

Saltash Area Newsletter

"Discovering God's Kingdom, Growing the Church"

News, Events & Acknowledgements for all the Saltash Parish Churches

Newsletter Revamp

We are in the process of revamping this Newsletter. It comes at a time when there is a most vital need to improve the links between the Churches in the Saltash Area so that each congregation feels included, better informed, able to contribute and, as a result, holding stronger links with a wider local Christian Fellowship. Consequently, this Newsletter will be pleased to accept any contributions and items for inclusion in the Newsletter from each of the Churches in our Saltash Area so that it brings together and better reflects the activities of our community.

Having an item included in the Newsletter is relatively simple - either post it to the Area Office at St Stephens' Church or email it to : saltashparishchurches@hotmail.co.uk

Finally, please remember that articles, notices or items must reach the above addresses by the 20th of each month in order to be included in the forthcoming months' Newsletter. There is no newsletter in January so the next deadline is 20th January 2018!

News from Landrake

Thanks to the arrival of two new members in the congregation, extra fundraising restarted this year.

Events organised include a sponsored zip wire (by two people scared of heights so very well done to them), coffee morning, jumble sale and an auction. Together these raised around £2,900.00. In addition the annual bazaar, raised £458.90. Some of the money raised is to be spent on replacing missing slates on the south wall of St Michael's.

As well as this, the monthly Landrake community lunch is now being undertaken as a joint venture between the Anglican and Methodist churches in the village. The Christmas lunch will be held in the village hall with numbers of diners restricted to a maximum of 80 diners.

In addition an occasional parish newsletter was started - this to replace the former magazine, Crosstalk, which ceased publication in 2016.

St. Stephens Acknowledgements

To begin, we all owe an acknowledgement and sincere thanks to all who helped and supported at any of our events in November.

Firstly, a BIG THANKS to all who helped put on another successful November Fair. Everyone seemed to enjoy the Fair and it was great fun. Moreover, through the efforts of the TEAM in putting on the Fair, an impressive £1975.14 was raised. A further £210.88 was raised from The Body Shop Evening. Well Done!

Secondly, a few weeks ago John Lissenden organised and ran another



successful Christmas Shopping Trip, this time to Bath. These trips are proving very popular and places/reservations for them go extremely quickly with a lengthy standby list. John has done a fantastic job in making these trips successful and happy events. So, to John and all concerned, we say that we couldn't have done it without your help and



And on this note...

a personal message from St. Stephens Church Social Committee Chairman

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone single one of you who have helped and supported our events this year. Whether it be washing up, delivering fliers, buying a raffle ticket, producing banners, baking a cake, running a stall, you are all extremely important to the team's success. It's been another fantastic year and it's great to see everyone's efforts worthwhile when our Church is so busy when we have an event. Wishing you a Happy and Peaceful Christmas. Thanks again, Steve Hookway.

Christmas Workshops

By the time you read this, the first workshop would have already been held. However we still have two more to go and they are:

Tuesday 5th December - 1pm at St. Stephens Church **Christmas Wreath and Table Decoration Workshop**

Please do come along and create your own Christmas Wreath or Table Decoration under the guidance and direction of Heather Lyne. There is a cost of £5 per person.

Thursday 21st December - 2pm at St. Stephens Church **Christmas Cupcake Decorating Workshop**

Come along and decorate six cupcakes under the help and guidance of Shelia Hall. The price of £5 per person includes the supply of six cupcakes for you to decorate. All ingredients and equipment will be supplied and a box for you to take your cupcakes away with you. If you would like to be part of these groups, please see sign up lists or contact Steve Hookway on 07855 600241

EVENTS EARLY IN 2018 (already ?!!)

Soup and Socialise Lunch at St. Stephens Church **Wednesday 10th January 11.30am-1.30pm**

Looking for a venue to meet up with friends - old and new? Why not come along and meet up with friends over lunch at St Stephens?. On offer, there will be three home-made soups to choose from including Leak & Potato, Carrot and Coriander and Thai Sweet Potato. There will also be a selection of yummy puddings (yeah!) and all at a cost of only £5 per person. Pay on the day.

Craft, Gift and Food Fair at St. Stephens Church **Saturday 3rd February 10am-2pm**

This Craft, Gift and Food Fair features a strong contingent of food traders to tempt you in addition to our local Craft, Gift and fundraising stalls. Bacon Rolls, Home-made Soups and Cakes will be available in the refreshments section.

Café Abundance

In October, at St Stephens we had our first visit of Café Abundance to our Church which was hugely successful and we are hoping for a return visit. Watch this space!

And to remind us what this season is all about, a message from the Reverend Cathy Sigrist

It may seem a rather strange subject to talk about during this season of "Joy and Goodwill" but I would like to tell you something about loneliness - although if the latest research is correct it won't come as a surprise to many of you. It probably won't come as a surprise either that on a TV programme broadcast this morning that I heard an elderly gentleman say that "Loneliness is like a dagger that gets longer every day".

Almost three-quarters of older people in the UK are lonely and more than half of those have never spoken to anyone about how they feel, according to a survey carried out for the Jo Cox commission on loneliness. It is almost as though the subject is something to be ashamed of and not discussed in polite company.

The research also found that about seven in 10 (71%) respondents - average age 63 - said their close friends and family would be surprised or astonished to hear that they felt lonely. So, for our average congregation of 34 who attend our Wednesday morning service at St. Stephens, that means 24 individuals.

But it isn't just the older members of society who feel lonely and isolated. It can also be the single mum or dad struggling to bring up a baby on his/her own or a carer who is looking after a loved one. It might be a teenager who is struggling or perhaps someone who has recently moved to a new area and hasn't had time to make any new "friends". And it is at this time of year of "Joy and Goodwill" that loneliness can often be highlighted.

Christmas is a wonderful time of the year. It is a time to celebrate and to give thanks to our gracious God for giving us the ultimate gift - His Son - Jesus Christ. It is a time to be with friends and families and to have fun and to share gifts - but what if you don't have friends and family to share these moments? So, if you can, this year please give an extra gift - a gift of your time to go and visit someone who is on their own or invite them in for a cup of coffee and a mince pie. It will cost very little, but to the person receiving your gift, it will be priceless.

And a special invitation for all. Singles, couples and children - in other words you are invited to a Christmas Day Meal and Party at the Saltash Baptist Church - the festivities start at 12 noon. See the attached invitation - all you have to do is fill in the form and return it to the Saltash Baptist Church. Transport can also be arranged. I'll see you there.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your support over the last year and to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Cathy

