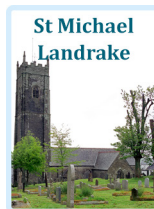
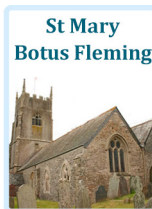


# Saltash Area Newsletter

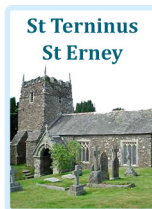
March 2021



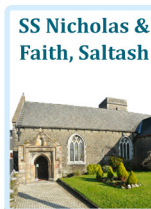
St Michael  
Landrake



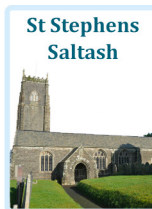
St Mary  
Botus Fleming



St Terninus  
St Erney



SS Nicholas &  
Faith, Saltash



St Stephens  
Saltash

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



## Trouble and Strife

We are not out of the woods yet! The uncertainties of the last twelve months remain. What will the future hold for us? What forms will it take?

There are those who face such questions in a state of anxiety and gloom they have no expectations and are unable to perceive what form the future may take. This can be caused by their

present experiences overwhelming them. Lockdown has caused their world to shrink. They are shrouded in an inability to break free from the chains of despair that enfolds them. McDonald and Guite give an expression of such feelings. Of course, such a period has been hard, unsettling and uneasy. With the arrival of the vaccines there appears to be a light at the end of

the tunnel. It may not be possible to return to how things were, but there is hope in a life that will be a little easier than the present. Life that will be restored to some form of 'normality': whatever forms that normality may take.

Putting aside the current Covid19+variants and because of our own inconveniences and suffering, we tend forget those who lives are in a continuous stage of fear and exploitation.

As part of my Lenten discipline I have been reading two books which are not basically termed as of a 'religious' nature: *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri and *Pope John XXIII and his Revolution* by E E Y Hales.

Lefteri writes from her experience working as a

volunteer at a UNICEF supported refugee Centre in Athens and we are brought to encounter some of the struggles, horrors, and inhumanity faced by a Beekeeper and his blind wife as they flee from Syria following bombing, war and the death of their young son – killed by a bomb. For them there is little vision for the future

in any sense of stability. They have only the present and the few who are attempting to relieve their condition. Having walked through a village in Greece, where they had received food and blankets, the Beekeeper notes, *I realised afterwards that the look I had mistaken for wonder was actually fear and I imagined swapping places with them, seeing hundreds of*

**"..keep me alive as long as it is good for me, and when death is better for me, take me."**

**[The Beekeeper of Aleppo: Christy Lefteri]**

**"Over the past year, we have been living through collective trauma, and these most recent weeks have seemed the darkest of them all. I'm clinging to the truth that it's always darkest just before the dawn."**

**[Chine McDonald: Church Times, 29 January MMXXI]**

**"Heaven knows this long third lockdown coming as it has in stark January and frozen February, has visited on most of us its own internal storms."**

**[Malcolm Guite: Church Times, 29 January MMXXI]**

*people battered by war heading to an unknown future.*

Hales, on the other hand, delves into the past to explore the passage of a man in his eighties whose vision of the world is in stark contrast to that of his predecessors. They had tended to see their changing world with concern and a negative viewpoint. Their response was to condemn such changes. John XXIII saw his changing world and sought to view such change in a positive light. Using the changes as a bridge across which opposites could be drawn nearer to each other, he sought to bring unity, humanity and peace rather than discord.

As we draw near to the end of Lent, we are faced again with the account of Jesus' final days, leading to events

which, day by day, were to bring him to what was to be his ultimate end. Occasions where he was lavished with praise followed by arrest, desertion, torture, humiliation and death. All appeared lost.

Of course, that was not the end. For God raised him from the dead; which meant new life, new hope,

new beginnings for all. The challenge is for us to live that 'new life'. To bring 'new life' to all whose lives are marred by despair, uncertainty and conditions that are inhuman.

That's the positive revolution which faces us.

*Father Brian*

At the time of going to press, it is not known when our Churches will re-open for communal worship. Meanwhile, services will continue to be pre-recorded. Updates will be posted on the website and on Facebook.



