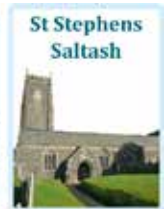
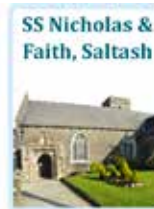
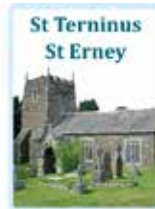
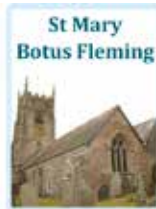


Saltash Area Newsletter

May 2020



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



Dear friends,

On 23rd April we celebrated St George's day. If I were to ask you what do you associate with St George, I wouldn't mind betting that many, if not all, would say slaying the dragon.

But St George – as well as slaying dragons – was a soldier. A soldier in the Roman army – probably an officer. And like many saints, St George was described as a martyr after he died for his Christian faith. It is believed that during the persecutions of the Emperor Diocletian, St George was executed at Lydda for refusing to make a sacrifice in honour of the pagan gods on 23rd April in the year 303. So as well as being a soldier in the Roman Army, St George was also a soldier for Christ.

As a soldier St George would not have been sent or indeed expected to go to war unprepared. He would have had the right training, he would have been disciplined and focussed on his mission. He would also have worn the correct armour and is often depicted as a crusader – wearing a strong suit of armour and carrying a lance, tipped by a cross, and riding on a white horse. As I said, he wasn't sent out to fight unprepared – not knowing what his aims and objectives were, the goals of his mission. He would have

been motivated by the mission and he would know who and what he was fighting for and he would have been in a constant state of readiness. And As a soldier of Christ he would have been just as prepared to carry out his Christian mission.



Saints and soldiers come in many different guises and today we could and perhaps should say that all our NHS staff and the medical staff around the world, are soldiers and saints as they fight an unseen enemy, the coronavirus, many suffering for their cause and sadly many of whom have lost their lives, and continue to do so, in the pursuit of service and dedication to help in saving the lives of others. And we have heard much of the need for PPE – Personal

Protective Equipment – their suit of armour, their own protection.

In the prescribed reading for 23rd April – 2 Timothy 2: 3-13 (see p2), Paul uses the example of the soldier to represent the Christian.

A soldier's aim is to please his or her enlisting officer, so if we are to be soldiers and followers of Christ, we too must dedicate ourselves and concentrate our efforts to be like Christ and that to realise and accept, that by doing so, will be persecuted and will suffer along the way, just as our Saviour did at Easter.

With Palm Sunday and Easter still very much in our minds and hearts, I couldn't help but compare St George as a soldier going into battle and Christ riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. A huge disappointment to many who thought that they too had a leader who would lead them into battle against their Roman occupiers – rather than as the saviour of the world.

As the story unfolds, the euphoria of the crowd on that day soon turned into hatred and loathing and the gospel reading (John 15: 18-21 – see p2) reminds us that, *If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you ... if they persecuted me, they will persecute you....* Not comfortable words to hear, but no-one has ever said that being a follower of Christ is an easy option.

If we are to be followers and soldiers for Christ, then we too must be prepared, and trained to take on this task and Paul continues his letter to Timothy with words of encouragement by using examples of the athlete and of the toiling farmer.

If an athlete wants to get to the top of their sport they must put in hours and years of practice and dedication to become the best – often to the exclusion of everything else and ‘compete according to the rules.’ They won’t be crowned as the winner of their race or competition or be presented with their medal unless they put in the hard work and the same can be said of the farmer who can only have first share of the crops after putting in hours of toil and labour to grow and nurture the crops.

Today, few of us are asked to make the ultimate sacrifice and become a martyr like St George or some of our healthcare workers. Christ made the ultimate sacrifice for us so that we don’t have to. But as soldiers of Christ we are called to action, to spread the Gospel – the good news of Jesus Christ.

But before we act, we too need to be prepared, before we undertake the tasks before us.

