



Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 1 Cor. 12:27

You will have noticed that the Saltash Ministry Team has become rather depleted of late. When I first started around eleven years ago we had a Team comprising two full time priests, two (later to become three) NSM's and two Readers to cover two Churches. Now (with Jo needing to take sick leave – and I ask that you remember her in your prayers) we currently have two NSM's and three Readers (together with the invaluable support of our retired Clergy colleagues) to cover five Churches. And, when you have that sort of depletion in staffing levels and, if it carries on for too long, something eventually is likely to give!

And yet – there's a school of thought that says when faced with a problem or difficulty, that it could be viewed not as a problem but, as a new opportunity. And if we are able to put aside our feelings of hurt then, just maybe, we might catch a glimpse of those new opportunities waiting on the horizon. Opportunities for our Readers - to be even more present and active. Opportunities for members of our Lay Pastoral Team - to become even more visible and involved.

Now is also the time when the 'talents' of many members of our congregations, can come to the fore. There are training opportunities that would enable those interested to become part of a Lay Pastoral Team or even a Worship Leader (those already involved are happy to answer any questions you might have). Remember '*There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.*' 1 Cor. 12:4

I mentioned Jo earlier, a naturally active person, who will find it difficult to take a step back however; her health must not be put at risk. Lesley also, needs our prayers as she continues with her treatment. I also ask that you offer Pam any assistance you are able, especially bearing in mind the distance she has to travel to carry out her duties.

We all need to trust that the Lord will guide and support us as we go in the only direction open to us, and that is forward. To stand still, would be to stagnate and we definitely don't want to go backwards!

Working together, and putting into practice the words of James '*a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone*' James 2:24 there's a good chance that we, as a church family, will emerge at the end of the day, stronger and more united.

Rev. Di Burrows

Children Society Boxes

Many thanks to all the people who brought their Children Society boxes to be opened and used the time to enjoy a cup of tea and cake. Together we have raised £448.13 this year which is great in a time when we are all having to watch our pennies. Also my thanks to the "merry band of helpers" without which I would struggle on the day. If anyone would like a box please speak to me.

Lesley Batham

St Stephen's Ladies Group

The group enjoyed hearing from Rev John Jukes about his journey into ministry. He was asked quite a few questions and was rewarded with a cup of tea at the end and as he was not well we were very grateful for his company and wish both him and Denise well in their next period of their lives.

Christian Aid Week - Sunday 15th May to Saturday 21st May 2016

There will be Gift Envelopes and advertising in both churches from early May. For more information or if you would like to run a coffee morning please speak to Mike Beer at St Nicholas and St Faith or Gordon Richards at St Stephen's

FROM THE MESSY CHURCH TEAM

At Messy Church we have celebrated Easter and looked at the story of Joseph, with activities and worship. Many parents and children are attending these regular worship services, some who do not come to the Church at other times and we are happy to have the opportunity to share our faith with them. Hopefully they will become future church members to ensure that St Stephen's flourishes, even as the regular congregation ages. We give thanks to the helpers who give up their Saturday afternoons once a month, and would welcome more help to supervise the activities and so enable us to spread the message through play and praise.

On **Saturday 21 May** at 3pm Messy Church will be celebrating Pentecost.

SALTASH TEAM MINISTRY MOTHERS' UNION

At the recent AGM of the Mothers Union, Sylvia Maddock retired from the post of leader. Sylvia has been the leader for the past 3 years. She took over as a temporary volunteer and has done a sterling job. Our thanks are extended to her and we hope that she continues to enjoy our meetings as a committee member. Sandra McKee has taken over the role of Leader/Secretary. Membership numbers are healthy we will always welcome new members, male or female. We enjoy speakers and outings and are steadfast in our aim to encourage and support family life within Christian principles. We meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2 pm in St Stephen's Church.

At our meeting on the **10th May** we are holding a workshop for Dementia Friends and in June we will have a speaker to talk to us about Marie Curie nurses.

