

Saltash Area Newsletter

September 2023

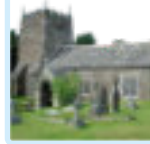
St Michael Landrake



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

What the last vicar told us

There is a joke about a clergyman who is leaving his parish. At the end of his last service, he bumps into a parishioner, who appears the picture of misery. "Take heart!" says the priest, "don't be sad; I'm sure the next vicar will be a better vicar than I am." The other man only looks more dismayed, "but Father, that's what the LAST vicar told us!"

I know I have not been here very long. When I went for a blood test the other week, the nurse told the trainee medical student who was jabbing my arm, "this is the new vicar of Saltash". (Though a clergy colleague told me that he was still 'new' and regularly asked if he was 'settling in yet' when he'd been in post for five years.)

So I suppose I should probably say something in this, my last parish magazine article, about why I am leaving Saltash, and save the 'final deathbed words of wisdom' stuff for my departing sermon.

The official announcement said, *Bishop Philip thanks the Revd Magrath for his ministry in these parishes and wishes him God's blessing on him for all the future*



holds. Rev'd Magrath wishes the deanery well with implementing their deanery plan, but believes it is not a ministry to which he himself is called.

I wrote the last sentence myself. I gather it was later reprinted in the Saltash Observer – although I always stick it straight in the recycling bin, so I am not sure. But it led to someone telling me they'd read in the papers that I was leaving ministry entirely. Hopefully not! So, to clarify: when it says, ...*not a ministry to which he himself is called*, what I'm really saying is, "all this 'On the Way' stuff – the pastoral reorganisation and deanery plan – is not at all a bad idea, not at all

unreasonable; but it is just not for me". When I think of the things I have enjoyed most over the last 18 months – preaching; running Alpha; school assemblies; care home communions; all the miscellaneous little interactions with people – I realise they are a different sort of ministry to the oversight model that has (perhaps rightly!) been judged what is really needed here and now.



Monday 11 September

7pm

St Stephen's Church

MOSSAF

Speaker: Rev Paul Smith (former Superintendent Minister of Plymouth Methodist Central Hall)

Tuesday 12 September

3pm

St Stephen's Church

Mothers' Union

Speaker: Bruce Hunt who will talk about St Barnabas

Friday 15 September

Noon

Ferry Inn, St Budeaux

S.T.A.R.T.

Saturday 16 September

3pm to 5pm

St Stephen's Church

Messy Church

Saturday 23 September

9.30am to Noon

St Stephen's Church

Food Market

and Table Top Sale

Thursday 28 September

7.30pm

St Nicholas & St Faith

Church Rooms

Christmas Tree Launch

Monday 2 October

6.30pm

St Stephen's Church

Harvest Supper

SEPTEMBER SERVICES

Sunday 3 September

St Michael, Landrake

10am Richard Magrath's
Leaving Service

St Mary, Botus Fleming

6.30pm Sung Evensong

Sunday 10 September

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 Matins

Sunday 17 September

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 24 September

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 Holy Communion



As to why my family and I are leaving so soon, that has its own reason, and a nice one: my wife Kayleigh, who has been training for ordained ministry, has been offered a curacy (training post) in the Diocese of Guildford starting this September.

“Sad to see you go but I entirely understand why you are leaving,” people have said to me, with a knowing expression, which I assume implies, “I know the real reason why you’re leaving – it’s because of [someone the speaker does not care for] being awful, isn’t it?”

And, you know what – there are other factors in the mix. Life is complicated. Sometimes church life has been quite stressful. Maybe it was unfortunate or foolish of me not to obtain my driving licence before moving down here*. Maybe relocating to a different part of the country was harder than I thought – even if it is a beautiful and friendly place. Maybe there was a bit of mad pandemic fantasy of moving as far away from the city as possible back in October 2021.

I’m trying to be honest because I really don’t want my leaving to be a cause of any bad feeling between people or parties or churches or the diocese. I feel sad enough leaving you all as it is. And I am very grateful indeed for the kind words people have said to me over the past few weeks. But, like the vicar in the joke, I really do think the next person who comes along to lead this team – and hopefully that will not be a long wait – will indeed be a much better vicar. Maybe not as good at playing the banjo, or quoting Kierkegaard, but better at the other stuff: at overseeing and weaving and building God’s people here into the fullness of the stature of Christ.

