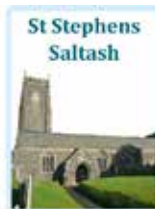
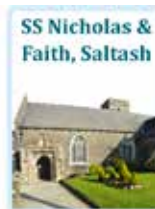
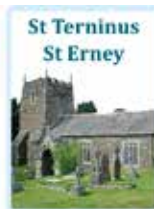
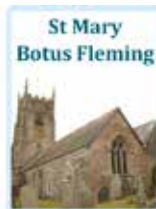


Saltash Area Newsletter

October 2020



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



All Change . . .

I have spent part of 'lockdown' and the period afterwards with Michelle. She is very intelligent and interesting and she reveals a life lived which is not open to the majority. Her life has been heavily involved with politics, although she herself is not by nature a political person. Her background is in law although most of her working life she has served in a number of non-profit social justices causes. She is married to a husband who was in politics and they have two children. Of course, you have guessed it's Michelle Obama. I have been reading her book *Becoming*.

Towards the end of the book she reflects, 'A transition is simply that – a passage to something new. A hand goes on a Bible; an oath gets repeated.'

The term interregnum is no longer used, we are told, and instead we find ourselves in a period of 'transition'.

A period which will necessitate change. As it happens this is both true nationally and for our team. We are having to adjust to doing things in a different way; wearing our masks and keeping our distance. We are to a certain extent unsure of what the future holds or what will be expected of us in the immediate years ahead. Some are looking forward with

hope as well as expectation, while others fear the future will be a time of gloom. We have to wait and see.

For our group the period of transition is unknown. We may have hopes and dreams for our future as a group, realistic or otherwise. We must wait and see for we are truly living in faith.

A Prayer for Parishes in a Time of Transition

Dear Lord, our God and Father,
in this time of transition, give us eyes to see
Your presence in our lives,
ears to listen to Your will,
lips to speak Your words,
and hands to do Your work.
Grant us grace and go before us,
as we seek Your Holy Spirit's counsel,
as we live in community during this time,
and as we prepare for the arrival
of a new priest in our midst.
In Your name we pray, in sure and certain
hope of Your promises to us.
Amen.

During the transition we have an opportunity to consider what our expectations are and what part we can play in those expectations. It would, of course, be easy to sit back and say, 'Let's hold things together and pray that when a new priest arrives we can get back to where we were.' Such a viewpoint would be not only disappointing, but also a

negation of our responsibilities to the living Lord, for the period of a transition is a period to assess and discover how we relate to the living Lord as well as our relationship to each other (both as individuals and congregations). We may not currently be able to sing hymns, but that does not mean that we have to

stop the music altogether. We have a golden opportunity to see that when our new priest arrives s/he will find congregations that are ready and willing to be led into pastures new because during the transition will have sought the will of the Lord. We have actively used the period for prayer, study and discussion to accept the part which we are being called to live in the kingdom of saints. Not only to live, but also to share in our daily experience. Our transition will end when we begin something new. A forthcoming priest will place her/his hand

on a bible and will take an oath (three in fact) and will expect us to be ready and able to commence our new journey into the future.

Change and decay in all around we see,
Oh you who changes not, abide with us.
With apologies to Henry Francis Lyte

Rev Brian Anderson

My Experience of an Alpha Course

Dave Coot



In June 2020, Steve Hookway told me about an online Alpha course run by Phil Aindow, the curate at St Martin's Church in Liskeard. Steve had already joined and suggested I come along. Since Steve was instrumental in me returning to the church after many years and I value his opinion greatly, I sent an email to Phil. I was pleased to receive a reply that I was welcome to join the course.

I wasn't sure what to expect and went into it with an open mind. As I had missed the first week, I was apprehensive about the other members on the course. I received an email telling me that this week's title would be *Who is Jesus?* and that we would watch a video and then have an open discussion.

Over the next sessions we covered sessions titled *Why did Jesus die?*, *How can I have faith?*, *How and why do I pray?*, *How and why should I*

read the bible? and *How can I make the most of the rest of my life?*

I was very surprised that I was able to gel with all the others on the course and I found that we were able to discuss the topics in the videos openly, including some experiences that we had encountered. The discussions were very thought provoking.