St Stephen's Social Committee

FOOD AND DRINK FAIR – Free Entry Saturday 14th May 10am to 3pm

After a year's break our Food and Drink Fair is back bigger and even better with a fantastic selection of traders for you to view, try and buy from including: Wessex Pantry, The Cornish Pudding Co, Frandie Macaron, Column Bakehouse, Sunningdale Nurseries, Cornish Gouda Co, Flapjackery, Westcountry Produce, The Nut House, Cottage Confectionary, Tamar Valley Honey, Cornish Sea Salt, Cornish Country Cordials, Trudy's Cookie Bags, Hobbs House of Horsebridge, Always Chocolate, Herbs and Spices Ltd, The Brownie Baker and Tugboat Tea + Coffee. Our own fundraising stalls will also be out in force. Refreshments will be available including Bacon Rolls and Hot Pasties.

Keltique - Friday 20th May – Doors open 6.45pm for 7.30pm Start We are delighted to welcome Keltique for a fundraising concert. Based in Looe, Keltique is a thriving and passionate award-winning vocal group of women of all ages and musical abilities, who share one thing – a love and enthusiasm for the music they sing, from modern pop and songs from the shows to gospel and traditional classics. With songs like All that Jazz, California Dreamin, Chattanooga Choo Choo and Close To You in their repertoire another entertaining night is on offer. Tickets costing £5 each are now on sale from members of our social committee following Wednesday and Sunday morning services or from Piglets, Fore Street or contact John Lissenden on 01752 847573 or you can pay on the door. Doors open 6.45pm.

An Evening with Ann Widdecombe - Friday 3rd June – Doors open 6.45pm for 7.30pm Start We don't know how we did it but yes **Ann Widdecombe** is coming to our Church for an evening of tales and questions. A chance to meet Ann personally, buy a book and have it signed will also be available. Tickets are likely to go very quickly so don't delay, buy today. We can't guarantee there will be any left, for you to pay on the door. Tickets costing £5 each are now on sale from members of our social committee following Wednesday and Sunday morning services or from Piglets, Fore Street or contact Roger Rowse on 01752 843766.

Gloucester Coach Trip Thursday 11th August - £17 per person

Leaving St. Stephen's Church at 8am and arriving at Gloucester Quays at 11am approx then departing home at 5pm and arriving back at 8pm approx. Tickets are on sale now from Steve Hookway (Phone 07855 600241 – email stevenhookway@hotmail.com)

St Nicholas and St Faith Social Committee

Friday 6th May 2 p.m. in the Church Rooms a presentation by the Charity Feet First with Clive Chenery, one of our past Church members (who does not live in this area anymore) Together with a professional team he goes to Malawi with this organisation to correct foot problems such as Club Foot etc., He also is our link with All Saints Cathedral in Malawi. We look forward to his presentation.

Saturday 21st May , 7.30 p.m. Concert by Imerys MVC in Church at 7.30 p.m. Tickets £5. Further details later.

HAPPY EASTER!

'I hope you have a wonderful Easter - all the fifty days!' Words said to me many years ago now - but they immediately struck me as meaningful - and I obviously still remember them all this time later.

It's easy to suppose that after all the special services of Lent and Holy Week - and then all the praise and rejoicing of Easter Day - we have the Bank Holiday and then everything goes back to normal.

But of course there's a sense in which nothing ever goes back to normal for Christians - every day can be a little Easter as meet afresh with the risen Christ.

And the Easter season itself is designed to make us focus on that - as it really does go on for all the fifty days to Pentecost. Sunday 1st May is the sixth Sunday of Easter - and the word 'Pentecost' just means 'fiftieth'. Originally it was a Jewish Harvest Festival fifty days after Passover - and then the day when the Holy Spirit was first given to Jesus' followers - which is what Christians celebrate now.

We read about that powerful first occasion in the Acts chapter 2 with its *rushing, mighty wind and tongues of fire* as the Spirit came to the disciples - but although he clearly can be, the Holy Spirit isn't always like that! He is perhaps how we experience God now - sometimes dramatic but also sometimes the kind of quiet prompting to do right - or to warn against the opposite. The Holy Spirit is the one who inspires us to know what God wants from us - and for us - and empowers us to do it.

