Saltash Area Newsletter

July / August 2024

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

Exam Season

As I write thousands of year 6 pupils are waiting for the results of their SATs, the culmination of four years of preparation for these tests. Yet these are tests which in the grand scheme of things matter not. Yes, at the time and for the individuals and schools involved, they matter a great deal. No one wants to feel like they've not got to the standard they 'ought' meet.

Pity the poor GCSE and 'A' level students who are waiting for results hoping against hope that they'll make the grade and earn their ticket to the next stage. Because that's in essence what these summative assessments are. A ticket to the next thing.

And there seems to be such pressure for children and young people to know what career they want to pursue, so they can choose what subjects to do to get that ticket. How many friends did you have when they were 14 who knew what career they wanted? Thinking at 14 about what I might want to do for 'A' levels, never mind whether I wanted to go to uni, just didn't compute.

But this pressure is put on our children today. Which seems ironic in an age where the expectation of settling into a job which would last until retirement seems like a relic of a bygone age. Today we assume at least one mid-career shift. Various friends have had one career and then retrained as nurses, teachers etc. My fellow trainee vicars came from all walks of life, I started training at 38. How we start out is rarely where we end up.

The same is true for the life of the church, in 2000 years across the world the church has changed shape and evolved. We are still changing and evolving and learning because the only person who knows the end from the beginning is God. He alone knows the path we'll take, as a church and as individuals, with all its twists and turns along the way. And whatever twists and turns there are, none of them are wasted with him.

We need to let our children and grandchildren know that when Jesus picked his disciples, he did so knowing who and what they were and it all informed what fulfilling their calling to proclaim the Good News looked like. The way they communicated, where they went, the roles they fulfilled in the early church. No one was rejected because they hadn't passed GCSE Maths.

So, pray for our children and young people, that the pressure wouldn't get to them, and they would be free to spend as much time as they need to work out what they want to do next. Changing their minds as much as they need to. Pray that

Monday 1 July to Friday 2 August
Noon to 4pm
Mondays to Saturdays
SSNF Church
'Toys through the Ages'

Saturday 6 July
7pm, Rising Sun, Botus
Barn Dance & Pasty Supper

Monday 8 July
7pm, St Stephen's Church
MOSSAF

Tuesday 9 July
Mothers' Union
Visit to Tavistock Church

Saturday 13 July
2-5pm, St Michael's Church
Wildlife Afternoon with Cream Tea

Friday 19 July
12pm S.T.A.R.T.
Trip to Bovey Tracey

Saturday 20 July
3-5pm, St Stephen's Church
Messy Church

Saturdays 3 & 17 August
10am to 1pm
SSNF Church Rooms
Bacon Butties

Sunday 11 August
12.30pm to 2.30pm
SSNF Church Rooms
Spud & Pud Lunch

Monday 12 August
7pm, St Stephen's Church
MOSSAF

Friday 16 August
12pm S.T.A.R.T.
Tamar Bridge Visit

JULY SERVICES

Sunday 7 July

St Stephen-by-Saltash
9.30am All Age Family Service

St Michael, Landrake
9.30am Morning Worship

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash
11.15am Holy Communion

St Erney, Landrake
11.15am Matins

St Mary, Botus Fleming
11.15am Morning Worship
6.30pm Sung Evensong

Sunday 14 July

St Stephen-by-Saltash
9.30am Holy Communion

St Michael, Landrake
9.30am Holy Communion

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash
11.15am Holy Communion

Sunday 21 July

St Stephen-by-Saltash
9.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evensong