I said I’d leave the ‘prophetic deathbed wisdom’ stuff to my final sermon, but I’ll just end with these words from the Bible, *Behold how good and pleasant it is to dwell together in unity. It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down upon the beard, even on Aaron’s beard, running down upon the collar of his clothing. It is like the dew of Hermon running down upon the hills of Zion. For there the Lord has promised his blessing: even life for evermore.*

R

*I should take this opportunity to say how I am extremely grateful to all those who have given me lifts, especially Ian, Darren, Dona and Alan (who I think have put in the most clergy miles).

New Rural Dean

The Bishop of Truro, the Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen is pleased to announce that the Rev’d Michael Robert Johnson at present Vicar in the Team Ministry for the Benefice of Beaconsfield in the Diocese of Oxford is to be Rural Dean and Strategic Lead in the East Wivelshire Deanery, in the Diocese of Truro. This is conditional on legal and statutory formalities being completed.



SEPTEMBER QUIZ

1. The name September comes from the Latin word 'septem', which means what?
2. Which two zodiac signs occur in the month of September?
3. True or false. September is the only month with the same number of letters in its name as the number of the month?
4. On the 13 September 1902, Harry Jackson became the first person in Britain convicted on what sort of evidence?
5. The birth of Queen Elizabeth I happened on 17 September, 1533, can you name her mother?
6. What name is given for the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel, celebrated on 29 September?
7. On 7 September 1838, which daughter of the keeper of Longstone lighthouse risked her life in a small rowing boat to rescue nine shipwrecked people?
8. September's birthstone is which precious gemstone, a variety of the mineral corundum?
9. In 1752, September had only 19 days in the UK as which calendar was changed to the Gregorian calendar?
10. Which American said, "My favourite poem is the one that starts 'Thirty days hath September' because it actually tells you something."?

Answers on p7

Recent Events

Summer Fair



Thank you to all who helped and supported at our Summer Fair in any way.

It was a huge success as the local community and beyond came out in force to support the event.

Once the monies had been counted, we were extremely surprised to learn we had recorded a new best total for this event of £2,546.67.

A great team effort!



Recent Events continued

MOSSAF



In July our men's group visited the Weary Friar for our Summer meal together. A good time was had by all, and the food was top notch.

Then for our August meet up we were visited by the Canon Chancellor of Truro Cathedral Alan Bashford to tell us his life story so far. Alan was born in Rotherham into a church-going family. The family moved to Cornwall and settled in Hayle. Alan realised that he wasn't an academic when studying for his 'A' Level. His mother suggested that he try joining the Police. Alan wasn't selected by Cornwall and Devon Police, but South Yorkshire Police offered him a job so he returned to Rotherham and was based in Sheffield for 19 years.

On 5 April 1989 he was sent to Hillsborough for the FA Cup semi-final. He was sent on to the pitch and found himself standing next to his cousin, also a police officer, and had no idea what was really happening. Alan gave us a rundown of some of the events that happened that day where 97 people lost their lives.

Twelve months after the events of Hillsborough, Alan left the Police Force and returned to Cornwall. He attended St Erth Church and ran a youth group. While there, he decided to start the process of Ordination and achieved a Certificate of Theology at Exeter.

In 1986, after his Ordination he was posted as Curate at Calstock Church. He subsequently met his wife and relocated to St Ives as Curate and studied for a Masters in Theology. He later became Parish Priest in St Agnes, became Rural Dean and elected on to the Synod. His next appointment was that of his current role as Canon Chancellor of Truro Cathedral in an Educational and Pastoral Care role in and around the Cathedral, which is varied and a job that he enjoys doing.

We next meet in the Social Area of St Stephen's Church on Monday 11 September at 7pm when former Superintendent Minister of Plymouth Methodist Central Hall, Rev Paul Smith will be our guest speaker.

New members are always welcome to join us.

Messy Church



Our Messy Church Summer Party was held in July. Usually we are able to be outside and have sports and races, but the day was very windy so we remained in church. We still had a great time with games and activities. The Fishing game and the Beach ball proved to be very popular.

