

Saltash Area Newsletter

April 2025



St Michael Landrake



St Mary Botus Fleming



St Terninus St Erney



SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash



St Stephen Saltash



SS Leonard & Dilpe, Landulph

Love God, Serve People, Make Disciples. www.saltashteamministry.org

Living Hope and the Resurrection: A Light in Our Darkness

Dear Friends,

As we move through the season of Lent and approach the joy of Easter, we are reminded once again of the powerful promise of resurrection, and the living hope we have in Christ. Living Hope has been the theme of our Lent course where we have looked at being imperfect, trusting, being together, noticing, courage and transformation. For many of us, life is often filled with both joy and sorrow, light and darkness. We are sometimes overwhelmed by the challenges that life brings – personal struggles, the loss of loved ones, and the weight of a world in turmoil. But in the midst of it all, there is a resurrection hope that stands firm, a hope that is not just for the future but is meant to be lived today. This hope is not wishful thinking or a fleeting dream; it is the certainty of God's ongoing presence and power in our lives. It is living hope.

The resurrection of Jesus isn't merely an event that happened over 2,000 years ago; it is the foundation of our faith, the assurance that no matter what happens in

life, we have a future with God that is secure. This living hope is a reality that shapes how we live, love, and serve in the world.

Resurrection is about transformation. It is about new life emerging from what seemed like an impossible situation. It is about the potential for change, even in the most barren places of our hearts and our world. The resurrection of Jesus shows us that God's power can bring life from death, light from darkness, and hope from despair.

Living hope means that we are called to live differently. The resurrection isn't just a promise for the life to come, it is also a call to action in the here and now. If we believe in the power of resurrection, we are compelled to live as people who bring life and light into the world around us. We are called to be agents of transformation, to speak out for justice, to offer compassion, and to serve others in the name of Christ.

As we reflect on the resurrection this Easter, let us remember that the hope we



Saturday 5 April

10am to 1pm
St Stephen's Church
Easter Fair

Mondays 7 & 14 April
1.30pm, St Stephen's Church
Lent Course

Tuesday 8 April
2pm, St Stephen's Church
Mothers' Union

Wednesday 9 April
10am, St Stephen's Church
Coffee, Cake & Chat

Saturday 12 April
3-5pm, St Stephen's Church
Messy Church

Monday 14 April
7pm, St Stephen's Church
MOSSAF

Guest: Andy Earl, Head of Safeguarding, Truro Diocese

Saturday 19 April
11am, Hatt House
Easter Egg Hunt

Wednesday 23 April
10am, St Mary's Church Hall
Hot Cross Buns & Coffee

Friday 25 April
Noon
S.T.A.R.T.

Saturday 26 April
7pm, St Michael's Church
Birthday Concert

Saturday 3 May
from 10am
SSNF Church Rooms
Bacon Butties
on May Fair weekend

Friday 16 May
7pm, St Stephen's Church
Quiz Night
for Christian Aid

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER DAY SERVICES

Spy Wednesday, 16 April

10.00am Morning Service, St Stephen's

Maundy Thursday, 17 April

7.00pm Evening Service, St Michael's

7.30pm Evening Service,
SS Nicholas & Faith

Good Friday, 18 April

10.00am Walk of Witness (SCT)

2.00pm Stations of the Cross, St Mary's

Easter Sunday, 20 April

6.00am Sunrise Service, Celtic Cross (SCT)
followed by bacon butties at SSNF

9.30am Morning Service, St Michael's

10.00am Morning Service, St Erney

10.00am Morning Service, St Stephen's

10.30am Morning Service, SS Nicholas & Faith

11.15am Morning Service, St Mary's

6.30pm Evensong, St Stephen's

APRIL SERVICES

For services in Holy Week
and on Easter Day
see page 1

Sunday 6 April

St Michael, Landrake

9.30am Morning Worship

St Stephen-by-Saltash

10am Family Morning Worship

St Leonard & St Dilpe, Landulph

10am Holy Communion

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash

10.30am Holy Communion

St Erney, Landrake

11.15am Matins

St Mary, Botus Fleming

11.15am Morning Worship

6.30pm Sung Evensong

Palm Sunday 13 April

St Michael, Landrake

9.30am Morning Worship

St Stephen-by-Saltash

10am Holy Communion

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash

10.30am Morning Worship

St Mary, Botus Fleming

11.15am Holy Communion

Easter Sunday 20 April

see page 1

Sunday 27 April

St Leonard & St Dilpe, Landulph

10am United Service

Holy Communion

Wednesdays 2 & 16 April

St Stephen-by-Saltash

10am Holy Communion



have is not passive. It is not simply about waiting for a better future; it is about living with resurrection power today. It is about embracing the new life that Christ offers and allowing that life to shape the way we engage with the world, the way we treat one another, and the way we respond to suffering.



