

# Saltash Area Newsletter

February 2025



St Michael Landrake



St Mary Botus Fleming



St Terninus St Erney



SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash



St Stephens Saltash



SS Leonard & Dilpe, Landulph

Love God, Serve People, Make Disciples. [www.saltashteamministry.org](http://www.saltashteamministry.org)

## Looking Forward ...

Dear Friends

As we begin 2025, we look forward to actively engaging with the four key priorities outlined in the Deanery Plan, which we adopted in June 2022:

- Discipleship
- Community Engagement
- Children, Young People, Families & Schools
- Resourcing Lay Leaders

This month, I will be gathering a small group from across the churches to begin working on implementing the Deanery Plan and addressing these priorities within our Benefice. Please keep an eye out for more information.

## St George's House



Rev'd Laura on the Steps of St George's with other incumbents who have St George as their patrons

It was a joy in January to visit St George's House in the grounds of Windsor Castle for a time of reflection and prayer with the Dean and Canons of the College of St George, who are the Patrons of St Stephen's by Saltash. The patronage has been with St George's since 1351, and we share a long and historic connection with this Royal Peculiar.

During our time there, we were privileged to hear from Abbot Christopher Jamison, who spoke on 'The Language of Grace'. He quoted Thomas Aquinas, who said that Grace is characterised by three things:

- 1 General appreciation of the goodness of life
- 2 A gift – a specific sign of goodness given to us by God
- 3 Gratitude – the act of giving thanks for the goodness of life that God has given us

We noted that while the first two points are often seen in the modern world, the third – gratitude – is too often missing, and this hampers our understanding of grace.



**Wednesday 29 January**

10.30am

St Mary's Church Hall

Coffee Morning

**Tuesday 11 February**

Mothers' Union

Meal & Quiz

**Wednesday 12 February**

10-11.30am

St Stephen's Church

Coffee, Cake & Chat

**Saturday 15 February**

3-5pm

St Stephen's Church

Messy Church

**Saturday 15 February**

3-5pm

SSNF Church Rooms

Valentine's High Tea

with Prosecco

**Monday 17 February**

2-4pm

SSNF Church Rooms

Craft Afternoon

**Friday 21 February**

Noon

S.T.A.R.T.

**Saturday 22 February**

6pm

The Geffery Memorial Hall

Soup with Beetle Drive

**Tuesday 4 March**

3-5pm

St Stephen's Church

Shrove Tuesday Pancakes

**Saturday 5 April**

10am to 1pm

St Stephen's Church

Easter Fair

## FEBRUARY SERVICES

### Sunday 2 February

**St Michael, Landrake**  
9.30am Morning Worship

**St Stephen-by-Saltash**  
10am Family Morning Worship

**St Leonard & St Dilpe, Landulph**  
10am Holy Communion

**St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash**  
10.30am Holy Communion

**St Mary, Botus Fleming**  
11.15am Morning Worship  
6.30pm Sung Evensong

### Sunday 9 February

**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 16 February

**St Michael, Landrake**  
9.30am Holy Communion

**St Stephen-by-Saltash**  
10am Morning Worship  
6.30pm Evensong

**St Leonard & St Dilpe, Landulph**  
10am Morning Worship

**St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash**  
10.30am Holy Communion

**St Mary, Botus Fleming**  
11.15am Morning Worship

### Sunday 23 February

**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

### Wednesdays 5 & 19 February

**St Stephen-by-Saltash**  
10am Holy Communion



Abbot Christopher shared insightful reflections on the impact of this in society today.

We also enjoyed a private tour of the State Apartments at Windsor Castle, guided by the Constable of Windsor Castle, and a late-night tour by the Clerk to the Chapter of St George's Chapel. During this time, we took a moment to pay our respects at the tomb of the late Queen Elizabeth II. Another highlight was our visit to Eton College Chapel, where we spoke with one of the five chaplains about their work with the boys at Eton and the role of school chaplaincy.

## Oversight Ministry

The Oversight Ministry Course is progressing well, with two of the six sessions completed. The first session highlighted that 70% of parishes across the country are part of multi-parish benefices, like ours. This brings both challenges and opportunities, and we discussed how simplistic solutions are insufficient. We also acknowledged the losses that both parishes and priests experience in multi-parish settings, which was a thought-provoking exercise.

This week, our second session focused on the difficult task of shifting culture, particularly how we can create an environment where lay

leadership can flourish. Our Bible study was based on 1 Timothy 4:6-16. As always, if you have any questions about the course or anything else, please feel free to reach out to me – thank you to the one person who did last month!

