at the service on 26 February.

Landrake with St Erney Work Parties

St Michael's work party saw the hedge up Church Street reduced in height and tidied up on both sides. Our neighbours rewarded this effort with extra cups of tea and coffee, and by moving their cars out of the way!

Then at St Erney, an early spring clean was done in church, on an otherwise dull day. Many thanks to all who joined us.

Work parties (all most welcome, 10am-Noon, delicious and free home-made cake at the break) have been moved to the first Saturday of each month. April sees us back at St Michael's.

A churchyard vegetable plot is taking shape. This is to enable fresh produce to be added to our food parcels and used at the community lunches. Help with this, or mowing the churchyards, is always welcomed. As ever, the Churchwardens or any member of the PCC will help answer your queries.



Pancakes at St Stephen's

After breaking many eggs and mixing the ingredients for the pancakes there came the cooking, (tasting to make sure all was as it should be) and the production team got into their stride. It wasn't necessarily the best time to try out a different cooker but once this was mastered all went well. We were well supported by members of the congregation, friends and families with children who availed themselves of either traditional or sweet toppings.

A good time was had by all. The raffle and sale of pancakes raised £162 for Church Funds.

Many thanks to the team who made drinks, washed the dishes and cooked the panckaes.

SSNF Coffee, Cake & Chat

Thank you to everyone who supported our event in March. £107 was made for Church Funds.



Thank You!

Thanks to Sandra and the Mothers' Union who led the prayers, readings and talk at the beautiful Mothering Sunday Service at St Stephen's.

Prayer for Easter Sunday

Faithful God, we think of your church today celebrating the Resurrection all over the world. Language race and nationalities may be different but our worship and our joy on the Day Of Resurrection make us one in the Gospel. We pray that The Holy Spirit may guide and strengthen us in mission and service praying that day by day we may grow in love for you and for our brothers and sisters in Christ.
Amen.

What's On

South West Chamber Choir

St Stephen's Church
Saturday 1 April, 4pm



Choral music for Passiontide.

Tickets £8 (£4 for 18 and under, and students) on the door or from www.trybooking.co.uk/CDZN

(St Stephen's will receive a proportion of the ticket sales.)

Beetle Drive

SSNF Church Rooms
Saturday 15 April, Time tbc



If you haven't been to one of our Beetle Drives before why not come along, they are really great fun.
£3 including refreshments.

Children's Society Box Opening

St Stephen's Church
Tuesday 18 April
10am to Noon



If you don't have a box, please come along for coffee and cake and bring and buy table. All money raised will go to the Children's Society.

Annual Birthday Concert

St Michael's Church
Sunday 29 April, 7.15pm



We will be entertained by various local talents. A birthday raffle will be run and a birthday cake and soft drinks will be on offer. Further details will be on posters in Landrake and on the website. We look forward to seeing you there.

Nearly Full

St George's Day Meal

St Stephen's Church
Sunday 23rd April
at 5pm

To Welcome You

A fresh selection of Canapés

Main Courses

(with fresh seasonal veg)

Roast Beef

Bangers and Mash

Vegetable Wellington

Desserts

(with custard)

Chocolate Sponge

Bread and Butter Pudding

Please bring your own choice of drink

£15 per person

Sign up list in St Stephen's Church or contact Dave Coot
☎ 07745 623234
d.coot@btinternet.com

Payment please asap (very latest 16 April) to Dave Coot. Contact Dave if you want to pay by bank transfer.

Catering by Julie Turner
Cakes and Catering
☎ 07816 599027

julieturnercakes@hotmail.com

Coronation High Tea with Prosecco

Saturday 13 May
SSNF Church Rooms



Tickets £10. Coronation awards to be presented. Please order tickets before 6 May.

Answers to Quiz on p 3: 1. Red 2. Robert Baden-Powell 3. Windsor Castle 4. A Dragon 5. The George Cross 6. William Shakespeare 7. China 8. Grenada 9. Turkey although he was buried in Palestine 10. He is believed to have died on this day in 303.

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