

Saltash Area Newsletter

February 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

So this is Christmas?

Such Merry Christmas! ...Really? Still? How long IS Christmas? Done and dusted by 26th December: tree in the bin, time to go shopping for Easter eggs? Or at least to the Feast of the Epiphany (6th January), allowing for the full Twelve Days of lords-a-leaping and ladies-dancing? The official C of E answer, perhaps surprisingly, is that Christmas continues to the

beginning of February and the Feast of Candlemas (2nd February)*. In which case, if you are reading this newsletter nice and early – Merry Christmas!

I've always liked Christmas, but I'm also one of those grumpy people who grumbles, "It seems to start earlier every year." But then, Advent is so lovely, with all those minor-key carols of quiet hope and expectation. "Hark! A herald voice is calling: 'Christ is nigh, it seems to say.'"

And, to be honest, from personal experience, it's perfectly possible to feel bored with Christmas by 25th December. If one starts it all too soon. When I was a student, term finished at the end of November, so 'Christmas' celebrations would happen at least a month early. I remember coming home one year and feeling I'd gone back a fortnight in time: from presents and carols and parties, to sitting at home in a living room without even a tree.



Returning to more-or-less the present, it strikes me that the popular urge to celebrate Christmas as early as possible also seems to mean getting Christmas over with as soon as possible. Now, I suppose I am unusual in only getting home from work at about noon on Christmas Day; even Bob Cratchit got the whole day off. But this year it did seem

that I'd hardly poured myself a glass of Baileys before I was being told to prepare for a dry Veganuary with jogging and 'being the new me' (when the old me had only just sat down).

This made me think that perhaps the old idea of *preparing* for a feast, even fasting before a feast, had something to it. That it wasn't just a dour notion of 'delayed gratification', but ancient wisdom on how best to enjoy oneself:

anticipation, a sudden burst of joy, then a special afterglow to warm your spirits over the coming days and weeks. Rather than just putting up the Christmas tree whenever you want and taking it down when you feel depressed by the sight of it.

And so I come to the other thing happening in February: Ash Wednesday (22nd February) and the beginning of Lent. Although Jesus himself fasted 40 days and 40 nights in the wilderness, he didn't necessarily want us to do the same, complained some 16th century

Coming Up

Saturday 4 February

9.30 to 11.30am

St Stephen's Church

Food Market & Table Top Sale

Tuesday 14 February

Ploughboy Inn

Mothers' Union Lunch

Friday 17 February

12.30pm

S.T.A.R.T.

Saturday 18 February

3pm to 5pm

St Stephen's Church

Messy Church

Sunday 19 February

12.30pm

SSNF Church Rooms

Spud & Pud Lunch

Tuesday 21 February

3pm to 5pm

St Stephen's Church

Shrove Tuesday Pancakes

Friday 24 February

7pm for 7.30pm start

Ashtorre Rock

Quiz Night

in aid of St Stephen's

Nativity scene where you least expect it!



Postbox in Hatt

FEBRUARY SERVICES

Sunday 5 February

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 All Age Service

6.30pm Sung Evensong

Sunday 12 February

St Stephen-by-Saltash

9.30am Holy Communion

St Michael, Landrake

9.30am Holy Communion then

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash

11.15am Holy Communion

St Mary, Botus Fleming

11.15am Holy Communion

St Erney, Landrake

11.15am Matins

Sunday 19 February

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 All Age Service

Ash Wednesday 22 February

St Stephen-by-Saltash

10am Ash Wednesday Service

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash

7pm Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday 26 February

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

Every Tuesday

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash

4pm Evening Prayer

Every Wednesday

St Stephen-by-Saltash

10am Morning Service

Protestants. But the ancient origin of Lent is really as a preparation for the great feast of Easter. (Indeed, the greatest feast of all. I once knew a clergyman who refused to sing “this holy tide of Christmas all others doth efface” from ‘God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen’, because, he argued, Christmas doth not efface Easter.)

Ancient wisdom there: understanding that the best way to appreciate a feast – and to enjoy it – is by careful preparation beforehand.

