

Saltash Team Newsletter



So Long, and Thanks for All the Fish.

So Long, and Thanks for All the Fish is the fourth book of the ***Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*** 'trilogy' written by Douglas Adams. Its title is the message left by the dolphins when they departed Planet Earth just before it was demolished to make way for a hyper-space bypass, as described in ***The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy***. The phrase has since been adopted by some science fiction fans as a humorous way to say "goodbye". I am, of course, one of those fans.

It is also a good way to say thank you and *au revoir* to all of you as it hints at a greater depth of feeling at this time of transition. Not only transition for the Parish seeking a new Priest-in-Charge, but of my own from a Curacy with my last service in Saltash on April 10th, to being a Team Vicar in the Central Telford Parish of the Lichfield Diocese.

As you know I love Cornwall and have enjoyed my time here in Saltash. The best part of which are the people, and I thank you for being you and for allowing me into your lives for a short while. We will take many treasured memories with us as we continue to journey on in the way of Jesus.

Our new Parish is as I have mentioned, in Telford in Shropshire. I will have responsibility for two Churches. They are St John the Evangelist in Lawley and St Leonard's Church Malinslee. There are another five Churches in the Central Telford Parish along with two other Team Vicars and a Team Rector. The Parish serves a community of about 35,000 people.

Just as the dolphins were trained and fed by their keepers, so have I received this from you. Saltash has been a marvellous place to serve my Curacy, and I have learned a huge amount, but it is not all about learning. I believe that the Church is about community and friendships and we have made some good friends whom we will miss. As a Church we are the body of Christ, and as St Paul says, we are called in all things to build up the body of Christ. To that end I would encourage you to continue to help each other as we follow the way of Jesus.

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So what is a Curate, or to be more formal Title Post? The Ministry Division document *Formation and Assessment in Curacy* states "Under challenge from the government to give employment rights to the clergy, the Church responded with the conditions of service agreed by the Synod. Under these arrangements, a curacy becomes a **time limited post for the purpose of training**, (the emphasis is in the original document) with my time of training as a Curate now ended.

My thanks go out to those of you who have been involved in the Contextual Bible Studies that I have facilitated as part of my research with Exeter University for a Master of Arts degree in theology. I said at the time that I would make the work available. To this end if anyone is interested you can get a copy emailed to you by contacting the Newsletter editor on saltashparishnewsletter@gmail.com . The available works are:-

Are you Hungry? *Three Contextual Bible Studies of James 1:26-2:17 in Twenty-First Century Saltash*

Turn the Other Cheek *Some reflections on the Reception of Matthew 5:38-42 in three contexts*

A Just Wage *Should the Church of England pay a Living Wage?*

My parting message in this newsletter is as I began.

So Long and Thanks for All the Fish.

Every Blessing for the future.

John.

Straight from the Heart.

As we come to the end of my time here in Saltash I can't help but reflect on all we(you and I) have achieved together for Gods Kingdom.

We have spent the last 3 years taking Gods Holy Word into our local schools via **Open the Book**, acting out Bible stories for the children in their primary years.

We have seen the children grow, both in body and mind and it has been a joy to share all this with you.

Thank you for your time and your devotion to this venture and know for certain in your hearts, that you have been doing God's work and it has been good.

Carolyn Whittaker(St Michaels', Landrake) will be carrying on the good work at Sir Robert Geoffrey's School. This will be in the form of a kids club, acting out the stories for their fellow classmates in a weekly assembly.

A huge thank you to Carolyn and to Julie Curtis for helping me to get this up and running before I leave.

Mixed Blessings has been a real joy to be a part of. I wanted to set up a singing group who wanted to sing for fun, because it made them feel good.

I know that we achieved this and so much more.

My hope is that the group will carry on under the watchful eye of Darren Jane and sing God's praises to the heavens.

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Thank you to everyone who got involved and I hope you have got as much joy out of it as I have.

So 'Keep Singing!'

Saturday Praise was set up as an experiment to try and get people from Messy Church to come a long with their family for some light hearted worship and good fellowship. This didn't happen, I am sad to say.

The amazing thing is, that we grew a small congregation of faithful worshipers, from far and wide.

This 40 minute upbeat time of worship has grown in the two years we have been leading it and has become very important to many people.