## Administration

In addition to working on implementing the Deanery Plan, February will bring discussions around improving our admin systems. We are aiming to have a digital system in place this year for managing Electoral Rolls and contacts, which will help streamline some of the administrative tasks involved in running a Benefice.

I will be meeting with all the PCC secretaries to start preparing the Annual Reports for our Annual Meetings later this Spring. Please begin to think about how you can serve God in His church this year. Many of our churches have vacancies for Church Officers, and there is free training available. As the saying goes, many hands make light work!

We will also have the final part of our PCC training on 8 February, focusing on working as part of a multi-parish benefice.

With love and prayers,

Revd Laura



### Bank the Food

Point your mobile phone camera at this QR code. Click the link to download the 'Bank the Food' App. This will enable you to see which items Saltash Foodbank needs now!

### 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: [saltash.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money](https://saltash.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money)





1. In which month did the UK general election take place – and how many seats did Labour win?
2. In May, the 2024 Sunday Times Rich List revealed the first billionaire British musician, can you name him?
3. What was unique about the £1 coins entering circulation on August 20?
4. Where did Hyperia, the UK's tallest and fastest rollercoaster, open?
5. Why were these six words in the news – Mildmay, Suffragette, Windrush, Liberty, Lioness and Weaver?
6. The UK's largest indoor arena finally opened (after a few hitches) in which city?
7. Reform leader Nigel Farage finally won a seat in parliament. Can you name the constituency he now represents?
8. At the Paris Olympics, Team GB came home with just one gold from the track. Name the athlete – and the event.
9. There was home glory in the British Grand Prix at Silverstone. Which driver topped the podium?
10. Dame Maggie Smith sadly passed away in 2024, but how old was she?

*Answers on p7*

## Donations, Please

Can you help support St Stephen's Church Easter Fair on Saturday 5 April, by kindly donating Easter Eggs or other Easter items for their Bumper Easter Egg Raffle?

If so, then please leave them in the box at the back of the church marked Raffle Prizes or in the Office on Wednesdays or Thursdays (9.30am to 2.30pm).

Your support is much appreciated.



## Recent Events

### Nine Lessons & Carols at St Mary

The full church for the Christmas Eve Nine Lessons & Carols was extremely successful. Fay Penwill sang the first verse of Once In Royal David City and Richard Hosking was in charge.

The lessons were read by close family members who had had services for relatives over the year.

The combined proceeds amounted to circa £1,000.

### Mothers' Union

Mothers' Union held a service for Advent which was well attended – thanks to all who came along on a cold December afternoon. Special thanks to Paul Fry for his organ playing. We enjoyed teas and mince pies afterwards and our retiring collection raised £51 for St Petrocs Charity.



Back to normal service in January – subscriptions were collected and we now have 18 members. We had a discussion about kitchen gadgets that we would not like to be without. Most popular seemed to be the kettle and the washing machine – always ready to be of use – just like MU members! I hope the afternoon also made us think about which of God's gifts we would not like to be without!

In February we will not meet in Church as we will meet for a meal and quiz (venue yet to be decided). In March we will welcome the retiring Diocesan President of MU who will no doubt have some experiences of her time in office to recount.

Don't forget we meet for a Craft Afternoon on the third Monday of the month in St Nicholas Church Rooms at 2pm and our Coffee and Chat mornings on the second Wednesdays of the month in St Stephen's Church at 10am. We look forward to seeing you.

### Will Keating Candlelit Concert

The Will Keating Candlelit Concert was much enjoyed by all who joined us at St Michael's. Around 90 people attended and over £300 was raised.

Thank you to all concerned.





# January Brings The Snow

January brings the snow,  
Makes our feet and fingers glow.

February brings the rain,  
Thaws the frozen lake again.

March brings breezes sharp and shrill,  
Shakes the dancing daffodil.

April brings the primrose sweet,  
Scatters daisies at our feet.

May brings flocks of pretty lambs,  
Skipping by their fleecy dams.

June brings tulips, lillies, roses,  
Fills the children's hands with posies.

Hot July brings cooling showers,  
Apricots and gillyflowers.

August brings the sheaves of corn,  
Then the harvest home is borne.

Warm September brings the fruit,  
Sportsmen then begin to shoot.

Brown October brings the pheasant,  
Then to gather nuts is pleasant.

