

Saltash Area Newsletter

March 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

Seeing Our Mission Field Anew

The Church of England has released the latest parish data, drawing on the 2021 Census and the 2025 Indices of Deprivation. This gives us a rich and detailed picture of the communities we serve, inviting us to pray, reflect, and imagine how our churches might respond. When we think about our benefice, it's easy to picture our six church buildings, our rotas, and the familiar faces



we see on Sundays. But our calling is far wider and far more beautiful. As the Established Church, we are entrusted with the cure of souls – not only those who worship with us, but everyone who lives within our parish boundaries.

According to the 2021 Census, that means **18,644** people across St Stephen-by-Saltash, Saltash, Landrake with St Erney, Landulph, and Botus Fleming. These figures were recorded before Treledan was built, so the populations of Botus Fleming (Five Acre Lane) and St Stephen's (the remainder of Treledan) will now be higher.

These are the people God has placed in our care: families rushing to school, commuters crossing the Tamar Bridge, older adults in our rural lanes, children in our schools, and neighbours who may never have stepped inside a church but who are still part of the community Christ calls us to love.

A Benefice of Distinct Communities

Each parish has its own character and its own needs.

St Stephen-by-Saltash, with more than 12,000 people, is large and diverse. Some neighbourhoods are among the least deprived in England; others face challenges around employment, health, and education. The church's presence here can make a real difference in well-being, belonging, and hope.

Saltash (St Nicholas & St Faith) adds another 3,339 people. The data shows pressures around employment and income, alongside strengths in housing and environment. This is a place where practical compassion and partnership can be especially meaningful.

Landrake with St Erney is a parish with strong educational outcomes and many families with children. Intergenerational ministry could flourish here, and relationships with the school and wider community are particularly important.

Landulph and Botus Fleming, though small in population, are not economically deprived. Their challenges are different: older populations, people living alone, limited services, and the quiet vulnerabilities of rural life. These are communities where connection, hospitality, and belonging matter deeply.



Wednesdays

25 Feb to 1 Apr

7pm, St Stephen's Church

Lent Course (see p6)

Saturday 7 March

6.30pm for 7pm

SSNF Church Rooms

St Piran's Day Beetle Drive

Monday 9 March

7pm, Ploughboy

MOSSAF

Tuesday 10 March

2pm, St Stephen's Church

Mothers' Union

Wednesday 11 March

10am, St Stephen's Church

Coffee, Cake with

Children's Society Box

Opening

Monday 16 March

2pm to 4pm

SSNF Church Rooms

Craft Afternoon

Friday 20 March

Noon

START

Saturday 28 March

10am to Noon

St Stephen's Church

Table Top Sale



MARCH SERVICES

Sunday 1 March

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 Holy Communion

St Mary, Botus Fleming

11.15am Morning Worship

6.30pm Sung Evensong

Sunday 8 March

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 March

St Michael, Landrake

9.30am Holy Communion

St Stephen-by-Saltash

10am Morning Worship

6.30pm 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 March

St Michael, Landrake

9.30am Morning Worship

St Stephen-by-Saltash

10am Holy Communion

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash

10.30am Morning Worship

Sunday 29 March

Palm Sunday

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash

10.30am United Service

followed by APCMs and

Bring & Share Lunch

Wednesdays

St Stephen-by-Saltash

10am Holy Communion 4, 18 Mar

Morning Worship 25 Mar

What the Data Helps Us See

Across the benefice, several themes emerge.

We have significant numbers of older adults, especially in our rural parishes. This invites us to think creatively about how we build community, reduce isolation, and create spaces where people can meet, talk, and feel part of something bigger.

We also have many families and children, particularly in St Stephen's and Landrake. This encourages us to invest in family-friendly worship, school partnerships, and activities that help parents and children feel at home in church life.

Saltash and parts of St Stephen's show real deprivation in employment, income, and health. This is where our community support, warm spaces, and practical help can be most transformative – not by doing everything ourselves, but by working with others.

A Shared Calling

If we imagine 40 hours of stipendiary ministry across the benefice each week, that time must include prayer, preparation, reading, training, safeguarding, administration, and contributing to the life of the deanery, diocese, wider Church of England, and ecumenical partnerships. Held alongside the needs of 18,644 people, it becomes clear that no priest can meet every need alone – nor were we ever meant to. The Church is the Body of Christ: many members, one calling, each gifted by God for the good of all.

Many people still picture a time when every parish had its own full-time priest. It's a comforting idea, but historically it isn't true. For most of the Church's life, clergy have served multiple parishes or chapelries, often across wide rural areas. The brief Victorian moment when some parishes had their own resident priest was the exception, not the norm. The Church has always relied on the whole Body of Christ – many members, each with gifts to share – rather than a single priest doing everything alone. Today's patterns of shared ministry are not a decline from a golden age, but a return to how the Church has faithfully worked for centuries.

