

Saltash Area Newsletter

September 2025



St Michael
Landrake



St Mary
Botus Fleming



St Terninus
St Erney



SS Nicholas &
Faith, Saltash



St Stephen
Saltash



SS Leonard &
Dilpe, Landulph

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September Reflections: What Does It Mean to Be Christian?

As we turn the page into September – with its shifting light, cooler mornings, and the quiet hum of new beginnings – it's a fitting moment to reflect on the heart of our Christian life. This autumn, our Confirmation course is drawing from Rowan Williams' *Being Christian*, a book that offers a clear and thoughtful exploration of four practices that shape our faith: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, and Prayer.

Baptism, Williams reminds us, is not just a personal milestone – it's a communal moment. It marks our entry into a shared life, a belonging that transcends background, age, or circumstance. In baptism, we are named and claimed by God, and welcomed into a community where we are called to grow together in love and service. As we prepare to

welcome confirmation candidates this season, we're reminded of our own baptismal promises – to seek Christ in all people and to walk in the way of peace.

The Bible is not a static text, but a living conversation. Williams encourages us to approach scripture not simply for information, but for transformation. The Bible invites us to listen – to the stories of those who have wrestled with God, rejoiced in God, and discovered grace in unexpected places. As we gather for worship and study, may we be open to hearing God's voice afresh, and to letting

scripture shape our lives with wisdom and compassion.

The Eucharist is a place of encounter. Williams describes it as the moment where we remember Jesus' life, death, and resurrection – and where we are invited to receive, with gratitude, the gift of God's presence. It is a practice of humility and hope, reminding us that we are sustained not by our own strength, but by grace. As we share bread and wine, we do so in trust, knowing that God meets us in the ordinary and the sacred.

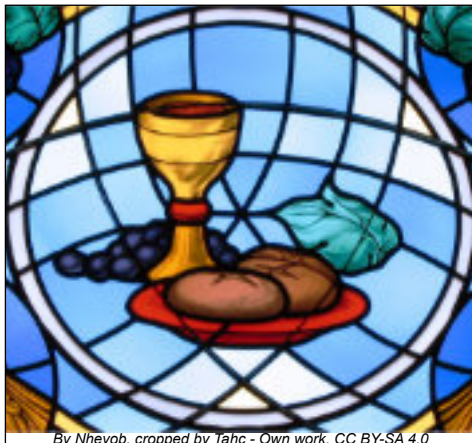
Prayer, Williams writes, is 'being where God that can happen.' It's not about

perfect words or polished rituals – it's about openness. Whether in silence, in song, or in the quiet prayers of our hearts, we are invited to be present to God, and to allow God to be present to us. In the busyness of September, may we find moments

to pause, to breathe, and to pray – for our world, our neighbours, and ourselves.

These four practices – **Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, and Prayer** – are not tasks to complete, but ways of living. They help us stay rooted in faith, connected to one another, and open to the movement of the Holy Spirit. As we begin this new season, may we walk together with curiosity, courage, and kindness.

Dursona,
Rev'd Laura



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Coming Up

Saturday 6 September
3pm to 5pm
St Stephen's Church
Mothers' Union Cream Tea

Monday 8 September
7pm to 9.30pm
St Stephen's Church
MOSSAF

(Speaker Jonny Libby)

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

Wednesday 10 September
10.30am
St Mary's Church Hall
Coffee and Cake

Friday 12 September
7.30pm, St Stephen's Church
A Night at the Musicals
Concert with Roxie Grew

Saturday 13 September
3pm, Sir Robert Geffery Hall,
Landrake
Posh Tea for All

Monday 15 September
2pm to 4pm
SSNF Church Rooms
Craft Afternoon

Friday 19 September
Noon
START

Saturday 27 September
10.30am,
St Stephen's Church
Fireman's Graves
Coffee Morning