There were 51 children, parents and grandparents plus our helpers, so a good number to join in the worship service. Then it was time for tea. We were grateful to a couple of Dads who set up the barbeque in the church porch and cooked enough cheeseburgers and sausages for everyone to enjoy. Along with the carrot sticks etc and cakes we all went home well fed. Thanks go to all helpers.

We look forward to 16 September at 3pm when we will be thinking about Jesus feeding the 5000 with just five loaves and two fish!



Service and strength, God's Angels and Archangels
 His Seraphs fires, and lamps his Cherubim:
 Glory to God from highest and from lowest,
 Glory to God in everlasting hymn
 From all his creatures.

Princes that serve, and Powers that work his pleasure,
 Heights that soar toward him, Depths that sink toward him;
 Flames fire out-flaming, chill beside his Essence;
 Insight all-probing, save where scant and dim
 Toward its Creator.

Sacred and free exultant in God's pleasure,
 His will their solace, thus they wait on him;
 And shout their shout of ecstasy eternal,
 And trim their splendours that they burn not dim
 Toward their Creator.

Wherefore with Angels, wherefore with Archangels,
 With lofty Cherubs, loftier Seraphim,
 We laud and magnify our God Almighty,
 And veil our faces rendering love to him
 With all his creatures.

By Christina Rossetti

Revelations of Divine Love

By repentance we are made clean; by compassion we are made ready; and by yearning for God we are made worthy. Though the soul's wounds heal, the scars remain. God sees them, not as blemishes but as honours.

Mother Julian

Recent Events continued

Mother's Union



Mothers' Union members met in SS Nicholas and Faith Church church in July, where we were entertained by Richard Margetts, the churchwarden. Richard gave us a tour, both inside and outside the church, pointing out the changes that have been made over the years. The building has evolved from a small chapel into the wonderful church that we know today. Richard's knowledge was greatly appreciated as he recounted story after story about the building and the people who have worshipped there throughout the centuries. We enjoyed our morning with him and thank him for his time.

Afterwards, we moved on to the Ploughboy Inn where we tested our knowledge in a quiz. Once again, the champion was Rev Pam! We then enjoyed a hearty meal.

On 5 August we held our annual Cream Tea to raise funds for the Summer Appeal, which supports Mothers' Union projects throughout the world. Around 44 people supported us and filled the social area in St Stephens on a very windy afternoon to enjoy the food and the company. We were delighted to be able to send off a cheque for £276 to the appeal, thank you to everyone.

On 12 September at 2pm we shall meet in St Stephen's to listen to Bruce Hunt talking about St Barnabas and on Tuesday 26 September we are having a special Wave of Prayer Service in St Stephen's at 2pm. All are welcome to come and share in this service which is being held in churches throughout the Diocese, on chosen days in September to strengthen our faith in prayer.

We shall of course be having tea and cakes afterwards. Please come along if you are able.

Bacon Buttie Mornings at SSNF

Thank you to all who supported our Bacon Buttie Mornings on the 5 and 19 August. Both mornings were extremely busy despite the inclement weather on the 5th. Just over £400 was made for Church Funds.

Recent Events continued

S.T.A.R.T. (Spending Time And Relaxing Together) in 2023

January

Following lunch at Carkeel Nursery, we gathered together at Wesley and drew up a program for the year.

February

Lunch was taken at the Saltash Leisure Centre before making our way across to the Library and joining a small gathering to watch the film *My Fair Lady*. There was standing room only and was well received by everyone. We look forward to any similar events in the future.

March

This was programmed as a talk by our County Cllr. Hilary Frank but she had to postpone her visit to the following month; so after lunch at the Community Kitchen we adjourned to Wesley and were able to have a good natter over tea and biscuits.

April

Lunch was taken at the Community Kitchen, which has become a favourite lunching spot, and then a good crowd of members met at Wesley to be entertained and informed by our Cllr Hilary Frank.

May



After a good lunch we filled several cars to travel to Mutton Cove for a mooch around Bogey Knights the maritime / ex-government store of repute. For many of our party this was a revelation, for others it brought back memories of working in the Dockyard and in my case when the owner of a small fishing boat came across from Looe to buy various items including a small mizzen sail. Our event leader, Steve Tait then led us along past the swimming pools and up the rise to the lookout and the memorial statue of Scott of the Antarctic.

