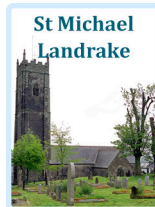
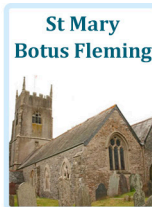


Saltash Area Newsletter

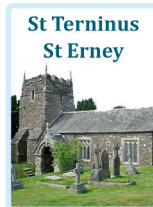
February 2021



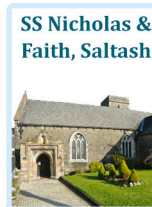
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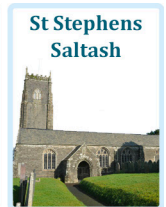
St Mary
Botus Fleming



St Terninus
St Erney



SS Nicholas &
Faith, Saltash



St Stephens
Saltash

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



Darkness to Light

At the start of the New Year we seemed to have experienced a substantial amount of darkness. The Covid19 and its variants at its peak; America deeply divided – attributed to President Trump; a plane crashed and all on board killed and we were back to an extended 'lockdown'. As Frasier the undertaker in Dad's Army might have said, "We're Doomed, doomed, doomed."

Christmas celebrations had to be curtailed and the usual large family gatherings set aside. On top of this the people of Spain experienced snow for the first time in fifteen years; climate change?

Yes, there was certainly a considerable amount of darkness. There were those who predicted that, while we had lost the usual Christmas celebrations, it is possible

that a second Easter may have to be sacrificed.

The HO! HO! HO! of Christmas may have been restricted, but this did not stop the coming of the Christ Child. As the people of God our minds were drawn again to the child of Bethlehem, laid in a manger and watched over by his earthly parents. (Even in the midst of this there was the darkness of the Holy Innocents.)

Wait! "because the people that in darkness sat have seen a great LIGHT."

God's light shone through the many acts of kindness

that were performed by neighbours, friends and acquaintances; by the medical and ancillary staff in hospitals; by the volunteers of Foodbank and other charities. The light pierced through the darkness.

Of course, the light can be threatening. The coming of the 'child of Bethlehem' bids us to enter into a deeper and more selfless relationship with God and God's

presence is not always welcomed in our darkness. As a former Bishop of Edinburgh has written, 'God's presence disturbs us, challenges us, lights up too much we want to keep hidden, even from our ourselves.' *God with Us: Richard Holloway*

So with the coming of the light we are provided an opportunity to open ourselves to its brightness. To allow the Child of Bethlehem to enter into

our being so that we may seek afresh the true Light that entered into the world and to allow that Light to shine in us for as the old chorus reminds us:

**Jesus bids us shine, with a clear, pure light,
Like a little candle burning in the night;
In this world of darkness we must shine,
You in your small corner, and I in mine.**

Father Brian



Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

Steve Hookway

Most of you when you hear the name Steve Hookway think what is he raising money for now? So many of you will be surprised to hear that in September I started a *Foundation in Christian Ministry Course* with Truro Diocese. If you had told me back last January that I would be doing this, I also would be surprised.

Our first study day was moved to zoom due to Covid-19, and the next two have followed suit. We always start and end with Worship, led by different people using different styles. I find this both enjoyable and valuable, especially the opening worship as it allows time to be quiet and still and to become relaxed and focused.

Bishop Hugh was present for the introduction and expressed the importance of getting things done in order just like Jesus, which got me thinking as this is a foundation course, it's important to have a good foundation to build on for whatever God has planned for me.

One thing I have learnt from every aspect of the course is to be totally open minded. Some things I really looked forward to have not lived up to my expectations, while other areas have really surprised me.

For instance, Bible Study, to which I was really looking forward, is done at such a quick pace that we are covering the whole Bible in little more than four hours. It's been interesting and I have gained much but in a different way to that which

I expected. As you can imagine covering the Bible at such a pace, I spend a lot of time afterwards going back over things in my own time.

I didn't think I'd get much from Pastoral Care, but found from the one session so far that I would like to explore this area much further.

I do find learning via zoom tough going. The eight study days start at 9.30am and end 4.45pm. Luckily, with most sessions we are sent powerpoint files and notes in advance, so I can look at printed paper copies instead of the screen. No matter how I feel after each study day, the desire within just keeps me going.

