Saltash Area Newsletter

Dec 2024 / Jan 2025

St Michael Landrake

St Mary Botus Fleming

St Terninus St Erney

SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash

St Stephens Saltash

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

Unity, Stability and Joy

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As the Christmas season approaches, we are invited to pause and reflect on the unity, stability, and joy that our faith brings into the world. This is a year where this seems to be more challenging than normal, the Church of England must start 2025 in a season of repentance and lament as we review the terrible events that were highlighted in the Makin report. There will be a new Archbishop of Canterbury and she or he will have a fractured and hurting Church to gather up.

Locally, we are preparing for more change as we hope to continue on the process to become a Benefice of five parishes and six church buildings – the proposed Kernow Gateway Benefice.

In preparation for our proposed regrouping, I have started the Diocesan course on Oversight Ministry. Having completed the Position of First Responsibility course in November, the very next week I started the new course! The Diocesan Plan for Change and Renewal is committed to providing training and support to the clergy. Over the next ten months I will attend six, two day, residential colleges in Truro. The colleges will offer time to be with other clergy, to pray, study Scripture and learn together. This will be the third cohort in the Diocese and on completion of it, all three of the Oversight Ministers and Rural Dean in the East Wivelshire will have been trained. Do ask me about the training and how it is working as it will inevitably bring more changes to my way of working.

In a world often marked by change and uncertainty, it is in the simple, profound message of Christ's birth that we find a steadfast love. The events of the nativity are not

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 1 December
From Darkness to Light
6.30pm SS Nicholas & Faith

Sunday 8 December
Nine Lessons & Carols
6.30pm St Erney

Wednesday 11 December
Nine Lessons & Carols
7.30pm St Stephens
East Cornwall Bach Choir

Sunday 15 December
Christmas Sing-Along
6.30pm St Stephens

Sunday 22 December
Quiet Christmas
4pm SS Nicholas & Faith

Christmas Eve
Crib Service
3pm St Stephen
4pm St Michael
Nine Lessons & Carols
(Kings College tradition)
6.30pm St Mary
Christmas Holy Communion
9pm SS Nicholas & Faith
Midnight Mass
11.30pm St Stephen
11.30pm St Michael

Christmas Day
Christmas Holy Communion
10am St Stephen
10am St Erney
11.15am St Mary

DECEMBER SERVICES

Christmas Services on page 1

Advent 1 December
St Michael, Landrake
9.30am Morning Worship
St Stephen-by-Saltash
10am Morning Worship
SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash
10am Holy Communion
6.30pm Darkness to Light
St Mary, Botus Fleming
11.15am Morning Worship
6.30pm Evensong

Sunday 8 December
St Michael, Landrake
9.30am Morning Worship
St Stephen-by-Saltash
10am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evensong
SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash
10am Morning Worship
St Mary, Botus Fleming
11.15am Holy Communion
St Erney, Landrake
6.30pm 9 Lessons & Carols

Wednesday 11 December
St Stephen-by-Saltash
6.30pm 9 Lessons & Carols

Sunday 15 December
St Michael, Landrake
9.30am Holy Communion
St Stephen-by-Saltash
10am Morning Worship
6.30pm Xmas Sing-Along
SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash
10am Holy Communion
St Mary, Botus Fleming
11.15am Morning Worship

Sunday 22 December
St Michael, Landrake
9.30am Morning Worship
St Stephen-by-Saltash
10am Holy Communion
SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash
10am Morning Worship
4pm Quiet Christmas
St Mary, Botus Fleming
11.15am Morning Worship

Sunday 29 December
St Stephen-by-Saltash
10am Holy Communion
United Service

Wednesdays (4 & 18 Dec)
St Stephen-by-Saltash
10am Holy Communion

just stories from the past, but a living reminder that God is with us, offering peace and hope that endures beyond the seasons. We do not simply remember that Christ came that very first Christmas, but also that He will come again. In the months ahead, as we move through Advent and Christmas, and into the new year, I continue to pray that the themes of unity, stability, and joy will be evident in our lives, both individually and as a Church family on a local and national level.

As we step into the new year, we are reminded that our faith is the foundation upon which we can build our lives. January, often a quieter month after the excitement of Christmas, is a time for reflection and renewal. It's an opportunity to look forward with hope, knowing that the love and joy of Christ go with us into every new season of our lives.

In January, we can focus on 'new life' and the revelation of Christ to the world. As we celebrate the Epiphany, we are reminded that Christ came for all people, bringing the greatness of God's love to all corners of the earth. May this inspire us to embrace the joy and hope that Christ brings into our lives and even more importantly, share it with those around us.

