

Saltash Area Newsletter

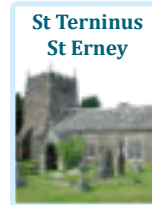
Dec 2021 / Jan 2022



St Michael Landrake



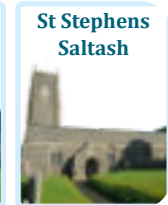
St Mary Botus Fleming



St Terninus St Erney



SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash



St Stephens Saltash

DISCOVERING GOD'S KINGDOM – GROWING THE CHURCH
www.saltashteamministry.org



Diary Dates

Saturday

27 November

Open daily until

Friday 10 December

SS Nicholas & Faith Church

Christmas Tree Festival

See p5 for opening times

Friday

3 December

7.30pm

St Stephen's Church

Christmas Concert

with Tamar Valley

Male Voice Choir

Friday

10 December

7pm

St Stephen's Church

Christmas Big Sing

Saturday

18 December

10am to 1pm

SS Nicholas & Faith Church

Coffee Morning plus Grand

Christmas Draw

Saturday

29 January

10am to Noon

St Stephen's Church

Church Fair



"Death is the bargain we make for living."

Arthur Miller

Many years ago, I received a Christmas card which had the depiction of the Nativity scene on its front. In the manger was the baby Jesus, Mary lovingly looking at him, Joseph protectively standing over them, the Shepherds gathered by the entrance. (No kings, of course, because they do not arrive until Epiphany.) Beyond the open door there was a figure approaching carrying a large cross. The Shepherd nearest the door is



Lorenzo Costa, Nativity (1490)

looking over his shoulder at the figure and saying; 'You're too early mate, come back later.'

We have recently passed through a month of 'Remembrance'. Remembering the saints of God from every age, remembering those who have died in the cause of peace, remembering those injured in mind and body and continuing to suffer, remembering those whom we have loved who now are in God's loving keeping.

*Crib Service – if you plan to attend, please let us know your family/group size due to Covid number restrictions. office@saltashteamministry.org
Children are welcome to wear a nativity costume.

SERVICES AT CHRISTMAS

Sunday 12 Dec

4.30pm St Mary Christingle

Sunday 19 Dec

6pm SS Nicholas & Faith Nine Lessons & Carols

Christmas Eve

3.15pm St Stephen Crib Service *

6.30pm St Mary Carol Service

11pm SS Nicholas & Faith Midnight Mass

11.30pm St Stephen Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

9.30am St Michael Holy Communion

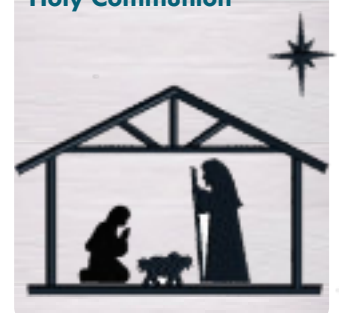
10.30am SSNF Holy Communion

11.15am St Mary Holy Communion

11.15am St Erney Matins

St Stephen's Day

10am St Stephen Holy Communion



DECEMBER SERVICES

See page 1 for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day & St Stephen's Day Services

Advent 28 November

- St Stephen-by-Saltash**
9.30am Holy Communion with two baptisms
- St Michael, Landrake**
9.30am Holy Communion
- SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash**
11am Holy Communion
6.30pm Darkness to Light
- St Mary, Botus Fleming**
11.15am Family Service

Sunday 5 December

- St Stephen-by-Saltash**
9.30am Holy Communion
- St Michael, Landrake**
9.30am All Age Service
- SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash**
11am Holy Communion
- St Mary, Botus Fleming**
11.15am All Age Service
6.30pm Evensong
- St Erney, Landrake**
11.15am Matins

Wed 8 December

- St Stephen-by-Saltash**
10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 12 December

- St Stephen-by-Saltash**
9.30am Holy Communion
- St Michael, Landrake**
9.30am Holy Communion
- SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash**
11am Holy Communion
- St Mary, Botus Fleming**
4.30pm Christingle

Sunday 19 December

- St Stephen-by-Saltash**
9.30am All Age Service & Communion with Archdeacon Kelly
6.30pm Evensong
- St Michael, Landrake**
9.30am Holy Communion
- SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash**
11am Holy Communion
6pm 9 Lessons & Carols
- St Mary, Botus Fleming**
11.15am All Age Service
- St Erney, Landrake**
11.15am Holy Communion

Now as we approach Christmas our thoughts turn to the baby whose birth was to bring peace and life; a vulnerable babe whose birth heralds the start of new life that brings a new perspective for the expectations of humanity. So it's time for preparing, time to recall where the Christmas cards are that were bought last August, where is the list of those who receive them, where is the list for those who receive presents, where is that 'safe place' that I put them. Then there are the Christmas lunches for the various organisations to which I belong and the family parties far and near. So much preparation!