St Michael, Landrake
9.30am Morning Worship

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash
11.15am Holy Communion

St Mary, Botus Fleming
11.15am Holy Communion

Sunday 28 July

St Stephen-by-Saltash
9.30am Holy Communion

St Michael, Landrake
9.30am Holy Communion

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash
11.15am Holy Communion

St Mary, Botus Fleming
11.15am Morning Worship

Every Wednesday

St Stephen-by-Saltash
10am Holy Communion

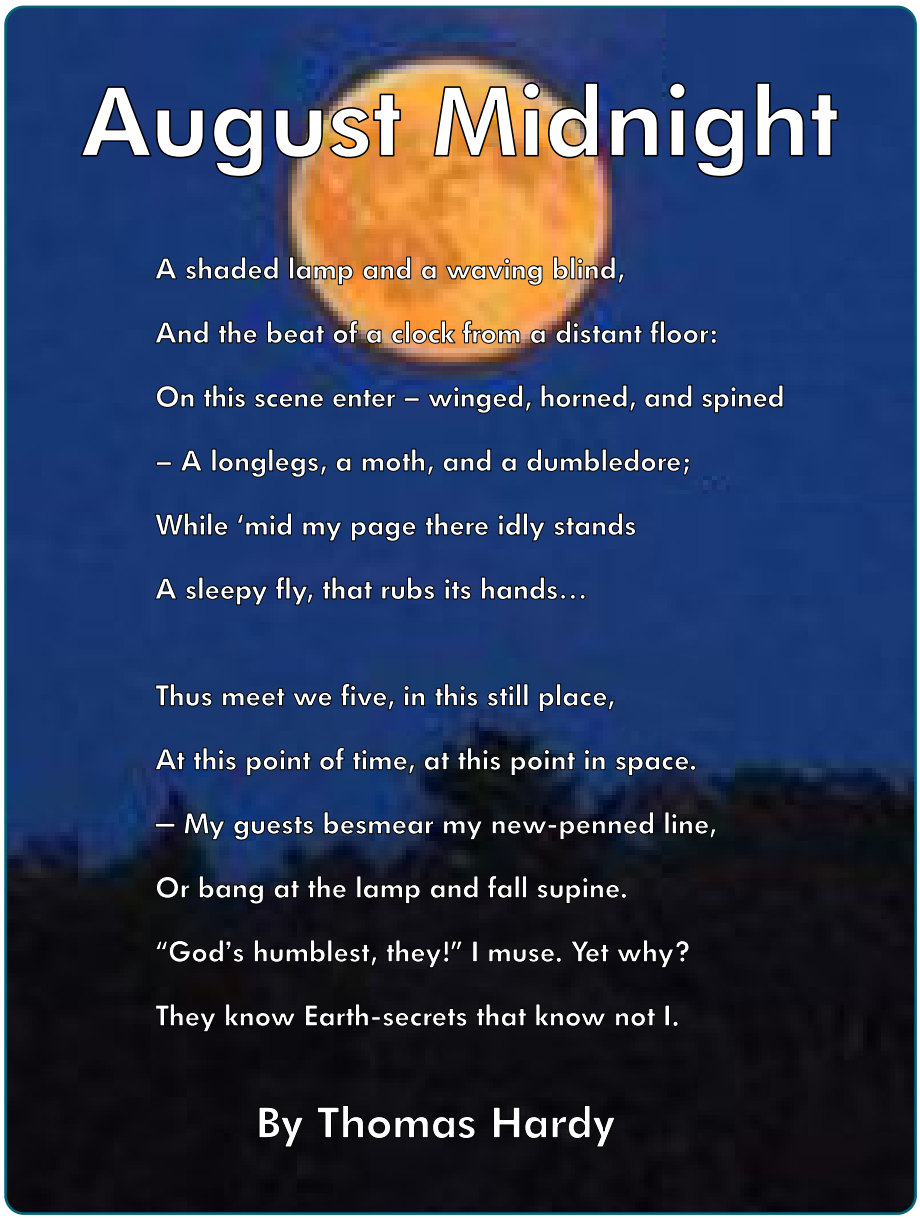
Please see saltashteamministry.org for August services and for up-to-date information.

they would absorb the boosts and knockbacks, knowing that these don't define who they are as people or what they are worth. Change is not to be feared, it may bring challenges and losses but it also brings opportunities, the chance to be open to guidance from the Holy Spirit. An undesired grade may just put that young person in to a different college that they hadn't considered, meet different people and give them an opportunity to really flourish. That's not failure, that's thriving. Adaptability and resilience are real life skills that will help anyone far more than an academic career or apprenticeship. These are also the skills that will set apart churches who want to survive in the next ten years. We all need to know that nothing is permanent except the love of God.