The relaxed and informal atmosphere helps to lift our hearts and minds to our God. Accompanied by beautiful songs and hymns, thought provoking readings and poems, guest speakers and talented worship leaders, local and from afar, Saturday Praise has been a success.

I cannot finish without praising the work, time and dedication of **The Mothers Union** in this venture. They have made wonderful cakes and given up their Saturday afternoons to come a long and serve people, before and after our time of worship. Without them, this would never have been possible. So thank you so much, from the bottom of my heart.

My time here has been very short, but I feel, together, we have done much for the Glory of our Lord.

I have learned so much and now feel equipped to go forward into the future, a far more rounded person than when I came to Saltash 3 years ago.

And so it is with a joyful heart I now look to the future and my ministry among the people of Telford, Shropshire.

Knowing all the while, that we are only separated by miles and that we will always be as one in our Lords Kingdom, God Bless you all.

Yours in Christ.

Denise Jukes

Worship Leader Commissioning Service

There will be a Commissioning Service at Lanreath Church, St Marnarch, on April 4th at 7.30pm.

This is to Commission Denise Jukes (St Stephens Church) and Carolyn and Ian Whittaker (St Michael's Church) as local Worship Leaders in the Parish.

St Stephen's now have a Facebook page so you can keep up to date in between newsletter issues, find us at

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Stephens-by-Saltash>



Events at St Nicholas and St Faith

Saturday April 9th Fun Games Evening 6 for 6.30 p.m.

Saturday April 30th May Fair - Refreshments i.e. Bacon Butties etc in the Church Rooms 10 – 4 p.m.

Saturday May 21st Concert by Imerys M.V.C. in Church 7.30 p.m.

Saturday June 11th - Royal Garden Party to celebrate The queens 90th birthday. Hats must be worn please Ladies

August 6th, 13th 20th and 27th Al Day Breakfasts 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Church Rooms. Exhibition to be announced in Church.

September 28th possibly 29th Cheese and wine Launch for Christmas Tree Festival 7.30 p.m.

October 1st Craft Fair in Church 10 – 4 p.m.

Saturday 19th November Thanksgiving Meal more details at a later date.

Christmas Festival 26th November – 9th December inclusive

St. Stephen's Church Social Committee

Saturday 2nd April – Table Top Sale & Silent Auction in aid of RNLI 9am to Mid-day

Julia Mansell is running the London Marathon on Sunday 26th April in aid of the RNLI. She aims to raise over £3000 within her fundraising so please come along and support her at this event. Tables are still available at £5 each so ring Julia on 311753 if interested. If you are able to help on the day please contact Steve Hookway

Friday 15th April – This is our Story – 7pm

An evening of hymns that have shaped our faith as voted on by our congregation last year. A great evening is in store as we sing our favourites together with Mixed Blessings followed by a Faith Supper. So please bring along a plate of sweet or savoury food to share. The evening will be compared by Rev'd Jo Lobb. Entry is of course free

Saturday 23rd April – St. Georges Lunch – Rifle Volunteer – Mid-Day

Sign up lists will be out soon for our St George's Meal. The two course meal costing £13 per person

Saturday 30th April – Saltash May Fair 10am to 4pm

We will have two fundraising stalls at this year's May Fair. The new committee is taking the May Fair back to the town and bringing back its community roots! A large outdoor market and live music will be at Longstone Park, a pedestrian haven and a wide variety of live entertainment through Fore Street and even a "Village Fete" in Victoria Gardens. If you are able to help run our fundraising stalls in Longstone Park or help with set up or close down then please speak to Steve Hookway.

Words from a card found many years ago now in an old New Testament - and kept there. Both the thoughts and the language are rather Edwardian -I've modernised the language somewhat - and the thoughts might well give us something to ponder - especially - but not only - in Lent.

To those who pass you by in your Sacrament and to whom it is as nothing Grant mercy, Lord Jesus.

To those who worship at your altar yet do not recognise the reality of your presence Grant your truth, loving Jesus.

To those who partake of you yet do not know you, Grant your peace, divine Jesus. To the souls whose thoughts even at the time of communion with you - are set on earthly things Grant the love of your Eucharist, Lord Jesus.

To souls saddened by trial and suffering Grant the joy of your Eucharist, holy Jesus.

To souls striving for a life of union with you, Grant the strength of your Eucharist, o living Lord Jesus.

To souls departed in the fear of the Lord Grant refreshment in the land of peace, Jesus, Lord of life and death.

