Saltash Area Newsletter

Dec 2026 / Jan 2027


St Michael Landrake


St Mary Botus Fleming


St Terninus St Erney


SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash


St Stephen Saltash


SS Leonard & Dilpe, Landulph

Love God, Serve People, Make Disciples. www.saltashteamministry.org

The Gift of Peace

As we move through the seasons of Advent, Christmas and into a New Year, we are invited to reflect on the many gifts that Christmas brings. The Church of England's theme this year is *The Gift of Christmas,* encouraging us to think beyond the presents beneath the tree and consider the gifts that truly enrich our lives.

One such gift is peace.



When we hear the familiar words of the angels announcing Christ's birth, we hear their message of "peace on earth". Peace is one of God's greatest gifts to us. It is not simply the absence of worry or difficulty. Rather, it is the deep assurance that comes from knowing we are loved, cared for and held securely, even when life is uncertain.

Recently, my mother asked me for a Christmas gift that caught me by surprise. She did not ask for something to unwrap, nor for an experience or outing. Instead, she asked me to accompany her to the solicitor as she puts in place lasting powers of attorney for both health and financial matters, reviews her will and records her funeral wishes.

At first, that may not sound like a particularly festive request. Yet the more I reflected on it, the more I realised that what she was really asking for was the gift of peace.

There is nothing imminent or alarming behind these arrangements. Thankfully, she remains well. Rather, she recognises something that many of us find difficult to acknowledge: life is precious, but it is also uncertain. By making these decisions now, while she is able to do so, she is seeking to spare her only child difficult choices in the future. She is giving herself the reassurance that her wishes are known and respected. She is giving those she loves the confidence that, when the time comes, they will not have to carry the burden of guessing what she would have wanted. In truth, it is a gift for both of us.

Christmas reminds us that God entered our world not to remove every challenge from our lives, but to walk alongside us through them. The peace Christ offers is not founded on certainty about tomorrow, but on trust in the One who holds tomorrow in His hands.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 29 November

From Darkness to Light
6.30pm SS Nicholas & Faith

Sunday 13 December

Nine Lessons & Carols
6.30pm St Erney

Christmas Sing-Along
6.30pm St Stephens

Sunday 20 December

Nine Lessons & Carols
3pm SS Leonard & Dilpe

Quiet Christmas
4pm SS Nicholas & Faith

Christmas Carols
6.30pm St Michael

Christmas Eve

Crib Service
4pm St Stephen
4pm St Michael

Nine Lessons & Carols
6.30pm St Mary

Christmas Holy Communion
9pm SS Nicholas & Faith

Midnight Mass
11.30pm St Stephen
11.30pm St Michael

Christmas Day

Christmas Holy Communion
10am St Stephen
10am St Mary
10.15am St Erney



DECEMBER SERVICES

Christmas Services on page 1

Advent 29 November

SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash
10.30am United Service
6.30pm Darkness to Light

Sunday 6 December

St Michael, Landrake
9.30am Morning Service

St Stephen-by-Saltash
10am First Sunday

SS Leonard & Dilpe, Landulph
10am Morning Service

St Erney, Landrake
10.15am Morning Service

SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash
10.30am Morning Service

Sunday 13 December

St Michael, Landrake
9.30am Morning Service

St Stephen-by-Saltash
10am Morning Service
6.30pm Xmas Sing-Along

SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash
10.30am Morning Service

St Mary, Botus Fleming
11.15am Morning Service

St Erney, Landrake
6.30pm 9 Lessons & Carols

Sunday 20 December

St Michael, Landrake
9.30am Morning Service
6.30pm Carol Service

St Stephen-by-Saltash
10am Morning Service

St Erney, Landrake
10.15am Morning Service

SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash
10.30am Morning Service
4pm Quiet Christmas

SS Leonard & Dilpe, Landulph
3pm 9 Lessons & Carols

Sunday 27 December

St Stephen-by-Saltash
10am United Service

Wednesdays 10am

St Stephen-by-Saltash
2&16 Dec Holy Communion
23 Dec Morning Worship

Perhaps one of the greatest gifts we can give those we love is peace of mind. Sometimes that comes through practical acts of care, difficult conversations or thoughtful planning. Sometimes it is simply being willing to accompany someone on a journey they do not wish to take alone.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ this Christmas, may we receive His gift of peace into our own hearts. And may we look for ways to share that peace with others, through kindness, presence, understanding and love. For in the end, some of the most precious gifts we give are not found beneath the wrapping paper, but within the relationships we cherish most.