Pray this summer that our children and young people would know above all else that they are loved unconditionally, not based on the results they produce.

Have a blessed summer.

Dursona
Laura



It Happened in August

1. Which Caribbean island gained independence from Britain in August 1962?
2. Born in August 1901, this American became arguably the most famous jazz trumpeter, and also famous for his rendition of Hello Dolly. What was his nick name?
3. Who was the glamorous American film star who died from an overdose of sleeping pills in August 1962?
4. When Winston Churchill said, in August 1940,"Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few", to whom was he referring?
5. The eruption of which volcano, in 79 AD, destroyed the cities of Stabiae and Herculaneum?
6. In August 1945 the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, what was the name of the plane that dropped it?
7. In August 1896, gold was discovered at Rabbit Creek, a tributary of which Alaskan river?
8. In 1572 thousands of Protestant Huguenots were murdered, by Catholics, in what became to be known as The St Bartholomew's Day Massacre. In which country did it take place?
9. Born on 27 August 1910 as Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu, she founded a religious order known as the Missionaries of Charity and spent her life working in India. How was she better known?
10. Born on August 30th 1797, which author wrote the novel Frankenstein?

Answers on p8

Recent Events

MOSSAF

Our June meeting saw our Summer Meal at the Weary Friar. Raising our glasses first to our dear friend and MOSSAF member, Father Brian, we then enjoyed another tasty meal together.

Our next two meetings will see us having guest speakers in the social area of St Stephen's. The first being Rev'd Will Sweeney on Monday 8 July 7pm, who was a priest in Plympton before setting off to sea as Chaplain with the Royal Navy. We look forward to hearing his story which includes the recent publication of his first book *A Floating Parish,* which tells the account of young Priest Will and how he felt called to by God to serve the Royal Navy as Chaplain and explores the transition of parish ministry to ministry at sea. Then on Monday 12 August at 7pm, former South West Ministerial Training College Principal Rev'd Mark Butchers will be coming to see us and tell his story and stories of those he has helped in their own calling.

New members are always welcome to join us or come along to meetings that interest them. If you wish to join our group please contact Steve Hookway on ☎ 07855 600241 or email stevenhookway@hotmail.com

Prayer for Students

As the summer term ends in the coming weeks, we pray for schools and colleges, and their students, teachers and staff, may the summer bring rest and restoration. We also pray for those who are graduating from university, may they know that you are near God, as they enter a new season in their lives

Amen

Recent Events continued

Messy Church

On 15 June, over 30 parents, grandparents and children came into St Stephen's Church to celebrate 'Families' with a special mention of fathers, as the next day was to be Fathers' Day. Sandra led prayers to the most important Father in the Bible – our Heavenly Father. We thought about the meaning of this prayer, which Christians all over the world use in their worship. We also talked about how other fathers in the Bible looked after their families: Noah saved his family from the flood; Abraham led his family to a better life in a new country – just like refugee fathers today and Joseph the carpenter nurtured the young Jesus and taught him a trade.

There were framed texts of the Holy prayer to make and decorate, Noah's family to dress, stars to make to remember God's promise of a large family for Abraham. John West brought along his tools to show what carpenters use. Please look at the noticeboard to see if you recognise any family members that the children drew!

A busy enjoyable afternoon which was finished off with a short service and a delicious tea served by our volunteer helpers. We are grateful to them and the craft leaders for their help.

Next month on 20 July, we hope for good weather so that we can hold our Olympic sports afternoon and picnic on the Church lawn at 3pm.

There is no Messy Church in August, but we look forward to our meeting in September.