The fast of Advent is a solemn reminder that we also need to prepare to welcome again the Babe lying in a manger. To remember that in the midst of all the celebrations, all the jollity, all the excitement this, is about the Babe who came to suffer and to die. No matter how hard we try death cannot be blotted out of the Christmas event. It is the inevitable presence!

Immediately after Christmas Day come two incidents of its presence. The martyrdom of Saint Stephen (which we especially commemorate in our group) and the death of the Holy Innocents (those young children murdered at the whim of Herod) will not let us forget and the pure white of celebration turns to the red of solemnity.

All is not lost though in the birth of the Babe lies the hope that death has been conquered and new life arises. There is hope founded on faith. 'Let not your hearts be troubled.'

May His love, His peace and His joy be yours this Christmastide and throughout the New Year.

Fr Brian



JANUARY SERVICES

Sunday 2 January

- St Stephen-by-Saltash**
9.30am Holy Communion
- St Michael, Landrake**
9.30am All Age Service
- SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash**
11am Holy Communion
- St Mary, Botus Fleming**
11.15am All Age Service
6.30pm Evensong
- St Erney, Landrake**
11.15am Matins

Sunday 9 January

- St Stephen-by-Saltash**
9.30am Holy Communion
- St Michael, Landrake**
9.30am Holy Communion
- SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash**
11am Holy Communion
- St Mary, Botus Fleming**
11.15am Holy Communion

Wed 12 January

- St Stephen-by-Saltash**
10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 16 January

- St Stephen-by-Saltash**
9.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evensong
- St Michael, Landrake**
9.30am Holy Communion
- SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash**
11am Holy Communion
- St Mary, Botus Fleming**
11.15am All Age Service
- St Erney, Landrake**
11.15am Holy Communion

Sunday 23 January

- St Stephen-by-Saltash**
9.30am Holy Communion
- St Michael, Landrake**
9.30am Holy Communion
- SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash**
11am Holy Communion
- St Mary, Botus Fleming**
11.15am Holy Communion

Sunday 30 January

- SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash**
10.00am United Service



Christmas Quiz

- 1 Which country started the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree?
- 2 How many ghosts show up in A Christmas Carol?
- 3 In Home Alone, where are the McCallisters going on holiday when they leave Kevin behind?
- 4 In which country did eggnog originate?
- 5 How many gifts were given in total in 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' song?
- 6 How many of Rudolph's fellow reindeers' names start with 'D'?
- 7 What is traditionally hidden inside a Christmas pudding?
- 8 What is the best-selling Christmas single of all time?
- 9 Traditionally, when should you start making a Christmas pudding?
- 10 What gift did Harry Potter receive from the Dursleys during his first Christmas at Hogwarts?
- 11 In which modern-day country was St Nicholas born?
- 12 Visions of which food danced in children's heads as they slept in the poem 'Twas The Night Before Christmas?'

Answers on page 7



Recent Events

Men of St Stephen's and Friends (MOSSAF)

Our Men's group Mossaf very much enjoyed our end of year meal at the Toby Carvery in Plympton. Many thanks to David Coot for organising the evening.



We now close down for the Winter months and will start back up on Monday 14 March. New members are always welcome. Please see Steve Hookway, Roger Rowse or Dave Coot for further details.

St Stephen's November Fair



Thank you to all who helped and supported at our recent November Fair. It was an extremely busy event, raising the fantastic amount of £2,206.45.

Carol Singing in Botus Fleming



**22 & 23
December
starting at
6.30pm**

Christmas Bells

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till, ringing, singing on its way
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The Carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;
'There is no peace on earth,' I said;
'For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!'

It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
'God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men!'