Finally, I want to say thank you to all of you who contribute to the life of our churches. Advent and Christmas are such a busy time of year, and without all of your help and support we couldn't offer all that we do.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ and the dawn of a new year, I pray that each of you will experience the profound sense of being loved and in God's presence.

Wishing you a blessed and joyful Christmas, when it comes.

Dursona
Rev'd Laura

Prayer for Epiphany

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

JANUARY SERVICES

Sunday 5 January
St Michael, Landrake
9.30am Morning Worship
St Stephen-by-Saltash
10am Morning Worship
SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash
10am Holy Communion
St Mary, Botus Fleming
11.15am Morning Worship
6.30pm Evensong

Sunday 12 January
St Michael, Landrake
9.30am Morning Worship
St Stephen-by-Saltash
10am Holy Communion
SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash
10am Morning Worship
St Mary, Botus Fleming
11.15am Holy Communion

Sunday 19 January
St Michael, Landrake
9.30am Holy Communion
St Stephen-by-Saltash
10am Morning Worship
6.30pm Evensong
SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash
10am Holy Communion
St Mary, Botus Fleming
11.15am Morning Worship

Sunday 26 January
St Michael, Landrake
9.30am Morning Worship
St Stephen-by-Saltash
10am Holy Communion
SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash
10am Morning Worship
St Mary, Botus Fleming
11.15am Morning Worship

Wednesdays (1 & 15 Jan)
St Stephen-by-Saltash
10am Holy Communion

NB: SSNF Sunday services may move to 10.30am from January. Details will be on pew sheets and at saltashteamministry.org

Christmas Tree Festival 2024

Saturday 23 November to Friday 13 December

FREE ENTRY – donations invited

Opening Times

Saturday 23 November: **10am to 6pm**
Bacon butties available until 1pm.

Sunday 24 November: **2pm to 6pm**

Monday to Friday: **2pm to 6pm**

Saturday 30 November: **10am to 6pm**
Bacon butties available until 1pm.

Sunday 1 December: **2pm to 6pm**
The Burraton Boys will be singing at 3pm.

Monday to Friday: **2pm to 6pm**
Friday 6th: Brunel School will sing among the trees.

Saturday 7 December: **10am to 7.30pm**
Bacon butties available until 1pm.
Mulled wine and shortbread after 6pm.

Sunday 8 December: **2pm to 6pm**

Monday to Friday: **2pm to 6pm**

Grand Christmas Draw

First prize is an alcoholic hamper, second prize £100, third prize a luxury hamper and many other prizes.

Recent Events

Mother's Union

Mothers' Union met on the second Tuesday in November and we were wearing our 'crafty' hats as we prepared our decorations for our tree in the festival at St Nicholas & St Faith Church. We had chosen Peace as our theme this year and were very busy cutting out doves whilst we enjoyed conversation.

Some of us also engaged in craft work on the third Monday of the month in St Nicholas & St Faith Church Hall. Knitted items are always appreciated for our Outreach team to distribute.

Mothers' Union coffee, cake and chat mornings are on the second Wednesday of the month between 10am and 11.30am at St Stephen's and we hope that the numbers of people visiting the Church will grow.

MOSSAF

We held our last meet up of this year in November when we visited the Lord Louis Carvery and enjoyed a meal together.

We now close down for the winter months and start back up in March. We have had another amazing year of speakers and delicious meals and pleasant times together. We have an exciting diary in the planning, so why not join us next year?

Wishing all our members a Peaceful Christmas. May the true spirit of Christmas shine in your heart and light your path.

Remembrance Sunday

At SSSNF **and at Botus**

Recent Events continued

Messy Church

Messy Church was well attended in November when we were thinking about the coming season of Advent. We thought about how waiting and getting ready for something makes it more exciting when it does arrive. In the Bible there were different people who were all expecting something that they had been told was arriving soon. The Israelites were expecting a Warrior Leader who would fight the Romans and free their country. The Kings were looking for the place where a Wise Man, with new ideas to share, was to be born according to the stars. Then there was a young girl who was looking forward with joy and trepidation to the birth of her baby son. She had been told by an angel that the baby would be very special – the Son of God!

All these people were preparing to welcome something good into their hearts and minds. Of course, we know that one group would be disappointed. Mary's baby Jesus was born and was indeed the Son of God. The Kings found the baby who grew up with many new ideas that would change the lives of many but the Israelites were disappointed – Jesus did not come to fight the Romans nor anyone else. He brought love into the world.