Ephesians 6 urges us to, *Take up the whole armour of God, so that we may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your*

feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Having put on our own PPE, just like the athlete, we also need to be disciplined and keep up our training and not become complacent or distracted or let anything come between us and our living God and the tasks that lie before us. And then

to remember that when dealing with others the supreme rule of our life is to love. To ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind and with all your strength’ and to ‘Love your neighbour as yourselves.’

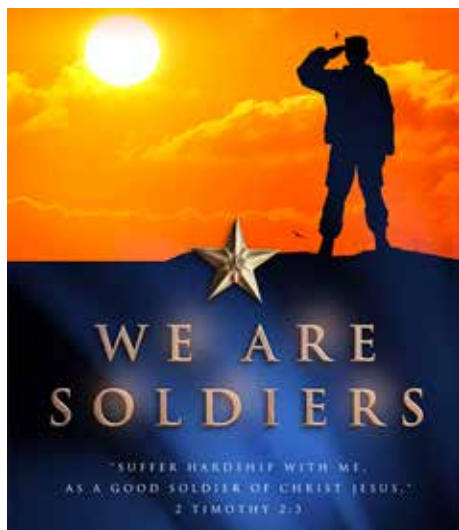
And only

when we have prepared, truly prepared ourselves, are we then to go out as soldiers of Christ. So what does that look like and mean for us today, especially at this time, when many are self-isolating?

Well here are some suggestions, but I am sure that you can also think of some of your own.

We can:

- Read the word of God – our Bibles – and pray for our world and the current situation in which we find ourselves.
- Help and support our neighbours by shopping for someone – if we are able, or keeping in touch by telephone.
- Step in to meet a need – as



John 15: 18-21

The World's Hatred

‘If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you. If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world—therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, “Servants are not greater than their master.” If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.’

2 Tim 2: 3-13

Share in suffering like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving in the army gets entangled in everyday affairs; the soldier’s aim is to please the enlisting officer. And in the case of an athlete, no one is crowned without competing according to the rules. It is the farmer who does the work who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in all things.

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. The saying is sure: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

thousands of retired nurses, doctors and healthcare workers have done – in order to help others. You know where your gifting and skills lie. So don't think about what you can't do and what is not to be, but what, under God, is yet to be. There is always a 'yet to be' with God just as the darkest moment of night comes just before the dawn. Who would ever have imagined that 99 year old Captain Tom would raise over £24 million – and rising, by walking around his garden when he had hoped to raise £1,000!

- Go to your doors at 8pm on Thursday and clap for our carers and NHS workers and
- To spread the Gospel – the good news of Jesus Christ.

We probably won't be canonised and made a Saint like St George, but that doesn't mean that what we do is any less important. So as we go about our daily life, let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord – and decide to stand out and make a real difference as a soldier of Jesus Christ.

And I would like to finish with a prayer.

Heavenly Father, who so kindled the flame of love in the heart of your servant George that he bore witness to the risen Lord by his life and by his death:

Give us the same faith and power of love that we who rejoice in his triumphs may come to share with him the fullness of the resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Cathy

ASCENSION DAY QUIZ



1. What is the liturgical colour most often associated with Ascension Day?
 - a Green
 - b Purple
 - c Red
 - d White
2. Singer who had a 1996 Top 30 single with 'Ascension'?
 - a Beck
 - b Mark Morrison
 - c Maxwell
 - d R Kelly
3. Complete the title of this popular Ascension Day Hymn – Crown him with many ...
 - a Caps
 - b Cheers
 - c Claps
 - d Crowns
4. What is the capital of the Ascension Islands?
 - a Bridgetown
 - b Capetown
 - c Georgetown
 - d Kingstown
5. According to the Acts of the Apostles where did Ascension of Jesus occur?
 - a Galilee
 - b Mount Sinai
 - c Mount Zion
 - d The Mount of Olives
6. What is the surname of the first Cornishman to ascend Everest?
 - a Beaglehole
 - b Bencarrow
 - c Bodrugan
 - d Buckingham
7. Sovereign Ascension Day hymn?
 - a King
 - b Majesty
 - c Monarchy
 - d Regal
8. In Salvador Dali painting 'The Ascension of Christ,' What feature of Christ's body is most prominent?
 - a Feet
 - b Head
 - c Smile
 - d Wounded Side
9. Ascension Road can be found in which Essex market town?
 - a Braintree
 - b Epping
 - c Maldon
 - d Romford
10. Jesus promised the Disciples they would receive what before he began his ascension into heaven?
 - a Bread
 - b Holy Spirit
 - c Wealth
 - d Wine