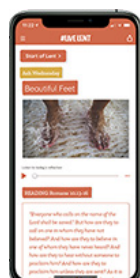
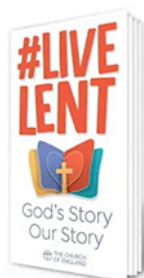
The Church of England's Lent theme is based on the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book for 2021, *Living His Story* by Hannah Steele.

From Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday (4 April), the Church of England is providing six reflections for each week, written by Stephen Hance, the Church of England's National Lead for Evangelism and Witness.

Each reflection includes a short passage from the Bible, a brief exploration of the reading, and a prayer. Additionally, each week has a unifying theme and an action to be taken during the week.

The reflections are available as a free app (for IOS and Android), emails, audio and through the Church of England's social media accounts. The app version will include a daily Family Activity, offering a simple way to explore a story or a theme from the day's reflection. The daily reflections are also available through the booklet which is available to buy.

For further details: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/livelent-2021-church-resources-gods-story-our-story>



## How is the Search for a New Priest in Charge Going?

Very well, is the answer.

Steered gently, never led forcibly, by Diocesan Ministry and Parish Development Officer Rebecca Evans, representatives of the Saltash Cluster have been meeting regularly – albeit virtually – to produce a document that aims to both attract and advise potential candidates.

The document, when completed, will essentially be divided into two parts, broadly:

- i) Who we are; and
- ii) What we want.

The first part – full of information about Cornwall, the Diocese, Saltash and surrounds, the churches and parishes – is finished bar some I-dotting and T-crossing.

The second, which outlines the person-specification for the role, is a work in progress, but that progress appears rapid enough for the whole document to be signed off within a few weeks.

So, please pray that the work may be completed without delay, and that then God will stir up the person that our Christian community needs.

*Rick Cowdery*

**While Churches are closed for communal worship, St Michael will be open for private prayer on Sunday from 9.30-10.30am**

# My Ministry in Cornwall

## Archdeacon Audrey

When I explored my calling to ministry as an Archdeacon, I told God quite clearly that I wanted to stay in the north of England. Finding myself in the diocese of Truro did rather reveal God's sense of humour! The 9½ years I have spent with you has been both stretching and inspiring, at times exhausting, but always purposeful. In my role as Archdeacon, I have understood my ministry to be about enabling the ministry of others – through making appointments or pastoral schemes, through advising you of legal requirements and ways of being creative with them, through encouraging clergy and laity alike and many, many things besides. My 'side-line' for at least part of this time – and one of the significant things which attracted me to the post – was to encourage people in their discipleship; their walk with God. I am grateful to those of you with whom I have been a fellow disciple, and from whom I have learnt as much as I have taught.

It has not been the climate nor the culture of Cornwall, not the coastline nor the countryside, which I have enjoyed the most whilst living here – but rather the companionship of those alongside whom I have served. A 'com'-'panion' is literally (from

the Latin) someone with whom one shares bread. I have shared bread with you (and so many others across the archdeaconry) at the altar, at the kitchen table and often at go-pak tables in church halls. We have fed on God, as well as on pasties and scones. We have fed on scripture



and theology, as well as quiches and stews – and in so doing we have walked and grown, explored and served together. Thank you so much for being my companions.

Leaving the diocese during the current pandemic is hard. The changes which have been forced on us this last year will in many ways be irreversible. We will not be able to go back to being church the way we were before. What we need to do is

to discern where we should be going forwards. I have been struck by a verse from Isaiah (60.19): *The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night; but the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.* These words

were addressed to the people of Israel at a particularly dark time in their history – the Temple in Jerusalem lay in ruins, and many of the people were still in exile in Babylon. Isaiah tells them that the sun and the moon will no longer shine for them (albeit metaphorically) – and they could have lamented and mourned and been angry at that loss. However, Isaiah describes a source of light far better than any celestial body, *the Lord will be your everlasting light.* Rather than regretting what was no longer, he encourages them to look forwards to a far better future, which God was supplying for them.

If I leave you with anything as I move back north, I encourage you not to lament that which is no more, but to keep your eyes open to discern the better (different) future which God longs to give us. And I will aim to practice what I preach – by taking some time to recharge my batteries and to seek what different future God may be calling me to.