Saturday 27 September
2pm, Landulph Church
Autumn Fair

Saturday 4 October
2pm, St Mary's Church
Pet Service

Sunday 5 October
Noon, SSNF Church Rooms
Harvest Lunch

SEPTEMBER SERVICES

Sunday 7 September

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

6.30pm Sung Evensong

Sunday 14 September

St Michael, Landrake

9.30am Morning Worship

St Stephen-by-Saltash

10am Holy Communion

7.30pm Assembly Bangers Worship

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash

10.30am Morning Worship

St Mary, Botus Fleming

11.15am Holy Communion

Sunday 21 September

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 Erney, Landrake

10.15am Matins

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash

10.30am Holy Communion

St Mary, Botus Fleming

11.15am Morning Worship

Sunday 28 September

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

Tuesday 23 September

St Stephen-by-Saltash

2pm MU Wave of Prayer

Wednesdays 3, 17, 24 Sept

St Stephen-by-Saltash

10am Holy Communion

(Morning Worship on 24th)

Please note: Holy Communion services may change to Morning Worship at very short notice.

Recent Events

MOSSAF



In July MOSSAF Members enjoyed a meal together at the Weary Friar.

Then for our August meeting we had two guest speakers for the first time. Wife and husband – Rev'd Dr Sally & Rev'd Paul Nash who spoke to us about their faith journeys.

Sally was baptised on Palm Sunday at St Peter's Church, Earley, near Reading. Her first introduction to church came when a friend invited her to a Baptist service, where she committed her life to Jesus. She attended Sunday school, was confirmed, and later joined an independent church (where she married Paul), finding it deeply inspirational. During this time, she sensed God asking what she was willing to give up for Him. In response, she left her job and joined Youth for Christ in Luton. After a brief return to teaching, she resumed youth work, training in Youth Work at St John's College, Nottingham. Sally developed a lasting passion for supporting young children.

Paul grew up on a council estate in Essex and described his father as a 'scally-wag.' Struggling at school, he was invited by a neighbour to the local Baptist youth group, where he discovered faith and was baptised at 16. Though academically weak, he excelled in cookery, studying catering at Technical College. His skills led him to prestigious London hotels, including the Savoy and the Dorchester. Alongside work, Paul engaged in youth ministry, eventually joining Youth for Christ in Birmingham. He trained in ministry at Queens College, exploring ordination, and served as a Stipendiary Minister in his third year. Paul ministered for five years at Birmingham's first multicultural church in Aston, followed by part-time community care work. He later became Chaplain for paediatric spiritual care at Birmingham Children's Hospital, a post he recently left.

In April, Paul and Sally moved to Cargreen, Saltash. As they shared their journeys, they chose two songs – Graham Kendrick's *Paid on the Nail* and *Don't You Know the Father Loves You* – both deeply emotional reflections of their faith.

Our next meeting is on 8th September at 7pm where Jonny Libby from Central Hall Plymouth will be our speaker.

Gill Mingo

On 21 July we said farewell to Gill Mingo at St Mary's and the combined choir led the singing with a packed church.



Recent Events continued

Chocolate Bingo



A huge thank you to everyone who attended our first Chocolate Bingo event. It was lovely to see a 'full house' of people enjoying each others company and playing bingo. A fantastic £355.80 was raised for church funds.

St Mary Flower Festival and Tea Party

The combined flower festival and tea party was held in the Church and environs and raised £550.

Thanks to all our churches for their support.



Bacon Butties at St Nicks

In August, we had two bacon buttie days, which proved to be very successful, and approximately £400 was raised for church funds.



St Terninus Church

As we move closer to becoming one benefice, I thought it would be interesting to find out more about the other churches in our benefice – and discover how little we know about our own! This month is St Terninus church in St Erney.