June

This event was a chance to use our bus passes to make our way into Plymouth to join a guided tour of the Royal Citadel. This fort was built in the late 1660s using limestone and granite. Due to Plymouth's support for the Parliamentarians some of the 113 guns could fire on the town; the present occupants are 29 *Commando Regiment Royal Artillery*. We had an excellent guide and our party enjoyed a tour of the battlements and the Royal Chapel of St Katherine-upon-the-Hoe. The chapel was featured in the BBC documentary series *The Choir: Military Wives*.

July

We had a good turnout for the July outing with ten of us sitting at a long table in The Ploughboy to enjoy a good lunch before filling several cars for a pleasant drive out to the Cotehele Estate Quay.



The estate originally belonged to the Edgcumbe Family for 600 years but is now in the care of the National Trust. I was disappointed to find that the 'Shamrock' was not moored in her basin but had been winched up the adjacent slipway her masts removed and the name board lying in the grass. This Tamar sailing barge, together with the 'Lynher', are the last of the hundreds of similar craft that in the 19th century were the lorries of their day delivering cargoes of grain, limestone, dock dung, coal, groceries etc up the local rivers.

We explored the old Victorian lime kilns which could produce about 25 tonnes of quicklime per week, to spread with the dock dung on the local market garden fields. In the near-by Discovery Centre excellent models of the quay evoked a feel for how in the past how busy, noisy and smoky this must have been.

Our group declined the opportunity to use the shuttle bus to the Mill or up to the House but were quite happy to sit in the sun to enjoy a chat and the peaceful rural scene.

John West

We would welcome new members to our ranks. Please contact Len (lrmaddock22@talktalk.net) or John (cw41@talktalk.net).

What's On

Food Market & Table Top Sale

St Stephen's Church
Saturday 23 September
9.30am to Noon



Regular favourites will be in attendance alongside some new food traders such as Kelp Bakery, Loco About Cocoa and James Family Honey.

Maybe you will find a bargain or unearth a new treasure from our table toppers.

Our own fundraising stalls will also be in attendance.

Refreshments will be available throughout and will include bacon rolls, toasted teacakes, cheese scones and, of course, lots of cake.

Entry is free so why not come along and bring a friend or two?



Make a difference!

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

saltash.foodbank.org.uk

Harvest Supper St Stephen's Church Monday 2 October, 6.30pm



MENU

Starters

Potato 'n' Leek Soup
Mixed Vegetable Soup

Main Courses

(Served with Green Beans and Peas)

Cottage Pie
Chicken Hotpot
Vegetable Hotpot

Followed By

Cheese Board

Please bring your own choice of drink

A collection for Saltash Foodbank will be taken during the evening.

£13 per person. Sign-up the list in the west end of St Stephen's Church.

Payments please to Dave Coot,
☎ 07745 623234, by 24 September – cash or cheque only. Cheques should be payable to 'St Stephen's PCC'.

Catering by Julie Turner
☎ 07816 599027.

Our latest needs are:

- UHT Fruit Juice
- Sugar
- Jam
- UHT Milk
- Tinned Meat (not pies)
- Packet Puddings (eg Jelly, Angel Delight)
- Toiletries (especially razors, shaving foam, deodorants)
- Toothbrushes

A Bird Named Moses



A burglar breaks into a house. He starts shining his light around looking for valuables. Some nice things catch his eye, and as he reaches for them, he hears, "Jesus is watching you." Startled, the burglar looks for the speaker. Seeing no one, he keeps putting things in his bag, again, he hears, "Jesus is watching you." This time, he sees a parrot. "Who are you?" the burglar asks. "Moses," the bird replies. "Who the heck would name a bird Moses?" the man laughed. "I dunno," Moses answered, "I guess the same kind of people that would name a Rottweiler Jesus."

Answers to Michaelmas Quiz on p 3:

1. Seven (It was the seventh month of the old Roman calendar)
2. Virgo (until September 22) and Libra (September 23 onwards)
3. True. (Nine letters and the ninth month.)
4. Fingerprint evidence
5. Anne Boleyn
6. Michaelmas Day
7. Grace Darling
8. Sapphire
9. Julian
10. Groucho Marx

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