May the Lord be your everlasting light.



## Margaret Crouchen



Margaret Crouchen, a valued member of Mothers' Union, has passed away at the age of 89. For the past few years Margaret has lived in Saint Anne's residential home, but before this she lived just down the hill from St Stephen's Church.

She had been living a travelling life as a naval wife before settling in Saltash.

Margaret joined the Mothers' Union in 2005 and later the wives' group and was a valued helper at Messy Church.

Margaret represented the Mothers' Union at Truro as a marketing representative and travelled to branches giving talks – she often spoke of when her daughter Vanessa competed in the special Olympics.

Margaret also designed some of the Mothers' Union literature and displayed it in church to encourage people to support the charity work that Mothers' Union undertakes.

We remember her with love in our prayers.

To make a donation to Two Trees Caring Home (where Vanessa, Margaret's daughter, lives) in Margaret's memory, go to <https://bit.ly/3pDI12b>

*Sandra McKee*

# The Creed

The hand that spins the galaxies brought me into being.

The One who holds the stars has made me his own.

I am God's child. My life is rich, my days are sacred.

I am held by a love that's wider and higher than the farthest edges of this expanding universe.

I am a pilgrim in this world, in search of wisdom and wonder.

I will take new adventures.

And follow God into the unknown.

What I achieve is not as important as the person I become.

So I will seek to imitate the Nail-Pierced One.

I will step in the direction of my strengths and talents.

They are Spirit-given tools for my God-given tasks.

I will pay attention to my persistent aspirations.

They could be the whispers of God.

I will serve all I can and walk deeply with a few.

I will aim for great things but leave my legacy to God.

The path is long and the terrain at times hard.

I will not wish for another's life.

I will take my place, play my part.

Something important will be missed if I don't.

For the hand that spins the galaxies wants me here.

**Sheridan Voysey**



# Mission Rabies in Tanzania

Rob Kellagher

Rabies is a disease that causes an estimated 60,000 deaths each year in the Third world, mainly in sub-Saharan Africa and south-east Asia and is caused by humans being infected by dogs or cats. It is an entirely preventable condition, since if all canines were vaccinated against the virus, then the disease would virtually die out. Mission Rabies is a UK based charity established to eliminate rabies as a cause of human death in the world and their bold target is to achieve this aim by 2030.

Mandy and I, both vets, had volunteered for the charity before during a vaccination drive in Goa, India and so we signed up to go to Tanzania in January 2021. With all the complications created by Covid we wondered whether this was the right thing to do, but I felt that Rabies was a problem that needed to be eradicated in spite of the pandemic.

So we flew out of a quiet Heathrow in mid-January via Addis Ababa to Kilimanjaro Airport in northern Tanzania. We were met at the airport by the local drivers for the charity and whisked to the accommodation in Usa River, our base for the project. Here we met up with the other nine participants, six Americans, one Kiwi and a Scottish vet nurse.

Our first working day, a Saturday, was an early start, up at 6.30am for a good breakfast and then we met our teams. As both Mandy and I had done vaccinating before, we had a driver and team leader assigned to us. All the African

staff had previously worked for Mission Rabies, so they knew what had to be done, but in true African style, the speed with which they achieved this varied considerably! So we set out to our first destination, a primary school, where the dogs and cats would be brought to us. Our presence there had been advertised in the schools and locally on posters and it wasn't



long before the first dogs started appearing. Usually on makeshift leads, made of anything from rope to bicycle chains to wire, the dogs were in the main very well behaved, although, due to rabies, Africans do not handle their dogs in the same way as we do in this country.

All the details about the dogs was recorded on an app so that the data regarding numbers of dogs could be centrally collected at the end of the day. Also if any of the dogs were sick or had health issues, that was noted

and the local animal rescue charity informed so that the owner could be helped to get the dog treated. We saw some infected dog fight wounds and also one dog where the owner had attempted to castrate his dog with an elastic band, which had caused a very nasty skin wound!

We were provided with a packed lunch and this was eaten whenever the flow of dogs slackened. Some days we were rushed off our feet, other days it was much quieter and we had time to wander around the school and wonder at how the teachers worked with the facilities – 60-70 pupils crammed into a small space with a large blackboard as the only aid.

