Saltash Area Newsletter

September 2024

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

New Season, New Opportunities

For me, September is the real New Year, rather than January. I delight in the marked change as we move from summer to autumn and the sense of new beginnings you can almost smell in the air. The sun feels different, the trees are ready to let go of the leaves, parents are (more than) ready to let their children go back to school and the promise of cosy days ahead always makes me feel quite excited. We have spent a lot of time in the overgrown garden at The Rectory in the last few weeks, stripping out plants that have been suffocating other plants and depriving them of light. I'm looking forward to an autumn of discovering more areas of this garden as we tend it and shape it into a garden fit for the purpose of being an area to reflect on God's goodness, to relax in and to welcome friends and family.

This September I have even more reasons to be excited, the alterations to our service pattern will see our Local Worship Leaders being fully involved and using their gifts in our churches. The new types of services this enables will bring a variety to our diet of worship, involving more people and not restricted to those who are ordained. Of course, there are those who will mourn the reduction in frequency of their favourite services. But this sacrifice will allow other areas of the church to grow so that we become a group of churches fit for the purpose of serving Saltash in the 2020s and beyond, although this will take time.

I am delighted to say that we have three more people signed up to start the Local Worship Leaders course this September. Please do pray for Stephanie, Luke and Dave as they embark on this new journey, without the new service pattern the opportunity would not have been available for them to discover their new gifts and talents. This month we will also celebrate the commissioning and recommissioning of Caroline and George at a special service in St Petroc's, Bodmin on 22 September at 4pm.

The new Morning Worship services being offered are *A Service of the Word*. The Church of England reminds us "leading people in worship is leading people into mystery, into the unknown and yet the familiar". In some ways this also perfectly describes Morning Worship, it is unknown to some of our churches yet it will be very familiar. The prayers of Penitence and Intercessions, the hymns, the readings, the Creed will all be familiar, but the format may be unknown to you at the moment.

As we become more familiar with this new service I hope those leading it will

Saturday 7 September
3pm to 5.30pm
St Stephen's Church
Mothers' Union
Cream Tea

Monday 9 September
7pm, St Stephen's Church
MOSSAF

Wed 11 September
10am to Noon
St Stephen's Church
Coffee, Cake & Chat

Saturday 14 September
From 3pm
Sir Robert Geffery Hall
Posh Tea with Prosecco

Friday 20 September
Noon – S.T.A.R.T.
Trip to Devonport Market

Saturday 21 September
3pm to 5pm
St Stephen's Church
Messy Church

Wednesday Services

Please note that the Wednesday morning services will be on the first and third Wednesdays of the month from September.

We can catch up with our friends on the second Wednesdays over coffee and cake (at 10am in St Stephen's).

SEPTEMBER SERVICES

Note: St Stephen's services have moved to 10am

Sunday 1 September

St Michael, Landrake
9.30am Morning Worship

St Stephen-by-Saltash
10am Family Morning Worship

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash
11.15am Holy Communion

St Erney, Landrake
11.15am Morning Worship

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

Sunday 8 September

St Michael, Landrake
9.30am Morning Worship

St Stephen-by-Saltash
10am Holy Communion

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash
11.15am Morning Worship

St Mary, Botus Fleming
11.15am Holy Communion

Sunday 15 September

St Michael, Landrake
9.30am Holy Communion

St Stephen-by-Saltash
10am Morning Worship
6.30pm Evensong

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash
11.15am Holy Communion

St Mary, Botus Fleming
11.15am Morning Worship

St Erney, Landrake
11.15am Morning Worship

Sunday 22 September

St Michael, Landrake
9.30am Morning Worship

St Stephen-by-Saltash
10am Holy Communion

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash
11.15am Morning Worship

St Mary, Botus Fleming
11.15am Morning Worship

Sunday 29 September

St Michael, Landrake
10am United Holy Communion

Wednesdays 4 & 18 Sept

St Stephen-by-Saltash
10am Holy Communion

also feel able to be creative with it. St Michael's, Landrake has recently enjoyed Morning Worship in the Celtic style which uses accessible language and emphasises justice and healing and uses the imagery of creation. It will be a joy to see other churches offering a variety of worship.

I am hugely grateful to the Churchwardens for their support as we try to make the service pattern in these churches sustainable. The Priests with Permission to Officiate have also been incredibly generous in their support of these services and the help they are willing to offer to the Local Worship Leaders.

I wonder what you are looking forward to this autumn? What will God reveal in this season of letting go?

With love and prayers

Rev'd Laura

How Much Do You Know About The Olympics?

1. Which city hosted the first Olympic games?
2. How many rings are there on the Olympic games logo?
3. How many times has London hosted the Olympic games?
4. Which city was due to host the Olympics in 2020?
5. In which city were the 2016 summer Olympics held?
6. Which country is the only country to have won at least one gold medal at every summer Olympics?
7. How often are the Summer Olympic games held?
8. Which British athlete has won the most Olympic medals?
9. In what year did females start competing in the Olympic games?
10. What are the colours of the Olympic rings?

