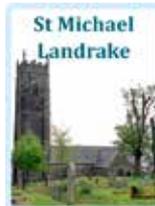
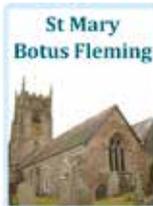


Saltash Area Newsletter

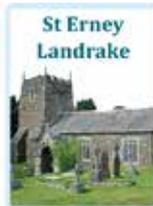
May 2019



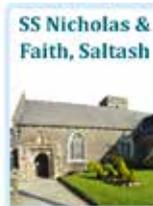
St Michael Landrake



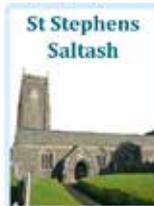
St Mary Botus Fleming



St Erney Landrake



SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash



St Stephens Saltash

DISCOVERING GOD'S KINGDOM – GROWING THE CHURCH
www.saltashteamministry.org



May

Regular Events

Mondays **6, 20 May**

2-3.30pm
St Stephen's Church
Craft and Conversation

Thursdays **9, 23 May**

7.30pm
St Stephen's Church
Mixed Blessings

Monday **13 May**

7-9pm
St Stephen's Church
M.O.S.S.A.F
Meeting of Men Of
St Stephens And Friends

Tuesday **14 May**

2pm
St Stephen's Church
Mothers' Union

Thursday **16 May**

7.30pm
St Stephen's Church
Ladies Group

Friday **17 May**

Noon
S.T.A.R.T Group

Saturday **18 May**

3pm
St Stephen's Church
Messy Church
Theme: God's seasons

Tuesday **21 May**

9.30am
St Stephen's Church
Tea and Toast

Thy Kingdom Come

Thursday 30 May to
Sunday 9 June 2019



Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement inviting Christians to pray during the nine days between Ascension Day and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. Thousands of individuals, groups and churches worldwide have responded to this call and each year *Thy Kingdom Come* inspires countless local prayer events.

After the very first Ascension day, the disciples gathered with Mary, the mother of our Lord, constantly devoting themselves to prayer while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Like them, our reliance on the gift of the Holy Spirit is total – on our own we can do nothing. This is why through the centuries Christians have gathered at this time to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Thy Kingdom Come picks up this tradition. Over the past three years, more and more worshipping communities have dedicated the days between Ascension and Pentecost to pray 'Come Holy Spirit'. We are praying that the Spirit would inspire and

May

Special Events

Saturday **4 May**

10am to 4pm
Saltash May Fair
includes stalls from
St Stephen's

10am to 2pm
SSNF Church Rooms
Bacon Butties
during the May Fair

Saturday **11 May**

Noon to 4pm
Geffery Hall, Landrake
Jumble Sale
and Cream Teas

10am to 2pm
St Cleer Parish
Church Community
Market includes stalls
from St Stephen's

Friday **17 May**

7 for 7.30pm
St Stephen's
Quiz Night
for Christian Aid

Saturday **18 May**

10am to 2pm
St Mary's Church
Plympton Spring
Fair includes stalls
from St Stephen's

Sunday **26 May**

11.15am
St Mary, Botus Fleming
Rogation Day Service
followed by a buffet
lunch in the Church Hall

SERVICES

SUNDAYS

St Stephen's

- 8am Holy Communion
5 May
- 10am All Age Service
5 May
Holy Communion
12, 19, 26 May
- 6.30pm Evensong
12, 19, 26 May

St Nicholas & St Faith

- 8am Holy Communion
19 May
- 10am Holy Communion

St Michael, Landrake

- 9.30am Family Service
5 May
Holy Communion
12, 19, 26 May

St Mary, Botus Fleming

- 11.15am Family Service
5 May
Holy Communion
12, 26 May
Morning Prayer
19 May

St Erney, Landrake

- 11.15am Morning Prayer
5 May
Holy Communion
19 May

Saltash Churches Together

- 6.30pm Combined Service
at St Stephen's
5 May

WEDNESDAYS

St Stephen's

- 10.30am Holy Communion



equip us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with our friends and families, our communities and networks. It has been amazing how many varied ways there have been in which people from every tradition have taken up this challenge and the effects have been remarkable.

