

# Saltash Area Newsletter

February 2026



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](http://www.saltashteamministry.org)

## Ministry as a Jigsaw

Over Christmas I had the pleasure of completing a jigsaw by my favourite Christian artist, Hannah Dunnett. As I worked, I found myself reflecting on how ministry so often feels less like a straight line and more like a jigsaw puzzle spread across the table.

You begin by setting the boundaries – laying out the edges, giving shape to what's possible, and naming the limits that will hold everything else together. Then comes the slow, attentive work of noticing. You scan the pieces, looking for a patch of colour or a cluster of shapes that draws your eye. Something that sparks curiosity or nudges your spirit. You begin there – not because it's the whole picture, but because it's where you can start.



Piece by piece, the picture grows. You keep glancing back at the box lid – the big picture, the calling, the vision – because it's so easy to get lost in the tiny details. And sometimes you step away entirely. A break, a breath, a cup of tea. When you return, the pieces that made no sense before suddenly fall into place.

And of course, ministry is never a solo puzzle. There are days when someone else spots the piece you've been turning over for hours. They see where it fits when you can't. Their perspective completes what your eyes had missed.

In the end, ministry isn't about finishing the puzzle quickly. It's about the shared work of noticing, building, pausing, and returning – trusting that the picture will emerge, piece by piece, in community.

As I approach the end of my second year as Priest in Charge, I find myself looking back with amazement at God's work among us: the pieces He has drawn our attention to, the unexpected connections, the glimpses of a picture still unfolding. We truly have so much happening across our group of church communities.



**Saturday 7 February**

9am to 6pm

St Stephen's Church  
Foundations  
in Christian Ministry

**Tuesday 10 February**

Meal Out

Mothers' Union

**Wednesday 11 February**

10am

St Stephen's Church  
Coffee, Cake & Chat

**Monday 16 February**

2pm to 4pm

SSNF Church Rooms  
Craft Afternoon

**Tuesday 17 February**

3pm to 5pm

St Stephen's Church  
Shrove Tuesday Pancakes

**Friday 20 February**

Noon

START

**Saturday 28 February**

10am to Noon

St Stephen's Church  
Table Top Sale



## FEBRUARY SERVICES

### Sunday 1 February

**St Michael, Landrake**

9.30am Morning Worship

**St Stephen-by-Saltash**

10am Family Worship

**St Leonard & St Dilpe, Landulph**

10am Holy Communion

**St Erney, Landrake**

10.15am Matins

**St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash**

10.30am Candlemas  
Holy Communion

**St Mary, Botus Fleming**

11.15am Morning Worship

6.30pm Sung Evensong

### Sunday 8 February

**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

### Sunday 15 February

**St Michael, Landrake**

9.30am Holy Communion

**St Stephen-by-Saltash**

10am Morning Worship

3pm Evensong

**St Leonard & St Dilpe, Landulph**

10am Morning Worship

**St Erney, Landrake**

10.15am Matins

**St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash**

10.30am Holy Communion

**St Mary, Botus Fleming**

11.15am Morning Worship

### Sunday 22 February

**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 Morning Worship

### Wednesdays

**St Stephen-by-Saltash**

10am Holy Communion 4, 18 Feb  
Morning Worship 25 Feb

**St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash**

7.30pm Holy Communion 18 Feb  
& Imposition of Ashes

**Ash Wednesday is 18 February**

## Gathering the Pieces

On **Sunday 29 March**, we will gather for our usual fifth Sunday service – this time at **St Nicholas & St Faith at 10.30am**. After the service, all five parishes will hold their APCMs. This will be a wonderful opportunity to see how the pieces of each parish fit into the bigger jigsaw: a chance to hear what is happening across our six church communities and how, **together**, we are loving God, serving people, and making disciples.

## Growing Younger Together

Some of you will know that, along with 13 other priests in Truro Diocese (including Bishop David!), I am currently part of the National Church's **Incumbents' Leadership Programme**. Its focus is to help clergy lead churches in ways that enable work with children, young people, and their families to grow – both in number and in depth – and to support one another in the real demands of parish life.

This aligns beautifully with the Diocese of Truro's **Growing Younger** vision, which has two aims:

- For every child and young person in the diocese to have access to a community that meets in Jesus' name, where they can be at home and explore faith.
- A tenfold increase in the number of young disciples in our churches over the next decade.

