

Saltash Area Newsletter

June 2026



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

Curiosity, Grace, and the God Who Interrupts Us (Sometimes via a Swallow)

A few Sundays ago, in the middle of leading worship, a swallow swooped gracefully through the church, and promptly pooped on me. Right there in front of everyone. Creation, clearly, has very little respect for clerical dignity.

I wiped my face and carried on, announcing the next hymn – *All Things Bright and Beautiful!*

I found myself thinking about how moments like this reveal something important about life together. They interrupt us. They disarm us. They remind us that we are not in control, and that God often works most gently in the places where our pride, certainty, or composure slip.

In safeguarding work across the Church of England, we use the Social GRRRAACCEEESSS framework to help us remember that every person carries a whole landscape of experiences: Gender, Geography, Race, Religion, Age, Ability, Appearance, Class, Culture, Ethnicity, Education, Sexuality, Spirituality, and more. These are the lenses through which we see the world. And sometimes, like that swallow, something unexpected swoops in and reminds us that we never see the whole picture.

Amanda Ripley notes that we cannot feel curiosity and outrage at the same time. Outrage narrows our world until all

we can see is the thing that has upset us. Curiosity opens it back up. It gives us room to breathe, to listen, and to remember that the person in front of us is more than the moment we're reacting to.

Church communities are emotional ecosystems. A sharp comment at coffee, a tense PCC discussion, or a misunderstanding about a rota can ripple

through a whole group. When we meet one another with outrage, the temperature rises. When we meet one another with curiosity, something else becomes possible. We create space for grace – the same grace that lets a priest laugh off a swallow's contribution to the liturgy and carry on.



The theology behind it

Curiosity is not just a soft skill. It is a profoundly Christian posture. Scripture shows us a God who asks questions: Where are you? What are you looking for? Who touched me? These are not demands for information. They are invitations into relationship. God's questions create space for honesty, dignity, and transformation.

Grace, too, is not niceness. It is the life of God poured out for us – generous, spacious, and always making room. When we choose grace in our interactions, we are participating in the self-giving love of



Monday 8 June

7pm

St Stephen's Church
MOSSAF

Tuesday 9 June

2pm

St Stephen's Church
Mothers' Union

Wednesday 10 June

10am

St Stephen's Church
Coffee, Cake & Chat

Monday 15 June

2pm to 4pm

SSNF Church Rooms
Craft Afternoon

Friday 19 June

Noon

START

Sunday 21 June

Noon to 2pm

SSNF Church Rooms
Spuds & Puds

Mondays

22 June to 3 August

7pm to 8pm

St Stephen's Church
Bible Study

Saturday 4 July

10am to 2pm

St Stephen's
Summer Fair

Tuesday 7 July

6pm to 9.30pm

St Stephen's Church
Fish 'n' Chip Evening

Saturday 11 July

7.30pm

SS Nicholas & Faith Church
Tamar Valley
Male Voice Choir

JUNE SERVICES

Sunday 7 June

St Michael, Landrake

9.30am Morning Worship

St Stephen-by-Saltash

10am Family Worship

St Leonard & St Dilpe, Landulph

10am Holy Communion

St Erney, Landrake

10.15am Matins

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash

10.30am Holy Communion

St Mary, Botus Fleming

11.15am Morning Worship

6pm Sung Evensong

Sunday 14 June

St Michael, Landrake

9.30am Morning Worship

St Stephen-by-Saltash

10am Holy Communion

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash

10.30am Morning Worship

St Mary, Botus Fleming

11.15am Holy Communion

Sunday 21 June

St Michael, Landrake

9.30am Morning Worship

St Stephen-by-Saltash

10am Morning Worship

6pm Evensong

St Leonard & St Dilpe, Landulph

10am Morning Worship

St Erney, Landrake

10.15am Holy Communion

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash

10.30am Holy Communion

St Mary, Botus Fleming

11.15am Morning Worship

Sunday 28 June

St Michael, Landrake

9.30am Morning Worship

St Stephen-by-Saltash

10am Holy Communion

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash

10.30am Morning Worship

St Mary, Botus Fleming

11.15am Morning Worship

Midweek

Tuesday – Landulph

9.30am Holy Communion 9 June

Wednesday – St Stephen-by-Saltash

10am Holy Communion 3, 17 June

10am Morning Worship 24 June

the Trinity. We are honouring the image of God in the other, even when the moment is tense or the conversation is difficult.

This is where the Difference Course offers us a simple but powerful rhythm:

Be Curious. Be Present. Re-imagine.