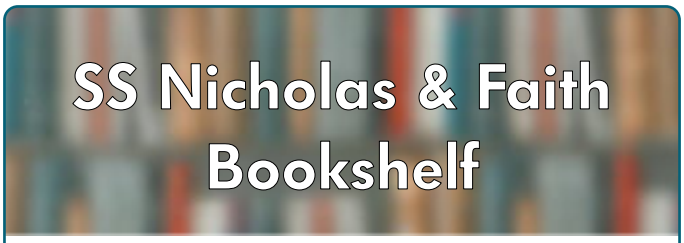
The families in St Stephen's made many crafts to remind us of the story of Jesus coming, including angels and stars that you can see on our tree in the festival at St Nicholas and St Faith Church. After our worship we enjoyed eating our tea in fellowship.

Thanks to all who contributed to making a success of our afternoon.

On 14 December we will hold our Christmas Party and then on 18 January we will celebrate with a Christingle Service.

Celebrate a Greener Christmas

Find ways to make your Christmas festivities both a joyous celebration of Christ's coming and environmentally conscious. Explore A Rocha UK's twelve tips for a greener Christmas at arocha.org.uk/our-twelve-tips-for-a-greener-christmas



Did you know there are four shelves of books on religious subjects at the back of the Church? Biographies, poetry, bible stories, lives of saints, thoughts, prayers and many more to choose from.

All FREE for reading and available to members from ALL our churches.

Just pop along, have a browse and help yourself. Take a book home, read and then maybe return it or pass it onto someone else. No time limit and remember – it's FREE.

SSNF is open most afternoons from noon to 4pm and, of course, at service times.

Epiphany Quiz

1. Named by the Romans, the month of January was named after the Roman god Janus. Janus is the god of?
   a) War b) Resolutions c) Celebrations
   d) Beginnings

2. What is the birthstone for January?
   a) Ruby b) Garnet c) Diamond d) Emerald

3. What is the British birth flower for the month of January?
   a) Rose b) Poppy c) Carnation
   d) Lily of the Valley

4. Which of the following American presidents was born in January?
   a) Bill Clinton b) Richard Nixon
   c) Ronald Reagan d) Barack Obama

5. In January of what year did, the Euro banknotes and coins enter circulation?
   a) 2004 b) 2002 c) 2000 d) 2006

6. The Internet Domain name system was created in January of what year?
   a) 1985 b) 1975 c) 1995 d) 2005

7. In January of what year was Czechoslovakia divided into Slovakia and the Czech Republic.
   a) 2003 b) 1983 c) 1993 d) 2013

8. Which of the following authors was born in January?
   a) J R R Tolkien b) J K Rowling c) Stephen King
   d) Mark Twain

9. In what month is the Spring Equinox?
   a) April b) May c) March d) February

10. Except for leap years, January always begins on the same day as what other month?
    a) May b) June c) July d) October

Answers on p6

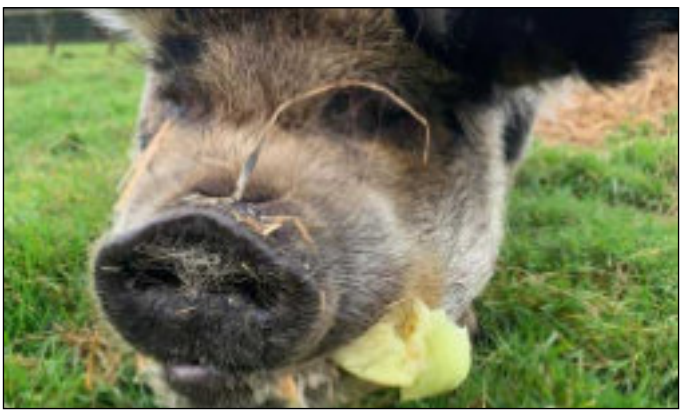
Recent Events continued

START

We had a good turnout of members for lunch in town before assembling at Wesley for an interesting talk on Woodside Animal Welfare Trust. Forty years ago Dave and Carole Bowles ran a boarding business and started to care for a growing number of unwanted dogs and cats. Compassionate friends in the Thornbury Animal Group raised vital funds to help Carol and her family who in time moved to Elfordleigh and "Woodside" was established. Animal rescue completely took over their lives and gradually better facilities were established to care for not only dogs and cats but rabbits, Guinea pigs, rats, mice, ferrets, hamsters, chickens, turkeys, goats, sheep, pigs and ponies. Carol continues to work, unpaid, with many volunteers caring for the animals and raising funds for the Trust. Where possible the Sanctuary looks for the right homes to adopt pets in their care to make room for others. The Registered Charity runs shops in Saltash, Ridgeway, Tavistock, Wolseley Road and Colebrook; it also depends on Donations and Legacies.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 18 December, when together with the Probus Club we gather at the China Fleet Club for a Christmas Lunch.

The New Year will start on 17 January with a lunch followed by a planning meeting for 2025 events.