Dursona,
Nadelik Lowen ha Bledhen Nowydh Da!

Rev'd Laura

Saltash foodbank

Our Christmas needs:

- UHT Milk
- UHT fruit juice
- Squash
- Sugar
- Coffee
- Instant Custard
- Sweets
- Chocolates
- Sweet Biscuits
- Jam
- Savoury Biscuits
- Gravy Mix
- Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned Tomatoes
- Stuffing Mix
- Tinned Ham
- Chutney / Pickles
- Christmas Cake
- Mince Pies
- Gifts for Teens
- Gifts for Men & Boys 8+

Make a difference this Christmas!

Please donate food at Waitrose, Lidl, the Co-op, Food Warehouse or at the back of St Stephen's or SSNF Churches.

You can also donate money via the Foodbank website: saltash.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money

JANUARY SERVICES

Sunday 3 January

St Michael, Landrake
9.30am Morning Service

St Stephen-by-Saltash
10am First Sunday

St Leonard & St Dilpe
10am Morning Service

St Erney, Landrake
10.15am Morning Service

SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash
10.30am Morning Service

Sunday 10 January

St Michael, Landrake
9.30am Morning Service

St Stephen-by-Saltash
10am Morning Service

SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash
10.30am Morning Service

St Mary, Botus Fleming
11.15am Morning Service

Sunday 17 January

St Michael, Landrake
9.30am Morning Service

St Stephen-by-Saltash
10am Morning Service

St Leonard & St Dilpe
10am Morning Service

St Erney, Landrake
10.15am Morning Service

SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash
10.30am Morning Service

Sunday 24 January

St Michael, Landrake
9.30am Morning Service

St Stephen-by-Saltash
10am Morning Service

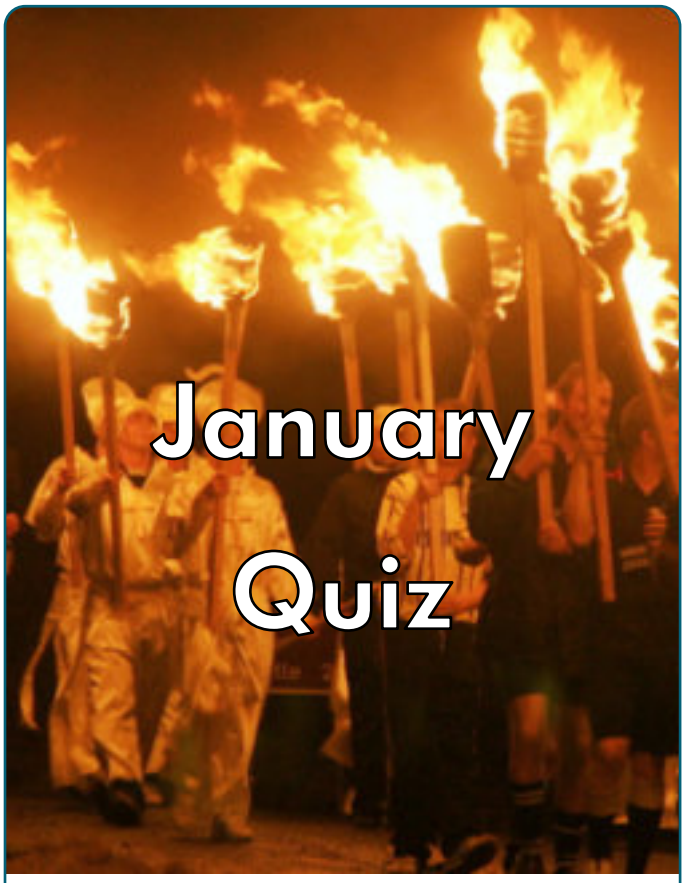
SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash
10.30am Morning Service

St Mary, Botus Fleming
11.15am Morning Service

Wednesdays 10am

St Stephen-by-Saltash
6&20 Jan Holy Communion
27 Jan Morning Worship





January Quiz

1. Where is the festival of Up Helly Aa held on the last Tuesday in January?
2. Which city's name translates as January river?
3. January is named after which Roman god, representing beginnings and transitions?
4. When it's not a leap year, January always starts on the same day of the week as which other month?
5. Which Grand Slam tennis tournament is held in the middle of January?
6. Which monarch died on January 22, 1901?
7. The world's first underground railway system open on January 10, 1863, but in which city?
8. Which monarch was crowned on January 13, 1559?
9. The United Kingdom officially joined the European Economic Community on January 1 of which year?
10. Who famously started his diary on January 1, 1660?