Some of the sessions became very emotional and overwhelming when we were discussing things that had happened to us personally and I shed a few tears during some of the discussions.

I would certainly recommend an Alpha Course to anyone, whether they already have a faith or are new to the church. There was so much to learn.

We were all saddened when the course finished but have said we will stay in contact, Phil is hoping to set up a WhatsApp group for us to do this.

Considering that we were strangers when we started the course, I was surprised that I could discuss everything so openly. They were all very supportive when they knew that my grandson was in hospital and also when I became ill during the course.

I will certainly be looking out for any other courses that may be suitable for me.

OCTOBER SERVICES

Harvest Sunday 4 October

St Stephen-by-Saltash

9.30am All Age Service

St Michael, Landrake

9.30am Family Service

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash

11am Holy Communion

St Mary, Botus Fleming

11.15am Family Service

Sunday 11 October

St Stephen-by-Saltash

9.30am Holy Communion

St Michael, Landrake

9.30am Holy Communion

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash

11am Holy Communion

St Mary, Botus Fleming

11.15am Holy Communion

Sunday 18 October

St Stephen-by-Saltash

9.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evensong

St Michael, Landrake

9.30am Holy Communion

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash

11am Holy Communion

St Mary, Botus Fleming

11.15am All Age Service

St Erney, Landrake

11.15am Holy Communion

Sunday 25 October

St Stephen-by-Saltash

9.30am Holy Communion

St Michael, Landrake

9.30am Holy Communion

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash

11am Holy Communion

St Mary, Botus Fleming

11.15am Holy Communion

Every Wednesday

St Stephen-by-Saltash

2pm-4pm Open for private prayer



I have been contacted by the coordinator for *The Samaritan's Purse* to say that The Shoe Box Appeal will go ahead. We all realise that things are very different this year but if you would like to contribute, leaflets will be available at St Stephens and St Nicholas & St Faith. Boxes can be purchased at 40p, but must be ordered.

I can be contacted on 01752 846945 or see Tony at St Stephens on Sunday morning.

Margaret Dell

Benefice Transition

On the 8 September, the joint Churchwardens had an initial online Zoom meeting with Sally Fisher and Rebecca Evans, our Transition Advisors. We confirmed the arrangements currently in place to manage services, occasional offices, visiting, etc. and then talked about the next step – setting up a

representative Transition Team to develop a joint Statement of Needs which will set out the situation of the parishes, the challenges we face, our joint vision for the future, and what we are hoping for in an incumbent. This is, in effect, our prospectus to attract suitable candidates to consider applying, so needs to be

both realistic and optimistic!

The importance of backing up the practical aspects of all this with prayer was stressed and everyone can join in with this: it would be good if we could all use the prayer on page 1 (or something like it) in our services and private prayers:

Richard Margetts

Christmas Tree Festival 2020



Our forthcoming Christmas Tree Festival has met with a very positive reaction, and so far we have received quite a few replies, including some new entries. Of course, things will need to be organised differently this year. We hope to be able to let you know how the setting up will be tackled at the meeting on Wednesday 1 October 7.30 pm in Church, where we will be able to observe the social distancing rules.

We are also going to need more stewards this year, and there will be a one way system around the Church. If, once the arrangements are made for the set up of the trees, you find that these are not suitable for you, please let Leslie Stevens (842521), or myself (844141) know, and we will arrange a convenient time for you.

Tickets for our Grand Draw will be available soon, and this year we have extended the time The draw will take place on Saturday 19 December.

Margaret Evans

Mothers' Union News

At the time of writing this article, Mother's Union are looking forward to the end of September, when we shall meet for the first time for six months, to hold a wave of prayer service in St Stephen's Church.



However, members have not been idle during these months, we have been in contact with each other and shared prayers for different causes, made donations towards different projects and have been busy with the knitting needles to make hats to go to Bulgaria, in response to a special appeal to keep children warmer during the harsh winters they endure.

Our tea and cake sessions have had to be suspended, and one might hope that there would be more room in the pews next year, but in my own case I'm afraid that won't be the case, as more home baking and more home eating have taken place!