Other days, when the schools were occupied, we went mobile and drove slowly around a designated area advertising our presence and purpose using a loudhailer. There are no maps and all the navigation is done using the Google Earth app. However what may look like a track on the app may not turn out to be one and we would have to turn around and find another way.

Overall in the two weeks we were there, the teams managed to vaccinate 8,886 dogs and cats, the largest number injected in the five years of the vaccination drives. We did not find any rabid dogs this year, whereas in the 2016, three rabid dogs were discovered, so hopefully our work is making a difference.

If you would like to support the charity, we have a Just giving page which can be found at: [www.justgiving.com/aising/Mandy-Kellagher](http://www.justgiving.com/aising/Mandy-Kellagher)

# The White Birds

Evelyn Underhill

There was once a man who had a waking dream. He dreamed he was in a spacious church. He had wandered in to pray, and after his prayers were finished, he knelt on, his eyes open, gazing round at the beauty of the ancient building, and resting in the silence. Here and there in the great building were quiet kneeling figures. Across the dim darkness of

the nave and aisles, shafts of sunlight streamed into the church from the upper windows.

In the distance a side door was open, letting in scents of summer air, fragrant with

the smell of hay and flowers, and the sight of trees waving in the breeze, and beyond, a line of blue hills, dim and distant as an enchanted land.

Presently the man withdrew his eyes from the pleasant outdoor world and looked again at the church. Suddenly, close to the spot where he was kneeling, there was a gentle whir of wings and he saw a little white bird fluttering about in the dim nave; it flew uncertainly hither and thither, and once or twice he thought it would fall to the ground. But gradually it gathered strength, rose towards the roof, and finally, with a purposeful sweep of its wings, sped

upwards, and out through one of the open windows into the sunshine.

The stranger looked down again at the kneeling men and women, scattered singly throughout the building; and now he saw, what he had not noticed before, that by the side of each worshipper there hovered, close to the stone floor, a little white bird.



Just then he saw another bird rise from the floor and try to reach the roof. But it, too, was in difficulties; it flew round and round in circles, occasionally beating its wings in a futile way against the great lower windows, rich with stained glass. Finally it sank down exhausted and lay still. A little later another bird rose from the ground, with a swift and easy flight; for a moment it seemed that it would reach the open window and the open air beyond; but suddenly, it whirled round, fell helplessly over and over, and came to the ground with a thud, as if it had been shot. The man rose from his

knees and went over to see what had happened; the little bird was dead.

He went back to his place and sat down on one of the chairs; then he noticed an ugly little bird, its white feathers dirty and bedraggled, rise from the ground. At first this bird laboured heavily, but it soon gathered speed, for it was strong, and it soared up and out into the

sunlit world beyond the walls of the great church. More and more the man wondered what all this might mean?

He looked again at the persons at prayer near him, and he noticed one, kneeling very reverently, by

whose side lay a very beautiful bird, snowy white and perfectly formed but when he looked at it more closely he saw that its eyes were glazed, its wings stiff; it was a lifeless shell.

'What a pity!' he murmured under his breath. At that moment, a gentle whir of wings a few feet away attracted his attention. Another bird was rising from the ground, steadily and quietly, at first with some appearance of effort, but more and more easily and lightly as it gathered strength; this bird flew straight up, past the carved angels which seemed to be crying 'Hallelujah!' to one another across the dim spaces

of the church, and out through the open window into the blue sky, where it was soon lost to sight.

Pondering on what he had seen, the man looked round again, and this time he saw standing close to him, an Angel, tall and strong, with a face of great kindness, wisdom and compassion.

It all seemed perfectly natural (as things do in dreams), and the man whispered to him, 'Can you explain to me about these white birds?'

'Yes,' said the Angel, in a low voice, as he seated himself beside him, 'for I am the Guardian of this place of prayer. These white birds are the outward sign of the prayers of the people who come here to pray.'

'The first bird, which found it difficult to rise, but then succeeded, is the prayer of a woman who has come here straight from a very busy life; she has very little time to herself; in fact she usually comes here in the midst of her shopping. She has a great many duties and claims, and her mind was full of distractions when she first knelt down and tried to pray. But she persevered, for her heart is right with God, and He helped her; her prayer was real and her will good, so her prayer reached God.'