Answers on p4

Recent Events

Mothers' Union

In November, Mothers' Union members met in prayer and then crafted our decorations for our Xmas tree. As it's our 150th year of service, we took as our theme the many projects that are supported by MU. You you can see the result on our tree in the Festival at St Nicholas and St Faith Church.

Three of our members travelled to Truro for a Diocese gathering and enjoyed a talk by Julia Jamiesion, MU Provincial Zonal Trustee. During her talk, Julia recounted some of the happenings at the recent International Gathering of MU in South Africa. How the African members know how to praise God – with impromptu outbursts of song and dance during meetings if they think it's gone quiet. It sounded such a joyous meeting!

On the 8 December we shall meet in St Stephen's to discuss future plans and our preparations to celebrate our Lord's Birth. On the 12 January we regroup for another year of service and friendship.

St Stephen's November Fair



The St Stephen's Church November Fair was very well attended and we welcomed lots of people from the wider community, coming along to try their luck at the tombola, games and raffle, purchase items from the stalls and Charity organisations, sample some of the lovely refreshments available, or have their face painted. It was a busy morning and raised £1,520.28 for church funds.

Thank you to everyone for their generous donations, all those that helped on the day and the lovely volunteers who helped deliver 5,000 fliers around parts of Saltash. It is much appreciated.

Recent Events continued

A Wonderful Year-End Celebration



What a fantastic evening we had at the Lord Louis for the MOSSAF end-of-year meal! Everyone enjoyed a truly lovely time catching up over delicious food, sharing plenty of laughs, and celebrating a wonderful year of friendship and fellowship. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the night such a memorable success.

As the winter sets in, MOSSAF will now be taking a well-earned break and closing down until March. Behind the scenes, however, plans are already well underway for our return. Next year's calendar is shaping up to be one of our best yet, packed with variety and great company. We have an exciting line-up planned, featuring inspiring guest speakers, more social meals out, a fun evening of ten-pin bowling, and a special visit to a local church.

New faces are always warmly welcomed, so if you've been thinking about coming along, March is the perfect time to join us. For further details, please get in touch with Steve Hookway on 07855 600241.



Prayer for Christmas

Holy Jesus, by being born one of us, and lying humbly in a manger, you show how much God loves the world.

Let the light of your love always shine in our hearts, until we reach our home in heaven, and see you on your throne of glory.

Amen



Stay Connected with Us
Please Sign Up to ChurchSuite

If you haven't yet added your details to ChurchSuite, can I gently encourage you to do so. It's the safest and most secure way for us to store your contact information, and very soon it will become the only way we communicate with the church family about services, events, pastoral updates, and weekly news.

When you register, please make sure you tick the box giving us permission to email you. Without that consent, we're not legally allowed to send you the weekly news sheet or any other updates – even if you've been part of the church for years. It only takes a moment, and it really helps us stay connected and care for our community well.

Rev'd Laura

Sign up: saltashteamministry.org/churchsuite.html

Answers to Quiz on page 3: 1. Shetland. 2. Rio de Janeiro. 3. Janus. 4. October. 5. Australian Open. 6. Queen Victoria. 7. London. 8. Queen Elizabeth I. 9. 1973. 10. Samuel Pepys.

CHRISTMAS

by Sir John Betjeman

The bells of waiting Advent ring,
The Tortoise stove is lit again
And lamp-oil light across the night
Has caught the streaks of winter rain
In many a stained-glass window sheen
From Crimson Lake to Hookers Green.

The holly in the windy hedge
And round the Manor House the yew
Will soon be stripped to deck the ledge,
The altar, font and arch and pew,
So that the villagers can say
'The church looks nice' on Christmas Day.