1. There is carved woodwork dating from the 1920/30s in the church. Who carved it?
2. Why is there a grave in the churchyard, under a tree, marked by a stone cross which never seems to have had words on it?
3. Which former headmaster of Sir Robert Gefferies School is buried in the churchyard (south side of the church)?
4. High in the main East window are depictions of three angels playing medieval instruments. What are the instruments?
5. What is thought to possibly be the oldest object in the church?
6. A brass plaque at the back of church commemorates a major restoration in Victorian times. What date is on it?
7. What is the floor of the south porch of the church made of, at least in part?
8. What is the purpose of the diamond shaped painting on the north wall inside the church?
9. What animals are depicted around St Francis in the stained glass window in the south wall of the church?

Answers on p8



On the 20 July, I underwent a successful heart operation at Derriford Hospital.

I would like to thank everyone in our cluster of churches and friends for praying for my wife and me. The power of this prayer was desperately needed as the delirium experienced during recovery was the greatest fear that I have ever had. It will be a long haul back before some level of 'normal life' can be attained and my wife and I would welcome your continued prayers.

John West



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 website: saltash.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money

Christmas Tree Festival St Nicholas and St Faith

This year the trees will be on show from Saturday 29 November to Friday 12 December, with take-down on Saturday 13 December 10am to 1pm (or by prior arrangement).

As usual there will be our Grand Christmas Draw with the winning tickets being drawn at a coffee morning on Saturday 20 December, 10am to noon.

The Cheese and Wine launch will be at 7.30pm on Thursday, 25 September, in SSNF Church Rooms.

Margaret Evans

Recent Events continued

Mothers' Union

Was it a group of prospective students for next year or the newest guinea pigs for the medical department courses?



The current students must have looked at the large group of elderly people – some with walking aids – in astonishment, as they moved around the University of St Mark and St John on a tour at the end of July.

Fear not, it was not the latest intake but members of Mothers' Union from Saltash being given a tour by Rev'd Michelle Parkman. As well as being a busy mum and the supportive wife of the local Baptist Minister, Michelle is the Chaplain at the University. She kindly served us coffee and then conducted us around giving an interesting talk as we toured. The University was quieter than usual as the summer break approached, but we met some staff and students and heard the history of the site in the north of Plymouth. It has grown from a small complex into a substantial area offering many courses whilst adhering to its Christian principles of caring for its intake and the local area. Michelle and her co-workers are always available to the students and the Chapel and the Welfare Suite are welcoming areas for all to visit.

We thanked Michelle for her hospitality and she joined us for lunch at the nearby George Hotel at Southway.

On the 6 September Mothers' Union will host a Cream Tea in aid of the Summer Appeal and on the 23 September will hold a special Wave of Prayer Service at 2pm in St Stephen's Church – all are welcome to attend.

Afternoon Tea with Prosecco at St Nicks

Sadly this event was somewhat disappointing, with a great deal of food left over, but we did manage to have some takers for it on the Sunday Morning after our Service.

A Book to Remember...

We continue our series in which a member of one of our six congregations is invited to tell us about a book that has been important to them in their Christian journey.



Richard Hosking

is a worship leader at Landulph and Botus Fleming. Now, retired from working in horticulture, he assists at a local undertaker's, F D Hall, which he finds is 'a wonderful

opportunity to put people at ease', especially with his local connections.

Richard describes his whole family as 'church through and through'. He remembers first taking an interest in what was happening in church at the age of six. At first, 'I didn't understand a bit what was going on,' but he attended the eucharist and evensong with his father, the church warden. He went on to read the lesson, then joined the choir, where his auntie Dorothy Willcocks was the organist. He learned to serve and became the crucifer.

He explored becoming a worship leader, a role which was only just being talked about at that time, but which was needed due to a clergy vacancy. Although initially put off by the vicar, which even caused his own dad to be doubtful, others encouraged him, and he completed the training, 'I felt the calling from God through my father and brothers, and I wanted to give something back to the people of what I had so much enjoyed'.