We hope to put an entry into the Christmas Tree Festival at SS Nicholas and Faith in December, hoping that this heralds a return to normality in the not too distant future.

Sandra McKee

St Stephens will hold their A.P.C.M. on Sunday 18th October after the Morning Service

Harvest Quiz

- On which day of creation did God create fruit-bearing trees?
 - Third
 - Fourth
 - Fifth
 - Sixth
- Why were the Israelites told not to gather the gleanings of the harvest?
 - To feed the wild animals
 - To provide for the poor
 - They were unclean
 - To keep the land fertile
- Who said, 'The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few'?
 - Jesus
 - Paul
 - Peter
 - Boaz
- What sort of tree did Jesus curse for bearing no fruit?
 - Pomegranate
 - Almond
 - Olive
 - Fig
- What was special about the harvest in the Sabbatical year?
 - There wasn't one
 - It produced double
 - It was two months early
 - Only one type of crop was sown and harvested
- For how many successive years did the crops fail during the time when Joseph reigned in Egypt?
 - Two
 - Seven
 - Ten
 - Twelve
- At the beginning of which harvest did Naomi and Ruth go to Bethlehem?
 - Wheat
 - Grape
 - Barley
 - Rye
- Who caused great fear by calling on God to send rain and thunder during the wheat harvest?
 - Samuel
 - Aaron
 - David
 - Joshua
- Under the law, what was to be done with the first fruits of the harvest?
 - Put into barns
 - Given to the Lord
 - Given to the poor
 - Left in the field
- In the parable of the tares in the field, the harvest is the end of the world, but who are the reapers?
 - God and Jesus
 - The Levites
 - The angels
 - The Saints

Answers on page 6

When We See The Harvest

**A harvest of apples, a harvest of corn;
A harvest of plenty, an autumn adorned.
With bright coloured leaves, a fall festive blend;
A wonderful time for families and friends**

**A harvest of pumpkins, a harvest of grain;
A harvest of bounty, and cool autumn rains.
A big harvest moon – way up in the sky;
A harvest of blessing that God has supplied.**

**Be grateful, be humble, give thanks to the Lord;
He has showered His blessing here in our world.
But have we been faithful, and have we been true?
Have we put God first in all that we do?**

**A harvest that God sees is not food or crop;
Not pumpkins, or grain, not apples that drop.
But God see the harvest of souls needing Him;
A harvest of people who need saved from their sin.**

**A harvest of souls and a harvest of love;
A harvest of mercy from our Father above.
When we see the harvest, let's see through God's eyes;
And share with the nations the life He supplies.**

Susan Y Nikitenko

Allen Digital Organ at SSNF

We have now heard back from the Registrar that there have been two objections lodged against our faculty application for permission to sell the Allen digital organ and purchase an electronic piano. We wait to hear what issues have been raised and will have an opportunity to respond. This means, unfortunately, that we will be liable for some legal costs regardless of the outcome (a straightforward, unopposed application would have been covered by the Diocese). We don't yet know exactly what this will entail as it will depend on whether the objectors accept an informal rather than a formal resolution and whether the matter can be dealt with by correspondence or if a hearing is required.

Richard Margetts

A huge thank you to Steve Hookway, as without his efforts, there would have been very, very short newsletters these last few months. Not only has he found quizzes and written articles for the newsletter but also persuaded others to put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard!).

Ruth Edmondson

SALTASH FOODBANK

HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

Help needed

We have some vacancies in our warehouse sorting and weighing our donations, as some of our temporary teams have been reduced to one as their team/family members have returned to work.

Mondays are particularly in need of volunteers due to some current volunteers wishing to change their days and others unable to commit to every Monday. So we are looking for a number of volunteers on the occasional or regular Monday morning.

Moving forwards

After supplying local schools over the school holidays with parcels for vulnerable children and their families and supplying The Core with food for frozen meals, the Foodbank hopes to set up a community food hub and fridge possibly in the Maurice Higgins Rooms.

In the meantime, every Monday morning, a table is set up outside the Foodbank premises for the surplus bread, vegetables and other items from supermarkets. Everything is pre-packed and ready to go for anyone to help themselves. A

message on Facebook will let the community know as well as our clients from the previous month. The first Monday was 14 September.