I am now a third of the way through the course, taught by inspiring leaders such as Howard Worsley and Mary Hawes. I have been particularly struck this term by Jesus' words in Mark 10. Many of us know verse 14, where Jesus tells the disciples not to hinder the children coming to him. But we often overlook verse 15: *Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.*

Jesus does not say, "Bring the children to me and make them behave as adults think they should." Instead, he invites the adults to become more childlike – more curious, more open, more filled with awe and wonder.

Growing Younger is not about having a box of colouring crayons tucked away "just in case". It is about asking:

**Why aren't the adults using the crayons?**

**Why aren't we, the grown-ups, joyful in the presence of the Lord?**

As a group of churches, we will be exploring this together – how we might grow younger in heart as we love and follow Jesus.

## A Child Shall Lead Them

At our recent Confirmation Service, one of the readings chosen by our young people included Isaiah 11.6:

*The wolf shall live with the lamb... and a little child shall lead them.*

Our children and young people will lead us into a church that is Growing Younger. The invitation before us is to be open – to allow them to show us how to be more childlike in our worship, our wonder, and our walk with God.

Dursona,

Rev'd Laura

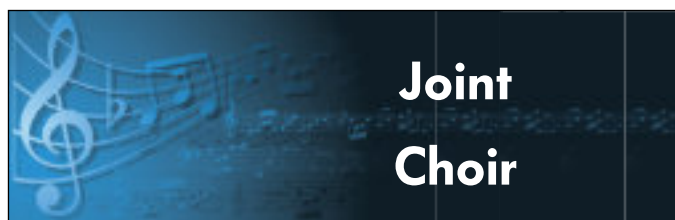
# Ash Wednesday Quiz



1. Exactly how many days are there between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday?  
a) 40 b) 42 c) 44 d) 46
2. Where do the ashes come from on Ash Wednesday?  
a) They burn the crown of thorns placed on the cross on Good Friday  
b) They burn the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday  
c) They use the ashes from burnt magic books and other idolatrous texts  
d) They use the cremated remains of departed saints
3. What is the earliest date Ash Wednesday can possibly occur?  
a) 3 Mar b) 14 Feb c) 4 Feb d) 28 Jan
4. The ashes on the forehead represent  
a) Mourning and repentance  
b) The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ  
c) Commitment to God  
d) A cool sign of faith
5. Which day of the week is NOT included as part of Lent?  
a) Wednesday b) Friday c) Saturday d) Sunday
6. What does the term 'Lent,' which comes from 'lencten,' mean?  
a) Sacrifice b) Time c) Spring d) March Madness
7. What is the liturgical colour during Lent?  
a) Blue b) Orange c) Green d) Purple

Answers on p4

## Recent Events



### The first six months

After six months, the enthusiasm of all involved continues to grow, along with the joy of sharing music with our congregations.

All our churches have now been visited, with widespread appreciation for the lead to services. The new Bishop of Truro was particularly complimentary, and the confirmation service brought great pleasure through the evident delight of the candidates and their families. To date, twelve separate leads have taken place.



Our first engagement outside a church setting was at Abbeyfield, 40 Callington Road, where we sang carols. This held special significance, as the late Canon Stephen Guest – a previous incumbent of St Stephen's – founded the Saltash Society in the early 1970s.

The much-loved practice of sung psalms resumed at St Mary's on 7 January at 6.30pm as part of our weekly gatherings.

We are beginning to build links with younger generations, while also embracing the challenge of hosting musical evenings with a more secular focus. Inspired by the inclusive joy of singing championed by Gareth Malone, our ethos is simple: every talent is valued. Just come along and share in the fun.

## Donations, Please

Can you help support St Stephen's Church Easter Fair on Saturday 28 March, by kindly donating Easter Eggs? If so, then please leave them in the box at the back of the church or in the Office on Wednesdays or Thursdays. Helen's hours may be different during February half term (16-20 February).

Your support is much appreciated.



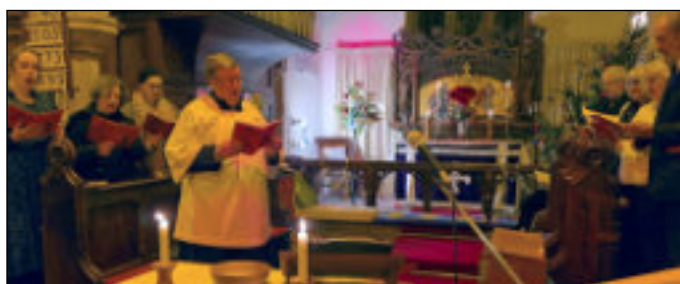
## Recent Events continued

### Christmas at St Mary's

Christmas at St Mary's was a true focal point for the community. Christingle was celebrated on Sunday 21 December, with Luke Petherbridge leading the service and Anne Doidge assembling the Christingles.