- **Curiosity** helps us ask, “What might I be missing?”
- **Presence** helps us stay grounded and attentive, even when the moment is uncomfortable.
- **Re-imagining** invites us to respond differently based on what we’ve learned – to allow new information, new stories, and new perspectives to reshape our assumptions.



Safeguarding, at its heart, is about this same theological truth: every person is precious to God. Curiosity helps us notice when someone’s behaviour signals distress rather than defiance. Presence helps us listen well. Re-imagining helps us respond with wisdom rather than assumption.

The swallow reminded me – that ministry is never about maintaining our own dignity. It is about making space for God. And God’s dignity is always expressed in love, attentiveness, and the willingness to see the whole person in front of us.

As we move through the coming weeks, may we be a community shaped by curiosity and grace; a community that listens before assuming, wonders before reacting, and remembers that God often speaks through the interruptions, the surprises, and even the swallows.

May we keep choosing curiosity. May we keep choosing grace. May we keep re-imagining what love looks like.

Dursona,

Rev’d Laura

Readings for Seven Weeks this Summer

For seven weeks this summer we’ll be stepping off the lectionary to take a deep dive into Paul’s letter to the Colossians – a journey through unity, stability, joy and generosity. Each week includes a short Bible-study prompt to help us grow together in faith. If you are on the rota for the reading, please double-check that you have the correct passage for that Sunday. If you are leading intercessions, please weave in that week’s theme.



21 June	Colossians 1:1–14	Unity: Growing Together in Grace
28 June	Colossians 1:15–23	Stability: Christ Who Holds All Things Together
5 July	Colossians 1:24–2:7	Stability: Rooted, Built Up, Strengthened
12 July	Colossians 2:8–23	Joy: Freedom From Fearful Religion
19 July	Colossians 3:1–17	Joy: The New Clothes of Resurrection Life
26 July	Colossians 3:18–4:6	Generosity: Christ in the Everyday
2 August	Colossians 4:7–18	Generosity: The Ministry of Many Hands



The Month of June Quiz

1. Trooping the Colour is held in London annually on a Saturday in June, on which parade ground?
2. June has two zodiac signs, name both?
3. What is June's birthstone?
4. In which year did June Brown first play the role of Dot Cotton, in EastEnders?
5. Which historical novel begins in 1815 and culminates with the 1832 June Rebellion in Paris?
6. The longest day of the year can occur on one of three dates in June, name any of the three?
7. In its own country it is commonly known as the June Fourth Incident; where did this incident happen?
8. In 1968, June Whitfield began her long television partnership with which actor and comedian?
9. What takes place near Pilton in the last week of June, each year?
10. What historical event happened on Tuesday, 6 June 1944?

Answers on p4

Bible Study

7pm on Monday Evenings
in St Stephen's Church
22 June to 3 August

To accompany the deep dive into Paul's letter to the Colossians, there will be a bible study session every Monday evening for seven weeks.



Recent Events

MOSSAF

Our MOSSAF men's group enjoyed a fantastic outing recently with a visit across the water to St Bartholomew's Church. We were treated to a wonderful, fact-filled guided tour by Father Ian Provost, who shared the history of the building, its resilience through the wartime Blitz, and its unique connection to the famous Antarctic explorer Captain Robert Falcon Scott. It was a thoroughly educational and uplifting evening of fellowship.



Our next gathering is on Monday 8 June at 7 pm at St Stephen's Church. Our special guest for the evening will be Liam Crabtree (pictured receiving the St Pirans Cross in 2024), who is coming to share his powerful and amazing personal testimony of faith in Jesus Christ. Liam will be talking openly about his life-changing transformation and his incredible journey from cocaine to Christianity. This promises to be an incredibly moving and inspiring evening that you won't want to miss.

New members are always welcome or come along as a one off with subs £1 for the night. For more details please speak to Steve Hookway.

Rev'd Pam Sellix

(1947-2026)

St John's Church in Pensilva was packed for the celebration of Rev'd Pam's life. And we gave thanks for the time she spent in our benefices.



Recent Events continued

Ploughman's Lunch

St Mary's held a successful ploughman's lunch and raised £191. Ken Crocker swept the raffle with four prizes.

Mothers' Union

At our meeting in May, Mothers' Union welcomed Chris Bailey from Community Enterprises. Chris explained that this is a Community Interest Company where any profits are used to support projects that benefit the Saltash area that the Council cannot provide. It has a Board of voluntary Directors and at present has 120 volunteers registered. It is supported by membership fees which at present are £1 per year.