I've also enjoyed the Theology sessions. Last time we looked at Genesis 1 and 2. They are chapters I haven't read often as I thought I knew it all! I was amazed how much I learnt from a detailed study and found it very stimulating.

Before closing worship, we spend time in a reflective group. Our class is split in two, each with a leader, to discuss how the day has gone. This is really beneficial, and has boosted my confidence. Within group discussions I find comments from course members really valuable as varying interpretations gives me more understanding.

Yes, like Peter, I've put myself out on deep water but I'm staying focussed on Jesus and loving walking towards him.

I'm also looking forward with anticipation to where this may lead.



The British

know how to lockdown in style



Coffee shops are closed?

They prefer tea and have flasks and mugs to drink it on the beach.

Bakeries are shut?

They support the small corner market and collect rhubarb delights, casually supporting small businesses as second nature.

We can only take one walk a day?

For almost anyone I know, there is some patch of nature within walking distance and they find and glory in it.

In person gatherings are severely limited?

This is what FaceTime and phone calls are for and some of my friendships are more intimate over a screen than ever before.

Nights are cold, long and dark?

Light a candle, wear a jumper, laugh with your friends who are feeling all the same.

Can't leave your living space because you're in isolation?

There is so much you still can do. Sing, pray, read, call, write, laugh, cook, love.

Don't let your circumstances define you, let your hope define you.

Love from Lockdown 3.0 and a little barn in Cornwall.

Sarah Yardley, Mission and Ministry Lead, Creation Fest

Norah May Nicholson née Donovan

29 Jul 1919 – 29 Nov 2020



Norah was born in Saltash in 1919. She met Hilda Wilcox at Sunday School and they became lifelong friends.

When WWII broke out Norah and Hilda took up firewatching duties, then in 1941 Norah joined the ATS. After the war she worked as an Accounts clerk.

Hilda married Malcolm Nicholson in 1942 and the couple moved to Newark. When Hilda died in 1966, Malcolm returned to Saltash and renewed his friendship with Norah. They were married in 1968.

They first lived in Plymouth and moved back to Saltash about 1980 where they attended SS Nicholas and Faith Church and also became members of Saltash Royal British Legion.

At the beginning of 2000, Malcolm showed signs of dementia and in 2002 they moved up to Newark to be near his younger daughter, Beverley.

After Malcolm died in 2015, Norah's health deteriorated and in 2019, following a number of falls, she moved into a care home. Norah died peacefully, aged 101, with Beverley at her side.

