

# Saltash Team Newsletter

**"Discovering God's Kingdom, Growing the Church"**

## **Message from Rev Cathy Sigrist, Priest-in-Charge**

**How was God invented? When his six-year-old daughter, Lulu, wrote a letter to God, journalist Alex Renton (an atheist) did his best to get her an answer.**

He said: "My daughter came home from primary school a few weeks ago and sat down to write a letter to God. It read "To God how did you get invented? From Lulu xo " When she asked us to send it (by setting light to it and putting it up the chimney, as we do with letters to Father Christmas) several courses of action offered themselves."

Firstly, Alex e-mailed her letter to both her grandmothers, and to some friends who are active Christians. He thought the responses were interesting, and Lulu listened to them patiently. In the end Alex e-mailed a copy of Lulu's letter and a brief explanation to a number of "experts", including the head of theology of the Anglican Communion, based at Lambeth Palace.

Lambeth Palace waited a couple of weeks and then asked Alex to tell Lulu that someone special was going to write to her. Eventually there came an e-mail from "Archbishop Rowan".

Dear Lulu,

Your dad has sent on your letter and asked if I have any answers. It's a difficult one! But I think God might reply a bit like this –

'Dear Lulu – Nobody invented me – but lots of people discovered me and were quite surprised. They discovered me when they looked round at the world and thought it was really beautiful or really mysterious and wondered where it came from. They discovered me when they were very very quiet on their own and felt a sort of peace and love they hadn't expected.

Then they invented ideas about me – some of them sensible and some of them not very sensible. From time to time I sent them some hints – specially in the life of Jesus – to help them get closer to what I'm really like.

But there was nothing and nobody around before me to invent me. Rather like somebody who writes a story in a book, I started making up the story of the world and eventually invented human beings like you who could ask me awkward questions!

And then he'd send you lots of love and sign off.

I know he doesn't usually write letters, so I have to do the best I can on his behalf. Lots of love from me too.

+Archbishop Rowan

She listened quietly as Alex read the Archbishop's letter to her and it went down well. What worked particularly was the idea of "God's story".

"Well?" He asked when he reached the end. "What do you think?" She thought a little. "Well, I have very different ideas. But he has a good one."

I wonder if we would have been able to answer her so well?

Yours in Christ

**Cathy**

### **From the Team Vicar**

Dear friends,

Following on from my message last month, I can now give you more information regarding my final service.

This will take place on **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July at 10.00am at St Stephen by Saltash Parish Church.**

This will be a **United Service of Holy Communion** for all our parishes that morning at which I will celebrate and preach.

I welcome you all and do hope you will be able to join me for this special service.

With every blessing

Yours

Revd Josie/Jo

### **St Stephens Ladies Group (wives)**

It has been a while since I last wrote for the magazine so this will be a update on our meetings over the last few months. March there was a talk from Sarah Green on the Mayflower 400 choir which is two choirs made up of young people from Plymouth England and Plymouth Massachusetts. By the time you read this the young people from USA will have been in Plymouth and given their concert and back home. April was AGM and a cheque presented to the Scouts group. Many thanks to the ladies who helped raise this money.

May brought a speaker from The Childrens Society who explained about the roots of this society and the work they do today. Many of us in church have house boxes and give at Christmas time. June was a meeting we had all been looking forward to as it was a speaker from Roddas What a lovely night and so much information given, which brought back a few memories for some of the ladies. After the talk we were then treated to a few "samples" which was enjoyed by all. July brings our summer meal and no meeting in August. So I look forward to seeing the group September 21st at 7.30 with Laura speaking to us. We are always happy for ladies who would like to join our small but happy group.

Lesley Batham

### **Mothers' Union**

15 members met in June and Rev Cathy enrolled Barbara Reid as a full member of Mothers Union. We welcome her into our family circle. We made plans for our trip on the 11th July to St Germans church. We shall learn about this ancient place of worship and then visit a local history for a pub lunch. There will be no meeting in church that day. Our next meeting will be in September when we will learn from Ernie Reynolds about his life in the police; we spent the rest of the afternoon engaged in making knitted items for Mothers Union Charities. This knit and natter session was really enjoyable and it has been suggested that we hold a regular session in church more often, for all to enjoy. If anyone is interested please let me know.