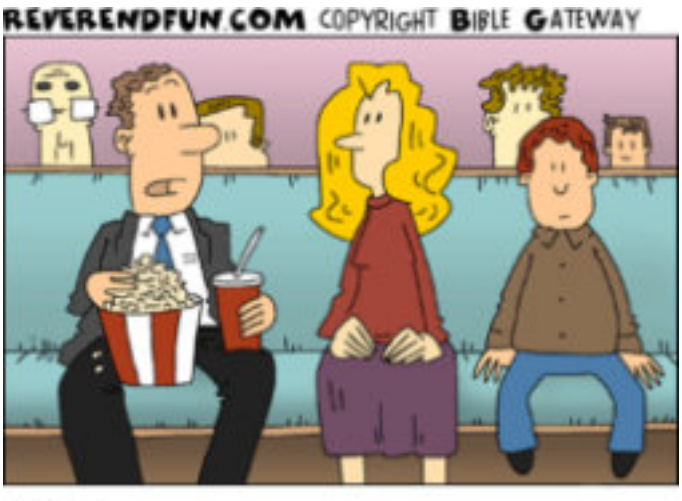
Johnny Cowling at St Stephen's

Another fun and joyous evening with Cornish comedian and entertainer Johnny Cowling was held at St Stephen's Church on Friday 14 June. There was lots of laughter, swaying, clapping and singing from all of those that attended.

We had a lovely sing along to Amazing Grace with Johnny playing the church organ, along with lots of Elvis and other well known songs.

A huge thanks must go to Mike Henwood, The Windy Ridge, Applejack Barn, Rowes bakers and Mary and Ray Wills for their very kind donations, and to Helen's sister Jenny, Teresa, Natalia and Helen's family for their help with refreshments and parking.

The event raised £719.08 for church funds.



Recent Events continued

START

In April, thirteen of us went to Buckfast Abbey and enjoyed a very pleasant lunch in the Abbey Restaurant before taking a leisurely wander around the beautiful church and soaking up the reflective atmosphere.

The first Abbey was established in 1018 when King Cnut was on the throne and in 1136 King Stephen gave it to the Abbot of Savigny and a few years later it changed to the Cistercian Order. The monks then rebuilt the monastery in stone. The 13th Century saw large areas of land across England under Cistercian control and given over to wool production with exports to Europe leading to great wealth. But under Henry VIII came the dissolution of all Catholic monasteries and the Abbey fell into disrepair.

Then in 1882 some displaced French monks made a new home in the ruins, uncovered the old Abbey foundations and painstakingly rebuilt it, completing in 1937. With the growth of tourism from the late 1970s, work continued with provision of a new car park, gift shop, restaurant and conference centre.

The May meeting started with lunch at the Community Kitchen and the opportunity to have our blood pressure taken by a Macmillan Nurse before we departed to Wesley. We then had an unplanned talk by *me,* on my return in 1965 to the West Country (I was a "Blitz Baby" born in Plymouth) to work for SWEB, initially as a Planning Engineer. Apart from finally settling down in our lovely county of Kernow, one of my first tasks was to explore much of Bodmin Moor to produce schemes to connect up a number of properties that were still "Off Grid". Over the years we moved around Cornwall and amongst the more interesting schemes that landed on my desk were: Siblyback Dam; Saltash Tunnel and bypass; Indian Queens Duel Carriageway; various factory developments and the China Fleet Club. *John West*

From St Nick's Archives

I think this was taken during the early 90's, but have no idea of the exact date or the occasion?

Who, What and When for this picture, the only person I can recognise is Miss Marion Partridge (third in from the left.)

As always any information would be appreciated, please either catch up with me on Sunday mornings or email me at: andy@saltashteamministry.org *Andy Evans*

Taste the benefits of seasonal and local food. Plan to incorporate locally grown produce into your diet and shopping list throughout the seasons, as it is harvested at its peak ripeness, ensuring superior flavour compared to imported alternatives that have travelled thousands of miles.

If saying grace before a meal is a regular practice in your household, this month, include giving thanks for your local food producers.

Recent Events continued

Wedding Flowers at St Michael's

A variety of floral arrangements were completed and photographed in church to illustrate how lovely St Michael's looks for weddings. The photos can be used to show interested couples, and also put onto Facebook to reinforce the church as an attractive option for people planning their big day.