Two things here: first, the traditional clergyman’s plea to attend to the various services of Lent and especially of Holy Week. Turning up to church on Palm Sunday and next on Easter Day is all nice and jolly; but by entering into the interactive drama of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday liturgies will just add so much more. To attempt a metaphor, it is like... putting Easter under the grill to warm it up, so it gets all melty and caramelised and nice, rather than just eating it cold straight from the packet.

PS a big thank you to all those who gave cards and presents to Kayleigh, Elowen and I. We have really enjoyed spending our first Christmas as a family here in Cornwall. God bless us, every one!

The second point is not to get too carried away by the idea of Lent as the season of doing things that seem vaguely religious: giving up crisps, reading a tedious Lent book, donating your spare change to the roof restoration fund. The point is not to do things for the sake of it – and God forbid win religious ‘points’ – but to focus our souls once again on Jesus Christ and the power of his Resurrection. This we try to do by turning our hearts away from distractions for a little while, and picking up again those ‘means of grace’: scripture, liturgy, and prayer.

We should do this always. But we forget. So by God’s grace we have this time to start again – and Christianity is, in a way, all about starting again: hearing of God coming to be with us at Christmas; asking for forgiveness; and hearing again Jesus calling us, “follow me”.

R

(*Although we will be keeping Candlemas on Sunday 5th February – so making Christmas even longer!)



Make a difference this year!

Please donate food at Waitrose, Lidl or the Co-op and/or donate money via the Saltash Foodbank website:

saltash.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money

Our latest needs:

- UHT Milk
- Tinned Vegetables (not peas)
- Savoury Biscuits
- Corned Beef
- Children’s Toothpaste and Toothbrushes
- Non-bio Washing Powder
- Hair Conditioner

Recent Events

Pelynt Choirs

In Mid December St Stephen's Church welcomed the Pelynt Male Voice Choir and The Pelynt Ladies Christmas Choir for an entertaining afternoon of Christmas Carols and songs.



The concert began with *I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas*, followed by many other favourites, including *In The Bleak Mid-Winter*, *Silent Night* and *The Twelve Days of Christmas* where the choir invited the audience to participate by representing each of the gifts in the song. The ladies then sang a couple of numbers which included *O Holy Night* to rapturous applause from the audience. The men then sang a selection of carols chosen at random by members of the audience and the afternoon's entertainment was concluded with a rousing rendition of *We Wish You a Merry Christmas* and received a hearty applause by everyone.

Thank you to everyone who helped and supported in anyway. The concert raised £318.22 for Church funds.



Crib Service at St Stephen's

It was lovely to see a packed church for the St Stephen's crib service on Christmas Eve.



Shrove Tuesday Quiz



1. The largest pancake ever made was how many metres wide?
2. What is the record for the number of times a pancake was flipped in five minutes?
3. How many days before Easter Sunday does Shrove Tuesday fall?
4. True or false: People used to cook snow into their pancakes to make them extra fluffy?
5. Why are pancakes traditionally eaten on Shrove Tuesday?
6. What is the world record for the number of pancakes eaten in an hour?
7. How many pancakes are eaten on average per person on Pancake Day?
8. Which country produces 80% of the world's maple syrup?

Answers on p7

MOSSAF



The MOSSAF group are still on a break for the winter months but will be returning on Monday 13 March at 7pm with an evening at the Ploughboy Inn, where we can socialise and catch up with each other and may even enjoy a game of pool or darts. If you are interested in joining our men's group please contact Steve Hookway, Dave Coot or Roger Rowse for more details. We have a very exciting programme planned for this year with Canon Chancellor of Truro Cathedral, Alan Bashforth and Bishop Hugh among our guest speakers, ten pin bowling, meals out at the Weary Friar and Lord Louis and a visit to Plympton St Maurice.

Recent Events continued

Team Meal



35 people from across the churches enjoyed a very enjoyable meal at St Elizabeth's House on Sunday 15th January. The date for next year is Sunday 21st January.

Johnny Cowling Concert

120 people travelled from Camborne, Exeter, Taunton and closer to home to attend the absolutely fantastic Johnny Cowling concert held at St Stephen's church in early December.

With a mix of well known Elvis songs, Christmas songs and an impromptu organ recital with audience participation singing Silent Night, St Stephen's was brought alive. Johnny Cowling had the audience singing, swaying, clapping and laughing as he performed.