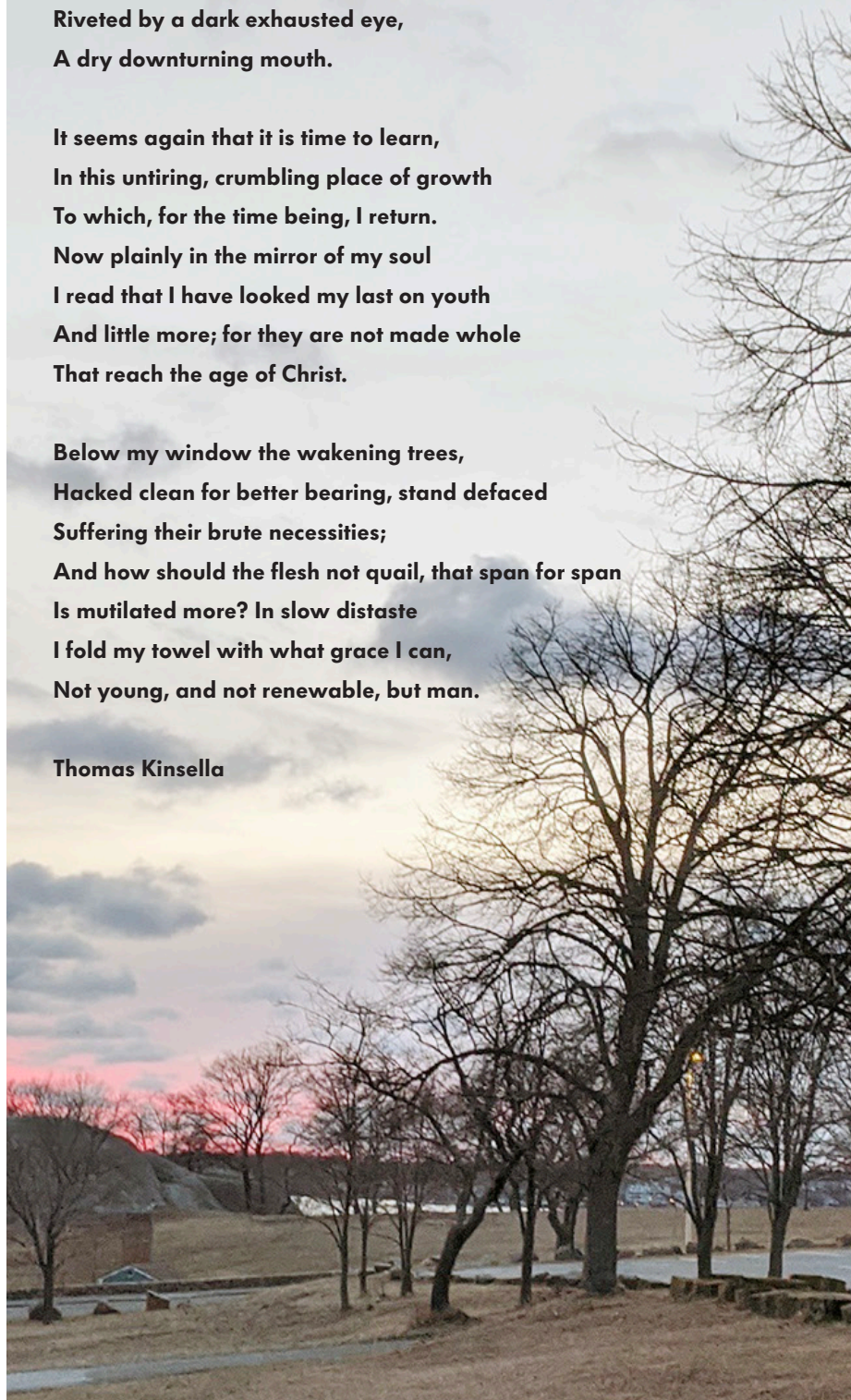
Mirror in February

The day dawns, with scent of must and rain,
Of opened soil, dark trees, dry bedroom air.
Under the fading lamp, half dressed – my brain
Idling on some compulsive fantasy –
I towel my shaven jaw and stop, and stare,
Riveted by a dark exhausted eye,
A dry downturning mouth.

It seems again that it is time to learn,
In this untiring, crumbling place of growth
To which, for the time being, I return.
Now plainly in the mirror of my soul
I read that I have looked my last on youth
And little more; for they are not made whole
That reach the age of Christ.

Below my window the wakening trees,
Hacked clean for better bearing, stand defaced
Suffering their brute necessities;
And how should the flesh not quail, that span for span
Is mutilated more? In slow distaste
I fold my towel with what grace I can,
Not young, and not renewable, but man.

Thomas Kinsella



How was Christmas for me?

Bishop Philip

That's the question I've been asked to answer for this edition of the Area Ministry Newsletter. And if there's one word I would choose to describe it, that word would be 'unexpected'.

Of course there was much that could have been expected. There were services of Nine Lessons and Carols in the Cathedral; I preached and presided in the Cathedral on Christmas Day. We had a tree, and stockings, and presents and a turkey. All of that was as you might expect. But there the list ends.

Domestically, all our plans were turned upside down, as they were for many other people. We'd expected to have our daughter and son-in-law with us for Christmas, along with his parents (although even that hadn't been our original plan). But with the last minute changes it ended up being just Ruth and me on Christmas day – just the two of us, plus an enormous turkey!

And in Church much changed too. I like to plan my sermons early and I had my Christmas Day sermon all sorted out a couple of weeks in advance. But as the situation changed so quickly I realised that what I'd prepared really wasn't going to be fit for purpose and would have to change. (If you're interested, I'd written something

on truth – Jesus himself being 'full of grace and truth' - as opposed to 'fake news'. Instead I felt I need to say something rather more pastoral.)