Ministry is shared, not carried. The data simply helps us see why collaborative ministry is faithful, necessary, and full of possibility.

Looking Ahead With Hope

This new information gives us a clearer picture of the people among whom God has placed us. It helps us see where the opportunities lie, where the needs are greatest, and where the seeds of discipleship and mission might grow next. As the PCCs look ahead, we can plan with confidence – not overwhelmed by the scale of the task, but encouraged by the richness of our communities and the God who goes before us. Together, we continue to live out our calling to *Love God, Serve People, and Make Disciples.*

Dursona,

Rev'd Laura

Spring Quiz



1. What date is Saint Patrick's Day?
2. To the nearest million, how many Easter eggs are sold every year in the UK?
3. What spring flower is often associated with Wales?
4. What is the spring holiday period for college students in the United States known as?
5. Which is the meteorological first day of spring?
6. Which breed of rabbit is known for the thick tufty fur around its head?
7. What UK holiday commonly takes place on May 1st?
8. In Japan, what type of tree famously produces blossom in the spring?
9. How many months are female sheep pregnant for before they give birth to a lamb?
10. Which small white flowers are among the first to emerge in the UK spring?

Answers on p4

Recent Events

Mothers' Union

In February, 14 members of Mothers' Union met at the Notter Bridge pub to share a meal and celebrate another year of service and fun.

We have 16 signed-up members this year and are always open to anyone who would like to join us. Just come along on the second Tuesday of the month at 2pm to St Stephen's Church and

you will be made very welcome. Mothers' Union aims to foster family life within the church. We do this by raising money for charities that help struggling families, among them Young Carers in Cornwall, families of those in prison and women in Uganda who need help to start up businesses to support their villages. MU also campaign to change policies on such subjects as domestic violence and child welfare. In our Churches we offer our prayers to God to help us in our projects.

150 years ago, Mary Sumner, a vicar's wife, harnessed the power of women in the Church (which now includes men) and in August we shall celebrate this special birthday with events throughout the country and the world. Here in Saltash, we hope to have a big birthday tea and an exhibition in St Stephen's Church on 15 August.

Meanwhile on Tuesday 10 March we hold our next meeting at 2pm in St Stephen's when we have a visit from Eric Distin. Why not join us there or come to our Craft afternoon on 16 March at 2pm in St Nicholas & St Faith Church rooms?



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER DAY SERVICES

Spy Wednesday, 1 April

10.00am Holy Communion, St Stephen's

Maunder Thursday, 2 April

6.00pm Holy Communion, St Michael's

7.30pm Holy Communion, SS Nicholas & Faith

Good Friday, 3 April

10.00am Walk of Witness (SCT)

2.00pm Stations of the Cross, Landulph

Easter Sunday, 5 April

6.30am Sunrise Service, Celtic Cross (SCT)

9.30am Morning Worship, St Michael's

10.00am Family Worship, St Stephen's

10.00am Holy Communion, Landulph (joined by Botus)

10.15am BCP Holy Communion, St Erney

10.30am Holy Communion, SS Nicholas & Faith

6.30pm BCP Evensong, St Mary's



Recent Events continued

START – 2025

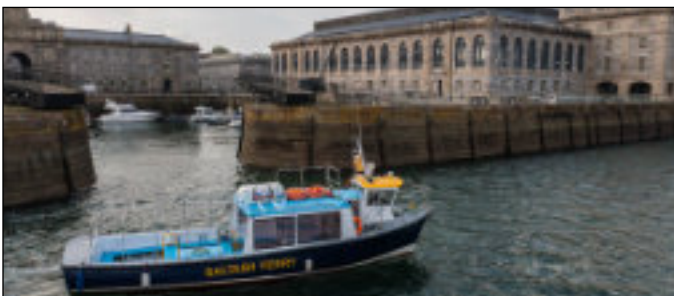


We are a group of men drawn from various Saltash churches, started many years ago and try to meet once a month for a pub lunch followed by either a talk or a local outing to somewhere of interest. If you live in our area and are looking to meet other men with a variety of backgrounds, we would be pleased for you to join us. Contact Bob Austin, John West or Len Maddock for further information.

In our traditional way, the year started with a lunch at the Ploughboy Inn followed by tea and biscuits in the lounge at Wesley where we produced a provisional plan for the year ahead.

The February afternoon talk, held at Wesley, was by Dr Phil Jordan on *Bees* and we learned about the importance of their pollination and the problems caused by insecticides, disease and Asian hornets.