We were delighted to have the company of some of Johnny's supporters who came dressed in beautiful Elvis dresses and didn't stop dancing all evening. As everyone left after such an uplifting evening, they all asked if he could be booked again,

With thanks to Henlog Sheds for supporting the evening and supplying lovely pasties from Blakes, a total of £1,000.69 was raised for church funds. A huge thank you to Sylvia and Len for all of their help with refreshments, Ray and Mary for their help and support on the night and to Helen's husband and sister for helping with car parking and washing dishes.



Recent Events continued

Christmas Tree Festival at SSNF

It seems a long time ago now, but isn't really, when we were in the throes of our 16th Christmas Tree Festival. This year we added an extra weekend, and despite the frosty weather, it proved to be very successful. As the festival went on it was found that one of the white mice that were hidden went AWOL, but I am happy to say it gradually found its way back to the Church on the last weekend.

A few days before the end of the festival we ran out of raffle tickets. Unfortunately given the time scale that it would have taken to have more printed, and they can only be printed in multiples of 500, there was not enough time left to get this done. A fantastic sum of money was raised, even when the expenses for heating and lighting were taken out.

The quiz, which is always prepared for the children, is expertly put together by Mrs Kay Gill. This year we even had adults wishing to do it. It certainly was enjoyed by all. Thank you Kay.

Thank you to the Burraton Boys who came to sing for us on Sunday 4th December, which is now becoming an annual event. Gracenotes Acapella also came to sing for us on Saturday 3rd December, so thank you very much to them, and like the Burraton Boys, it is a pleasure to have them, as they too have made it an annual event.



The Tamar Valley Male Voice Choir came to sing among the Christmas Trees on Friday 9th December. Unfortunately it was an extremely cold and frosty night, but all those who attended enjoyed their Christmas concert.

Thanks also to all those who helped with the running of the festival helping to make it such a success.

Our congratulations and thanks also go to Audrey Miller for the carol and music that she wrote. The carol opened our evening of Nine Lessons and Carols.

February

**I thought the world was cold in death;
The flowers, the birds, all life was gone,
For January's bitter breath
Had slain the bloom and hushed the song.**

**And still the earth is cold and white,
And mead and forest yet are bare;
But there's a something in the light
That says the germ of life is there.**

**Deep down within the frozen brook
I hear a murmur, faint and sweet,
And lo! the ice breaks as I look,
And living waters touch my feet.**

**Within the forest's leafless shade
I hear a spring-bird's hopeful lay:
O life to frozen death betrayed
Thy death shall end in life to-day.**

**And in my still heart's frozen cell
The pulses struggle to be free;
While sweet the bird sings, who can tell
But life may bloom again for thee!**

By Jane Goodwin Austin

Recent Events continued

Mother's Union



At our January meeting Richard Margetts, the Chairman of the Saltash Foodbank, gave an interesting talk on the how things have changed during the ten years he has been Chairman. The needs of people have changed over that time and besides

making up food parcels there is a need to give information on where to get help when a crisis arises. As modern communication has also changed rapidly there is the need to help by providing data as Social Services, Job Centres work mainly via the internet and phones. Extra help is also needed for those homeless people living in hotels with very limited facilities for heating food. So far in the year 2022/23, they have already provided 1,111 parcels, 130 Christmas Hampers – a large rise over the previous year.

The Trussell Trust provides help and support making sure that each Foodbank has enough money to pay for rent and electricity, they also keep statistics which they pass onto the Government.

Our meeting in February will be at the Ploughboy for lunch and members and their husbands are asked to let Margaret Gwynn have their menu choices in advance.

Messy Church

42 parents and children attended Messy Church in January. We had a few new families, several regulars and some returning families that hadn't been for a while.

The children made Christingles and other craft activities relating

to light as our theme was 'Jesus is the Light of the World'. We finished our afternoon with lit Christingles and Worship led by Rev'd Richard. Rev'd Richard used a blindfold on one of the children and got another child to give directions to find the objects needed to make a Christingle. This was not easy and it showed us why light is important.

Thanks to Sylvia, Len, Carol, Ray, John, Mary, Jill, Lydia and Helen for enabling Messy Church to take place.



