

Saltash Area Newsletter

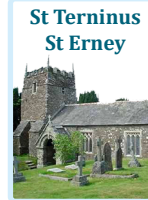
May 2023



St Michael Landrake



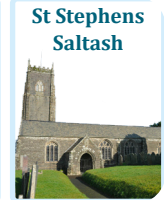
St Mary Botus Fleming



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

The Firstfruits of the Dead



“There I was, driving along, minding my own business,” someone told me last week, “and suddenly the vicar comes on the radio talking about planting vegetables in churchyards.” You may already have heard about Landrake churchyard’s new vegetable plot. Click the link to read the article on the BBC news website – <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cornwall-65264141>. (Readers of the paper copy may find the link does not work.)

It was a media storm, quite literally: wind, rain, freezing temperatures, as well as a nice man from the BBC taking establishing shots of spades. I can offer one behind-the-scenes titbit: the final blessing at the end of the BBC news broadcast was actually done in two takes. Thankfully, unlike the ‘Songs of Praise’ Vicar of Dibley episode, no-one had to pretend to laugh at a joke they’d heard

several times before over previous takes; although it meant the vegetables got a bit more blessed than they normally would have been.

Other than talking about it briefly on the telly, and some ineffectual spadework on the day, I cannot take any credit, however, either for the idea or the execution by our wonderful team at St Michael’s Landrake.

Why did the churchyard vegetable plot catch the public imagination, such that it even appeared in the Daily Express? I think Simon Norris had a point when, interviewed on BBC Spotlight, he invoked the memory of ‘digging for victory’. Here were members of the community once more taking up trowels against the problems of cost-of-living-crisis Britain. And that they were doing so *in a churchyard*... well, maybe somehow that seemed appropriate: for the *church* to be

Coming Up

Saturday 29 April
7.15pm, St Michael’s Church
Annual Birthday Concert

Monday 8 May
7pm, Plympton St Maurice
MOSSAF

Tuesday 9 May
2pm, St Stephen’s Church
Mother’s Union

Wednesday 10 May
7.30pm, St Mary’s Church
Cargreen Singers Concert

Friday 12 May
7pm, St Mary’s Church Hall
Barn Dance & Pasty Supper

Saturday 13 May
10am to Noon
St Stephen’s Church
Charity Coffee Morning

Saturday 13 May
3-5pm, St Nicholas &
St Faith Church Rooms
Coronation High Tea
with Prosecco

Wednesday 17 May
7pm, St Mary’s Church
Evensong Refresher

Friday 19 May
Noon, S.T.A.R.T.

Saturday 20 May
3pm to 5pm
St Stephen’s Church
Messy Church

**Thursday 1 June
to Sunday 4 June**
SSNF Church
(see p7 for opening times)
Floral Art and Craft
Exhibition plus bacon
butties on Saturday am

MAY SERVICES

Sunday 7 May

St Stephen-by-Saltash

9.30am Family Service

St Michael, Landrake

9.30am Family Service

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash

11.15am Holy Communion

St Mary, Botus Fleming

11.15am Family Service

6.30pm Sung Evensong

Rogation Sunday 14 May

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 Rogation service with farm visit to cattle, crops and the river

St Erney, Landrake

11.15am Matins

Sunday 21 May

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

Pentecost Sunday 28 May

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

the one doing something – the local, parish church; church with a small ‘c’; a handful of volunteers with a medieval building and wellies. Perhaps even in the 21st century people still secretly expect the church to be the one to give us all hope and take a lead in showing how to love our neighbour.

Alternatively, of course, people might have just thought it was an odd thing to do *in a graveyard*.^{*} Isn't that a place where you put dead people – how scary, or sad! A place reserved for marble stones and plastic flowers? A place one visits on particular solemn occasions, and otherwise tries not to think about? But that's not what a churchyard really is of course. It's rather a place at the very heart of the community that people walk through regularly; a background to rejoicing at baptisms and weddings, not just funerals. Wordsworth thought that the presence of the churchyard reminded people of their deep links to the local community. But most of all it is a place where faithful Christians take their rest until the general resurrection at the last day, and the new heaven, and new earth.