'And what about the bird that flew round in circles?' asked the man.

The Angel smiled slightly, with a tinge of faint amusement. 'That,' he said slowly, 'is the prayer of a man who thinks of no one but himself; even in his prayers he only asks for *things* – success in his business and

things like that; he tries to use God for his own ends . . . people think he is a very religious man . . . but his prayer does not reach God at all.'

'But why did that other bird fall to the ground as if it had been shot?'

The Angel looked sad as he replied, 'That man began his prayer well enough; but suddenly he remembered a grudge against someone he knew; he forgot his prayer and brooded in bitter resentment, and his bitterness killed his prayer. . . . And the ugly little bird,' he went on after a moment's silence, 'is the prayer of a man who hasn't much idea of reverence; his prayer is bold, almost presumptuous, some people might call it; but God knows his heart, and He sees that his faith is real; he does really believe in God, so his prayer reaches Him.'

'And the beautiful lifeless bird that never stirred from the ground at all?' said the man.

'That,' said the Angel, 'is a beautifully composed prayer; the language is perfect, the thought is doctrinally correct; the man offered it with the greatest solemnity and outward reverence. . .

But he never meant a word of it; even as he said the words his thoughts were on his own affairs; so his prayer could not reach God.'

'And what about the last bird that flew upwards so easily?'

The Angel smiled. 'I think you know,' he said gently. 'That is the prayer of a woman whose whole heart and will is set upon God. . . her prayer went straight to God.'

## Isolated, But Not Alone



*And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit for 40 days in the wilderness, tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing in those days; and when they were ended, he was hungry (Luke 4: 1-2).*

*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come...will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)*

**God of heaven and earth, in these times of isolation, apart from loved ones, distant from friends, away from neighbours, thank you that there is nothing in all of creation, not even coronavirus, that is able to separate us from your love.**

**And may your love that never fails continue to be shared through the kindness of strangers looking out for each other, for neighbours near and far, all recognising our shared vulnerability, each of us grateful for every breath, and willing everyone to know the gift of a full and healthy life. Keep us all in your care. Amen.**

*Rick Cowderly*

### 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>





# Communication

## Brenton Blandford

**St Gabriel the Archangel, patron saint of communication, delivers important messages and helps us do the same**

Recently, I was using a computer and speaking with my wife Catherine on a video link and it occurred to me that here was an opportunity to do an article in the Saltash Area Newsletter about Communication. The definition of Communication is the imparting or exchanging of information by speaking, writing, or using some other medium such as telephones and computers.

God's messages throughout the world are mentioned a number of times throughout the bible, from Genesis through to Revelations.

### Christian traditions

The earliest specific Christian references to Angels are in the late 5th to early 6th century where Michael, Gabriel, Raphael and Uriel are described as Archangels.



*Gabriel, Michael, Uriel and Raphael, Hull Minister.*

Archangel Gabriel is the patron saint of communication because Gabriel delivers God's most important messages and also helps people communicate with each other. Saint Gabriel, the Archangel, serves as the patron saint of communication because the angel Gabriel is God's top angelic messenger. But who were these angels and archangels? What was their role or rank in the heavenly hierarchy? These spiritual beings or spirits who carry out

In most Protestant Christian oral traditions, only Michael and Gabriel are referred to as 'Archangels', whereas Roman Catholic Christian traditions also include Raphael to complete a group of three.

### Archangels in current church traditions

In Anglican and Episcopal tradition, there are three or four Archangels celebrated on September 29, the feast of St Michael and All Angels (also called Michaelmas),

## Memorial Service

On Thursday 22 April 2021 at 11am, at St Stephen's Church, there will be a Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for the six Saltash Auxiliary Service Fire Officers (volunteers) who lost their lives due to enemy action during World War II, 80 years ago on this day. A number of dignitaries have been invited, among them Her Majesty the Queen's representative in Cornwall – the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall – also the Lord Mayor of Plymouth, Mayor of Saltash, Sheryl Murray MP, Chairman of Cornwall County Council and the Chief Fire Officer. We are hopeful that a small number of representatives of our local schools and local scouts will be able to march behind the band to the church. A vintage Fire Engine will attend.