Answers: 1d, 2c, 3d, 4c, 5d, 6d, 7b, 8a, 9d, 10b

During the Lockdown ...

Most of our lives have changed considerably since the start of the lockdown. Until the lockdown ends, we cannot visit friends and relatives, enjoy coffee mornings, potter round the shops or attend Sunday morning church services.

While the ministry team cannot do much about the first few of the above, the team is working hard to meet our spiritual needs. A service is recorded weekly and is on the website and YouTube each Sunday morning from 9am and the service sheets can be downloaded from the website. A 'Thought for the Day' is uploaded to the website daily and the Sunday readings weekly.

Some of you have been kind enough to share your recent experiences and these are printed below. Please send in more of these (100-200 words with a photo) so we can learn more about the worshippers in the pews around us.



Margaret & Tony Dell



We were told that moving house is the second most stressful thing to do in life. On Monday February 24th we were to put that to the test, down sizing from our large family home of thirty-six years to a small bungalow.

Our first hiccup came when we were looking for something to wear to church on the Sunday prior to the move. The packers had packed our clothes in wardrobe boxes and surrounded them with other boxes making access impossible. On this occasion we really didn't have anything to wear!

Moving day was wet and windy but the removal men were wonderful, and our friends and family too.

We are settling In and although very different, it is beginning to feel like home.

Our journey was full of ups and downs, not unlike the events prior to and beyond Easter Day. This year we were unable to decorate the church with flowers or set up the Easter Garden but we could appreciate our garden waking up after the long winter and with modern technology we were able to join in communal worship and receive 'The Thought of the Day'. Many thanks to all involved.

We live in sad uncertain times but one thing we can be sure of is that Easter will be celebrated again next year. ■

Dave Coot



Towards the end of 2019 my good friend Steve supported me as I returned to church at St Stephens after many years away.

I have participated in many fundraising events and was really looking forward to the Easter services. All that changed because of coronavirus. With Easter approaching Steve arranged, via social media, for some of the church members to keep in touch via video chats. I have been keeping up with the team virtual Sunday services, 'Thoughts of the Day' and 'Prayer for the Day'.

I also got to thinking about how my life has been affected by what is currently happening all

over the world and what changes there will be to life in the future for us. This led me to how, for Jesus and his followers, that their life changed when Jesus was crucified and that they also had an uncertain future. In a few short days Jesus arose and their lives were changed again and their futures became clearer.

I am glad that I have my faith and that if I practice the things that Jesus has taught me that I will be able to lead a fulfilling life and do my best to help people who are in need of support. This virus and the lockdown conditions will not last for ever and my life will be the better for the experience of living through it. ■

During the Lockdown ...

Steve Hookway



For me, lockdown hasn't changed my weekday routine. I'm still working in accounts for a transport firm which is busier than before lockdown.

As Easter approached, I explored what was available on radio, TV and internet. On Maundy Thursday I took part in St Cleer's zoom service. I also watched our team's first virtual service which was very good and has improved each week – thanks to all involved. It's great to see a service where we recognise those taking part.

On Good Friday I was going to be carrying the cross for SCT 'Walk of Witness' and decided to do the walk with my hand cross as part of my daily exercise at 6.30am. After, I took in many of the available online and TV services. I've been enjoying Rev Paul Smith's sermons from Tavistock Methodist Church and from Rev Robert Harris from Plympton St Mary. I miss not being able to see my Church mates very much but enjoy the video calls we have set up.

