

# Saltash Area Newsletter

September 2020



DISCOVERING GOD'S KINGDOM – GROWING THE CHURCH  
[www.saltashteamministry.org](http://www.saltashteamministry.org)



## Into the Unknown...or is it?

In the Narnia stories, when the children pass through the back of the wardrobe, they find themselves in a strange land which resembles their own in some ways, but is totally different in others.

This is the experience of many churches as they say farewell to their parish priest and as they look ahead they see their church which looks the same, but clearly isn't. The Christian tradition is no stranger to the idea of journeying through a strange land, in both a spiritual and temporal sense; from the Exodus taking the Israelites into the desert, through their exile in enemy lands, to the new, and often hostile, spiritual world in which the disciples found themselves as they journeyed with Jesus. Yet the journey is, however dark, always hopeful and moves through darkness to light, despair to joy, transgression to absolution, and pain to wholeness.

Rev Cathy leaving is a sadness for the parishes and deanery. I have enjoyed her presence within deanery clergy gatherings and we pray that she will be both a blessing, and blessed, in her new position.

There will be inevitable questions and concerns: will we get another parish priest? Has the diocese thought about this? Can they make some sort of start now? Is there anyone who'll support us? The answer to all these is yes. The deanery re-organisation put in place

last year allowed funding for a full-time parish priest for the Saltash Area Ministry. Archdeacon Audrey and I have already met with the Churchwardens and explained the steps through to making a new appointment. There is also an experienced Transitions advisor who will work with the parishes and help them identify the skills and abilities of the person who will lead in the years ahead.

There may be a temptation to use the same material which has been generated in previous years – both the churches and parishes have different needs and these need to be reflected. There may also be a temptation for the churches just to keep things going, ticking over, until the new appointment. In fact, it's an opportunity to discover how the skills and gifts of laity can be released to serve the mission and ministry of the church in the parishes, alongside the existing PtO clergy. This is a time when members feel most able to step up to fill gaps, and to be involved in ministry. It is a chance not to command, but to serve.

Archdeacon Audrey and I will support you in every way we can in the months ahead.

Every blessing,

Chris,  
Rural Dean

## SEPTEMBER SERVICES

### Sunday 6 September

**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 13 September

**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 20 September

**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  
(may not take place)

### Sunday 27 September

**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**  
10.30am Holy Communion

## Cathy's Farewell Service



Cathy's last service in Saltash was on 26 July in St Stephen's Church. Each of the churches was well represented and at the end of the service, Cathy received gifts from members of the churches.

We wish her all the best for the future.



Dear brothers and sisters

My last letter to say farewell to you all and to thank everyone for the wonderful gifts, cards and good wishes for the future.

It was lovely to see so many of you at my last service and to be able to say goodbye personally and to wish you all well for the future. I am sorry that Covid 19 has prevented me from visiting and seeing many more of you recently, but it is essential that everyone does everything possible to safeguard their health.

The gifts will always remind me of the parishes and of you – thank you. Hopefully Audrey will have some photos to go with this note so that those who weren't able to be at the service can see the gifts for themselves. I would also like to thank the people who have given me individual gifts and cards – I will cherish them.

Once again, my grateful thanks and every blessing for the future.

Yours in Christ

*Cathy*

## Farewell Afternoon Tea



The Social Committee of SS Nicholas and Faith invited Cathy for afternoon tea on Saturday 1 August. We held the event in the Church Rooms and as there are only five of us, social distancing was not a problem.

It seemed a fitting farewell from us to Cathy and two hours or more went by extremely quickly. We made a guard of honour for her as she departed, and I think that she left with some happy memories.

*Margaret Evans*

## Benefice Transition

Now that Rev Cathy has left, we are able to start the process of recruiting a new priest. The Archdeacon and Rural Dean have had a preliminary on-line meeting with the Churchwardens, and we have just heard from our appointed Transition Advisers – Sally Piper and Rebecca Evans – who will be guiding us through the diocesan process. They have proposed an online meeting in September to begin to get to know the parishes and how they interact.

One of the first steps will be to select a Benefice Transition Team, made up of representatives from each of the churches, who will be developing the Benefice Profile (Statement of Conditions, Needs and Traditions) that will give potential candidates a clear idea of our shared vision in terms of worship, mission and outreach.

The various PCCs will later have to appoint Parish Representatives to be involved in the formal recruitment process – i.e. shortlisting and interviews – but that stage is still quite a long way off.

*Richard Margetts*

## Back in Church



We have been back to church for about four weeks now and have enjoyed seeing our friends and using our lovely building.

Since the edict about wearing face masks, it has been a very warm experience, my glasses are steaming up and once in a while they have to be taken off and dried in the air – it's a good job that we know the order of service almost by heart, after all we have plenty of practice.