Carol singing took place at Bicton, centred on the generous hospitality of Amana and Hamish and was shared with three generations of Ukrainian families. The occasion included a special poem, followed by mulled wine, adding to the warmth of the gathering.

The church itself was beautifully decorated by eight volunteers. On the evening of the village Carol Service, Geoff and Ray welcomed a congregation of over 200 with lanterns. Many young families also attended the Nine Lessons and Carols service, led by Richard. Faye was the soloist for Once in Royal David's City, and the ministry choir of twelve led the congregational singing.



The lessons were read by representatives of families who had previously held services marking both loss and celebration, including memorials and weddings. The Tamblyn family rang the bells in memory of Pam.

The service can be enjoyed again at [https://youtu.be/gC-GvxTh4\\_Q](https://youtu.be/gC-GvxTh4_Q) – a truly memorable occasion.

### Confirmation Service at St Stephen's



A good number attended the Confirmation Service at St Stephen's church in November to support the eight candidates being confirmed by Bishop David; all of the candidates being drawn from our local group of churches and covering a wide age range. After the Service, a shared supper was very much enjoyed by all.

Saltash  
**foodbank**



#### Bank the Food

Point your mobile phone camera at this QR code. Click the link to download the 'Bank the Food' App. This will enable you to see which items Saltash Foodbank needs now!

#### 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 website:



[saltash.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money](https://saltash.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money)

FOUNDATIONS  
IN CHRISTIAN  
MINISTRY



The Diocese will be hosting the Foundations in Christian Ministry course at St Stephens beginning **7 February**. This programme involves a commitment of eight Saturdays throughout the year. As this is the first time the course will be held outside Truro and is unlikely to return to Saltash for several years, this is a unique opportunity to participate locally.

The aims of the course are:

- To deepen your Christian discipleship.
- To explore and nurture your gifts for ministry.
- To help you discern God's call for your next steps in faith.
- To provide a foundation for further lay ministry training.

If you would like to enrol, please email Rev'd Laura ([vicar@saltashteamministry.org](mailto:vicar@saltashteamministry.org)). Registration forms are available (please ignore the mention of September 2025).

#### Answers to Quiz on page 3:

1. (d) 46.
2. (b) They burn the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday.
3. (b) 4 February.
4. (a) Mourning & repentance.
5. (d) Sunday.
6. (c) Spring.
7. (d) Purple.

## Brian Davies

Brian attended SS Nicholas and Faith church as a young man and celebrated his marriage to Sue there in 1974. In the 1980s he and his young family became actively involved in Church activities. Brian sang with the Choir and became a long-serving treasurer in addition to the normal administration activities, raising money for various projects, notably the digital organ.

He became a Parent Governor at Bishop Cornish School, later serving as vice chairman. He was well known as the DIY governor and was particularly involved with fund raising for the eco-friendly nursery school.

Sadly ill health in the form of vascular dementia and a weak heart began to take it's toll and after two very difficult years he succumbed, finally passing away peacefully at Launceston Community Hospital on Christmas Day.

## Recent Events continued

### Christmas Tree Festival



Our 19th Christmas Tree Festival closed on Friday 12 December, bringing to an end a terrific two weeks that were enjoyed by everyone who came to wander among the trees. A very big thank you to everyone who exhibited a tree – including several new exhibitors this year – as well as to our stewards and all who helped in any way, however big or small.

We were delighted to welcome the Ukulele Group, who played for us on two or three afternoons despite the inclement weather on some days. It was also a real pleasure to have Burraton School Choir come and sing for us, and we are very much looking forward to welcoming them back for our 20th Festival this year. In addition, our area joint choir joined us one Saturday afternoon and added greatly to the festive atmosphere.

Bacon butties were available on the two Saturdays during the festival. Unfortunately, the mulled wine and shortbread had to be cancelled due to the inclement weather, as all events that would normally have taken place in Fore Street were moved down to the Waterside.

There are still four or five trees that still need to be collected. The church is open from Tuesdays to Saturdays 12 noon until 4pm.