Dull November brings the blast,  
Then the leaves go whirling past.

Chill December brings the sleet,  
Blazing fire and Christmas treat.

# Christmas



**Top left:** Crib Service at St Stephen's

**Top right:** Mothers' Union Advent Service.

**Middle:** Darkness to Light Advent Service at St Nicholas and St Faith.

**Bottom left:** Crib at St Stephen's.

**Bottom right:** Christmas Tree Festival.



## Recent Events continued

### Christmas Tree Festival



Our 18th Christmas Tree Festival came to conclusion on Friday 13 December. Over 70 trees were on show and the church was extremely busy right up to the last minute, with people coming to look at the trees, some coming back for a second and third time.

Despite the town activities being postponed due to the high winds and heavy rain on 7 December, we kept the church open, and still served bacon butties in the church Rooms. As the church was warm people were glad to come in for refreshment as well as get out of the wind and rain.

£4,200 was made for church funds. So far we have had five new entries wishing to enter a tree in 2025. Many of those who came to view the trees said that this is where Christmas starts for them.

The children's quiz always goes down well – some adults were also enjoying it. Thanks must go to Mrs Kay Gill for all her hard work in preparing it each year. The raffle was well supported, and we ran out of tickets during the last two to three days. Unfortunately the tickets are printed in multiples of 500 and it was not possible to get more printed in time. All the raffle winners were delighted with their prizes.

Thank you to every one who helped in any way during the three weeks the trees were on show, as well as those who gave of their time to steward, and serve teas and coffees during the set up day. Most of all thank you all for your support in coming to the festival, and for all organisations for taking part and always making it so special.

If you weren't able to make the festival or would like to see the trees again, there is a video on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/TinkK816yus>

## Coming Up

### Coffee Morning

From 10.30am, Wednesday 29 January  
St Mary's Church Hall, Botus Fleming



Look out for St Mary's  
Jacket Potato Lunch

Coming Soon!

Details will be on the  
pew sheets and website.

### Coffee, Cake & Chat

Wednesday 12 February and every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday  
10am to 11.30am in St Stephen's Church



### Valentine's High Tea with Prosecco

Saturday 15 February  
3pm to 5pm  
SSNF Church Rooms

Tickets available from  
Leslie Stevens and Margaret Evans

Come and join the fun!



### Craft Afternoon

Monday 17 February and every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday  
2pm to 4pm in SSNF Church Rooms



Bring along your current project or start a new one!



## Recent Events continued

### START

In Advent, we were pleased to join the Probus Club for our Christmas Lunch at The China Fleet Club together with our ladies. Traditional fare was served to the gathering and we thank both Roger Rowse and Tony Dell for their planning of this very pleasant event. We were wished a merry Christmas and a healthy, happy New Year and trust that we can all come together next Advent.

January arrived swiftly and we had a good turn-out for our first meeting of the year; starting with a lunch at The Ploughboy Inn before gathering in the lounge at Wesley to 'brainstorm' ideas for activities for the New Year. I am always amazed and delighted that our members come up with such a diverse collection of suggestions and members being prepared to undertake the necessary planning to ensure the events selected run successfully.



The following list gives the flavour of the embryo program but will be subject to changes as research dictates! A talk on bees; a visit to Saltram House; Strawberry Fields Farm, Lifton to view the Spring flowers; lunch at Kit Hill followed by a tour of West Dartmoor; a train ride to Looe; a bus ride to Mount Batten; a bus and train ride to Bere Ferrers; a boat trip to Calstock; a talk by Sue Hooper on some aspect of Saltash; Devonport Market Planetarium and to close the year we look forward to a Christmas Lunch with the Probus Club.

We would be delighted to welcome some new men to the group so please have a word with John West or Len Maddock for more information; we are an Ecumenical gathering and normally meet on the third Friday of the month at the appropriate place to embark on whatever transport has been selected.

## Coming Up continued

### Soup & Beetle Drive

Saturday 22 February  
The Geffery Memorial Hall

Fun for all ages!

Tickets available  
from Landrake Stores, or  
[landrakesterneyfundraising@gmail.com](http://landrakesterneyfundraising@gmail.com)



### Shrove Tuesday Pancakes

Tuesday, 4 March  
3pm to 5pm in St Stephen's Church



Two pancakes and a drink

(tea, coffee or squash)  
adults £4, children £2.