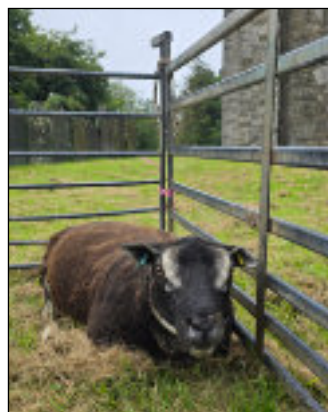
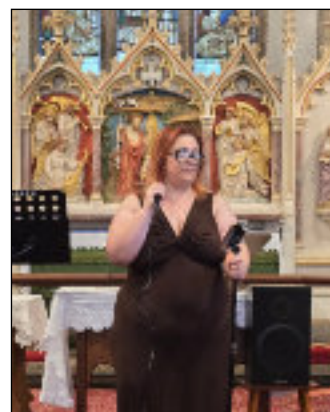
Richard's **Book to Remember** is the *New English Bible*, and specifically the copy he was presented with in 1967 at Landulph Sunday School, and to which he still refers. Richard remembers being taught in the rectory rooms by Peter Braund, with Pauline du Plessis (then a teenager, and a member of the well-known daffodil growing family) playing *We love the place O God*, and a limited range of other hymns, on the piano. Richard would tie his Yorkshire terrier, Mitzi, up to a tap just outside!

Richard finds the translation straightforward and inspiring to read, for example, John 14 begins; 'Do not let your hearts be distressed'.

'The New English Bible' was received with great excitement when the New Testament first appeared in 1961. It is now difficult to get hold of, having been superseded by the Revised English Bible. However, the large bible on the lectern at St Stephen is a New English Bible.

If you would like to tell us about a book that has helped you, please email Dave: contactdavepitcher@gmail.com

Summer Fair at St Stephen's



Coming Up

Mothers Union Cream Tea

Saturday 6 September, 3pm to 5.30pm
in St Stephen's Church



In aid of MU Summer Appeal

Tickets from Sandra McKee in church or ☎01752 846803

All welcome

Coffee, Cake & Chat

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



Coffee Morning

From 10.30am, Wednesday 10 September
St Mary's Church Hall, Botus Fleming



A Family Night at the Musicals

Friday 12 September
7.30pm in St Stephen's Church

with local singer Roxie Grew

Tickets £6 (+30p booking) from
<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FBWT>
or on the door
Under 12s – free



Confirmation Preparation Course – Starting Soon!

Are you thinking about Confirmation, or simply curious about what it means to live as a Christian today?

Join us for a four-week journey through Rowan Williams' *Being Christian*, a beautifully, thoughtful book exploring the heart of Christian life through four key themes:

Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, and Prayer.

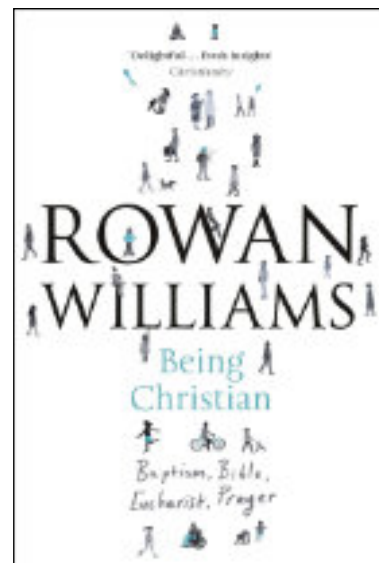
Sunday 14 September, 3pm at St Stephen's

Sunday 21 September, 3pm at St Stephen's

Sunday 28 September, 3pm at St Stephen's

Sunday 23 November, 3pm at St Stephen's

Each session will focus on one chapter – open to anyone from school year 5 to 100 years old!



Whether you're new to faith or seeking to deepen your understanding, this is a space to ask questions, reflect, and grow together.

**The Confirmation Service takes place
on Wednesday 26 November**

All are welcome. Come as you are, bring your curiosity, and let's explore what it means to be Christian in today's world.