PCC Information Sessions

Previous Sessions

Thank you to all those who have joined us in the first two sessions. We have looked at:

- Why the Church exists?
- Why do PCCs exist?
- The best way to conduct meetings
- Church life: worship, mission and community

We've had some very lively debates and discussions on church life!

Next Sessions

The next sessions are at Botus Fleming church hall on:

- Saturday 25 January 9.30am to 12.30pm
- Saturday 8 February 9.30am to 12.30pm

These sessions will be looking at how we work together as one Benefice, made up of five parishes and six church buildings. We will be looking at:

- The joys and challenges of being a Multi-Parish Benefice
- Relating well across the group
- Hospitality
- Nurturing leaders
- Better together
- Vision for the future

This is open to all PCC members, so please do spread the word. Discussing these topics will help us be ready to form together.

Samaritan's Purse

Many thanks to everyone who, in some way, donated to this year's Samaritan's Purse Appeal. The response was truly amazing.

The boxes are now on their way and you can be assured that there are many happy faces. *Margaret Dell*

Saltash foodbank

Our latest needs:

- Tinned ham
- Jars of pickle / chutney
- Jars of jam
- Instant custard sachets
- Boxes or bars of chocolate / selection boxes / sweets
- Savoury biscuits
- Savoury snacks
- Gravy / stuffing / sauces
- Mince pies
- Christmas puddings (various sizes)
- Small Christmas cakes
- Gifts for teenage boys / girls
- Gifts for ladies / gents
- Christmas crackers

Make a difference this Christmas!

Please donate food at Waitrose, Lidl, Food Warehouse, the Co-op or in the boxes at the back of the Saltash Churches and/or donate money via the Saltash Foodbank website: saltash.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money

Bank the Food

Download the 'Bank the Food' App on your mobile phone (scan the QR code). This will enable you to see which items Saltash Foodbank needs right now!

The Baptism of Christ

by Malcolm Guite

Beginning here we glimpse the Three-in-one;
The river runs, the clouds are torn apart,
The Father speaks, the Spirit and the Son
Reveal to us the single loving heart
That beats behind the being of all things
And calls and keeps and kindles us to light.
The dove descends, the spirit soars and sings
'You are belovèd, you are my delight!'
In that swift light and life, as water spills
And streams around the Man like quickening rain,
The voice that made the universe reveals
The God in Man who makes it new again.
He calls us too, to step into that river,
To die and rise and live and love forever.

Answers to Quiz on p 5: 1. d) Beginnings 2. b) Garnet 3. c) Carnation 4. b) Richard Nixon 5. b) 2002 6. a) 1985 7. c) 1993 8. a) J R R Tolkien 9. c) March 10. d) October

Will Keating Winter Candlelight Concert

Saturday 18 January

7.30pm at St Michael's Church

Award winning Cornish folk musician, Will Keating, is set to enchant audiences in some of Cornwall's most historic and picturesque churches.

Tickets £10 in advance

(£12 on the door)

willkeatingcornwall.com/tickets

Carol Singing in Botus Fleming

Saturday 21 December

Monday 23 December

meet at 6pm

at St Mary's Church

Saturday's carol singing will finish at the Rising Sun for mulled wine.

All welcome

Diary Dates

Christmas Tree Festival

SSNF Church
Saturday 23 November
to Friday 13 December

See page 3 for details.

Mothers' Union

St Stephen's Church
Tuesday 10 December, 2pm

Coffee & Cake

St Stephen's Church
Wed 11 December, 10am

Messy Church

St Stephen's Church
Saturday 14 December, 3pm

Christmas Party

S.T.A.R.T.

Wednesday 18 December

Christmas Meal with Probus at China Fleet

Coffee & Cake

St Stephen's Church
Wed 8 January, 10am

Mothers' Union

St Stephen's Church
Tuesday 14 January, 2pm

S.T.A.R.T.

Friday 17 January

Messy Church

St Stephen's Church
Saturday 18 January, 3pm

Will Keating Concert

St Michael's Church
Saturday 18 January, 7.30pm

See left column for details.

Craft Afternoon

SSNF Church Rooms
Monday 20 January, 2pm

Advent Course

We will journey through Advent with Paula Gooder's *Women of the Nativity*

Where

Join us at St Nicholas and St Faith as we prepare for Christmas.

When

Mondays afternoons 2.30pm to 4pm

- 25 November
- 2 December
- 9 December
- 16 December

Coffee, Cake & Chat

Wednesdays

11 December and 8 January

10am to 11.30am in St Stephen's

Craft Afternoon

Monday 20 January

2pm to 4pm in SSNF Church Rooms

Bring along your current project or start a new one!

Please email articles for the next issue to: newsletter@saltashteamministry.org by 20 January.