A short film will be shown explaining fully the story of the loss of our brothers. During the service we will also remember others who lost their lives at Devonport, Plymouth, Saltash and Cornwall during the same period of time.

*Mary Wills ISM*

**Note:** If the church is still 'out of bounds' on 22 April 2021, weather permitting, the Service will be held at the field up the lane from the church; necessary permission being granted. There will be a blessing of the fire officers' graves within the churchyard after the service for family and other invited guests. If you intend to join us can you let us know please – space may be at a premium if we are still to be socially isolated.

[raymar4771@gmail.com](mailto:raymar4771@gmail.com)

Tel: 01752 361700



namely Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael and, often, Uriel.

To get back to Gabriel. Throughout history, Gabriel has delivered God's most important messages to humanity. This great archangel helps people communicate with each other when they pray for Gabriel's help. St Gabriel assists all people whose jobs involve communication.

Unlike most saints, Gabriel was never a human being but has always been a heavenly angel who was declared a saint in honour of work helping people on Earth. Other archangels who also serve as saints are Michael, Raphael, and Uriel. The patronage work of these four archangels in the earthly dimensions connects to their work in heaven. So, just as Gabriel is heaven's master communicator, Gabriel empowers humans to master communication skills.

Believers say that God has chosen Gabriel to make his most important announcements during key times in history. These announcements include telling the Virgin Mary that she will serve as the mother of Jesus Christ during his incarnation on Earth (the Annunciation) and proclaiming that Jesus Christ has been born on the first Christmas. During many of the announcements attributed to Gabriel in religious texts, Gabriel presents a challenging message with confidence, authority, and peace, urging people to trust in God's power as they respond to the message. The messages that God assigns Gabriel to deliver often stretch people's faith in some significant way.

The most common way that Gabriel communicates with people

on a regular basis is through dreams, since that is a non-threatening way for many people to receive angelic messages.

### Encouraging People to Grow Spiritually

Gabriel empowers people to improve their communication skills with the ultimate goal of helping them to grow closer to God. Gabriel leads angels who work within the white light ray, which represents purity, harmony, and holiness.

Gabriel urges people to discover and fulfil God's purposes for their lives. Clear communication is a valuable tool for doing so, Gabriel believes. Gabriel clears away confusion, empowering people to understand themselves, God, and other people in deeper ways.

Since spiritual disciplines like prayer and meditation help people develop better communication with God – and grow spiritually in the process – Gabriel often challenges people to pray or meditate more. Gabriel also is especially interested in helping parents grow in their faith through their experiences raising children. When people pray for parenting help and Gabriel responds, Gabriel does more than simply offer guidance for the immediate situation; Gabriel helps parents learn spiritual lessons from what they're going through with their children. Therefore, it is very important that we all keep in contact with one another, especially during this pandemic so that we are not alone. God is with us in his love and our testing. May each one of us have an Angel at his or her side to guide us because we are Children of God.

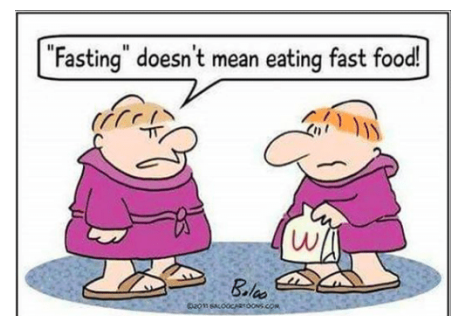
## A Big Thank You



Thank you to everyone from Dan Welbourn for their cards and birthday wishes. He had a wonderful 90th Birthday receiving 56 cards which he loved reading. Alongside those he had phone calls from relatives in East Anglia and Australia.

To make the day extra special his eldest daughter Angela had contacted the REME about his birthday. They sent him a package of mementos. They also phoned him from their headquarters at MOD Lyneham for a long chat, inviting him to visit anytime for a guided tour of their regimental museum.

We were all very grateful for modern technology that enabled all his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren to sing 'Happy Birthday'.



Please email articles to: [newsletter@saltashteamministry.org](mailto:newsletter@saltashteamministry.org) by 20 March 2021.