Darren keeps up our spirits by playing the organ before and after the service and we can mouth the words behind our masks even though we cannot sing out loud.

The clergy have done a splendid job, Brian in his visor looks as though he is going off to weld a sculpture!

We are so grateful that our team have stepped up and filled the gap caused by Cathy leaving.

Hopefully we shall be back to normal soon, singing hymns, sharing coffee and sitting with each other instead of at the end of the pews sending semaphore messages, but meanwhile we shall continue to practise our faith together though apart.

*Sandra McKee*

Since we've been back in church and recording services for those unable to attend, each online service has been viewed 50-80 times.

*Ruth*

## Allen Digital Organ at SS Nicholas and Faith

In 2019 there was an open discussion after one morning service and then at the PCC regarding the possibility of replacing the Allen Digital Organ with a Digital Piano. This would give more flexibility in providing music at services while still providing a back-up to the pipe organ – now back in use but still requiring some trundles to be replaced, along with other maintenance.

Rev Cathy was intending to discuss this further at the APCM, but that had to be cancelled due to coronavirus restrictions. To enable progress to be made before she left, she convened an online PCC meeting on the 28 May. The issue was considered in some detail and it was agreed by a narrow majority of those present to apply for a faculty to take this forward. Two PCC members who were not able to take part (so were not counted in the vote) had also indicated their approval of the proposal.

Rev Cathy started the faculty application on the 3 June, providing the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) with all the necessary information. The DAC consulted their organ adviser on the 26 June, then formally considered the petition and supporting documentation at their next meeting on the 21 July. They recommended it, so sent the required public notice and accompanying instructions to Margaret Evans as PCC Secretary. Margaret displayed this both inside and outside the church as required. The closing date for objections (if any) to be sent to the Registrar was the 20th August. We await the outcome.

Assuming it is granted, the faculty will only give permission to make the proposed change – perhaps with conditions attached. Whether to go ahead, and when, remains a matter for the PCC. A faculty is generally valid for two years, so we would not have to rush into things but could wait until the planned work is carried out on the pipe organ and the costs of future maintenance confirmed and considered. We would also, of course, need to find a buyer at a fair price.

*Richard Margetts*



Our latest needs are:

- Tinned fruit,
- Long life fruit juice
- Fruit squash

**Make a difference!**

Please donate food at St Stephen's, St Nicholas and Faith, Waitrose or the Co-op.

It was the five-year old boy's first trip down to the communion rail at Church. Fascinated, he watched the vicar place a wafer in the palm of each person kneeling before him. When the Vicar reached the little boy, he ignored the child's outstretched palm, and laid his hand on the child's head in a gentle blessing instead. The boy, utterly bewildered whispered to his father in a piercing voice, 'He's put it on my head!'



# My Recovery

Dave Coot



On 1 August, having not been feeling well for a couple of days, I collapsed at home and was taken to Derriford hospital by ambulance. I was feeling dreadful and very confused. My temperature was through the roof, yet I was shivering.

I can remember praying to God to look after me and keep me safe. I soon found that there wasn't a bible on the ward which surprised and disappointed me, so I asked my wife to bring my own in and also my hand cross so that it would bring me comfort. Having God with me meant that I had no fear of what lay ahead. As my good friend Steve Hookway told me, 'There is nothing that will happen today that you and God cannot deal with together.' Something else he often tells me is, 'Tomorrow there will be Joy.'

Eventually, I was diagnosed with bacterial pneumonia and treatment began. I had made sufficient progress that I was able to return home on 12 August – still very weak but that's to be expected.

During my hospital stay, I was overwhelmed by the love and support I received from my friends, or family as I like to call them, that I have found since returning to my faith and attending St Stephen's Church, as well as other friends I have made from other churches. There hasn't been a day go by where I haven't received a text or a phone/video call asking after my health and progress. I won't embarrass anyone by name but you all know who you are.

I was also very humbled to hear that I had been mentioned in the prayers during the service on Sunday in church as well as my six-week old grandson Freddie, and am very grateful. Freddie is also doing well.

I am on the road to a full recovery and thank you from the bottom of my heart for your prayers and support.

I hope to be back amongst you all very soon where I know I will feel as if I am home again.



## Happy Golden Wedding Anniversary to Margaret and Tony Dell - August 22

They were married in St Mark's Church, Ford, Plymouth where they were born and grew up.

## Easter Squares

In July St Stephen's Church were finally able to safely hold a fundraising competition, Easter Squares. Roger Rowse was very relieved by this as it meant he could finally get rid of all the kindly donated Easter Eggs which had taken over his spare bedroom after our Easter Fair fell victim to Covid 19. Thank you Roger much appreciated.



The response was amazingly surprising and £265 was raised for Church Funds.