In the diocesan churchyard regulations, it says that inscriptions

on graves “should be simple, reverent and consistent with the Christian faith,” honouring the dead, and comforting the living. Often these reflect the themes of love and loss; what feelings could be more natural? But as Christians we have more to say as well. Death is not the end. Our destiny is not merely the thousand winds that blow. We will sleep. And we will live. Because of Jesus.

So then, a churchyard isn't a place of death, it's a place of life: waiting, expectant, “in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ”.

And to have plants and vegetables – God's good creation – growing in our churchyard is a powerful symbol of what it is we believe in: love of neighbour; life out of death; and the one, Jesus Christ, who “has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.”

Happy Eastertide.

R

^{*}It should be noted that the vegetable plot (a) is in an unused part of the churchyard and (b) is not a permanent structure, so the area could later be used again for burials.

Helen, Many thanks for all your help in setting up and publicising the Passiontide concert. We had an audience of over 50, which was good, and everyone was very appreciative. The choir sounded well, and the superb acoustic in the church really helped.

Please also thank Ray for his time and help in opening up and sorting out after the concert. Much appreciated.

Stephen Trehair, SW Chamber Choir

Faith?

A little boy told by his mother that he might go on a picnic she had previously forbidden sighed, “It's too late Mummy, I've already prayed for rain.”



Pentecost Quiz



1. From which language does the word 'Pentecost' originate and what does it mean?
2. Why is the Pentecost sometimes called 'Whitsun'?
3. Where are the Whitsunday Islands?
4. In which ocean can one find Pentecost Island?
5. In which country is the Pentecost called 'the Green Holiday' – a day when people decorate their houses with green branches, which, according to tradition, are said to bring God's blessing upon the home and the people living in it?
6. In which country was it customary to blow trumpets during the church service, to recall 'the sound of the mighty wind which accompanied the Descent of the Holy Spirit'?
7. To whom is the Book of Acts addressed to?
8. Where were the apostles when the Holy Spirit descended?
9. Which one of Jesus' disciples spoke to the entire crowd?
10. What is the traditional liturgical colour for Pentecost?

Answers on p7



Please donate food at Waitrose, Lidl or the Co-op and/or donate money via the Foodbank website:
saltash.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money

Our latest needs:

- UHT Milk
- Toilet Rolls
- Tinned Meat
- Sugar
- Puddings
- Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned Fish
- Toiletries
- Decaf Tea & Coffee
- Jam

Recent Events

Messy Church

At Messy Church in April we considered three kings – two of whom had a coronation and one who did not.

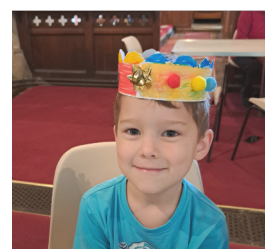
From Samuel II, we heard how David was chosen by the people of Israel to become their King. He had led the people through many battles and had been told by God that he would “shepherd the people of Israel and become their ruler”. So at Hebron, in front of a huge crowd, David was crowned. He reigned for 40 years having started life as a poor shepherd boy.

The second coronation we talked about is the one we are looking forward to in a few weeks time. At this coronation, King Charles will be given a crown to show that he is king, a sceptre to show his authority and an orb to show that he has promised God that he will rule wisely.

However, the third king had no crown, no orb and no sceptre, though sometimes he used a shepherd's crook to guide his flock. He was known as the shepherd of the people. This king was Jesus, who rose from death and left his tomb to bring new life to the world and is the greatest king of all.

Our crafts included making a beautiful crown, a silver orb with the cross on top, an edible model of the empty tomb and a decorated jar for the children to store thank you notes of the good things in their lives.

We all enjoyed a great tea and then joined in worship with action songs and prayers.



Recent Events continued

MOSSAF



For our April meeting we welcomed Revd Canon Lynn Parker as our Guest Speaker.