May I say thank you for sending me the newsletters. Although I can no longer go to church, I like to know what is happening and I can sometimes go to a coffee morning at SS Nicholas & Faith. I had hoped to go to St Stephen's November Fair which I have enjoyed in the past, but I developed back problems which meant I was housebound. Perhaps the Summer Fair!

Your kindness in keeping me in the picture is much appreciated. Anon

The Golden Telephone



An American tourist on holiday was visiting Westminster Abbey when he noticed a golden telephone mounted on the wall with a sign that read '£10,000 per call.' The American, being intrigued, asked a priest who was strolling by what the telephone was used for. The priest replied that it was a direct line to heaven and that for £10,000 you could talk to God. The American thanked the priest and went on his way.

Next stop was in Lincoln. There, at the cathedral, he saw the same golden telephone with the same sign under it. He wondered if this was the same kind of telephone he saw in London and he asked a nearby nun what its purpose was. She told him that it was a direct line to heaven and that for £10,000 he could talk to God.

He then travelled to York, Durham and Liverpool, and in every cathedral he saw the same golden telephone with the same '£10,000 per call' sign under it.

The American then decided to travel to Cornwall, and again, as he entered Truro cathedral, there was the same golden telephone, but this time the sign under it read '50p per call'. The American was surprised so he asked the vicar about the sign, "Reverend, I've travelled all over England and I've seen this same golden telephone in many cathedrals. I'm told that it is a direct line to heaven, but in all the other cathedrals the price was £10,000 per call. Why is it only 50p here?" The holy man smiled and answered, "You're in Cornwall now, my son ... it's a local call."

What's On

Food Market & Table Top Sale

St Stephen's Church
Sat 4 Feb, 9.30am to 11.30am

Local food traders will be bringing along their produce: Trehill Farm Produce, Hobbs Chocolates, Hedgerow Pantry, Simply Turkish, Polnoon Pasties, Home Farm Cornwall, Tamar Valley Honey, Little Kitchen Fudge, The Ladybird Baker (specialising in gluten free, dairy free and vegan goodies) and our Church cake stall. Find a bargain or unearth a new treasure from our table toppers. Many local charities and our church fundraising stalls will also be there. Refreshments will be available including bacon rolls and toasted tea cakes. Free entry.

Spud and Pud Lunch

SSNF Church Rooms
Sunday 19 Feb, 12.30pm



What better than enjoying lunch with friends? Just £7pp.

Shrove Tuesday Pancakes

St Stephen's Church
Tuesday 21 Feb, 3pm to 5pm



No need to scrape pancakes off your ceiling – enjoy pancakes and tea or coffee with friends at St Stephen's.

Quiz Night in aid of St Stephen's

Ashtorre Rock
Friday 24 Feb, 7pm for 7.30pm



Teams of up to 6 people – £3pp. Please bring your own refreshments, coffee/tea will be available. There will be a raffle – just turn up on the night with your team.

Catered Events at St Stephen's



Following the success of inviting Julie Turner Cakes and Catering to cater for two events last year, we are delighted that Julie will continue to work alongside us this year.

This year's events are:

Sunday 23 April

5pm St George's Meal

Thursday 24 August

6.30pm Italian Night

Monday 2 October

6.30pm Harvest Supper

The menus are being finalised – watch this space.

Meanwhile should you require Julie for a Celebration Cake or a buffet for a special occasion you can contact her on ☎ 07816 599027, email julieturnercakes@hotmail.com

Prayer for Children's Mental Health Week

6-12 February

Heavenly Father, we pray for young people in our society who may be facing problems and anxieties. That they will get the support they need and feel your presence in times of worry, fear and sadness. That no child will feel alone because of mental health. We pray particularly for the world's most vulnerable children who face mental health issues as well as the day to day battles of poverty. Father, be with all children who are suffering with mental health issues in any way and help them find a way out of their darkness. Amen



Answers to Quiz on p 3: 1. 15 Metres 2. 349 3. 47 Days 4. True 5. To use up eggs and fat before Lent begins 6. A whopping 73 7. Two per person 8. Canada

Please email articles for the next issue to: newsletter@saltsteamministry.org by 20 February.