Early on Easter Sunday I went to the Celtic Cross. As the sun rose (see right) I thought of Mary Magdalene visiting the tomb, it reminded me of how I went to visit Dad's grave the day after he had been buried. I just had to be there and check all was in order, however the shock and pain inside her to find the tomb empty must have been incredible. The sunrise as with the Walk of Witness wasn't the same without everyone else but I wasn't alone, God is always with me as he is with you. I leave with you with a prayer that has inspired me during these challenging times as I try to help those around me.

*We are not people of fear:
we are people of courage.
We are not people who
protect our own safety:
we are people who protect
our neighbours' safety.
We are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.
We are your people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are,
whatever it costs
For as long as it takes
wherever you call us.* ■

Mothers' Union Year 2019 to 2020

Our AGM, this year has been postponed because of the current lockdown. Most of our members being of 'an age' we have been confined to our homes except for the hour exercise period (I must admit that my husband and I have only used up half of our allowance each day – but we do walk quickly!).



Prayer time has become more important than ever. The Mothers' Union theme for this year is 'Praying with Purpose' and what better purpose than to seek God's help in coping with this horrible pandemic.

We have all had to adjust to living within the restrictions. God has always been with us to listen to our prayers of thanks and we need to keep our faith now, more than ever. Those of us at home can pray for those who are working so hard in this country and throughout the world to deal with the illness.

Thinking about what the Mothers' Union has achieved in the past year – Our 21 local members have met for prayer each month and listened to speakers telling us of their aims and triumphs.

We have raised funds for Mothers' Union charities throughout our diocese and bought literacy packages to be distributed worldwide. Our summer appeal cream tea last September raised £332 towards Mothers' Union national funds and we hope to repeat this event in September this year.

Our Wave of Prayer Service In October was well attended and our Advent Service was especially joyful as we explored Mary's thoughts on becoming a mother.

So a busy, profitable and most of all a happy year that we hope to repeat in the rest of 2020.

Sandra McKee

Sunrise at the Celtic Cross Easter Morning



How you can support your parish during the coronavirus pandemic?

I have received a number of phone calls from members of our congregations asking how they can continue to support their parish and give their offering to the church during this time when we can't physically meet.

Just like any organisation, we still have bills to pay – the insurances, repair work, salaries, and also costs towards heating – although this isn't as high in the peak winter months, we still need to ensure that our buildings are kept at a certain temperature so that we don't have additional problems with damp and mould when we can open our churches once again.

So to those who do give their offering either through a standing order, direct debit or the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) – thank you. Your regular offering is greatly valued and we appreciate knowing that we will be receiving a certain amount each week/month. If you aren't part of one of these giving options then you can still sign up to these schemes during the lockdown. Just contact your treasurer and they will make the necessary arrangements. These payments methods – especially the PGS Scheme – really do help us by decreasing the amount of administration and also letting us know what our monthly income will be. Also, you could let us have a cheque (see below for details). For those who contribute via the envelope scheme then again, please contact your treasurer and they may be able to collect the envelopes from you or, if you are taking your daily walk you may be able to pop the envelope though the door of one of the Treasurers, Church Wardens, the parish office (for those in Saltash) or The Rectory.

The contact details are as follows:

St Stephen-by-Saltash

Cheques payable to: St Stephen-by-Saltash PCC
Treasurer Ray Wills ☎ 01752 361700

St Nicholas & St Faith

Cheques payable to: SSNF Church
Treasurer Richard Margetts ☎ 01752 847044

St Michael Landrake with St Erney

Cheques payable to: PCC Landrake
Treasurer – John Ashton ☎ 01752 851220

St Mary's, Botus Fleming

Cheques payable to: St Mary's Botus Fleming PCC
Treasurer – Julie Ellis ☎ 07710 230615

Thank you for your continued support this these difficult times.

With the grateful thanks of your PCCs.

Cathy

During the Lockdown ...