### Vocations' Day, Saturday 8 July, Truro Cathedral

The Vocations' Day on 8 July will take place from 10am to 3pm in Truro Cathedral. This will be an opportunity for people to explore their sense of vocation, to ask questions and to hear other people's stories about how they have responded to God's call in their lives. Among the speakers will be Bishop Chris and a current ordinand. During the day there will be information stalls, practical activities and representatives of a variety of vocational pathways, both ordained and lay, to speak to. Members of the Diocesan Education Department will also be present to discuss the vocation to teaching and local theological training institutions will also be there. Please call to mind, pray for and speak to individuals who you think might benefit from coming to the Vocations' Day. We are inviting you to come along on the day and bring others from your parish with you. **Everyone is welcome for the whole day or just to pop in.**

### Saturday 22 July, Truro Cathedral

10am-4pm Diocesan Prayer Day and farewell to Bishop Tim, 4pm Eucharist of Farewell

### Friday 14 July, Epiphany House

New Monasticism led by Revd Derek Collins. There will be a short talk, quiet space for personal reflection and a cream tea. Taking place at Epiphany House, Truro TR1 3DR at 1:45pm for 2:00pm-4:30pm. Cost £7, to book email [info@epiphanyhouse.co.uk](mailto:info@epiphanyhouse.co.uk) or telephone 01872 272249.

The Chemin Neuf Community UK presents

# Sclerder Family Festival 2017

## HOME

is where the heart is

A summer festival in the grounds of our historic abbey on the beautiful Cornish coast.

- ☆ Indoor and outdoor activities
- ☆ Arts and Crafts workshops
- ☆ Sports
- ☆ Evening BBQ
- ☆ Live worship band
- ☆ Historical tour of the Abbey
- ☆ A spiritual adventure for the family
- ☆ Something for everyone!

An Ecumenical all ages Event

Sclerder Abbey  
Looe, Cornwall  
PL13 2JD

# 19th August 2017

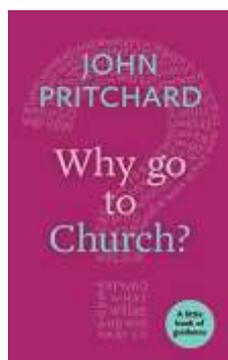
Single ticket £10 / Family ticket £20  
For booking and other information visit:  
[www.sclerderfamilyfestival.chemin-neuf.org.uk](http://www.sclerderfamilyfestival.chemin-neuf.org.uk)



**CREATION FEST 5 – 11 August 2017 Royal Cornwall Events Centre, Wadebridge, MUSIC, BIBLE, SKATE, FUN** Creation Fest is a week full of many adventures - it's free, it's fun, it's for everyone! Discover free-to-attend music stages, a fitness factory, family activities, creative art workshops, undercover skate park, kids and teen venues, speciality coffee, interactive seminars, and more. Creation Fest exists to share the joy of a God, who created us with purpose, and to encourage believers to follow Christ with great passion. For more information and to book camping please visit [creationfest.org.uk](http://creationfest.org.uk) You can visit for one day, one evening or camp for the week!

### Book Reviews

Both of these books by John Pritchard, who retired as the Bishop of Oxford in 2014. Neither of these books will take more than an hour to read but are incredibly useful to reflect on. John Pritchard's style means that both books are easy to read and accessible to all.

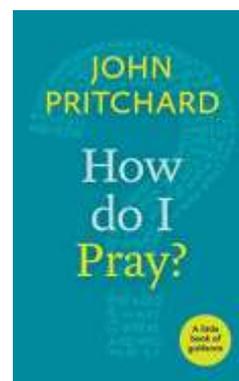


#### **Why go to Church?** **Published by SPCK RRP £3.99**

John Pritchard looks at the Church as it is, as it should be and how it might become. A book for all who wonder what the Church is for, and what it must be like to be part of a community of people committed to following the life and teaching of Jesus .