SCOTLAND

18 – 25 JULY 2022



Tyndrum

1 night: Holiday Inn, Dumfries

3 nights: Ben Doran Hotel, Tyndrum

2 nights: Queens Hotel, Dundee

1 overnight stop: Mercure, Preston

Cost £660 per person (deposit of £75)

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



Dundee

The trip is with Peninsula Holiday and run by Majestic Tours.

**Insurance cover (if required) is £35 per person:
the Majestic cover is not subject to age restriction.**

**Detailed itinerary and further information will be
confirmed when the viability of the trip is established.**

**Further information from Fr Brian 07710231219
sheriock42@yahoo.co.uk**

Christmas Tree Festival 2021

Saturday 27 November
to Friday 10 December

FREE ENTRY – donations invited



Well over 70 trees will be on show
including several new entries

Opening Times

Saturday 27 November: 10am to 4pm

Refreshments including bacon butties available

Sunday 28 November: 2pm to 6pm

Monday to Friday: 2pm to 6pm

Saturday 4 December: 10am to 4pm*

Refreshments including bacon butties available

*Depending on the town festivities, the closing could be later, please watch the pew sheet for more information.

Sunday 5 December: 2pm to 4pm

The **Burraton Boys** are coming to sing for us
There will be tea/coffee and mince pies afterwards

Monday to Friday: 2pm to 6pm

Grand Christmas Draw

Trees will be taken down on Saturday 11 December (10am to noon) and our Grand Christmas Draw will be drawn at noon at our Coffee Morning on Saturday 18 December.

Recent Events continued

Mother's Union

At our meeting in November, Mothers' Union welcomed Audrey Miller who spoke to us about international families. Audrey has been an avid traveller since she was a girl guide in the 50s, but she began corresponding with her first penfriend in 1944 when she wrote to a girl in Canada. This was followed by an Australian penfriend in 1948, with whom Audrey had contact until just four years ago. Parcels of dried fruit and tinned soup were received from this family to brighten the lives of Audrey's family at the end of WWII.

In 1956 Audrey joined the international friendship league and travelled with them for many years, meeting families throughout Europe. She had many photo albums to show us and even more stories to entertain us with.

To this day Audrey still edits the magazine for the friendship league. We thank Audrey for joining us at our meeting.

Our next meeting is at 2.30 pm on the 14 December. We will travel to Merrymeet church for a joint Advent Service with the Menhenniot and Merrymeet branch of the Mothers' Union.

Messy Church

At the first meeting of Messy Church since the pandemic struck, we welcomed 18 children and their parents or grandparents into St Stephen's church. The theme of the afternoon was *Jesus the light of the World*. We began with a song, followed by prayers and then a story about blind Bartimeus.

Following this, the children made paper candles for the tree to be entered in the festival at St Nicholas church. They also used dough to make a tea light holder – all beautifully decorated with gemstones. With a candle fixed into each holder the church was lit up for the singing of an old favourite – *This little light of mine*. The service came to a close with a rendition of the Messy Grace and we were all ready for a wonderful tea.

It was so good to see the youngsters in church. I thank all those who helped to make the afternoon a success.

Next month will be the Messy Church party to be held in St Nicholas church on the 18 December. Please book a place by ringing 846803 as numbers will be limited.



Surprise for Ruth



There was a surprise for Ruth Edmondson at the end of the Saltash Team Ministry United Service at St Stephen by Saltash Parish Church in October, when she was presented with a bouquet of flowers by Reverend Pam Sellix, and a cheque by Richard Margetts, both on behalf of the five Churches in thanks for her work in recording the Church services each week, to be watched online.

Each week, during the lockdown, Ruth visited one of the Churches, and recorded a specially organised service with just the officiating Priest, and perhaps two others reading lessons and leading the intercessions. These services enabled our congregations to be part of the Sunday services.

When Churches re-opened, Ruth continued to film normal services for those unable to get to Church.

Using a mobile phone on a tripod to record the services each week and travelling around to the five Churches, Ruth has provided a useful link between the Churches and the community. Many thanks to Ruth from all of us.

Audrey Miller

Thanks must also go to the clergy who turned up to (mostly) freezing cold churches to take the services!

Many, many thanks for the lovely flowers and cheque. Much appreciated. Ruth

What's On

Christmas Tree Festival
SS Nicholas & Faith
Sat 27 Nov to Fri 10 Dec



See page 5 for more details.

