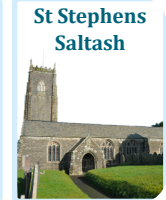
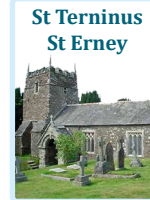


# Saltash Area Newsletter

May 2022



DISCOVERING GOD'S KINGDOM – GROWING THE CHURCH  
[www.saltashteamministry.org](http://www.saltashteamministry.org)



“May is Mary’s month, and I / Muse at that and wonder why,” wrote Gerard Hopkins, the trendy Victorian Jesuit poet. He was referring to the traditional association of May with Blessed Virgin Mary-related activities. It is on the May bank holiday, for example, that some members of the

Church of England hie themselves to Walsingham for the National Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. This is a fairly big deal: the Archbishop of Canterbury has been (he was guest preacher in 2019) as even have I. The centrepiece of the day is a long procession around the village accompanied to an even longer hymn: the famous Walsingham Pilgrim’s Hymn, about 100

rhyming couplets explaining the history, destruction, and restoration of the medieval shrine. (Sample verse: “But at last came a King who had greed in his eyes / And he lusted for treasure with fraud and with lies.”) Every year the procession is notoriously confronted by protests from more, er, reformed protestant Christians, who wave placards and barrack their lace-wearing brethren. I remember one Ulsterman pointing at the statue of Mary as it went past: “If she’s that all great, then why doesn’t she walk?”

Anyway, it is all good fun. But I am

reminded of a vicar who opined, ‘most Anglicans ought to think more about Mary; a small number ought to much less.’ I suspect that most of us probably fall into the former category – the vague lukewarm middle – and it’s always worth being reminded that ‘being moderate’ is not equal to ‘being right’.

So ought we to think more about Mary? Obviously there’s a complicated history there. One can’t help but think some medieval (and later) claims about Mary are frankly misguided: as illustrated by the medieval image of Mary sheltering Christians who are being shot at by Jesus!

Yet Mary is important. Jesus might have

remarked, “Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother,” (Mk 3.33,35), but even under the strange conditions of the Kingdom, Mary still ends the gospel as mother: “Then he said to the disciple, ‘here is your mother’” (Jn 19.27). And we last see Mary with the disciples as they pray in preparation for Pentecost (Acts 1.12-14).

None of that is controversial of course. But calculating theological assertions is one thing; another is how far we might let the spirit of Marian devotion – flower, sweetness, sentiment – mingle with the



## May Diary Dates

### Saturday 7 May

Saltash May Fair in Fore St  
St Stephen’s fundraising will have stalls in front of Superdrug and there will be refreshments in SSNF Rooms (See page 5)

### Monday 9 May

7pm, St Stephen’s Church  
MOSSAF  
Meal at the Weary Friar

### Tuesday 10 May

2pm, St Stephen’s Church  
Mothers’ Union

### Saturday 14 May

10am to Noon  
St Erney Churchyard  
Working Party  
(See page 5)

### Friday 20 May

11am  
S.T.A.R.T  
Buckland Abbey

### Saturday 21 May

3-5pm, St Stephen’s Church  
Messy Church

### Saturday 28 May

10.30am  
St Stephen’s Church  
Queen’s Jubilee Event  
(See page 6)



## MAY SERVICES

### Sunday 1 May

**St Stephen-by-Saltash**

9.30am All Age Service

**St Michael, Landrake**

9.30am HC with Bishop Hugh

**St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash**

11am Holy Communion

**St Mary, Botus Fleming**

11.15am All Age Service

6.30pm Sung Evensong

**St Erney, Landrake**

11.15am HC with Bishop Hugh

### Sunday 8 May

**St Stephen-by-Saltash**

9.30am Holy Communion

**St Michael, Landrake**

9.30am Holy Communion

**St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash**

11am Holy Communion

**St Mary, Botus Fleming**

11.15am Holy Communion

### Sunday 15 May

**St Stephen-by-Saltash**

9.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evensong

**St Michael, Landrake**

9.30am Holy Communion

**St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash**

11am Holy Communion

**St Mary, Botus Fleming**

11.15am Holy Communion

**St Erney, Landrake**

11.15am Holy Communion

### Sunday 22 May

**St Stephen-by-Saltash**

9.30am Holy Communion

**St Michael, Landrake**

9.30am Holy Communion

**St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash**

11am Holy Communion

**St Mary, Botus Fleming**

11.15am Holy Communion

### Ascension Day 26 May

**St Michael, Landrake**

Noon Ascension Day Service

**St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash**

6.30pm Ascension Day Service

### Sunday 29 May

**St Michael, Landrake**

10am United Service

### Every Wednesday

**St Stephen-by-Saltash**

10am Holy Communion

May, inflaming our senses with a religion that might be an acquired taste – but, if it is to taste, is intoxicating and appealing?