The April trip to Saltram House was well-supported as many of us had not been round the house for a number of years. A good number turned out for the enjoyable trip to Looe in June. July saw everyone boarding the bus to Mount Batten and the final outing of the year was to the Royal William Yard, via the Saltash Ferry, for lunch at the busy Secco Lounge.



The year was brought to a close with a good Christmas Lunch, with our partners and members of the Probus Club, at the China Fleet Club.

The program drawn up at the start of the year was modified over the months, but I hope that we met our prime aim of sustaining companionship meeting together on a regular basis.

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



Prayer for Spring

Heavenly Father, thank You for the beauty of spring and the new life it brings. As creation awakens, renew my spirit and fill me with hope. Help me grow in faith and blossom in Your love.

Amen



*Congratulations to Faye
and Josh on the birth
of their son Kitt*



Joint Choir

The choir have continued their weekly practice and the psalms are progressing with the appropriate weekly cycle.

They will be visiting Rowan House in early March, continuing with taking the joy of music to our community.

The choir is also practising hard for the Fireman's Service on 22 April at St Stephen's, where they will be leading the music, by invitation of the organisers.

Answers to Quiz on page 3:

1. 17 March.
2. 80 million.
3. The daffodil.
4. Spring Break.
5. 1 March.
6. Lionhead Rabbit.
7. May Day.
8. Cherry tree.
9. 5 months.
10. Snowdrops.

A Prayer in Spring



Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers to-day;
And give us not to think so far away
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here
All simply in the springing of the year.

Oh, give us pleasure in the orchard white,
Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by night;
And make us happy in the happy bees,
The swarm dilating round the perfect trees.

And make us happy in the darting bird
That suddenly above the bees is heard,
The meteor that thrusts in with needle bill,
And off a blossom in mid air stands still.

For this is love and nothing else is love,
The which it is reserved for God above
To sanctify to what far ends He will,
But which it only needs that we fulfil.

by Robert Frost

Recent Events continued

MOSSAF

MOSSAF (Men of St Stephen's and friends) returns on Monday 9 March at 7pm with an evening at the Ploughboy, where we can socialise and catch up with each other and maybe even enjoy a game of pool or darts.

Subs of £7 for the year are now due please and can be paid at our first meeting or in advance to Roger Rowse or Steve Hookway.

New members are always very welcome. For more information on MOSSAF please speak to Steve Hookway on 07855 600241 or email stevenhookway@hotmail.com.

We have another filled diary with Guest Speakers including the Bishop of Truro, The Rt Rev'd David Williams, adventure golf, a guided tour of a local Church and meals out.



Bacon Butties at SSNF



Despite the inclement weather, after a slow start our bacon buttie morning was quite successful.

Thank you to every one who braved the rain and came to support us.

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 St Stephen's church or in the Office on Wednesdays or Thursdays.

Your support is much appreciated.



Our Church Saints

John West is kindly writing a series about the saints associated with our Churches. This month is the turn of St Terninus. See May 2025 newsletter p6 for St Michael.

Landrake: St Terninus

The parish of Landrake was given to Bishop Burhweald by King Edmund in exchange for land in Devon and later in 1018, during King Cnut's reign, this was declared to be for the benefit of St German's Priory. Included in the parish was the Celtic Chapel of St Erney but when the Bishop's See was relocated to Devon the whole parish remained under the control of the Priory. Following the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539 the Priory Estate was sold, initially, to the Eliots, Hobarts and Carew-Poles.

The present church at St Erney possibly stands on the site of an early Celtic Chapel dedicated to St Terninus – the latinised form of Terni or Terney. Nothing is known about St Terni, but history records a St Ternoc Bishop of Illy in Brittany. Cornwall had many links with Brittany down through the years, especially in the 5th century when many saints sailed up our rivers to form churches and settlements that took their names. Often these new churches had a Holy Well nearby and in the case of St Terninus, we have one at Markwell. Over one hundred years ago, the Quiller-Couch sisters in their book *Ancient and Holy Well of Cornwall* described the well as being covered by masonry with a copious stream running from it to supply water to the few inhabitants of the village. (It is disputed as to whether the Quiller-Couch sisters were referring to the correct well. Ed)



St Francis in stained glass window in St Erney Church



This Lent, we're slowing down, listening deeply, and making space for God to speak.

When and Where

On Wednesday evenings in St Stephen's Church at 7pm

- 25 February - Introducing Lectio Divina
- 4 March - Hearing God in the Bible
- 11 March - Hearing the Holy Spirit in our thoughts
- 18 March - Responding to God in prayer & prophecy
- 1 April - Hearing God in the whole world

What is Lectio Divina?