Despite selling out of draw tickets, the festival realised a profit of just over £4,500. Thank you so much to everyone. A short video was made of the Christmas Trees and can be found at <https://youtu.be/Ofr-0FIPzMY>



## For Lent, 1966

by Madeleine L'Engle



It is my Lent to break my Lent,  
To eat when I would fast,  
To know when slender strength is spent,  
Take shelter from the blast  
When I would run with wind and rain,  
To sleep when I would watch.  
It is my Lent to smile at pain  
But not ignore its touch.

It is my Lent to listen well  
When I would be alone,  
To talk when I would rather dwell  
In silence, turn from none  
Who call on me, to try to see  
That what is truly meant  
Is not my choice. If Christ's I'd be  
It's thus I'll keep my Lent.

# Christmas



Lanterns lighting the way to St Michael's



Christmas Cuppa at St Stephen's



Choirs at Christmas Sing-along at St Stephen's



Nine Lessons & Carols at St Mary's



Burraton Boys at St Stephen's



Christmas Tree Festival at SSNF



## Events Committee

Are you interested in helping to organise events? St Stephen's are looking for new members to join the Events Committee.

## Event Flyer Delivery

St Stephen's are also looking at re-starting the event flyer delivery around Saltash. If you are able to help in any way, even your own street would be a great help.

If you can help with either of the above, please email Helen on [helen@saltashteamministry.org](mailto:helen@saltashteamministry.org)

## Prayer for Ash Wednesday

Loving God,  
Let the light you have brought to the world shine in the darkness of our hearts and bring new life, new hope and new possibilities. Help me to walk more closely with Jesus, to know that I am deeply loved, and to share his love with others.

Amen



## Coming Up

### Coffee, Cake & Chat

Wednesday 11 February and every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday  
10am to 11.30am in St Stephen's Church



### Craft Afternoon

Monday 16 February and every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday  
2pm to 4pm in SSNF Church Rooms



### Shrove Tuesday Pancakes

Tuesday, 17 February  
3pm to 5pm in St Stephen's Church



**Two pancakes and a drink**  
(tea, coffee or squash)  
adults £4, children £2.

### Table Top Sale

Saturday 28 February  
10am to Noon in St Stephen's Church



## Easter Fair

Saturday 28 March  
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

## Quarterly Concerts



Plans are being hatched  
for a Quarterly series  
of Supper Concerts  
at St Michael's, Landrake

There is a possibility of Loyalty Discounts  
for pre-booking all of these!

**Watch this space!**

# Our Church Saints

John West is kindly writing a series about the saints associated with our Churches. This month is the turn of St Stephen.

## St Stephen

Nothing is known about Stephen's early life, he was born in AD 5, died c.34 and probably was raised as a Hellenistic Jew.

In adulthood he became one of the Seven Deacons appointed by the Apostles to distribute the daily share of the charitable food to the Hellenistic widows, who had felt that preference was given to the Hebrew ones. Stephen had a strong faith and was a powerful preacher and his teaching upset some of the synagogues. In revenge they falsely accused him of blasphemy against

God, Moses, the Torah and the Second Temple. They took him before the Sanhedrin, the supreme legal court of the Jewish Elders. At this trial (described in Acts 7) Stephen outlines the history of the Israelites and denounces the authorities sitting in judgement of him. He was found guilty, taken outside one of the City gates and stoned to death.

Saul of Tarsus, a Pharisee and Roman Citizen, witnessed this event before taking the road heading for Damascus. The Bible



goes on to tell us that on this journey Saul had a dramatic vision resulting in his conversion to Christianity and was renamed Paul.

The Anglican, Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Lutheran and Oriental Orthodox Churches all acknowledge Stephen as the first Martyr and a saint. He was often depicted with a crown, three stones, a martyr's palm frond, censer and holding a miniature church building. Centuries later (c.415) a priest, called Lucian, had

a dream which revealed the site of Saint Stephen's remains. On 26 December, c.415, these were recovered and taken in procession to the Church of Hagia Sion; but in c.439 were moved again to a new church built just north of the Damascus Gate of Jerusalem. Eventually, the relics ended up in Rome at the Basilica of San Lorenzo Fuori le Mura where his tomb became a venue for Pilgrims.

The Saint became a Patron in many countries to a number of causes, for example servers, horses, deacons, bricklayers, stonemasons. His Saints Day is on 26 December.



Please email articles for the next issue to: [newsletter@saltashteamministry.org](mailto:newsletter@saltashteamministry.org) by 20 February