### Easter Fair

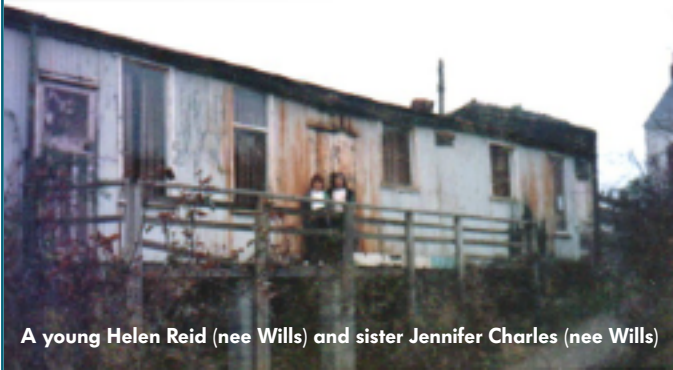
Saturday 5 April  
10am to 1pm in St Stephen's Church

- Refreshments
- Food and Craft Stalls
- Easter Egg Tombola
- Bumper Easter Raffle
- Side Stalls
- Books, Stationery, Cards
- And Much More!

Free Entry

## St Stephen's Church Hall

Though St Stephen's Church excelled all neighbouring churches in size and in beauty, it lacked those additional premises which became necessary in the nineteenth century for Sunday School and other parochial activities.



A young Helen Reid (nee Wills) and sister Jennifer Charles (nee Wills)

In 1946, the Church Council agreed to purchase, by deferred payments, from Mr J J Gerry, a building to be called the Church Hall. Long before the payments were completed, Mrs Gerry relinquished her interest in the Hall and it became church property. Above is a picture of the 'dilapidated' hall after it ceased being used. I remember taking my daughters there for Nursery. I think the leader may have been Mrs Beaumont. I also attended shows there as the hall had a stage and also, the highlight of the year 'St Stephen's Fete and Flower Show'. I also attended the Flower Arranging Club there, I think the lady in charge was Mrs Willcocks. The Church Caretaker, Mr Barrett and his wife, lived in their own wooden bungalow at the back of the hall. Wedding receptions and St Stephen's Sunday School were also held in this building. Mary Wills

## Recent Events continued

### Messy Church



We were delighted to welcome 40 children with their parents and carers into St Stephen's Church for our Messy session in January. We were celebrating *The Light of the World* and held our Christingle service.

The children made lanterns, lighthouses, edible Christingles and of course their Christingles for our worship. The children also coloured people to place on the board to share their light around the world.

Jill gave a talk about how Jesus' light never goes out but can be in our hearts forever. In our worship we lit candles and said the prayer from the Children's Society: *Lord Jesus, Light of the World, as I hold this Christingle and I think about your great love for me, help me to take this light out into the World and to share your love with others, especially those who need it most. Amen*

We ate our buffet tea whilst enjoying conversation and gave a round of applause for the dedicated team who attends each month, to support the children as they make the crafts and prepare the buffet.

### Prayer for Thankfulness

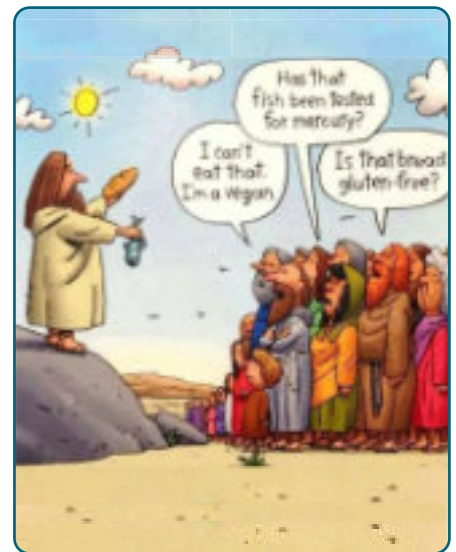
**Lord, you are ever watchful  
and bless us with your gifts;  
as you provide for all our needs,  
so help us to build only what  
pleases you,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**



### Answers to Quiz on page 3

1. July – Labour won 412 seats.
2. Sir Paul McCartney.
3. They were the first £1 coins featuring the head of Charles III.
4. Thorpe Park in Surrey.
5. They are the names of London's new six overground lines.
6. Co-op Live opened in Manchester.
7. Clacton.
8. Keely Hodgkinson in the 800m.
9. Lewis Hamilton.
10. 89 years old.



Please email articles for the next issue to: [newsletter@saltashteamministry.org](mailto:newsletter@saltashteamministry.org) by 20 February