Provincial Public Houses blaze,
Corporation tramcars clang,
On lighted tenements I gaze,
Where paper decorations hang,
And bunting in the red Town Hall
Says 'Merry Christmas to you all'.

And London shops on Christmas Eve
Are strung with silver bells and flowers
As hurrying clerks the City leave
To pigeon-haunted classic towers,
And marbled clouds go scudding by
The many-steepled London sky.

And girls in slacks remember Dad,
And oafish louts remember Mum,
And sleepless children's hearts are glad.
And Christmas-morning bells say 'Come!'
Even to shining ones who dwell
Safe in the Dorchester Hotel.

And is it true? And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me?

And is it true? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissued fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare -
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.

St Nicholas & Faith Lighting Appeal

ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

At St Nick's we are working towards obtaining our Bronze Award from Eco-Church and one of the things we are looking at changing is our current lighting system in the Church, (eventually we will look at the same in the hall) from Halogen to LED.

In the long term this will not only improve the lighting, but will be more cost effective. It will also save Richard and Roger going up and down the ladder like a yo-yo. They have recently had to change 20+ bulbs. Unfortunately, the current bulbs aren't lasting and the current fittings are incompatible with LED bulbs.

We have received a very favourable quote and are half way to raising the funds, we still need to find approximately £1,000 towards this. If you would like to donate and help us to make our project a reality instead of a dream, we have setup a JustGiving site, the link is https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/andy-evans-5?utm_term=enyPNM6Nw&utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL



Online Morning Prayers
Every Monday, 9.00-9.30am

An open invitation to members of all churches in East Wivelshire Deanery from Revd Michael Johnson.

Every Monday Morning we gather online to pray for the life of our churches and communities across the deanery.

- We celebrate what God is doing amongst us
- We bring things on our hearts (and share them verbally, if we wish to do so)
- We pray for insight and discernment about our future together

Live link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81924023977

Tamar Concert Choir

7.30pm, Friday 4 Dec
St Stephen's Church



Tickets (£5) from Piglets, in the office or Steve Hookway

Coffee, Cake & Chat

Wednesdays
9 Dec and 13 Jan
10am in St Stephen's



Polperro Fishermen's Choir Supper Concert

Wednesday, 9 December
6pm in St Michael's



Tickets from Landrake Stores or landrakesterneyfundraising@gmail.com

Christmas Cuppa

10am to Noon
Sat 19 December
St Stephen's Church

With Saltash Town Band, Craft, Gift and Food Stalls plus Festive Refreshments

Free Entry

Craft Afternoon

Mondays
21 Dec and 18 Jan
2pm in SSNF Church Rooms



20th Anniversary Christmas Tree Festival

Saturday 28 November to Friday 11 December

FREE ENTRY – donations invited



Opening Times

Saturday 28 November: **10am to 6pm**
Bacon butties & refreshments available until 1pm.

Sunday 29 November: **2pm to 6pm**

Monday to Friday: **2pm to 6pm**

Saturday 5 December: **From 10am**
Bacon butties & refreshments available until 1pm.
Mulled wine and shortbread from 6pm.

Sunday 6 December: **2pm to 6pm**
Burraton Boys singing amongst the trees at 3pm.

Monday to Friday: **2pm to 6pm**

Grand Christmas Draw

Winning tickets will be drawn at a coffee morning on Saturday 19 December, 10am to noon in SSNF Church Rooms.





Saturday 28 November to Friday 11 December
SSNF Church
Christmas Tree Festival

Friday 4 December
7.30pm
St Stephen's Church
Tamar Concert Choir
Christmas Concert

Tuesday 8 December
2pm
St Stephen's Church
Mothers' Union

Wednesday 9 December
10am
St Stephen's Church
Coffee, Cake & Chat

Wednesday 9 December
7pm, St Michael's Church
Candlelit Supper

Wednesday 16 December
START

Saturday 19 December
10am
St Stephen's Church
Christmas Cuppa

Monday 21 December
2pm to 4pm
SSNF Church Rooms
Craft Afternoon

Tuesday 12 January
2pm
St Stephen's Church
Mothers' Union

Wednesday 13 January
10am
St Stephen's Church
Coffee, Cake & Chat

Friday 15 January
START

Monday 18 January
2pm to 4pm
SSNF Church Rooms
Craft Afternoon

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