Lynn was brought up in a large Christian family with two sisters and two brothers. When she was about 14 she had her first encounter with God. Also as a teenager she had voice training and sang with Wells Cathedral choral society and the local amateur dramatic society. Whilst working in sales in Bath, Lynn met and married husband Tony, had two children and moved to Plymouth. She trained and worked as a citizen's advice bureau counsellor in Saltash, then attended university to study to become a full time teacher.

Lynn joined St Mary's, Callington. Whilst there she experienced God's calling to the priesthood. The path to priesthood was long, complex and very testing. During her training, Lynn was diagnosed with leukaemia and required a seven-month stay in hospital undergoing rigorous chemotherapy treatment. Treatment and convalescence took nearly three years.

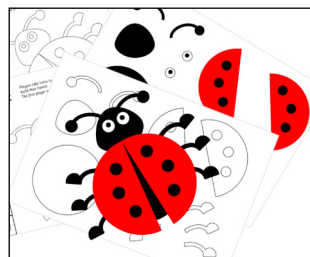
After ordination, Lynn served in several parishes in south-east Cornwall. During her time at Torpoint she was made a Canon for her work on Vocation Ministry. She was also on the Bishops Diocesan Board, Deanery and Diocesan Synods.

After covid, Lynn felt it was time to retire and is now waiting on God for the next part of her journey.

Our next Meeting is on Monday 8 May when we visit Plympton St Maurice Parish Church for a guided tour.

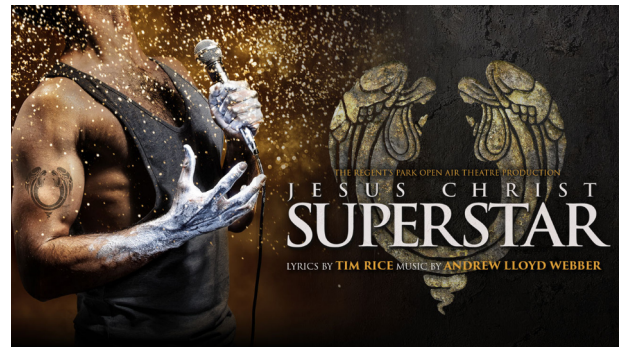
SSNF Beetle Drive

Thank you to all who supported our Beetle Drive Evening on 15 April. We were small in number, but there was a great family atmosphere, and it was a crazy, fun-packed evening.



Jesus Christ Superstar

is coming to
the Theatre Royal, Plymouth



Helen has tickets available for
Thursday 9 November 2023 at 7.30pm.

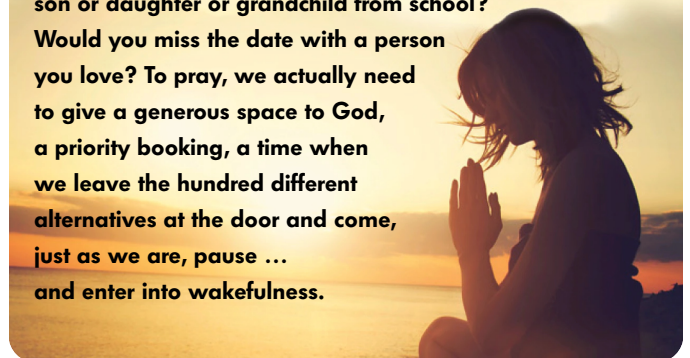
Tickets are in the stalls (rows E & F) and are £47 each.

Payment and final numbers are required
by Sunday 25 June.

Contact Helen by email: helen@saltashteamministry.org
or ☎ 07776 452768 or see Ray at St Stephen's

Words from a Meditation by Richard Carter

As when we love a person, so when we love God. Love needs time, presence and perseverance. If we don't give time our love can easily become crowded out or choked. It needs a place and a space in our lives. We often think we have no time. When we are busy contemplative prayer is often the first thing we sacrifice in a way we would not miss an arranged meeting or a planned event. We may think, "It's only silent prayer. What does it matter if I miss?" But would you miss picking up your son or daughter or grandchild from school? Would you miss the date with a person you love? To pray, we actually need to give a generous space to God, a priority booking, a time when we leave the hundred different alternatives at the door and come, just as we are, pause ... and enter into wakefulness.