Thank you to all who supported, helped and donated Easter Eggs. Special thanks goes to Margaret Evans without whom we wouldn't have been able to run the competition under the gambling laws.

There were 95 correct entries and the first to be drawn out was Ann Proctor (pictured) of Trelawney Road.

# Coming to the Lord One Step at a Time

Steve Hookway

I was reading an article by Rick Renner the other day, about how people come to know the Lord one step at a time. He used the example of Simon Peter and how it took him four steps before his life was changed, becoming one of Jesus's disciples. The last step being the miraculous catch of fish.

Rick was talking about encounters people might have with God, before they finally surrender their lives to the lordship of Jesus Christ. The more I read the article, the more I realised it's exactly what happened to me. I came to the Lord one step at a time.

On my personal journey a good friend of mine, Robert Wilson, who although an atheist, was a very inspirational and encouraging man to me during a low period in my life, passed away. It hit me really hard. I didn't know what to do, so started praying for help.

After several weeks of praying, I started getting the message, 'Go to Church,' entering my prayers, then my dreams and thoughts. No matter how much I ignored the messages, they wouldn't go away. Then my neighbour, Ron Piney, stopped me and told me about Messy Church, whilst I was walking around to my

back garden with my lawn mower. I was thinking, 'What is going on here?' I liked the sound of Messy Church. My daughter, Lucy, was 7 years old, so off we went. I then attended the November Fair, Nine Lessons and Carols and the Crib Service. Over the Christmas Holidays of 2009, I spoke with Ron about starting Church and asked if I could sit with him and his wife and that I'd probably only go once a

month. I don't know what happened to that bit! I had given in to the persistent messages.

That first Sunday of January 2010, I stopped on the path up to St Stephen's

Church asking myself, 'Is this really what you want to do?' My heart told me yes. I sat with Ron and his wife Jean that first service. Ron was a great help guiding me through the service and introduced me to Gordon Richards during coffee, explaining I was a keen fundraiser (as you all now know). Ron and Gordon were the good soil my seed fell on. They showed me the way, although neither will have it and often tell me they were just being themselves. I often find it so strange however, if you take the letters R O N from G O R D O N you are left with G O D. Wow! Alleluia.



Let us pray

*Father, show us how we can bring people closer to you. Guide us what to do and what to say. Encourage us to introduce people to you. Let their hearts be open to know Jesus. Let them come to you one step at a time and that their lives will change forever.*

*Amen*

Perhaps you also came to the Lord a step at a time. If so, why not write about it in a future newsletter.

## Prayer for September



They say nothing's certain in this life and this year, because of Covid 19, we have all experienced extreme uncertainty in every aspect of our lives.

As Christians however, we know that there is at least one thing that can be relied upon – the certainty of God's love for us all and so we pray:

*Father God, when our daily work is hard; when relationships become difficult; when many feel battered by the strains of daily living, teach us to know where to look for help.*

*Help us to see Christ in the life around us and recognise him when he comes in unfamiliar and unexpected ways.*

*Help us to mirror the love of Christ to all around us; to share with others what is so freely given.*

*We pray these things in the name of Jesus who came with the promise of the Eternal Kingdom for all who love and honour the Lord.*

Amen.

Di Burrows

# I came not to call the righteous but sinners

St Matthew the Apostle Feast Day 21 September

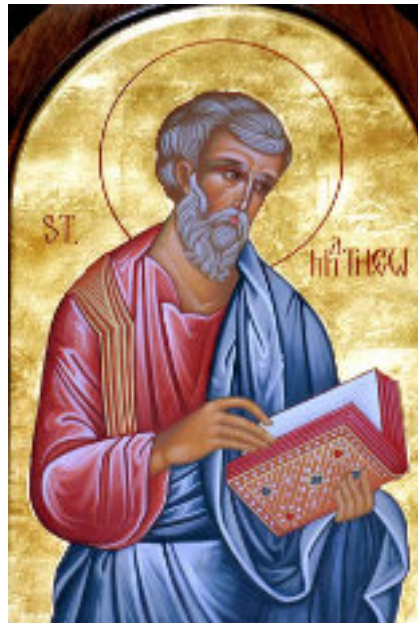
by Brenton Blandford

I happened to be filling in my tax return recently and thought that if we didn't pay our taxes, the country would soon be bankrupt due to lack of funds that are needed to pay for many of the things we often take for granted. Tax collectors are rarely popular in any age or clime. It just seems to go against our human nature to consider them hard-working public servants dedicated to making sure that all our public services, such as the NHS, education, transport and defence run smoothly. Some of us would rather paint the taxman as a bogeyman figure, out to take away our hard-earned wages. On the 21 September each year, the church celebrates the feast day of a former tax collector. His name was Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist and writer of the first gospel.