For more info, email RevLauraBH@gmail.com

Hildegard of Bingen

A Sonnet

by Malcolm Guite

A feather on the breath of God at play,
 You saw the play of God in all creation.
 You drew eternal light into each day,
 And every living breath was inspiration.
 You made a play with every virtue playing,
 Made music for each sister-soul to sing,
 Listened for what each herb and stone was saying,
 And heard the Word of God in everything.

Mother from mother earth and Magistra,
 Your song revealed God's hidden gift to us;
 The verdant fire, his holy harbinger
 The greening glory of viriditas.
 'Cherish this earth that keeps us all alive'
 Either we hear you, or we don't survive.



Illumination from Hildegard's Scivias (1151) showing her receiving a vision and dictating to teacher Volmar.

The 17th of September is the feast day of Abbess Hildegard of Bingen (c.1098–1179), a remarkable and prophetic woman, who described herself as 'a feather on the breath of God', and whose many works in theology, music, visual art, poetry and drama are still inspiring people today.

Coming Up continued

Posh Tea with Prosecco

**From 3pm on Saturday 13 September
 in Sir Robert Geffery Hall, Landrake**

A delicious cream tea with
 extra delights and a glass of Prosecco

With Live Music from Jude Whitlock

Tickets available from Landrake Stores or
LandrakeStErneyFundraising@gmail.com



Craft Afternoon

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



Coffee Morning

**From 10.30am, Saturday 27 September
 St Stephen's Church**

To raise money for the restoration of the grave site
 of the firemen killed in Plymouth in WWII



Autumn Fair

**Saturday 27 September
 2pm to 4pm at Landulph Church**

At the Church:

- Music • Fun games • Plants
- Face painting • Raffle
- Find the treasure • Tombola
- Craft Stalls • Tea & Cakes

At Duchess Green:

- Nature trail
- Apple bobbing
- Welly wanging
- Outdoor games

Free Entry (cash needed!)

Come for a fun-filled afternoon for all ages!

St Erney Church Quiz - Answers

1. There is carved woodwork dating from the 1920/30s in the church. Who carved it?



Answer: Violet Pinwill.

2. Why is there a grave in the churchyard, under a tree, marked by a stone cross which never seems to have had words on it?



Answer: There is said to have been a Russian princess buried at dead of night, under a tree during the First World War. This story was told by a family who were resident in St Erney at around that time.

3. Which former headmaster of Sir Robert Gefferies School is buried in the churchyard (on the south side of the church)?

Answer: Robert Foreman.

4. High in the main East window are depictions of three angels playing medieval instruments. What are the instruments?



Answer: a one drone bagpipe, a crowd and a gittern. Our informant says the depictions are unusually accurate. A crowd was a forerunner of the violin, and a gittern was a forerunner of the guitar.

5. What is thought to possibly be the oldest object in the church?



Answer: The font.

6. A brass plaque at the back of church commemorates a major restoration in Victorian times. What date is on it?



Answer: 1872.

7. What is the floor of the south porch of the church made of, at least in part?



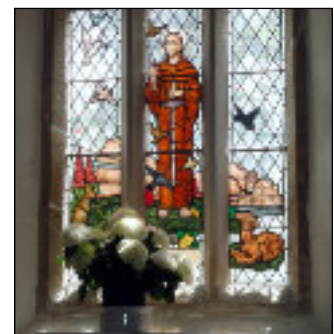
Answer: Reused gravestones

8. What is the purpose of the diamond shaped painting on the north wall inside the church?



Answer: A funeral hatchment. It commemorates a female of the Blake family which is why it is diamond shaped.

9. What animals are depicted around St Francis in the stained glass window in the south wall of the church?



Answer: Deer.

Thanks to Ian Whittaker who provided the quiz. Come along and visit St Terninus Church in St Erney – you will be warmly welcomed to the 10.15am mattins on the first and third Sundays of the month. The church is open after the services (about 11.15am) to 3pm and also on Mondays & Thursdays, 10am to 3pm as part of Celtic quiet places. (Shut January and February.)

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