The hope of the resurrection is not a hope that leads us to ignore the realities of life, but rather it is a hope that enables us to face them with courage, knowing that no situation is beyond God's redeeming touch. It is a hope that invites us to imagine what the world might look like when we truly live as people who believe in the power of resurrection and transformation.

So, as we journey toward Easter, may we hold fast to the living hope that is ours through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. May that hope fill us with the strength and courage to face each day, knowing that in Christ, the best is yet to come.

Dursona,
Rev'd Laura

The Life You Gave

If in that Syrian garden, ages slain,
You sleep, and know not you are dead in vain,
Nor even in dreams behold how dark and bright
Ascends in smoke and fire by day and night
The hate you died to quench and could but fan,
Sleep well and see no morning, son of man.
But if, the grave rent and the stone rolled by,
At the right hand of majesty on high
You sit, and sitting so remember yet
Your tears, your agony and bloody sweat,
Your cross and passion and the life you gave,
Bow hither out of heaven and see and save.

A E Housman (1859 – 1936)

Recent Events

MOSSAF

We held our first get together for 2025 at the Ploughboy Inn where we enjoyed social togetherness over a drink or two and spoke about our programme for the year ahead.



Our next meeting is on **Monday 14 April at 7pm in St Stephen's Church Social Area**. Our guest speaker is Andy Earl who is the Current Head of Safeguarding for Truro Diocese.

Prior to his arrival in the diocese, Andy was a police officer for 33 years, starting in uniform before working his way up to Inspector. His experience extended across public order and the vice squad. Andy became Rev'd Inspector following ordination and served eight years in police chaplaincy alongside his inspector role. On this 'retirement', Andy joined the Army and served 12 years undertaking tours of duty in Afghanistan, South Sudan, Cyprus and Kenya. He relocated to Cornwall to take the job of Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor. Andy is a member of the Army Reserve and is Chaplain to the Port and Marine Unit in Plymouth. Andy says he has a passion for the Church as a place where vulnerable people can turn and its role in working in communities where the vulnerable would otherwise be marginalised, "It is important that the Church is a safe place." So it sounds from Andy's busy life we will have another interesting evening together.

New members always welcome although you are also welcome to join us for the evening and pay subs of £1. Please contact Steve Hookway for more details.
stevenhookway@hotmail.com.

Events at St Mary

A successful coffee morning and potato lunch have raised over £200. Thanks to our helpers in February and March.



Mothers' Union met in St Stephen's Church on 11 March and 15 members welcomed Sheila Waring who was our Diocesan President until she stepped down at the end of December. Sheila gave us an insight into her role over the past seven years as she represented MU at conferences and meetings. She was very busy last year as we have merged with other South West groups to become one regional group, sharing some positions and duties. Members enjoyed conversing with Sheila and her husband who had driven her all the way from Bude. He has also had a busy seven years helping Sheila, but as an MU member himself, he is happy to have been of service. We shall miss them both, although we will see them at MU gatherings. We look forward to working with our new President, Kristen. Our meeting in April will be our AGM.

St Stephen's Church

As we move closer to becoming one benefice, I thought it would be interesting to find out a little about the other churches in our benefice – and discover quite how little we know about our own church! This month is St Stephen's.

1. Where would you find St Stephen portrayed in the church?
2. On what day is St Stephen celebrated?
3. In which century was a church first built on the current church site?
4. In which century was the current church built?
5. How many bells are in the tower?
6. How many names are on the clergy desk in memory of the firemen who died in 1940?
7. Who are the patrons of St Stephen's Church?
8. What stone is used for the pulpit?
9. What is the connection of the stained glass window (north side) to James Willcocks and Saltash?
10. Which king's coat of arms is shown above the inner door?

Answers on p7

Mothers' Union

from Bishop Graham

It was a pleasure to join the congregation at Landulph (and some others from further afield in the area) on Sunday March 2nd, and to celebrate the eucharist and preach at Laura's invitation. It was very gracious of Laura to ask me, and a privilege to share her ministry among you, at the end of her first year with you all.