Some of the arrangements are shown below:

Mothers' Union

At our Mothers' Union meeting in June, we welcomed Michelle Parkman who has been the Chaplain at Marjon University in Plymouth for the past eight years. Michelle is well known at St Stephen's where she ran Messy Church for some years. Michelle and her husband Tim, who is the Minister at the Baptist Church, along with their two boys, have lived in Saltash for eleven years. Michelle had come to tell us about her role as Chaplain – she is always available to help staff, students and their families if they are struggling with university life.

The first Chaplain was a Roman soldier in 350AD. He helped the destitute as a Christian amongst the people. Today, there are not just military Chaplains but many throughout all occupations – there is even a Chaplain at the Hinkley Point nuclear site.

Michelle started as assistant Chaplain when her son started school at St Nicholas Playschool and, two years later, took over as main Chaplain. Today there are 2,750 students and Michelle meets every new student in September and arranges events during Freshers' week. She is always around giving support and guidance and leads by the example of her Christian lifestyle. There is a service at the University on a Monday evening but no Sunday service as many students go home at the weekend.

We are very grateful to Michelle for spending time with us and hope that she enjoyed the tea and cake.

In July the members are visiting the Parish Church at Tavistock. We do not meet in August but on 7 September we are hosting our Cream Tea for our Summer of Hope Appeal. Tickets will be available soon.

SSNF Summer Exhibition
Toys Through the Ages

If you are able to spare an hour our two to act as a steward, we would very much appreciate it, please see the sign-up list in the Church.

Set up day will be Saturday 29 June from 10am.

A Book to Remember…

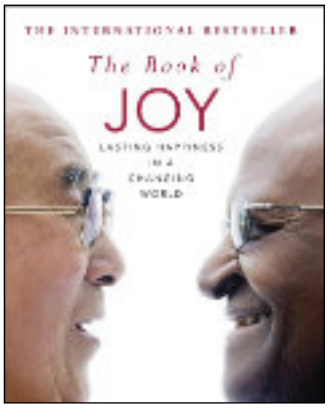
In this new series, a member of one of our six congregations is invited to talk to Dave Pitcher and tell us about a book that has been important to them in their Christian journey.

Luke Petherbridge

attends St Stephen with his wife Beverley and twins Jamie and Bella, 22 months. He is a member of the PCC. Luke was inspired to come to church by his grandparents John and Pat. Pat, known and loved by so many in the church, passed away in May 2022.

Which book have you chosen?

My book is *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World*. It describes how, to mark his eightieth birthday, the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu spent a week together exchanging experiences and ideas that, despite (or perhaps because of) violence, exile and oppression, they had been able to lead lives "brimming with joy". There is an added poignancy in that both knew that it would be the last time that they would meet.



Why is this book important to you?

I didn't read much until COVID, after which I began reading a lot. I went into a bookshop and just saw this book. The timing was important. I was meeting grandma and grandad for lunch, and I showed them this book. That was the day grandma went into hospital, and I read it in eight or nine days. A few days after I had finished it, grandma passed away. It was as though me finding this book was meant to be as it guided me in ways to cope during this difficult time.

I love how it describes the way two spiritual leaders from different religious backgrounds and beliefs meet and share how to face challenging life situations.

Is there a particular section that is important for you?

The Archbishop and the Dalai Lama identify the 'eight pillars of joy'. These are: perspective; humility; humour; acceptance; forgiveness; gratitude; compassion; and generosity. I especially like the description of acceptance – dealing with difficult times, including death. The two leaders agree that a degree of solitude is needed, but that we need to "seek out our own communities of love" and bring our joy to them.

The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World. His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, with Douglas Abrams. Hutchinson. 2016.

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

Assist local wildlife during very hot weather. Provide hedgehogs with hedgehog biscuits (available at many pet stores and online) or dog biscuits (small/crumbed) as their prey of slugs, snails and worms diminishes, and ensure a safe exit for them and other small mammals if you have a garden pond. Help garden birds by maintaining a filled bird bath and supplying supplementary food including black sunflower seeds, pinhead oatmeal, soaked sultanas, raisins, currants, mealworms, waxworms, and a nutritious seed mixture, when natural supplies become scarce.