So once again this year, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and our Bishops are asking every Christian in every worshipping community to join them in praying for the renewing and empowering presence of the Holy Spirit. It is their prayer that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and his love for the world will hear it for themselves, and in faith respond and follow Him. Specifically, we are being invited to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of five friends who have not yet responded with their 'Yes' to God's call.

As I said, we are all being invited to take part – along with churches from over 65 different denominations in 114 countries around the world – in setting aside the days between Ascension and Pentecost to pray. To help us to do this the Church of England has produced a booklet, copies of which will soon be available for everyone in the churches. The booklet has been designed to cover many years – not just this year – so will serve us for many years to come. So please do consider using the relevant prayers and readings for any group meeting related to the church – be it Mothers' Union, wives' groups or men's groups. Also, look out for further details regarding prayer events in your local parish church.

With every blessing,

Yours in Christ,

Cathy

Easter 2019 Sunrise Service



After the service, breakfast was served in St Nicholas and St Church Rooms. This was well attended and appreciated by all who came. Yes, it was an early start, but very rewarding.

Recent Events

Mothers' Union



We held our AGM in April and 19 members attended. Sandra Mckee was re-elected as leader and Lorna Courtney took over as treasurer from Margaret Gwynn. Margaret received our good wishes for all the work she had done over the last six years during which

the group have raised many donations to local and national charities. Margaret stayed on the committee as programme secretary and Barbara Reid will act as minutes secretary. The committee was re-elected en bloc, so we look forward to another busy and enjoyable year.

Following the business agenda we were entertained by Gordon Richards, who had bought along some memorabilia of the war years and early 50s. This brought back memories of our childhood, some earlier than others. Thanks Gordon for reminding us of how old we are.

Messy Church



Maybe due to the good weather, or the Easter holidays, our numbers at Messy Church were down a little, however there were around 55 adults and children in church. There were four Easter crafts to enjoy whilst learning about symbols and messages of Easter. The tree of new life was decorated by the children and is displayed in the church for all to see. The Rev Cathy led the worship and as usual this was followed by a tea party.

Each child left with a chocolate surprise in the Easter basket that they had made. Thanks to all who helped on the day.

St Stephen's at Cross Park Easter Fair

Thanks to all who supported our fundraising stall at Cross Park Easter Fair. We were made very welcome and had an enjoyable morning selling children's books.



St Stephen's Hot Cross Buns and Easter Fun

What a fantastic attendance we had for our Hot Cross Buns and Easter Fun event a few weeks back. We raised a tremendous £1,461.84 which was over £450 up on last year. Thanks to all who helped and supported in any way, especially those much appreciated Easter Egg donations.



Lent Lunches

Thank you to all who made soups and helped with the Lent Lunches and reflections that were held for the six weeks in Lent at St Stephens.

We raised a fantastic £370.20 for Saltash FOODBANK. Well done and thank you all for your generosity in supporting this cause.

Recent Events continued

Men of St Stephens and Friends



Our first evening was very interesting and time just flew as we listened to the tales of Venerable Patrick Evans during his various roles in Ministry.



We then enjoyed supper together and during this Patrick answered questions about Church life and discussions were held amongst us. An extremely enjoyable evening. Thanks again Patrick.

We next meet up for fellowship on **Monday 13th May from 7pm to 9pm**. Please come along and join us and bring a plate of food to share as we enjoy supper together.



A huge thanks to all the people who came along for the annual opening of the Children's Society boxes who drank tea, ate cake and supported the bring and buy table. Together you raised a wonderful £623.15 this year. Also a massive thanks to the people who helped by counting the money and supplying cakes, tea and coffee. Without these people I would find this task so much more difficult. *Lesley Batham*

Christian Aid Week 12-19 May



Our annual street collection (flag day) will take place on the morning of Saturday 18 May. Volunteers are needed, one hour of your time is all that is required.

If you think you can help please contact either Gordon Richards – gordon.richards0@btinternet.com (St Stephen's) or Mike Beer – mikebeerlv1@gmail.com (St Nicholas).