Photo: Chris McAndrew

I was delighted to discover yet another deeply rural church in this diocese in good heart and with such faithful lay leaders. We worshipped that day on hallowed ground where prayers have been said for centuries. Sometimes our small churches do not feel valued in the wider Church of England, but my visits to many small churches in this diocese have led me to discover (as at Landulph) deep faithfulness, connectedness with the wider community, and congregations in which there is frequently both mutual support and pastoral care. Devotion to God and each other and connection with the community beyond is the bedrock of Christian mission. Jesus himself looked to just twelve people to be his apostles. Be encouraged! I'm beginning to write up my thinking on small churches, and if anyone wants to share their own thoughts on this wider subject I'd be very glad to hear from you. You can email me at grj51@icloud.com

Blessings and gratitude to Laura and to you all.

✝ Graham

Recent Events continued

Messy Church



We were blessed with beautiful Spring weather on Saturday 15 March when 67 family members came into St Stephen's to celebrate Spring at Messy Church. The children decorated plant pots and planted wild flower seeds in them. Wonderful finger paintings of spring flowers were made, along with hanging wreaths and decorated biscuits. Outside, small groups at a time made lip balm, whilst back inside, the board came alive with tree blossom and flowers.



Our Worship remembered that God made the four seasons, each with its own purpose and after the winter of rest and gathering strength, how great it is to see new life in the warmth of the Spring sunshine. We thanked God for His blessings with prayers and a song and finished with the Messy Grace.

As usual our helpers had prepared a delicious buffet and the families enjoyed sharing together.

Our meeting in April will be one week earlier than usual. We will meet on 12 April to think about Holy Week and this will be the last Messy Church until further notice. Keep your eyes on Facebook, the website and noticeboards for further news!



7pm, Friday 16 May St Stephen's Church
£3 per person – max 6 per team

For Christian Aid

Please pre-book using the sumup link:

st-stephen-by-saltash-church.sumupstore.com/



A Book to Remember...

We continue our series in which a member of one of our five congregations is invited to tell us about a book that has been important to them in their Christian journey.

Sally Worth



and her husband Martin live in Landulph and are actively involved in St Leonard and St Dilpe's church, and the community. Sally, a retired headteacher, has written the lovely children's book *Chap's Toast* which features her Jack Russell dog. Recently, Sally directed the parish pantomime Peter Pan. Having grown up on a farm near Callington, Sally has returned to her family church and is very involved in Landulph's Festival of Music and Arts every October.

Which book have you chosen?

Being a former English teacher, who loves poetry, novels and drama, there is so much to choose from. However, my choice has

settled on **The Small Woman**, by Gladys Aylward. She came to my school in Callington when I was about eleven. She was a tiny, elderly woman, but she lit something within me. Her story made a terrific impression.

In her book, which is the story of her life, Gladys Aylward asks God what she should do with her life. She feels called to become a missionary in China, "a country thousands of miles away about which I knew nothing". Being from such an ordinary background, and a woman, she faced



setback after setback, struggling with learning the Chinese language and being turned away by the establishment. The whole drama of her story appeals to me. She believes that,

like Moses, she could decide either "to do something or nothing".

Gladys Aylward was also not afraid to question her faith. Her story shows how goodness will prevail, but even if it does not, we can have the strength to manage life. Her implicit trust in God enables her to overcome tremendous challenges, "Be ye not afraid of them – I am your God."

Is there a particular passage that stands out for you?

There is one incident in which she faces crossing the Yellow River with a group of 100 orphaned children, to lead them to safety in war-torn China. It seems impossible, but one of the children innocently reminds Gladys of her own teachings about faith, "I had staked my life on God's mighty power, so why doubt it now?" They all pray and their prayers are answered. The dilemma of this situation and the child's simple logic makes this passage so memorable.

Archdeacon's Visitation

Monday
2 June at 7pm

Our Benefice will be hosting Archdeacon's Visitation. As this time the Visitation is for both East and West Wivelshire Deaneries, it will be a busy night.

We will need food contributions and volunteers from across the Benefice to help set up and clear down so please keep an eye out for sign up sheets that will be circulating soon.



As the important visit of our new Bishop of Truro will be on the last Sunday in June, we will be starting choir practice for all keen singers from all our churches for the sung Evensong.

Full details to follow.
Eric Distin



Make a difference!

Please donate food at Waitrose, Lidl, the Co-op or at the back of St Stephen's or SSNF Churches and/or donate money via the Foodbank: saltash.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money

'The Small Woman: The Heroic Story of Gladys Aylward', Alan Burgess, World Books. 1957.