Rev Brian Anderson



'God is with us in our suffering and we only know joy by the contrast with pain.' So wrote one of our Thought for Today personnel. As I read this I was taken with thought that suffering does have its place and purpose in our lives, although it may not always be obvious when we are presented with such suffering. We may feel that God has forsaken us, that we are left to face our suffering in isolation, we may cry out 'Why me, O lord?'

For many months during the past two years I have been suffering with back pain. Over that period of time the pain grew worse and worse and, along with the pain in recent times came numbness in the right hand side of my body. I lost feeling in my legs and feet which meant that I could collapse at any time and perhaps injure myself in the fall. In fact on one occasion I did just that, but luckily it occurred whilst I was walking through Victorian Park and happened to fall on the grass thus avoiding any real injury

apart from bruises.

I was able to get up and struggle home where my daughter took me to A&E. Thirty-six hours in hospital with various examinations and testing confirmed that there was no internal damage.

As I read the quotation above it struck me that if I did not have the pain and suffering of this complaint then neither I nor the medical staff would have the foggiest idea that there was something wrong with me. As a result of this knowledge, and thanks to the staff and skill of the NHS, I received an operation and now I know what a joy it is to recover and begin to live an active, and I hope useful life yet again.

As the psalmist states: 'weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.' [Psalms 30:5]

Trusting in Him we pray that our present suffering through Covid 19 may lead us to have joy when the suffering has passed, and that by His grace we may pass to a 'new normality'. ■

During the Lockdown ...

Ruth Edmondson



As I retired a couple of years ago and worked from home before that, I'm used to being at home during the day.

I'm also used to going out several times a week to meet friends for coffee, for meals out, for walks and to play bridge.

We used to pick up grandsons from school twice a week and see our locally(ish) children every couple of weeks or so.

Our Easter Day celebrations were to include the sunrise service and lunch for twelve.

Although we're missing all the above, there are positives. We have learnt the delights of Zoom, first with our children, then for the church services and, recently, for my coffee morning group (though they are not as expert

as our children in using it!). Bridge has moved online and while not the same is still enjoyable.

Seeing everyone Easter Day would have been wonderful, but cooking a small chicken didn't involve me spending all morning in the kitchen!

I swapped the sunrise service for watching the service from Truro – at a much more civilised time.

I've discovered that editing online services is really good fun (we're all learning as we go). In fact, I seem to be busier now than before the lockdown!

I pray that people the world over come out of this period with more appreciation of what's important: our relationship with God, with others and with our surroundings. ■

Rosemarie Cooke has been forwarding me the 'Thought for the Day'. I felt I had to drop a line to say how much I have appreciated them. Because of health issues I have not been allowed out ... thank goodness I have a garden!

Thank you very much. I look forward to opening my email each morning.

Dorothy Thirtle (Flo Mildren's sister) in Cheshire

Virtual Grand National



Thank you to all who entered the virtual Grand National Sweepstake which, with extra donations, raised £21 for Church Funds.

Congratulations to the winners.

1st: Roger Rowse

2nd: Isaac Parker (Margaret and Tony Dell's grandson)

3rd: Gordon Richards

4th: Claude Fourte.