I dunno. But I'll give the last word to Gerard Manley Hopkins SJ, with whose poem I began; which – slightly to my surprise – seems not at all unsound. Why then is May Mary's month?

Ask of her, the mighty mother:

Her reply puts this other

Question: What is Spring?—

Growth in every thing—

[...]

All things rising, all things sizing

Mary sees, sympathising

With that world of good,

Nature's motherhood.

R

Their magnifying of each its kind

With delight calls to mind

How she did in her stored

Magnify the Lord.

[...]

This ecstasy all through mothering earth

Tells Mary her mirth till Christ's birth

To remember and exultation

In God who was her salvation.

### Good Friday Walk of Witness

### Easter Sunrise Service





# Ascension Day Quiz

1. What is the liturgical colour most often associated with Ascension Day in the Western Church?
2. The Feast of the Ascension is observed how many days after Easter?
3. The Gospel according to Saint Luke says the Ascension occurred in the vicinity of Bethany (Luke 24:50-51). Where does the Acts of the Apostles say it happened?
4. In which of Shakespeare's plays does a character speak the following lines? "Is this Ascension-day? Did not the prophet say that before Ascension-day at noon my crown I should give off? Even so I have: I did suppose it should be on constraint: But, heaven be thank'd, it is but voluntary."?
5. There is a long-standing custom in England of 'beating the bounds' on (or near) Ascension Day. What is involved?
6. Salvador Dali painted a painting called 'The Ascension of Christ.' What feature of Christ's body is most prominent in this painting?
7. What is the capital of the Ascension Island?

Answers on p4

## Ascension by Malcolm Guite

We saw his light break through the cloud of glory  
 Whilst we were rooted still in time and place  
 As earth became a part of Heaven's story  
 And heaven opened to his human face.  
 We saw him go and yet we were not parted  
 He took us with him to the heart of things  
 The heart that broke for all the broken-hearted  
 Is whole and Heaven-centred now, and sings,  
 Sings in the strength that rises out of weakness,  
 Sings through the clouds that veil him from our sight,  
 Whilst we our selves become his clouds of witness  
 And sing the waning darkness into light,  
 His light in us, and ours in him concealed,  
 Which all creation waits to see revealed.

## Recent Events

### Mother's Union

The AGM was on 12 April and this is part of the report.

So far in 2022 we have enrolled two new members into the group – Elaine and Dorothy. We wish them well on their journey with us in Mothers' Union. We have a program of speakers ready for the rest of 2022 and hope to maintain our fundraising efforts by holding our cream tea on the 3 September and also on other occasions.



Those members that were able, visited Truro Cathedral for the Lady Day Service at the end of March. A journey by train was made more exciting by no less than three members of staff having to help us old ladies descend from the carriage when we arrived back in Saltash, due to the very big step down!

We look forward to the future and to working with around four million other volunteer Mothers' Union members around the world. We know that our efforts and our prayers are heard and will make a difference to the lives of many people.

### Messy Church

Messy Church celebrated the marvellous fact that Jesus Is Alive!

We sang hymns, listened to the story of the resurrection and enjoyed crafts to symbolise new life.

We put animals on the tree of life and planted sunflower seeds.



# Recent Events continued

## MOSSAF



At our April MOSSAF meeting we welcomed our guest speaker Matt Parsons, a full time Christian Minister and also author of 'A round with God'.

Matt gave us a very thorough resumé of his life from his youth to present day. When a child, Matt, with his sister and brothers, attended Sunday School three times each Sunday. At the age of twelve, Matt found God calling him and at aged nineteen Matt experienced a message from God telling him to become a preacher and Matt's answer was, "God if you want me to preach you got to find a opening for me to do so." Shortly after, the local minister knocked on his home in the hopes that Matt's brother Andrew, who often preached, would do so that coming Sunday. However he was away so they enquired if Matt would be interested. He was and has never looked back. He eventually ended up attending Old Pound Church and built it up to a large congregation. Matt then moved on, preaching wherever he was required and preached all over England, Wales and even America. In recent years, the Old Pound Church congregation had declined to just two. So in 2020 Matt was asked to resurrect Old Pound. He took on the challenge with his friend David Flounders and the congregation is now 30 to 40 at their Sunday night meetings at the newly renamed Clays Community Church.

The evening was enjoyed by all as Matt's tales kept us all entertained, especially the one of how he ended up joining the Choir at Westminster Abbey. Thank you, Matt, for a very encouraging and inspiring evening.