Amen

The Revd Pam

From the Messy Church team:

We continue to have a great time at Messy Church every month.

Numbers attending are regularly 80, of which sound 35 are children, who sometimes have Mum and Dad and Grandma/Grandpa with them.

We have a short service which is tuned into our theme of the month.

We are grateful to Rev Michelle who usually takes the service. Several of us get together to plan the various themed activities, and I would like to thank them for their support, ideas and hard work they put in on the day. I know that the children enjoy themselves and they remember the biblical stories as they often talk about them.

Special thanks go to the catering team, who provide a fantastic spread each month.

In April our theme will be the Easter Story and we would welcome any new helpers, or just come along and enjoy the afternoon which is an important way of bringing new life into the church family.



Messy Church takes place at 3pm on the third Sunday of each month at St Stephen's

FAIRTRADE

We have been trading at St Stephen's Church since 2008 with SS Nicholas & Faith holding a stall since 2010 and there have been quite a few ups and downs. In the past we have been able to have things on sale or return from Truro but the shop has now ceased trading. Truro is also a long distance to travel to stock up. We have also used the shop in Callington to stock unusual items but we always get there with our many other commitments. The economic situation over the past few years has also had an effect and naturally people want things at a reasonable cost but we are unable to compete with the likes of Waitrose and Tesco on price as we are only able to buy in small quantities and do not qualify for any large discounts. Equally we find that things are going out of date and although things don't deteriorate as suggested by these dates, there is a resistance to buy and we have to sell at prices below what we have paid for them. There is no profit in the 'Real Easter Egg' or the 'Real Advent Calendars' as we pay in full with Traidcraft having already made the donation up front. This together with the producers premium (the amount guaranteed to small producers for at least three years to enable them to continue in business and support families and local communities) is what keeps the price high. With this in mind we are finding it difficult to continue to trade and this year have been unable to send what small profit there should have been as we need to pay our way.

The impact of changing to just one Fairtrade item in your shopping trolley or basket can be far reaching to some of the 1.5 million farmers and workers in fairtrade certified producer organisations. There are 1,210 Fairtrade certified producer organisations in 74 countries. 1.5 hectares is the average size of the plot cultivated by a fairtrade farmer (about the size of Trafalgar Square). 25% of all farmers and workers in fairtrade are women. 46% on plantations, 22% in small farmer organisations. Just a few facts to ponder. If anyone would like to take over and improve on what has been done over the last few years please come and talk it over with us it would be wonderful if Fairtrade could continue and flourish.

Sylvia and Len Maddock

St Stephen's Wives Club

We welcomed Lizzie Troy to a recent meeting where we heard of her experiences of midwifery in central Kenya, this was certainly different to many of our own experience of childbirth in the United Kingdom! Lizzie told us of how she has been working with villages to bring better care for mothers and also the work her charity does. Lizzie initially went to Kenya as part of her midwifery studies but has been back several times to continue her charity's work.

St Stephen's Wives Club meets on the third Thursday of every month at 7.30pm

EASTER SERVICES

Sun 20th March Palm Sunday

8.00 Holy communion (BCP) St Stephen's Church

10.00 St Stephen's Church & SS Nicholas and Faith Church Holy Communion and Distribution of Palms

6.30 Evensong STST

Tues 22nd March

8.30 STST Morning Prayer & Holy Communion

Wed 23rd March

10.30 STST Holy Communion and Lenten Devotion

Thursday 24th March Maundy Thursday

10.30 Chrism Eucharist at Truro Cathedral

7.30 Sung Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar at SSNF

followed by a WATCH until midnight, ending with Compline (SCT service)



Friday 25th March Good Friday

9.00 SSNF The Liturgy of Good Friday

10.00 SCT Wesley 10.00 with procession through Fore St via SSNF Garden and to the Baptist Church.

2.00 STST The Last Hour

Sunday 27th March Easter Day NB Clocks go forward one hour

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

7am STST The Dawn Service for Easter Day in the church grounds ,followed by breakfast. (SCT Service)

10.00 STST Easter Day Holy Communion

10.00 SSNF Easter Day Sung Eucharist

6.30 SCT at Wesley – Easter Celebration

The next deadline is **15 April** to be published on 1 May

Please send your article to: saltashparishnewsletter@gmail.com or pop it in to the Team Office