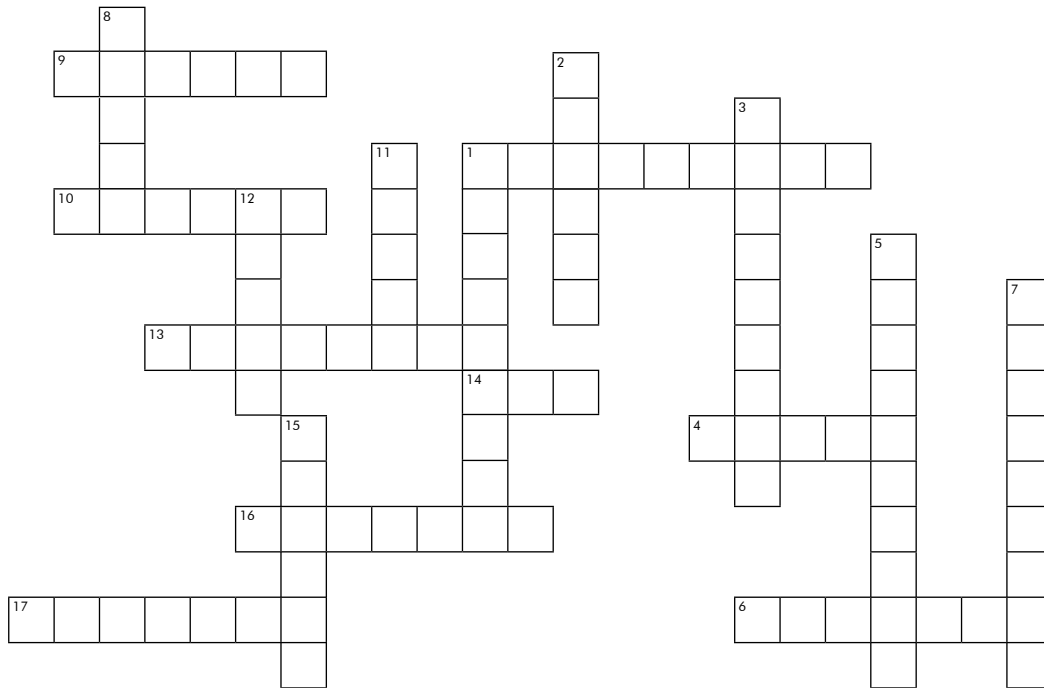
Our latest needs are:

- Granulated sugar
- Tinned tomatoes
- Milk powder
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Sponge puddings
- Toilet rolls

Although our churches are no longer open, we can still donate food at Waitrose, the Co-op or Lidl and/or donate money via their website: <https://saltash.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>

Thank you for all your generous support of the foodbank in your different ways, be it financially, by prayer or by coming in to do a shift under difficult conditions. It is not just us that feel the pressure, Rika has had many clients on the phone sounding very stressed about their situation, some very fearful about going out, some struggling about their job losses due to Covid 19, worrying about bills coming up or their business that has had to close. Some have families that usually receive free school meals who struggle on low income. There have been several distressed elderly people calling for help. Some of these are being helped now by Volunteer Cornwall or receive an emergency food supply from the Food Bank until their food box from government is distributed to those that are in the shielding group.

ASCENSION DAY CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 The power or right to give orders (9)
- 4 The name of God's son (5)
- 6 To accept that something is true (7)
- 9 The Good News of salvation through Jesus (6)
- 10 Jesus told the disciples to _____ the Gospel (6)
- 13 Jesus and his disciples went up a _____ (8)
- 14 Jesus is God's ____ (3)
- 16 Large groups of people around the world (7)
- 17 To immerse in water as a sign of following Jesus (7)

Down

- 1 Special day that Christians celebrate on the fortieth day after Easter (9)
- 2 God is Jesus's _____ (6)
- 3 Followers of Jesus (9)
- 5 The Trinity is the Father, the Son and the _____ (4,6)
- 7 Capital of Israel (9)
- 8 Possession of control, authority or influence over others (5)
- 11 An area in the country of Israel where Jesus lived (5)
- 12 As Jesus went up to heaven a _____ hid him (5)
- 15 Where God and Jesus live (6)



A Sonnet for Ascension Day

We saw his light break through the cloud of glory
 Whilst we were rooted still in time and place
 As earth became a part of Heaven's story
 And heaven opened to his human face.
 We saw him go and yet we were not parted
 He took us with him to the heart of things
 The heart that broke for all the broken-hearted
 Is whole and Heaven-centred now, and sings,
 Sings in the strength that rises out of weakness,
 Sings through the clouds that veil him from our sight,
 Whilst we our selves become his clouds of witness
 And sing the waning darkness into light,
 His light in us, and ours in him concealed,
 Which all creation waits to see revealed.

Malcolm Guite