Matthew was a sinner too. Everyone was agreed on that. But we mustn't assume that he was necessarily dishonest. In this Jewish context the word 'sinner', as well as meaning 'someone who is not righteous', has a particular connotation. Matthew was a collaborator. He worked for Herod Antipas, the tetrarch of Galilee, a Roman client ruler whose lavish and debauched lifestyle was funded by the customs duty Matthew and his friends received in their booths. Matthew may have been honest but he was tainted by association in much the same way as someone working in deforestation of countries like Brazil and the Far East. Somewhere along the line, Matthew made a compromise. He had decided that he would earn his living this way and push to the back of his mind the moral discomfort he felt. It was just the kind of compromise that zealous groups like the Pharisees disliked, and which they resisted by scrupulous religious observance. The Roman occupying power had tainted the holiness of God's people with its foreign ways, and Matthew had put himself beyond the pale. He was one 'sinner' among many others.

The natural response of the offender is to ignore this kind of righteous indignation, to embrace one's status as a social leper and forge ahead regardless of the creeping

sense of discomfort one feels. Attempts to win someone over from this point of view by social pressure are counter-productive. Matthew's problem is not that he doesn't realise he is in the wrong, but that he feels so judged by others that his bloody-mindedness makes him dig in his heels. Friendship is to be found not amongst the self-proclaimed 'righteous' people, who look down their noses at him, but among others on the margins of society – among the many other 'sinners'. Jesus, it seems, wants to befriend Matthew too, Jesus is no collaborator, no 'sinner'. He has condemned Herod, the murderer of



John the Baptist a cousin of Jesus, as 'that fox', defying his orders and continuing his ministry of teaching and healing. However, Jesus takes the initiative, and extends the hand of friendship. 'Follow me,' he says, and the respectable people are scandalised. Matthew is not interested in them. In Jesus he finds acceptance. He finds the promise of a new and infinitely better life in someone prepared to accept him for what he is – unconditionally and openly.

This is our story too. We find in Matthew a reflection of our own encounter with Jesus Christ. We, like him, have been born into a world, into a humanity that is out of kilter and it sometimes seems almost impossible to lead a life free from moral and spiritual compromise. I am sure we can all find instances in our own lives, where we fall short of our own standards, let alone the example of Christ. We have hope in the message from Matthew 9.9-13 that we need to hear again and again, that Jesus does not reject us if we are not squeaky clean. He loves us all the more. Jesus comes to us where we are, and says firmly, but with infinite kindness, 'Follow me.' God in Christ makes no distinction. He accepts us as we are and where we are, and says, 'Make this the starting point of a new journey like our baptism – a rebirth into a new life full of hope and promise. Leave behind what has pulled you back or weighed you down. You have a new life now, in Christ!'



# Word Search based on The Calling of Matthew

Z G U C Q R R B H Z V X S C R  
 F J U S E C G I S X T K U N E  
 N Q B N A N O E G U H O T O N  
 R I N I I C L L D H K S P J U  
 C I T T Q P R F L P T W I D P  
 D M T E I Y S I A E R E U C D  
 D I A C A Q E H F K C L O M K  
 S H S T S C V B E I G T W U Y  
 U I O Q T R H Z O A C O O T S  
 D Q K U O H T E G O L E V R W  
 Q E X T S P E W R L T T L K S  
 H N C S C E A W O H S H H H A  
 P O B T N W G F K W C B U Y W  
 D V T H Q A S I N N E R S G A  
 M E R C Y D M U R T O K R G R

DISCIPLES  
 MATTHEW  
 DOCTOR  
 COLLECTORS  
 SACRIFICE  
 DINNER  
 HEALTHY  
 TEACHER  
 MERCY  
 SITTING  
 BOOTH  
 SINNERS  
 RIGHTEOUS  
 FOLLOW  
 HOUSE  
 SICK

## Christmas Tree Festival



SS Nicolas and Faith are hoping to stage the Christmas Tree Festival this year as we all need something to look forward to. The two metre distance will not apply to the trees, but the setting up process will have to take a different form this year, but I am sure we will manage. If we are unable to stage the festival, we will still be running our Grand Christmas Draw, so please look out for further details.

*Margaret Evans*

## August Word Search

In August Steve Hookway designed a John the Baptist themed fundraising word search competition for St Stephens Church Funds. Several perishable raffle prizes had been donated for events but with no sign of any event being held in the near future, due to these strange and unpredictable times we are experiencing, we had to come up with some ideas before they went out of date.

A very good amount of £47 was raised with Megan Jewell of Killigrew Avenue, being the name the random wheel picker landed on.

**Mary and Ray Wills** would like to thank those of you who sent cards for their 50th wedding anniversary.

Please email articles to:

[newsletter@saltashteamministry.org](mailto:newsletter@saltashteamministry.org) by 20 September.