#### **How do I Pray?** **Published by SPCK RRP£3.99**

John Pritchard explores the art and power of prayer and explains how to slow down enough to hear what God wants to say. A book for all who are curious about how to become more in tune with the Spirit. Intended for people looking for answers to life's biggest questions, this little book of guidance will appeal to anyone, whether believer or non-believer, looking for a quick and easy way into the topic.



## **ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

Firstly big thanks to all who have helped and supported our three events since the last newsletter. The Loveny Male Voice Choir provided us with another great concert and were accompanied by the very talented soloist Rebekah Scamp. The evening raised £400.32. This was followed in early June by a Food Market & Table Top Sale where we were also entertained superbly by The Saltash Town Band. This event raised a further £483.28. Then on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June Adventurer, National Hero and Sailor Pete Goss MBE gave us a very fascinating talk about some of his adventures, the evening raised £450.93. It's been great to see so many different members of the local community come through our Church doors during this time and each enjoying what each different event has brought.

We would like to say a big thankyou to Rev'd Jo for the support she has given our events during her time as Team Vicar and wish her all the very best.

### **Rock Choir – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July** **Doors open 6.45pm for 7.30pm Start**

After last year's fantastic concert we welcome back The Rock Choir. Over 40 voices will again fill our Church with some old favourites and lots of new songs too, including ones by Erasure, Billy Joel, Spandau Ballet, One Direction and Beyonce. The choir have recently united with other Rock Choirs to sing and record at the famous Abbey Road Studios. A really good feel factor is always promised when they perform. I wonder if Rev'd Di will be dancing by the font again?

Tickets costing £5 each are on sale now following Wednesday and Sunday morning Services, or at Piglets Fore Street or from Roger Rowse on 01752 843766 (email [rogersaltash@gmail.com](mailto:rogersaltash@gmail.com)). You can also pay on the night.



**Salisbury Coach Trip – Only a few seats remain.**

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August - £16 per person**

Leaving from outside St. Stephen's Church at 8am and arriving in Salisbury at Mid-day approx then departing home at 4pm and arriving back at approx. 8pm.

The magnificent City of Salisbury has it all; historic streets and alleyways, charming half-timbered buildings, traditional English eating houses and characterful shopping streets, not to mention the UK's finest Medieval Cathedral. To compliment this there are regular street markets including Farmers Markets and Continental Markets.

Tickets are on sale from Steve Hookway (Phone 07855 600241 – email [stevhookway@hotmail.com](mailto:stevhookway@hotmail.com))

**Messy Church**

Although numbers were smaller, possibly due to very good weather and the Regatta, we still welcomed 16 children and 13 adults for Messy Church fun in June. We learnt about the services and activities that happen in our church throughout the year. Some fantastic models of the church were made using different types of biscuits. John West took everyone on a walk round the churchyard to look at the memorials and then we all joined in the service led by Michelle, with Darren playing for our songs of praise. We finished the afternoon in our usual style - filling up with a scrumptious tea.

The next Messy Church, on July 15<sup>th</sup>, will be held at Bishop Cornish school field at 3pm when we play sports and have a picnic.

**St Nicholas and St Faith Social Committee**

**Saturday July 8<sup>th</sup>** - Hawaiian Evening. 7 p.m. Tickets £10 which includes food, please bring own drink, and please come dressed accordingly. In order to help with catering can you please let Mrs Leslie Stevens know if you are coming by Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June. Telephone 842521

**July and August** - exhibition in Church - 'Saltash Past and Present'. Photographs and memorabilia needed, if you can help we will be setting up in Church on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, and the Church will be open on Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 2 – 4 p.m.

**August 5<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>** All Day Breakfasts 10 am – 2 pm Last Orders 1.30 pm

**Rev'd Nikki Thornhill**

Some may remember Nikki when she came to us on placement two years ago, Nikki was ordained at Truro Cathedral on 1 July.

The deadline for the August 2017 edition is **23 July**

Please send your article to: [saltashparishnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:saltashparishnewsletter@gmail.com) or pop it in to the Team Office.