There are five main ventures running:

1. **Fridge and Larder**

Using up donated food from supermarkets to provide cheap meals and give food (although donations are always accepted) to anyone in need. The main objective is to stop food going into landfill.

2. **Community Kitchen**

As mentioned above, providing cheap meals using donated food. Everyone is welcome to use the café and it also serves as a warm space.

3. **Memory Box**

For people with mild Dementia and their carers to enjoy the café on a Thursday for a meal and companionship.

4. **Community Shop**

Space for local makers to sell their goods alongside other businesses. Commission from rent helps to support other ventures.

5. **Community Premises**

The group rents out rooms at 18 Bellevue Road and is home to the Food Bank, Citizens Advice Bureau and Story Books For Dads.

Those of us who have peered into the window of The Kitchen and wondered, now have a clearer understanding of the aims of the enterprise and we thank Chris and his volunteers who are serving Saltash so well.

Answers to Quiz on page 3: 1. Horse Guards Parade 2. Gemini (until June 20) and Cancer (from June 21 onwards) 3. Pearl or alexandrite or moonstone (it seems to have three!) 4. 1985 5. Les Miserables 6. 20th, or 21st, or 22nd 7. Tiananmen Square, Beijing, China (1989) 8. Terry Scott 9. Glastonbury Festival 10. Normandy beach landings

Software that supports your church, extends God's kingdom

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

Prayer for June

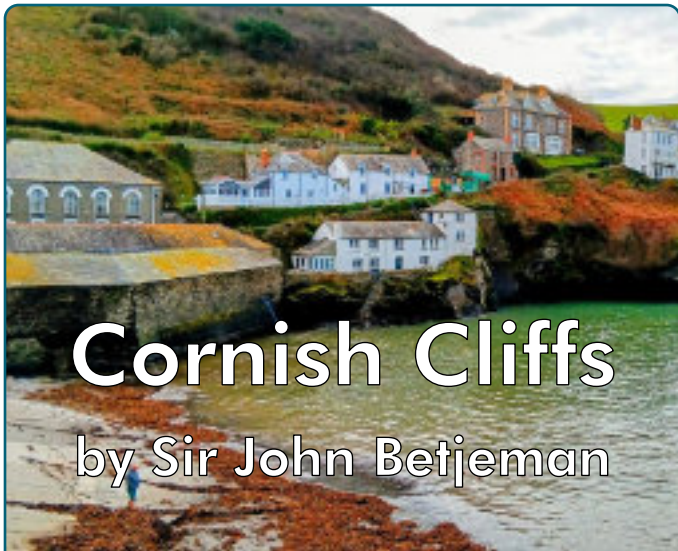
Heavenly Father,
thank You for the gift of a new month. As we step into June, we declare peace, progress, and divine protection. Let every closed door open, every delay turn to speed, and every burden be lifted. May joy overflow, and may our hearts stay lifted in Your grace.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Saltash foodbank

Make a difference!

Please donate food at Waitrose, Lidl, the Co-op or at the back of St Stephen's or SSNF Churches and/or donate money via the Foodbank website:
saltash.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money



Cornish Cliffs

by Sir John Betjeman

Those moments, tasted once and never done,
Of long surf breaking in the mid-day sun.
A far-off blow-hole booming like a gun.

The seagulls plane and circle out of sight
Below this thirsty, thrift-encrusted height,
The veined sea-campion buds burst into white.

And gorse turns tawny orange, seen beside
Pale drifts of primroses cascading wide
To where the slate falls sheer into the tide.

More than in gardened Surrey, nature spills
A wealth of heather, kidney-vetch and squills
Over these long-defended Cornish hills.

A gun-emplacement of the latest war
Looks older than the hill fort built before
Saxon or Norman headed for the shore.

And in the shadowless, unclouded glare
Deep blue above us fades to whiteness where
A misty sea-line meets the wash of air.

Nut-smell of gorse and honey-smell of ling
Waft out to sea the freshness of the spring
On sunny shallows, green and whispering.

The wideness which the lark-song gives the sky
Shrinks at the clang of sea-birds sailing by
Whose notes are tuned to days when seas are high.

From today's calm, the lane's enclosing green
Leads inland to a usual Cornish scene –
Slate cottages with sycamore between,

Small fields and tellymasts and wires and poles
With, as the everlasting ocean rolls,
Two chapels built for half a hundred souls.