Lectio divina is an ancient Christian practice – a gentle, prayerful way of reading Scripture that helps us hear God's voice through the Bible in fresh and powerful ways.

We'll be using *The Lectio Course*, a five-part series with Pete Greig (24-7 Prayer), who guides us step by step into this beautiful rhythm of prayer.

Each session includes a short 15-minute video followed by relaxed group discussion using the course guide. Every episode also features a conversation with a special guest. Watch the Lectio Course trailer: <https://www.24-7prayer.com/resource/lectio-course/>

There is a book that accompanies the course, *How to Hear God* by Pete Greig. It is available on Amazon for £12.99 and Eden for £13.31. It is not essential to have this book to do the course.

Everyone Welcome

Everyone is welcome – whether you're brand new to prayer or longing to go deeper this Lent. Come as you are, bring a friend, and journey with us.

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 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

Annual Meetings: A Season for Gratitude and Fresh Vision



Stay Connected with Us Please Sign Up to ChurchSuite

If you haven't yet added your details to ChurchSuite, can I gently encourage you to do so. It's the safest and most secure way for us to store your contact information, and very soon it will become the only way we communicate with the church family about services, events, pastoral updates, and weekly news.

When you register, please make sure you tick the box giving us permission to email you. Without that consent, we're not legally allowed to send you the weekly news sheet or any other updates – even if you've been part of the church for years. It only takes a moment, and it really helps us stay connected and care for our community well.

Rev'd Laura

[saltashteamministry.org/
churchsuite.html](https://saltashteamministry.org/churchsuite.html)



As we approach our APCMs on **Sunday 29 March** after the 10.30am United Service at SS Nicholas and Faith, we enter that yearly moment when we pause, give thanks, and look honestly at the shape of our shared ministry. These meetings aren't just about reports and elections; they're about discerning together how God is calling our churches to grow, adapt, and serve in the year ahead.

This year, we have several key roles to fill across our parishes: **Deanery Synod Representatives, Churchwardens, and PCC members.** These roles are vital – not simply for keeping the wheels turning, but for helping us listen to our communities, respond creatively, and shape the future with wisdom and hope.

We are deeply grateful for those who have carried these responsibilities faithfully, often for many years. Their dedication has sustained our churches through seasons of change, challenge, and blessing. If you are one of those long-serving members, please hear our heartfelt thanks.

At the same time, ministry is changing, and our PCCs need to reflect that change. New voices, fresh thinking, and a wider range of experiences help us see possibilities we might otherwise miss. And the truth is this: **unless space is created, people often don't see the need to step up.** When the same faithful faces carry on year after year, it can

look as though everything is covered – even when, behind the scenes, we know the load is heavy.

There is also a deeply biblical rhythm to this. Moses, after decades of faithful leadership, eventually hands over to Joshua so that God's people could move into the next

stage of their journey. John the Baptist recognises that his season of leading must give way to another's, "He must increase, but I must decrease."

These moments aren't about stepping back in defeat; they are about stepping aside in faith, trusting that God will raise up new gifts and new leaders for a new season.

For some, this may be the right moment to **graciously step aside**, creating room for others to discover their gifts and take their place in shaping the life of the church. For others, it may be the nudge to offer your time, your skills, or simply your willingness to learn.

If you've ever wondered whether you might have something to contribute – practical skills, creative ideas, a listening ear, or a heart for your church – this could be your moment. None of these roles require perfection; they simply require openness, prayerfulness, and a desire to help our churches flourish.

Let's approach this APCM season with gratitude for all that has been, and with openness to the new things God may be inviting us to do together.



Coming Up

St Piran's Day Beetle Drive

Saturday 7 March, 6.30pm for 7pm
St Nicholas & Faith Church Rooms

Fun for all ages!

Includes a pasty and saffron bun supper.



Children's Society Box Opening

St Stephen's Church
10am to 11.30am
Wednesday
11 March



Coffee and Cake with Children's Society Box Opening.
All money raised will go to the Children's Society.

There will also be a bring and buy table.

Craft Afternoon

Monday 16 March and every 3rd Monday
2pm to 4pm in SSNF Church Rooms



Burger Night

Wednesday 15 April,
6pm for 6.30pm
St Stephen's Church



Beef, chicken or veggie burger, all served with home-made coleslaw, macaroni cheese & potato wedges followed by luxury chocolate fudge cake.

£13 pp. Please pay by 5 April.

More info: saltashteamministry.org/burger-night.html

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



There will be a series of Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter Candlelit Supper Concerts at St Michael's, Landrake

Tickets will be £10 each concert.
Bulk book all four dates for a £5 discount!

Donated raffle prizes will be gratefully received.

Watch this space!