The one who also assures us of God's overwhelming love.

Pentecost this year is on Sunday 15th May. In Saltash we celebrate the Holy Spirit at a special Churches Together service at the Baptist Church. Landrake, St Erney and Botus Fleming will have their usual services - but we'll certainly be celebrating too.

I hope you are enjoying all the rest of the fifty days of Easter - and in the power of the Spirit - all the days after that as well!

Rev Pam Sellix (Assistant Curate, Associate Priest)

Volunteers needed at St Stephen's for the coffee on a Sunday morning after the 10am service and for assisting at Baptisms. Please speak to Sylvia Maddock.

Thy Kingdom Come - Archbishops Call for 'Great Wave of Prayer' for Evangelism During Pentecost

Jesus Christ calls every person to follow him. As Christians it's our duty and joy to share that invitation. That's why the Archbishops of Canterbury and York are inviting every church in England to join a week of prayer this Pentecost, from 8-15th May — let's pray for every Christian to receive new confidence and joy in sharing this life-transforming faith.

www.thykingdom.co.uk has pages of great resources to help people pray. Here's some for families and households:

- **Pray with stones.** Think of five people (friends, family or neighbours) you want to come to know Jesus. Write their names on smooth stones using a Sharpie. Place the stones where you will see them every day – in a basket in the bathroom, in a bowl on the dining table or on a shelf by the front door. Take a stone and as you hold it in your hand, use this prayer: Lord Jesus, we pray that may know how much you love him/her. May s/he come to love you and follow you. Amen'.
- **Pray with scrabble letters.** Use Scrabble letters to create a name puzzle of the people you want to pray for. As each name is formed, pray 'Lord Jesus, we pray that may come to know you. Amen.' When all the names have been used, jumble up the letters and start again.
- **Pray with Lego.** On the side of a piece of Lego, write the name of someone you want to pray for. Each time you pray for that person, put another piece of Lego on top of the name to create a prayer tower.
- **Paper chain prayers.** Cut out several strips of coloured paper. On each strip, write the name of someone to pray for. Either tape or staple the strips together to form a chain. Each time you pray for the person, put a tick beside the name.

In their recent letter to all parish priests the Archbishops said:

“At the heart of our prayers will be words that Jesus himself taught us – ‘Thy kingdom come, thy will be done.’ It is impossible to overstate the life-transforming power of the Lord’s Prayer. It is a prayer that is reassuring enough to be on the lips of the dying and yet dangerous enough to be banned in cinemas. It is famous enough to be spoken each day by billions in hundreds of languages and yet intimate enough to draw us ever closer into friendship with Jesus Christ. It is simple enough to be memorised by small children and yet profound enough to sustain a whole lifetime of prayer. When we pray it with sincerity and with joy, there is no imagining the new ways in which God can use us to his glory.”

St Stephen's is now on Facebook and Twitter, find us at

<https://www.facebook.com/StStephensbySaltash>

Or follow us @_St_Stephens



If you would like any help using Social Media to stay in touch please speak to Laura.

St Stephen-by-Saltash Bell Tower Appeal Committee

The Committee would like to invite you to attend an end of project event to mark the completion of this phase of work on the Bell Tower. This will take place on Tuesday 17th May 2016 at 2:00pm in St Stephen-by-Saltash Parish Church. Your generosity has been much appreciated.

Games Night at St Nicholas and St Faith

A great evening was had by all who attended the evening in April, enormous fun was had across the generations. Hot dogs and cakes were served at half time with the teams swapping activities. Many thanks to all who helped organise the evening.



Saltash Churches Together - Pentecost

10.30am, 15th May: Annual Pentecost Celebration, with Communion

Preacher: Rev Dr Chris Ellis, former President of the Baptist Union

Saltash Baptist Church, Culver Road

“Worshipping Together” – a Saltash Churches Together Workshop

This will be facilitated by Rev Dr Chris Ellis, a former President of the Baptist Union and published author on the subject of Christian worship.

6.30pm, 15th May, at Saltash Baptist Church, Culver Road



The next deadline for this newsletter is **22 May** to be published on 5 June

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