So, yes, a very unexpected Christmas. And yet that should not strike us as being so very strange. The first Christmas was full of the unexpected. Gabriel appears to Mary; the Holy Spirit overshadows her; a virgin gives birth to a child; he is born far from home; angels frighten a group of shepherds out of their wits; strangers from the East turn up bearing strange gifts – and so on. So an unexpected Christmas is rather in keeping with the original Christmas story.

And there's a wider lesson for our time in this. Perhaps we'd just got too used to all our well-laid plans panning out. The pandemic has rather put paid to all that. Now we recognise how fragile our best-laid plans can be. A key lesson for us in all this is that as Christians we must walk by faith rather than by sight, facing an unknown future with a God who knows us and loves us. Perhaps we'd just got too used to walking by sight rather than by faith.

But another powerful thought struck me – unexpectedly – this Christmas time. And it's this. When Luke says Jesus was 'laid in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn' that's not actually what he means at all. The word 'inn' is better translated 'guest room'. And the 'manger' doesn't at all imply that Jesus was born in a cow-shed or a stable. Quite the opposite. In Jesus' day the family and the animals would share the same room, benefitting from the warmth of each other. So rather than being born in an outhouse, Jesus was welcomed into the heart of the home. And that of course is where he still belongs, if we will but invite him. And that's perhaps the best and the most unexpected thing of all.



Make a difference!

Please donate food at Waitrose, Lidl or the Co-op and/or donate money via the Saltash Foodbank website: <https://saltash.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money>

Our latest needs are:

- Washing Powder
- Sugar
- Tinned Soup
- Tinned Fruit

Greetings from a not-so-sunny and rather damp Poole!

Lydia Butler

Who can believe it's over five years since we moved to Dorset?

A lot has changed but some things are still very much the same. Mum and I still work for Waitrose, and Dad does various services for local churches as well as volunteering as a manager for a local theatre. We're all involved in our churches; Mum, Dad and Grandma at St Marys, West Moors and me at St James, Poole. Somehow I've even managed to become the PCC secretary! As a child, I used to host committee meetings with my teddy bears and write agendas and minutes, so it must have been destined from a young age.

My boyfriend, Charlie, and I are both bellringers and can normally be found service ringing or practicing with our bands of an evening. Covid-19 has brought a change to this as we're now ringing virtually, but as with most activities it's the social interaction that's as important as the actual bellringing. I've lost count of the number of zoom calls we've attended, as a family, for bellringing, with friends and of course for work too.

Work for me is as a researcher based in the John Lewis & Waitrose Human Resources department. It's very different to my initial role as a delivery driver coasting round the country lanes of Lansallos, Gunnislake and Mothecombe. In 'normal times' I'd be travelling to lots of branches speaking with our Partners/employees to understand

how we can make working in the business as great as possible. I love my role as I can really help to make work as fulfilling as possible for others and my recent projects have included diversity and inclusion and wellbeing. Right now it's all online at home and as with lots of retail roles at the moment, job security is currently at the forefront of my mind.



However, if there's one thing I've learnt it's that God has plans for us all. Sometimes it's difficult to know what they might be, but as one door closes, I find that God opens a window you hadn't even noticed previously. If you'd told me six months ago that I'd have spent a week nursemaiding an eight-week old puppy at 3am I'd have laughed, and yet I find myself writing this with

my sleepy border collie miniature poodle cross (colliepoo) napping on my lap. Barney joined Charlie and me a week ago and is so full of love and sloppy kisses that it's easy to zone out the anxieties of catching a deadly virus, losing your job or even piling on yet more lockdown pounds! Barney came from a breeder near St Austell so he's truly Cornish and is even black and white like the St Piran flag... maybe Piran would have been a more appropriate name.

As with us all, life in lockdown is smaller and quieter than before. Things I miss include hearing the church organ, Mum's Sunday evening roast dinners and physically hugging Mum, Dad and Grandma. Things that have kept me going include crochet, chocolate, long walks, new local friends and lots of chatting on the phone. Here's praying that 2021 sees an end to our physical isolation from each other. I know I certainly need a big hug from Grandma.

I pray you are safe and well and relatively happy despite the world out there. I look forward to a visit to Saltash sometime soon, potentially in the summer as I've been invited to a friend's wedding at Mount Edgecombe. And I pray that the life and work of the church family in Saltash remains strong and full of God's love. I'm sending my best wishes for a prosperous 2021, and hoping you find the door or window that God might be pointing you towards this year.