Christmas Concert
with Tamar Valley
Male Voice Choir
St Stephen's Church
Fri 3 December, 7.30pm



The TMVMC always put on a cracking Christmas Concert. So come along and get into the Christmas spirit as many well-known festive favourites are sung.

The evening will also feature performances by Claire Fry and Darren Jane while the Choir take a quick breather.



Tickets costing £5 each are available now from Piglets in Fore Street, Or from Roger Rowse on 01752 843766 or you can pay on the night. Accompanied Under 16s go free.

Christmas Big Sing
St Stephen's Church
Fri 10 December, 7pm

We are delighted to announce the return of The Christmas Big Sing. Join us as we sing popular, traditional Christmas Carols.



The evening will feature performances by Brunel Primary Academy Choir, The Burraton Boys and Claire Fry & Darren Jane.

Seasonal refreshments will be served after. Entry is free but a collection in aid of The St Petroc's Society will take place during the evening. Their aim is to end homelessness in Cornwall.

It's going to be a fun night so please support. Feel free to wear your Christmas jumpers and festive accessories.

Coffee Morning
SSNF Church Rooms
Sat 18 Dec, 10am to Noon



Come and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea. Bring your Christmas Grand Draw tickets as the winners will be drawn at noon.

What's On

9 Lessons and Carols
SS Nicholas & Faith
Sat 19 December, 6pm



The music will be led by the South West Chamber Music Choir. The Musical Director is Stephen Trehair, and the Organist is Dr Sean Sweeny.

The Choir sang for us last year, and the service was enjoyed by everyone who came, despite the lockdown that was in place at the time.

We look forward to you all coming along this year.

Church Fair

St Stephen's Church
Sat 29 January, 10am to Noon



Refreshments will be served throughout. Entry is free so please pop along and support us.

Christmas Quiz Answers: 1. Germany. 2. Four: former business partner Jacob Marley, and the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Future. 3. Paris. 4. Britain. 5. 364. 6. Three: Dancer, Dasher, Donner. 7. A coin. 8. Bing Crosby - 'White Christmas', according to the Guinness Book of World Records. 9. On a Sunday, five weeks before Christmas. 10. A 50-pence piece. 11. Turkey (originally Patara, a city in the ancient district of Lycia, in Asia Minor). 12. Sugar plums.

Don't keep it all to yourself!

The angels announced good news and sang for joy – God is with us!
Shepherds heard the good news and went to find it.
Wise men saw its signs and sought it out.

Lord God, open our hearts and minds to your good news this Christmas. May we give our lives to your service and share the good news of your love with all we find. In the name of Jesus. Amen

A Christmas Blessing

May the joy of the angels;
The eagerness of the shepherds,
The perseverance of the wise men,
The obedience of Joseph and Mary,
And the peace of the Christ-child
Be yours this Christmas.



And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. Amen

Pam Sellix

Christmas Decorations



St Stephen's Church Wooden
Christmas Decorations
£5.50 each

Available from Ray Wills at
St Stephen's or by emailing
office@saltashteamministry.org

Samaritan's Purse



Many thanks to everyone who supported this year's Samaritan's Purse Appeal. Once again, I was overwhelmed by the response, especially in the current situation.

Boxes were packed, and are now on their way, other boxes were done online and generous donations of money were received.

I will pass on details of numbers collected in Saltash and their destination when known.

Margaret Dell

'I'm Nicholas'

The Sunday school class was asked to bring an article which would suggest a scripture text.

One child brought a loaf of bread to illustrate – 'I am the Bread of life';

Another brought a candle – 'I am light of the world';

A little boy brought a lollipop which caused some confusion until he revealed that it stood for 'Hold fast to that which is good.'

The 6 December is the feast of Nicholas, one of the Patron Saints of St Nicholas and St Faith. The occasion of a Patronal Festival in the life of a community (especially 'worshipping community') is special. It gives an

opportunity to reconsider and to reappraise both the substance of our faith and how that faith is being lived and expressed in the community. It does, of course, pose the question, 'is the life of the community any the richer because of the faith which drives and motivates my life?'

Nicholas was a fourth century bishop of Myra in Asia Minor (Southern Turkey). He was remembered because of his reputation as a worker of wonders and is now remembered by a number of stories attributed to him. They concern his care for the oppressed. He saved three girls from a life of prostitution by providing them with dowries and so developed the tradition of giving gifts (hence Father Christmas derives). He is patron saint of Russia, Pawn Brokers and children.