Immediate needs

- noodles and pot noodles
- or foods that can be eaten cold or heated with hot water from a kettle as we have several people in emergency accommodation who only have a kettle to prepare food.
- meat spread in jars
- hot chocolate
- hair conditioner.

Due to the current pandemic we request no deliveries or collections to our foodbank centre. Our main collection points are at Saltash Co-op, Waitrose and Plymouth Tesco, Transit Way. Thank you.

Distribution of food

Saltash Foodbank currently delivers food parcels on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Our clients

The people we supply food to are generally people with multiple issues affecting their ability to buy food:

- This could be that they just moved to a new house

from a homeless shelter.

- They may have multiple deductions from their Universal Credit benefit for arrears when already struggling with a low income. This could last over 12 months.
- We have working families on Universal Credit.
- We have clients who are affected by ill health, unable to work and on Universal Credit; they receive less than £100 a month for all their bills, according to the Universal Credit calculations.
- Universal Credit payments are made two months in arrears and can vary from month to month.
- We have clients waiting many months for a disability assessment and payment of PIP (Personal Independent Payment). In the meantime they have to pay out from their low income for transport to any hospital appointments as well as any additional costs that come from being disabled. The forms to receive this are extremely complex and thirty odd pages long, I needed Richard's help to fill in mine.

Lesley Margetts

Church Office October Opening Hours

Thu 1 Oct 3.15pm to 4.30pm
Wed 7 Oct 9.30am to 2.30pm
Thu 8 Oct 9.15am to 2.30pm

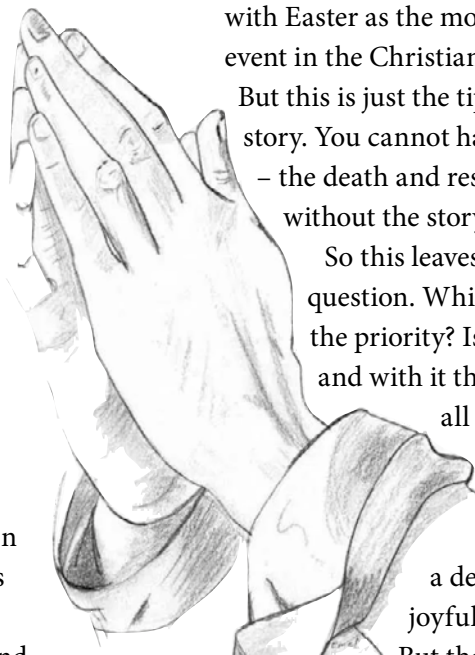
Fri 9 Oct 9.15am to 11am
Mon 12 Oct 9.15am to 2.45pm
Wed 14 Oct 9.30am to 2.45pm

Thu 15 Oct 3.15pm to 4.30pm
Wed 21 Oct 9.30am to 2.30pm
Thu 22 Oct 9.15am to 2.30pm
Fri 23 Oct 9.15am to 11am

Prayer for October

Our parishes are experiencing change! This happens from time to time as part of church life when the parish priest moves. In our case Cathy has moved on and a new chapter is beginning in the life of our churches. So we need to support all those involved in these changes as a new selection is made. The whole procedure needs our support in our prayers and our thoughts.

Change has been a constant thread running through the ups and downs of our Coronavirus experience and its effect upon our lives. We are living in difficult times and most of us have lots of pressures to cope with. But when the sun shines and the flowers in the gardens glow, then our hearts respond with joy. We also remember with joy the presence of God deep within our lives and that we are part of a Christian community. We know too, that without God we are nothing at all. Responding to God's love brings with it our life and from



that fountain of love comes our life in the world. The heart of our Christian life is to be found in the community of love that this creates.

We are just beginning the last quarter of the year. We still have the familiar signposts in our calendars. The church has feast days and festivals. Which one do you focus on? I tend to begin with Easter as the most significant event in the Christian calendar.

But this is just the tip of the story. You cannot have Easter – the death and resurrection – without the story of a birth.

So this leaves us with a question. Which festival has the priority? Is it Christmas and with it the birth and

all its associated stories?
Or is it Easter, with a death and a joyful resurrection?
But that raises another question.