Sally's own book, *Chap's Toast* (Austin Macauley publishers) is available from The Bookshelf, Saltash, £12.99

If you would like to tell us about a book that has helped you, please email Dave: contactdavepitcher@gmail.com

Coming Up

Easter Fair

Saturday 5 April

10am to 1pm in St Stephen's Church

- Refreshments
- Food and Craft Stalls
- Easter Egg Tombola
- Bumper Easter Raffle
- Side Stalls
- Books, Stationery, Cards
- And Much More!

Free Entry

Coffee, Cake & Chat

Wednesday 9 April and every 2nd Wednesday

10am to 11.30am in St Stephen's Church



St Michael's Birthday Concert

6.30 for 7pm, Saturday, 26 April

St Michael's Church, Landrake

Buffet, celebration cake & a raffle

Tickets £7.50 from village shop or QR code

We're hoping each Parish contributes an act



Bacon Butties

10am to 1pm, Saturday 3 May

St Nicholas & St Faith Church Rooms



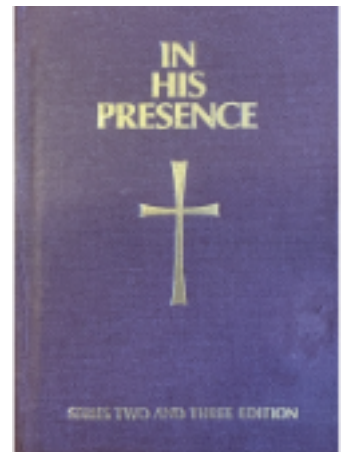
Start the day with friends and a bacon buttie at St Nicks then visit the May Fair

From the Archives

Andy Evans

Some time ago I came across a small book, **In His Presence** – Series 2 & 3 Editions from 1973 by the Rev'd Denis E Taylor, a former Dean of Brisbane, Australia.

Last month I covered the first part of the book **What is Prayer?** This month I'm covering the next section.



What is the Church?

The Cambridge Dictionary defines the answer as “A building for Christian religious activities” and the Oxford English Dictionary gives three definitions, (getting sidetracked slightly here, but I immediately think of the sketch from **Blackadder Goes Forth**, where Blackadder lists the great universities “Cambridge, Hull, Oxford”, and Melchet replies “and Oxford is a complete dump”), anyway getting back on track, the OED goes into great depth with its definitions. However, this book gives the most appropriate answer “A *divine society, because founded by Jesus Christ.*” Whit Sunday is called the birthday of the church.

What is the Church For?

To carry on what Jesus began – to teach the people goodness, holiness and to love God, and for his purpose for men, to restore the relationship between God and man, broken by man's disobedience, which we call a sin. The church is to be the family of God's people, uniting them in worship and in work to setup his reign of Justice and love.

Why Two Bishops in Cornwall?

Many people have asked why do we need two Bishops in Cornwall. This little book explains it quite clearly. A large diocese may have a suffragan or an assistant Bishop. If you think of the size of the Exeter diocese, and then think of Cornwall, whilst Cornwall is actually narrower than Devon, it's a larger diocese.

If you have any items you feel would be interesting for the archives, please let me know.

(andy@saltashteamministry.org)

St Stephen's Church Quiz - Answers

1. Where would you find St Stephen portrayed in the church?



Answer: East window and a stone effigy over the door in the porch.

2. On what day is St Stephen celebrated?

Answer: Boxing Day (26 December)

3. In which century was a church first built on the current church site?

Answer: 13th century. It is believed to have been consecrated in 1259.

4. In which century was the current church built?

Answer: Mid 15th Century.

5. How many bells are in the tower?



Answer: Six.

6. How many names are on the clergy desk in memory of the firemen who died in 1940?



Answer: Seven.

7. Who are the patrons of St Stephen's Church?

Answer: The Dean and the Canons of Windsor.

8. What stone is used for the pulpit?



Answer: Polyphant.

9. What is the connection of the stained glass window (north side) to James Willcocks and Saltash?



Answer: The building of the pillars for the Royal Albert Bridge.

10. Which king's coat of arms is shown above the inner door?



Answer: King George III.

Thanks to Carol Jones who provided the quiz. I'm sorry I haven't managed to take better pictures (especially if you're viewing a printed copy in black and white). You'll just have to come along and visit the church.

St Stephen's is open for Sunday services (10am) followed by coffee, for services on the first and third Wednesdays each month (10am) followed by coffee and for coffee and cake on the second Wednesday each month (from 10am).

Please email articles for the next issue to: newsletter@saltashteamministry.org by 21 April