In the scriptures the writers are concerned to lay before us the heart of

Christian experience. As one of our modern theologians has put it, 'Its content comes when we escape the servitude to things, when we find our wealth in the love and the friendship and the fellowship in humanity, and when we realise that our most precious possession is our friendship with God, made possible through Jesus Christ.' *William Barclay*



So, we are called

To follow: Not to walk behind, but to imitate, to copy the Christ who came so that we may have life.

To proclaim: Not only through words, but the manner of our life.

To teach: Not solely in an academic sense but to allow others to see in us the glory of

the Christ Child.

To care: not from a distance, but by placing all that we have and are in the service of others.

As the hymn writer, Giles Ambrose, states:

**We look around and see thy face
disfigured, marred, neglected;
we find thee lord in every place,
sought for and unexpected.**

**We offer in simplicity
our loving gift and labour;
and what we do, we do to thee,
Incarnate in our neighbour.**

These fundamental tasks can only, and will only, be brought to fruition when we have learned to 'to hold fast to that which is good.'

Fr Brian



Our latest needs are:

- Christmas Puddings (especially small ones)
- Instant Custard Powder
- Tinned Ham
- Savoury Biscuits
- Jam
- Chocolates

Make a difference!

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

Volunteers Needed

Saltash Foodbank are recruiting signposting volunteers to support their current service. The role entails contacting recent clients by phone to provide a signposting service to local agencies and support services. Calls would be made between 9am & 3pm on weekdays, days and hours to suit, and would involve a commitment of no more than 2-3 hours per week. A mobile phone will be provided but access to a computer is required. Previous experience with counselling or in a similar role would be advantageous but is not essential.

For details or to apply please email info@saltash.foodbank.org.uk or visit the Foodbank website and click on *give help*.

saltash.foodbank.org.uk

Obituaries

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

Ann Hope Jones

Lifetime member of St Stephen by Saltash Parish Church
Ann Hope Jones died on the 14 September 2021 at
Greenacres Care home, Plymouth, where she had been
for a few months.



Ann was born in November 1932, was baptised and confirmed at St Stephen's Church and served the Church in many ways including bell ringer, PCC member, founder member of the Young Wives Group, member of the Deanery and Diocesan Synods and Sunday School teacher.

Ann attended Saltash Grammar School and, on leaving, became a librarian in Plymouth Central Library and also served in several branch libraries. Later she worked for Boots, then WH Smith in Saltash followed by Dingle and Co, Saltash.

In 1955, Ann married Warwick Jones who was brought up in St Nicholas and St Faith Church. He became a bell ringer at St Stephen's, secretary of the PCC, Church warden and eventually became a Priest. Warwick sadly died in 1996, aged 67. Ann and Warwick had two sons.

Ann loved music and played the piano for the Sunday School. She became a member of Saltash Ladies Choir when Mrs Betty Pawley was musical director. She also took part in the Saltash Operatic and Dramatic Society Gilbert and Sullivan productions.

Audrey Miller

Brenton Charles Wreford Blandford



It was some years ago now that I noticed a stranger wearing a Readers' tie during a Sunday service at St Stephen's. Over coffee afterwards we found ourselves introduced to Brenton Blandford – who was indeed a Reader who had recently moved to Saltash from Norwich Diocese with his wife, Catherine.

Brenton was born in New Zealand – and came to us via the New Zealand Navy and then years in the Civil Service in various parts of the world.

I remember him telling me once of the great peace and sense of God's presence out on deck at night in the middle of the ocean.

Of course we gradually came to know Brenton and Catherine as they joined our congregations. Brenton's Reader's Licence was transferred from Norwich to Truro and he began to take his part in our services – including in the wider team when it was formed six or seven years ago – and we have also been grateful for his contributions to this newsletter!

In the last few years, however, Catherine had been ill and she and Brenton regularly attended Botus Fleming church, though eventually Brenton retired from leading worship. Sadly, Catherine died at the end of August – only to be followed so soon by Brenton himself.

We shall miss Brenton – as of course we miss them both. We are thankful for his ministry among us and for his part with Catherine too – in our fellowship here.

Pam Sellix

Please email articles for the February issue to: newsletter@saltashteamministry.org by 20 January 2022.