Recent Events continued

May Show at St Stephen's

St Stephen's first ever May Show saw several, beautifully written poems entered into the handwriting competition by under 5-year olds right up to 10 and 11 year olds from our local schools.

As their last event in her Mayoral year, Mayor of Saltash, Councillor Rachel Bullock and her Consort, Matthew Bullock came to judge both the handwriting and the adults un-iced traditional Victoria Sponge events, and found the winners of the older handwriting category very hard to choose.



Pictured is Nevaeh who came second in the 5s and under handwriting, and Jill who won the traditional Victoria Sponge category, using a recipe that Rachel recognised as a Mary Berry recipe, and reminded Rachel of her Mum!

Rev Di was impressed by the refreshments available.

The May Show raised £322.03 for church funds. Thank you to everyone that helped and supported this event.



St Stephen's Summer Fair, 4 July

If you are able to donate any items for the tombola stall or raffle, please leave them at the back of the church.

Recent Events continued

Quiz Night at St Stephen's



A quiz night in aid of Christian Aid, held at St Stephen's Church in May, saw four teams put their thinking heads together, to answer some of the tricky questions set by quizmaster Mark Fox. The winners once again were the 'Never Last' team.



Thank you to everyone that made up the teams, Revd Di, Helen and Roger, and Mark Fox for once again providing a great quiz.

£100 was raised for Christian Aid.

Bacon Butties at St Nicholas & St Faith

Our bacon butties over the May Fair week end was very well attended, even with people who came and took them away.

All but about a dozen rashers of bacon were left, so we managed to get through almost four very large packs of bacon. We did run out of rolls though, and had to send up to the Co-op for more.

A total of just over £350 was made for church funds, so a very big thank you to all those who attended the event, not forgetting everyone who helped in any way with serving, cooking, and being in charge of coffee or tea, and of course, being in charge of the raffle and money.



Joint Choir

Firefighters' Service

Members were pleased to receive warm praise from the organisers of the successful 85th celebration of the sad loss of six Saltash Firemen in 1941.



Particular appreciation came from those attending, both from the church community, and also from special guests from service representatives, for the programme and the support given to the special occasion. Members gave of their time and gained a great deal from the afternoon.

Rowan House

A second visit to Rowan House was enjoyed by all. Four additional song requests were made by the audience and sung with gusto. A group came to the Botus Garden Party with the home providing transport. A good bridge-building experience again showing the power that music has in peoples lives.

Diocese of Truro

The Bishop of Truro, the Rt Revd David Williams is pleased to announce that the Revd Stephen Michael Guffick, at present Assistant Curate of the Looe Valley Benefice in the Diocese of Truro is to be Rector of the Benefice of The Rame and Rivers Churches with oversight responsibilities in the Diocese of Truro.



This is conditional on legal formalities being completed and successful completion of any outstanding curacy requirements.

He will be licensed at a place and on a date to be arranged.

Coffee, Cake & Chat

Wednesday 10 June and every 2nd Wednesday
10am to 11.30am in St Stephen's Church



Craft Afternoon

Monday 15 June and every 3rd Monday
2pm to 4pm in SSNF Church Rooms



Spud & Pud Lunch

Sunday 21 June
noon to 2pm
SSNF Church Rooms



All proceeds to Christian Aid

£6 pp. Please sign up at the back of the church
or email Margaret, mje1503@gmail.com

Fish 'n' Chips Night



Tuesday 7 July
6pm for 6.30pm
St Stephen's Church

- £14 per person for two courses.
- Please bring your own drinks. ● Raffle.

Tickets: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/fish-and-chip-evening>

Tamar Valley Male Voice Choir

Saturday 11 July, 7.30pm in SSNF Church

Tickets £7.50, available soon, from social committee or Piglets



St Stephen's Church Summer Fair

Saturday 4 July 10am to 2pm

- Stalls
- Refreshments
- Live Music
- Games
- And Much More!



Something for everyone
Join us for lots of fun!

Free Entry



Candlelit Supper Concerts

Diary dates for all – but especially those working towards their four-concert discount:

Sunday, 13 Sept: The Wivelscombe Quartet
A mix of witty, traditional and contemporary string pieces, back by popular demand, as we want to share their talents with our friends this time!

Friday, 27 November: The DerryAirs
Their clever range of traditional and modern sea shanties and songs also have you feeling good and get your feet tapping.

Wed, 9 Dec: The Polperro Fisherman's Choir
Come along and enjoy the Christmas Concert.

all at 7pm in St Michael's, Landrake