More tips can be found at arocha.org.uk/looking-after-wildlife-in-the-heat/

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

Service Pattern Changes

As a set of six churches we are entering a storming season of change, we are in a position where I am an Oversight Minister with six churches instead of a vicar with one or two. A service pattern that was devised around a Rector, a Team Vicar, a curate, two licensed non-stipendiary ministers and three licensed Readers, does not work for one stipendiary priest. The home visits, home communions and popping in to see people at Derriford is no longer a possibility. Inevitably as an Oversight Minister my days are filled more with leadership than with traditional ministry. Whilst I'm thankful for the Priests with permission to officiate it is unfair to rely on those who have full time jobs or who are retired to be propping up an unsustainable system. I very much hope they will continue to work with us in the new pattern.

This summer I, with the Churchwardens and Ministry Team, will be changing the ministry pattern, the other Benefices in our Deanery had to make these hard decisions some time ago, it is now our turn to make the sacrifices and cut our cloth accordingly. This will involve some losses but it will also allow for other ministries to grow with the opportunity of introducing new people. Change is uncomfortable but Jesus can still the storm and put chaos in to order.

While decisions are being made and implemented there may on occasion be sudden cancellation of a service if we do not have a minister available. I appreciate this is unsettling.

Let's pray this summer for the storms to be quelled and Jesus' love to reign, so that this autumn we can settle in to a fruitful and sustainable pattern which will allow the churches to thrive. *Rev'd Laura*

Answers to Quiz on page 3: 1. Jamaica 2. Satchmo (Louis Armstrong) 3. Marilyn Monroe 4. The RAF pilots 5. Vesuvius 6. Enola Gay 7. The Klondike 8. France 9. Mother Teresa 10. Mary Shelley

Toys Through the Ages

1 July to 2 August in SSNF Church

Monday – Saturday from noon to 4 pm

There will be no entry fee but any donation would be most appreciated

Barn Dance & Pasty Supper

Rising Sun, Botus Fleming

Saturday 6 July, 7pm

Tickets £12.50 from
☎ 01752 843683

Come and join the fun!

Wildlife Afternoon & Cream Tea

St Michael's Church (meadow area)

Saturday 13 July, 2-5pm

- View the community veg plot
- Hear about our tree maintenance plan
- Learn to make homemade compost
- Enjoy a cream tea

Bacon Butties

Saturdays 3 and 17 August

10am to 1pm in SSNF Church Rooms

All welcome

Come and enjoy breakfast with friends – not to be missed!

Spud & Pud Lunch

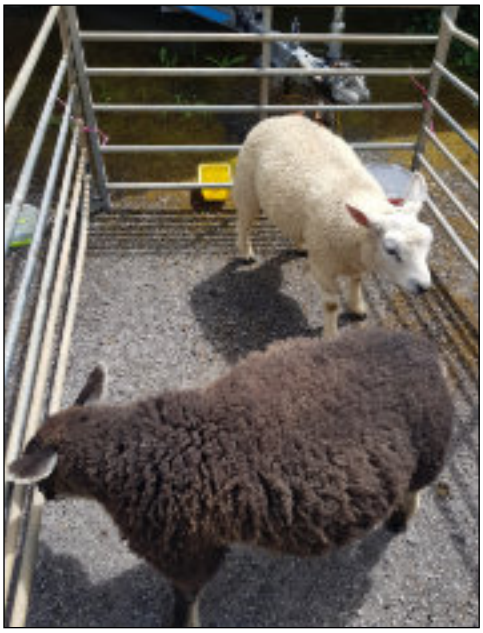
Sunday 11 August from 12.30pm

in SSNF Church Rooms

£6.50 pp for Christian Aid

Please sign up at the back of the church or email Margaret, mje1503@gmail.com

St Mary's Flower Festival



The Churches in the Saltash Team, with the addition of Landulph, were together again for the flower festival, garden party and dog show in Botus Fleming. The weather was kind and visitors included both old families returning and couples new to the area.

Many thanks to the organisers for their support and hard work.

The event was a great success, enjoyed by all and raised £1,200.

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