Prayer Christian Aid Week

14-20 May

Caring Lord, during Christian Aid Week, we pray for and with communities who are most vulnerable. We pray for those who live crowded in shanty towns, with paper-thin walls, inadequate sanitation, and little, if any, clean water.

For those families who squeeze into one squalid room and for those who sleep rough in the freezing cold. There are so many people with no place to call home.

O Lord, help us to help them.

Amen



Pentecost

Today we feel the wind beneath our wings
Today the hidden fountain flows and plays
Today the church draws breath at last and sings
As every flame becomes a Tongue of praise.
This is the feast of fire, air, and water
Poured out and breathed and kindled into earth.
The earth herself awakens to her maker
And is translated out of death to birth.
The right words come today in their right order
And every word spells freedom and release
Today the gospel crosses every border
All tongues are loosened by the Prince of Peace
Today the lost are found in His translation.
Whose mother tongue is Love in every nation.

By Malcolm Guite

Prayer for the Coronation

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, bless our Sovereign Lord, King Charles, and all who are in authority under him; that they may order all things in wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace, to the honour of your name, and the good of your Church and people; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



Recent Events continued

Hot Cross Bun and Easter Fun



Thank you to all who supported and helped at March's Hot Cross Bun and Easter Fun Event. It was extremely well attended and many traders recorded best ever sales at one of our events. The event raised over £1,600 which was a best ever for this Easter event.

Winners on the day were: Jane won the Easter Bunny name (Pipkin), Pete won The Simnel Cake weight (189gm) and Tegan won the £25 Pot of Gold game.



Peter's wife Brenda collecting the Simnel Cake from Steve Hookway. Thanks to Shelia Hall for the amazing cake.

Mother's Union

At our AGM, the Mothers' Union group reflected on a successful year.

We welcomed many interesting speakers, on various subjects, and our social events were much enjoyed. We attended Members' days in Truro where we interacted with other MU branches and our worship services were, and are, an important part of our union each month. Throughout the year, we raised over £600 which was used to help MU projects around the world.

As leader, I'd like to say thank you to all members and friends for their support which made it such a pleasant and prosperous year for Saltash Team Mothers' Union. As re-elected Leader for another term of office, I'm glad to have Lorna Courtney as Treasurer and the committee: Margaret Gwynn, Sylvia Maddock, Lesley Batham, Pauline Hack and Elaine Virgo. We look forward to growing the membership and continuing our mission in 2023.



The Coronation

“The Coronation was like a phoenix-time,” Princess Margaret once said, “Everything was being raised from the ashes.” How lovely it would be if after the last few years of credit crunches and Brexits and pandemics and cost-of-living-crises to feel that, at last, our own phoenix-time had come around. But in any case, the traditionally merry month of May is due to be even more merriful this year with the Coronation of HM King Charles III and corresponding festivities.

Coronations being slightly above my pay-grade I thought I would defer to the Archbishops of

Canterbury and York, who have written a pastoral letter on the subject, which is printed (in slightly abridged form) below.

It is part of the job of Archbishops to unpack the meaning of coronations for the rest of us. The late Archbishop Fisher ruminated on the last coronation that the Queen was given therein “a spiritual power ... to lead, to inspire, to unite by the Sovereign’s personal character, personal convictions, personal example”, “giving herself and being herself at all times”. Someone later described it as “an account as unreal as it was terrifying”. But nevertheless

a coronation is an important thing, and an occasion to consider that the Christian religion is, as it were, for life and not just for Christmas; and not just a private matter and a Sunday morning hobby but true divine wisdom for all humanity and all human affairs.

As it says above the high altar at Westminster Abbey, “the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ” (Revelation 11.15); on 6 May we will proclaim that this holds true of this realm of England.

R

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Greetings in the name of the Lord!

We are writing to you to share with you our hopes, desires and prayers for the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III on the 6 May. The Coronation will be a historic moment in the life of our nation; a time to reflect on our history, reflect and celebrate something of who we are, and look forward.