Christmas Tree Festival 2020



The Social Committee of SS Nicholas and Faith would like to say a very big thank you to all who supported our 14th Christmas Tree Festival. Especially the exhibitors, as without their support we would not have been able to go ahead.

The feedback that we received was tremendous, and everyone who came went out of the Church feeling quite uplifted. Unfortunately we were let down last minute by some entries, but we still had 69 trees on show, and already we have four new organisations wishing to take

part in next year.

Special thanks must go to everyone who gave so much of their time to help with stewarding as without their help it would have been very difficult to proceed with the exhibition, which this year raised just over £3,600, a wonderful effort.

Hopefully it will not be too much longer before we can proceed with social events once more but until then, we wish everyone a Happy and Safe New Year.

Margaret Evans

Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in this world – there are those who wake up in the morning and say cheerfully, 'Good morning Lord,' and there are those others who wake up in the morning and say, 'Good Lord, it's morning!'



Lesley Margetts

Sadly, Lesley died on 21 January after a long illness. Lesley was a faithful member of the church: Reader in the Team Ministry as well as Diocesan Secretary for Readers; Secretary for Foodbank since its inception and teacher for Yoga.

Prayer for February

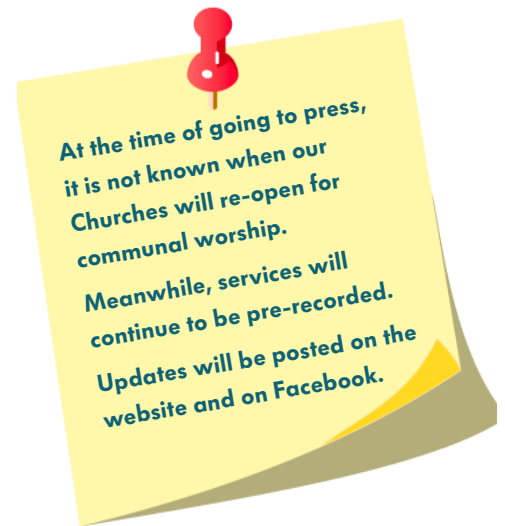


A key moment in the Bible is where, at the end of a long journey the Israelite people, through warfare, dramatic escape and miraculous provision, come to a point of settling in their 'Promised Land'. Amazingly, some decide to turn their back on the very power which has brought them through everything, refuse to move into the new land, and stick with the old place and traditions. At this point Joshua, their leader, nails

his colours firmly to the mast and makes a commitment, "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." It does take courage to step into the unknown, to come to new places, new people and receive new insights into the world. These often challenge us and make us uncomfortable, but it's through these experiences that we learn, and by God's grace, grow into the people he's made us to be.

Father God, this is an unsettled time. We no longer have life the way we did and we are anxious, confused and saddened. At a time of great change, be patient with us in our frustration and help us to understand that in the power of your Spirit we will come once again to the light, we will once again return to normality. As we do, reform us and re-shape us so that we are better able to be the disciples that Jesus calls us to be, and be better able to lighten the way, and encourage those who have yet to know you.

Chris Painter



Dan Welbourn – 90th birthday on 11 February 2021

Dan is Cornish by marriage having originated in East Anglia. His early years were spent on the family farm where he loved working with the Suffolk Punch horses. He then joined the army and spent many years in the REME not only at home, but as a family, in Malta and then on campaign in Aden in the sixties. On his return he was stationed around the UK until he left the army. After then working as a vehicle mechanic in Plymouth, he served with the MOD police at Croydon and the Dockyard.

Saltash was home to his wife Barbara's family and the family returned here in the 70s. He became a member of St John Ambulance and spent many years teaching and practising first aid, at work, and in and around the Saltash Area. Until recently he could often be seen helping at the church cake stall with his wife Barbara.

Throughout all this he has been a great Dad to his three children and was always the one to turn to in a DIY emergency and has left his mark on all our homes with his renovation expertise.

Dan's family are attempting to get 90 birthday cards sent to Dan for his special landmark birthday. If you would like to send a card to help achieve this target then please send to Mr D Welbourn, 7 Maybrook Drive, Saltash, Cornwall PL12 4PX.



Please email articles to: newsletter@saltashteamministry.org by 20 February 2021.