Our next meetings are: 9 May, meal at the Weary Friar (Please see Steve Hookway if interested) and 13 June with guest Speaker Roger Bush, Dean of Truro Cathedral – 7pm St Stephen's Church.

## Lion's Club Quiz



They only went and did it again! St Stephen's Church Men's team won the quiz for the second month running, despite having to make team changes as Covid hit the ranks. This time we were supporting the fundraising for equipment for Summerfields Play Park.

## Easter Fair



A big big thank you to all who supported and helped at our recent Easter Fair. This was our first event with the return of traders since Covid hit us all and it was great to have them back and to see our Church overflowing with the local community. I'm aware of one couple even coming up from Wadebridge especially for the event.

The Tombola and Treasure Hunt were completely out of prizes just after half way through the event! A fantastic team effort which raised £1,394.17 for Church funds.

### Answers to Ascension Day Quiz on page 3:

1. White 2.40 3.The Mount of Olives 4.King John 5.Processing around the parochial boundaries, pausing for prayer at particular landmarks. 6.His feet 7 Georgetown



## Prayer for May from Steve Hookway

Gracious God, May means many things to different people. To some it's the Cup Final and the proper start of the Cricket Season. To others it's the garden and perhaps the first barbecue. For others its days out that go further than the local shopping mall or visits to National Trust gardens.

Thank you for the variety of ways in which we can enjoy the abundant life that Jesus promised.

In everything, may we know the love of Christ and be thankful.

Amen.



## What's On

### Saltash May Fair

Fore Street

Saturday 7 May, 10am-4pm



St Stephen's fundraising team are back in action and will have two gazebos in front of Superdrug.

And don't miss the tasty refreshments on offer from 10am to 4pm in SSNF Church Rooms. Bacon butties will be available until 1pm.

### Working Party

St Erney Churchyard

Saturday 14 May  
10am to Noon



Last time, we cut back brambles and bamboo and used the cuttings to establish a holding base for a new hedge along the road.

This has been requested in our Quinquennial, for fear of people dropping off the lawn onto the tarmac some 2-3 feet below.

It is a cheerful way to spend a morning – no gym or café fees, but exercise, fellowship and good food provided in exchange for a couple of hours of your time and effort.



We are in the planning stage of another exciting event as our Summer Fair returns after three years!

We are delighted that Saltash Town Band, Halfway Harmony and Just Voices of Looe have signed up to entertain us. There will be a BBQ and Traders outside in our grounds as well as more stalls and Refreshments inside our Church. And, there is still more to be announced.

So do make a note in your diary.

Steve Hookway

## Drama Group



We are a small but enthusiastic band, and help is needed in many ways to stage a production.

If you would be interested in any way, come along to St Nick's Church Rooms on Wednesday 4 May at 7.30pm.

Margaret Evans 01752 844141



Our latest needs:

- Jam
- Sugar
- Noodles
- UHT Fruit Juice
- Milk Powder
- Puddings:
- Angel Delight
- Jelly Cubes
- Trifle Mix
- Sponge Puds

### Make a difference!

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

[saltash.foodbank.org.uk](http://saltash.foodbank.org.uk)

# Celebrating the Platinum Jubilee

**Come and Celebrate With Us**

**on Saturday 28 May**

**10.30am to 3pm**

**at St Stephen's Church**



- 👑 Take a look at the history of this 700 years+ old church, including items commemorating Royal Celebrations of the past. Participate in the quiz to earn yourself a visit to the bell ringing chamber – at your own risk – if your name is on the first correct answer sheet drawn.
- 👑 Dress in period costume and enjoy the music of the 50s and 60s. Hopefully you may be able to dance.
- 👑 Enjoy the tea party with hot dogs, a cup of coffee/tea/squash and cakes
- 👑 Children – decorate a crown at the event
- 👑 £3 per adult at the door, young children are free. Refreshments available at extra cost. A Raffle will be held.

**All profits will be donated to The Ukraine Appeal**

**We Look Forward To Seeing You!**

## Flag Displays

**Sunday 5 June  
St Michael's Church**



The pupils of Sir Roberty Geffery School are creating flags (as part of the national River of Hope) to hang in St Michael's Church and the Landrake Methodist Chapel.

The buildings will be open for you to admire their work on Sunday 5 June.

The church will also project coverage of the pageant in London, so that we can join the national celebrations.

## Prosecco Afternoon Tea

**Saturday 11 June  
SSNF Church Rooms**

High Tea with a glass of prosecco and the Queen's Platinum awards will be presented.

Tickets will be £10 and will be available soon.



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