Warehouse needs are: milk powder, sponge puddings, disposable razors, hair conditioner and dog food.



The Foodbank AGM will be held on Thursday 9 May, 7.30pm at Wesley Church, all interested people are most welcome.

A big thank you to Carol Jones and her team for making St Stephen's Church so beautiful with the arrangement of colourful spring flowers.

A letter to God, 'How did you get invented?'

I was reminded of this letter, when a couple of weeks ago, a young girl said to me that she didn't believe in God and 'Who invented him?' Always a tricky question. The following tells us of Archbishop Rowan's view on the subject.

When journalist Alex Renton's six-year-old daughter, Lulu, wrote a letter to God, he did his best to get her an answer.

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 x'. 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.

Easiest of all, for us, would have been to fold the

piece of paper and file it in the memory box – Lulu is six and hasn't written more than a dozen letters in her life. Then we would have sat down and told her that God couldn't be sent her letter or answer the question because, in our view, he didn't exist. We would have said that he was invented by human beings, because they were rather puzzled by life and death and some other problems in between.

After much deliberation and debate, Alex Renton, who is an atheist, finally decided

on the following course of action.

First, I e-mailed her letter to both her grandmothers, and to some friends who are active Christians. The responses were interesting, and Lulu listened to them patiently. The grandmothers did best, perhaps because they'd faced these questions before. Both said that God did not have to be invented because He was always there, even for people who didn't feel they needed Him. That He wasn't actually a person, but the power of love. It took courage to have faith in Him, said one.

My Christian friends were less useful, but then they were the wrong people to ask. Of course they had had no trouble giving their children answers when the 'What is God?' question emerged (usually at about six or seven years old). 'What

if they were me?' I wondered. One said he had no idea how he would deal with the letter as me, but why not ask an expert? He suggested Rowan Williams, whose writings on faith he admires.

So I sought the views of some of the professionals. After a bit of Googling,

I e-mailed a jpg of Lulu's letter and a brief explanation to the Episcopalian Church in Scotland, where we live, to the Church of Scotland and to the Scottish Catholic Church. I did not mention my own views. For good measure, I sent it also to the head of theology of the Anglican Communion, based at Lambeth Palace.

I heard first from Monsignor Paul Conroy, of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Scotland. He wrote this, 'My reply would be along the lines of, "God is like us – he wasn't invented – but unlike us he has always been there. God is like someone we've always loved – we don't remember when he came into our lives because like the people we love who have been there all our lives it's as if we can't imagine what it would be like without him."' It seemed theologically on the button, but not much tailored to the six-year-old mind.

The Episcopalians and the Presbyterians didn't reply. Lambeth Palace waited a couple of weeks and

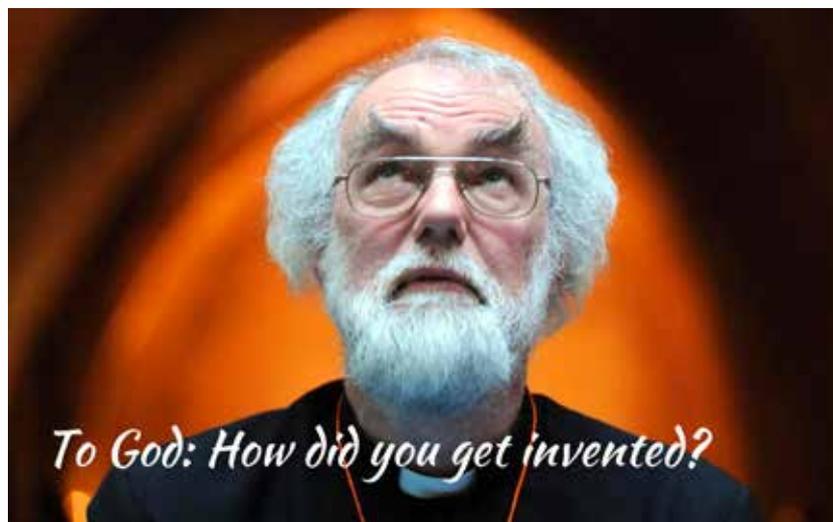
then asked me to tell Lulu that someone special was going to write to her. Eventually there came an e-mail from Archbishop Rowan (Lambeth Palace gave permission for the letter's reproduction here).