The coronation is steeped in this country’s traditions and filled with great symbolism. It is essentially a consecration to service. Happening within a Eucharist, the most basic and the central act of Christian worship, it includes oaths, regalia and crowning. Through it we receive from Jesus the one who comes to us as a servant; the one who is the king of Kings.

The Coronation weekend and bank holiday is aimed at bringing the nation together in common meals and in helping and serving our communities through the Coronation Big Lunch and the Big Help Out.

It is, of course, part of every Christian’s witness to commit joyfully to a life of service to God and one another; a commitment the King has exemplified throughout his life. We pray this would be a moment for all to encounter afresh the person of Jesus Christ – the servant King – and be renewed in our calling to serve Him by serving others.

This is a moment for us to witness to the love of Jesus Christ and a chance, in partnership with many others,

to reach out and serve our communities. You will know best how to do this in your own context and with the resources you have.

However you choose to mark the Coronation weekend, we hope this will be a time celebrating God’s love and generosity, and making that love known in our communities and national life.

Finally, our prayer is for the fruitful ministry of Jesus Christ through each of us in these next weeks. As we come together to celebrate this historic occasion in our national life, we pray that we would all know the empowering of the Holy Spirit in each of us, personally and in those with whom we minister. May this be a wonderful time of serving others, reaching out to our neighbours, and celebrating our unity in diversity.

Justin Welby
Archbishop of Canterbury

Stephen Cottrell
Archbishop of York



What's On

Annual Birthday Concert

**St Michael's Church
Saturday 29 April, 7.15pm**

We will be entertained by various local talents. A birthday raffle will be run and a birthday cake and soft drinks will be on offer. We look forward to seeing you there.

Cargreen Singers Concert

**St Mary's Church
Wednesday 10 May, 7.30pm**



The concert will have a Rogation theme and will include community signing and a talk by Penny Jennings about AGRIMANCY, a 40 acre project at Shalom University, DR Congo.

Tickets £5 from Eric Distin or at the door.

Barn Dance with Pasty Supper

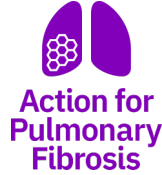
**St Mary's Church Hall
Friday 12 May, 7pm**



Come and join the fun - tickets £10 from Gill Mingo.

Charity Coffee Morning

**St Stephen's Church
Saturday 13 May
10am to Noon**



Bacon rolls, toasted tea cakes, homemade cakes and a raffle.

The coffee morning is organised by MOSSAF in memory of Pat Petherbridge.

Coronation High Tea with Prosecco

**St Nicholas & St Faith
Church Rooms
Saturday 13 May, 3-5pm**



Not to be missed!

Coronation awards will be presented. Tickets available from Piglets, Leslie Stevens, Margaret Evans, or members of the social Committee.

Closing date for buying tickets is Wednesday 10 May.

Answers to Quiz on p 3: 1. Ancient Greek: pentēkostē, which means the 'fiftieth day' – we use this word now as the day is celebrated on the fiftieth day after Easter (inclusive of Easter Day). 2. Whitsun stems from the old English word for White Sunday, named due to the white robes worn on that day (worn by the candidates for baptism). 3. Australia (Queensland). 4. (South) Pacific (Part of the nation of Vanuatu). 5. Poland 6. France 7. Teophilus 8. Jerusalem 9. Peter 10. Red.

St Mary's Evensong Refresher

**St Mary's, Botus Fleming
Wednesday 17 May, 7pm**



Come and contribute with Preb Brian and Eric to the great choral heritage of the C of E and help build your confidence to enjoy the tradition of choral evensong.

St Nicholas & St Faith Floral Art and Craft Exhibition

**St Nicholas & St Faith Church
Thursday 1 June
to Sunday 4 June**



The church will be open 10am to 4pm on Thursday to Saturday and 1pm to 5pm on Sunday.

Bacon butties will be available from 10am to 1pm in the church rooms on Saturday.

Free entry, but donations welcome.

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