How do we tell these stories to everyone – the whole story – the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus, the Lord of all. For we are called to share this life-giving involvement of God in His world.

Dear Lord,

We are glad and joyful that you are present with us as we face the pressures of our daily lives. We bring to you in our prayers all with whom we are involved in our daily living. We ask that your blessing be upon them. We pray for ourselves as we go about our daily life in our work and in our play. Help us to share the knowledge of your presence with all around us. With your presence we find life in all its fullness. Our prayers are for your blessing on all with whom we meet today.

These our prayers we bring to you through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gordon Cryer

St Stephen's Church: South Porch



The South porch displays a fine arch, above which is a sun-dial, purchased in 1783 for the sum of two guineas – including erection by Messrs. Doidge and Avery. The motto on it is *Sol Me vos umbra regit*; which freely translated means, 'I am in the light, but you sinners are in darkness.' Nothing like having a good opinion of yourself! Jewell Doidge was interested in poetry as well as sun-dials; below is a specimen of his verses, written on the Register in 1753.

When I am full and can't hold more
Pray cast me not quite out of door,
But keep me in the parish chest,
For that's the place I ought to rest.

Mary Wills



Margaret and Tony Dell thank all of you who sent cards for their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

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

St Luke – Apostle & Evangelist

Feast Day 18 October

Brenton Blandford

Today we live in an age where we are restricted in our movements and lifestyle by a terrible pandemic, not only in this country, but worldwide. The NHS is stretched with patients and medical professionals doing their best trying to make their patients well. Doctors and nursing staff in hospital where my dear wife Catherine is being treated (not COVID19 related) going about their duties in healing their patients led me to think of the 18 October, which is the Feast Day of St Luke, Apostle and Evangelist. According to tradition, Luke was a Gentile and therefore the only non-Jewish author in the New Testament. He was also a Greek Physician, who no doubt had similar problems trying to heal his patients during the first century AD.

St Luke is the author of the third Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles, the latter relating to the history of the early Christian Church. He was also the companion to the Apostle St Paul (Phil 1:24, 2 Tim 4:10-11).

Luke was born in the early part of the first century AD in Antioch, modern day Syria, and studied Greek Philosophy, medicine, and art in his youth. He later travelled to Jerusalem where he came to believe in the teachings of Jesus Christ. Luke and Cleopas met the resurrected Lord Jesus on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24). Luke mentions a number of women in the Gospel who attended and ministered to Jesus and also mentions them in the Book of the Acts to the Apostles.

Looking at these two books of the New Testament, it occurs to me, and I am sure to many others, that Luke writes with the compassion and warmth of a family

doctor. He carefully documents the perfect humanity of Jesus Christ, who is referred to in this gospel as the Son of Man. Luke also mentions that Jesus came as a saviour of sinful men, in order to carry our sorrows and offer us the priceless gift of Salvation. Although Luke was not an eyewitness to the events in his gospel, he relied on the testimony of those who were there and written sources.

Luke was 84 years old, a good age in those days, when

he was set upon and arrested by pagans who tortured him for the sake of Christ, and hanged him from an olive tree in the town of Thebes, in Boethia, Greece.

Luke became a patron saint of the medical profession and also of artists, painters, sculptors, craft workers and

lace makers as he was reported to be a fine painter.

Christian tradition dating from the 8th century states that Luke was the first icon painter. Guilds of St Luke were formed within cities such as Flanders and Rome in late mediaeval Europe to protect painters. Other sources claim that he painted St Peter and St Paul and illustrated a gospel book.

Luke's symbol was the bull or ox, the third symbolic beast mentioned by the Prophet Ezekiel (1:10), which is a symbol of Christ's sacrificial and priestly office, as pointed out by St Irenaeus, a father of the early Christian Church.

In Ephesus, which is in modern day Turkey, there was a circular structure which was described as the grave of St Luke because of a cross and ox carved into the door. Both Catherine and I have seen this tomb when we were at Ephesus following in the footsteps of SS Luke and Paul many years ago.



Please email articles to: newsletter@saltashteamministry.org by 20 October.