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

I was touched, more than I would have imagined... She listened quietly as I read the Archbishop's letter and it went down well. What worked particularly was the idea of God's story.

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

If you feel that you can do better, please do let me know – Cathy

What's On

Saltash May Fair
Saturday 4 May
10am to 4pm

St Stephen's fundraising team will have stalls in **Longstone Park**.

There will be delicious bacon butties in **St Nicholas and St Faith Church Rooms** between 10am and 2pm. Just £2.50 each and includes tea or coffee.

If you can help with this event, even if only for an hour, please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church.

Jumble Sale and Cream Teas
Geffery Hall, Landrake
Saturday 11 May
Noon to 4pm



Pick up a bargain and then relax with a scrumptious tea.

St Cleer Parish Church Community Market
Saturday 11 May
10am to 2pm

Come along and support St Stephen's fundraising stalls.

Quiz Night
St Stephen's Church
Friday 17 May
7pm for 7.30pm



If you wish to enter a team please email: gordon.richards0@btinternet or call/text 07801 763103.

Teams of up to six – £2 per person. Please bring your own refreshments. Tea and coffee will be available half time.

All money raised will go to Christian Aid.

St Mary's Church Plympton Spring Fair
Saturday 18 May
10am to 2pm

Support St Stephen's fundraising stalls.

Rogation Day
St Mary's Church, Botus
Sunday 26 May, 11.15am



The service includes the blessing of the surrounding fields and livestock. Afterwards, enjoy a buffet lunch in the church hall.

St Stephens Church Social Committee are seeking new members. If you are interested please see Steve Hookway.

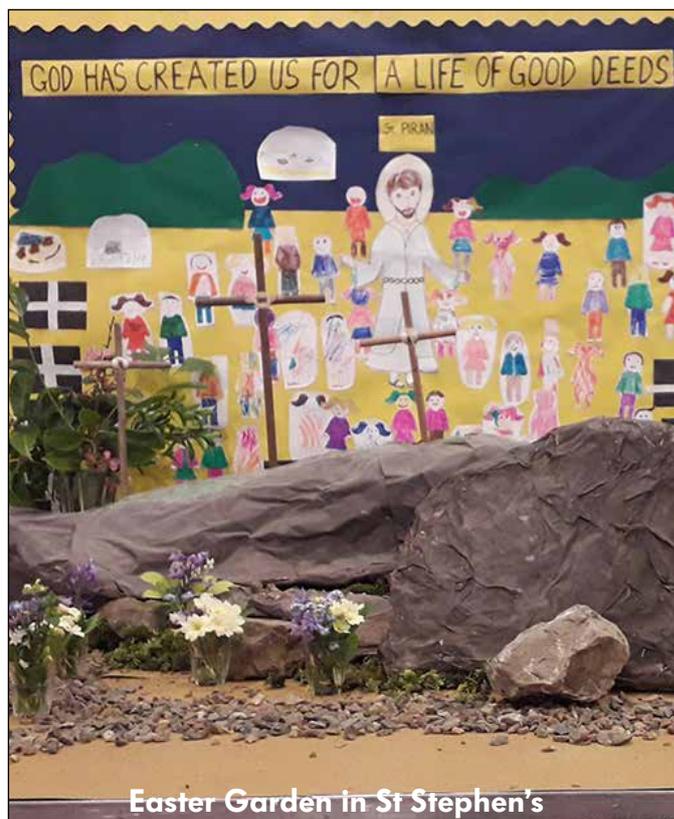
St Stephen's New Digital Piano



St Stephen's now has a new digital piano with grateful thanks to Bishop Cornish pre-school and the Lady Boyd Foundation for funding the total amount.

This new digital piano is very much state of the art in the piano sound that it replicates and also the many features that it has.

Our old keyboard is also being put to very good use. It has been donated to Brunel Primary School who currently don't have any keyboard instruments.



Easter Garden in St Stephen's

Please email articles to newsletter@saltashteamministry.org or pop them in to the Team Office. Deadline – 20 May.