Answers on p8

Recent Events

Spud & Pud Lunch at SSNF

In August St Nicholas and St Faith held a Spud and Pud lunch for Christian Aid. This was enjoyed by all who attended and there was a lovely atmosphere in the room. Just over £200 was made. Thanks to everyone who came along and to all the helpers.

Bacon Butties at SSNF

On two Saturdays in August, we held our usual Bacon Buttie mornings, and the total raised for the two mornings was a little over £400. It was good to see people chatting and reminiscing when seeing someone that they had not seen for a while.

Thank you to all who support us at these events.

Prayer for Creationtide

Holy God, Into one world you have set one community of creation. Plants and animals, earth, sky, and sun; women, men, boys and girls; young and old. We acknowledge our dependence on the fruits of the earth, the clear running water, the shelter of trees and the goodness of soil. We acknowledge our dependence on you, Lord, as author and creator. So help us, Lord of all, that the network of creation which so supports and helps us, may not be further broken and that we may be amongst those who repair the damage of the years.

Amen

Doreen's 90th Birthday

Doreen Taylor (front row left) former member of St Nicholas Church choir, now living in Tavistock, at her 90th birthday celebration with her family and friends.

Recent Events continued

Toys Through The Ages at SSNF

This year our Summer exhibition was Toys through the Ages, and it was extremely well received, both with exhibitors and visitors. It realised about £230 in donations. There were dolls circa 1880, a very old typewriter, dolls pram, rocking horse, to name but a few.

Thank you on behalf of the Social committee to all those who helped with stewarding. Five weeks was a long time, special thanks go to Mr and Mrs John West, from St Stephen's who helped on several occasions.

START

Our June outing was to The Wilcove Inn, near Torpoint, for an excellent lunch. Refreshed we took the short drive over to Antony House which, together with the formal gardens, was given over to the care of the National Trust in 1961 by Sir John Carew Pole on the understanding that the family could continue in residence.

The house was built between 1718 and 1724 for Sir William Carew, 5th Baronet, and is faced with Pentewan stone. The rooms are panelled with beautiful Dutch oak, with fine 18th century furnishings, textiles and a splendid collection of portraits including some of Sir Joshua Reynolds` works.

The grounds were landscaped by the Georgian garden designer Humphry Repton, but added to in the 19th century with yew hedges, topiary, Indian stone carvings, statuary and a great Burmese temple bell. In recent times the Antony Cone Water sculpture, by William Pye, has been installed along with other modern sculptures. Other features include the magnificent huge Black Walnut Tree, a Cork Tree, Knot Garden, Dovecote and a Folly.

We ended our visit with a refreshing cup of tea in the café and all agreed what a pleasant trip this had turned out to be; even the weather was kind. *John West*

Messy Church

Unfortunately, the weather wasn't kind to us in July, so the Olympic sports and picnic turned into crafts and tea inside the church. All thoroughly enjoyed by the many attendees.

We look forward to our next meeting on Saturday, 21 September in St Stephen's Church.

Recent Events continued

Rogation Sunday at Botus Fleming

We started with a service in church which included seasonal hymns and, during the communion, Vivaldi's *Spring,* Giordani's *Come Happy Spring, English Country Garden* and Holst's *In the Bleak Mid Winter.*

After the service, we moved to the churchyard to bless the sheep. And then we split into two groups.

Some on foot, to bless the orchard (with kind permission from Elaine Nicholls) and then the cattle in the farmyard.

And some travelled to bless the fields and farmyards by tractor.

St Stephen's by Saltash

Vacancies

After many years of faithful service one of our Churchwardens and our Treasurer will be stepping down. We therefore seek a new Churchwarden and Treasurer.

The posts will start at the APCM on 27 April 2025 but we hope for a transition period of at least three months prior to the APCM.

More information can be found on our website: https://saltashteamministry.org/vacancies-at-st-stephens.html

Last year there were some 77 trees on show, and we have had requests for at least seven new ones to come in this year, our 18th Christmas Tree Festival. If you wish to enter a tree please let Margaret know by Thursday 31 October as this will enable us to place the newcomers, as well as our residents.

The Cheese and Wine launch will be on Thursday, 26 September, in St Nicholas and St Faith Church Rooms at 7.30pm.

Margaret Evans
email: mje1503@gmail.com or ☎ 01752 844141

Recent Events continued

MOSSAF

In July we were visited by Rev'd Will Sweeney who was a priest in Plympton before setting off to sea as a Chaplain with the Royal Navy.

Will gave us a brief rundown of his early life. He was one of three boys who found church life boring. But by age 9 or 10, he showed interest in confirmation. Will was encouraged by his Priest and became a chorister at age 11. By age 16 he had decided to be a Naval Chaplain and at age 18 went to Theological College in Bangor, North Wales where he found out that he was dyslexic.

Will subsequently applied for priesthood. He served at St John, Nottingham where he met his wife. Two years later he was selected to be a priest and in 2014 he was ordained and started curacy. He became a Police Chaplain then a Naval Chaplain in the south west. After his time in Plympton, he became chaplain at Dartmouth Naval base, transferred to Drake in Plymouth as Base Chaplain and later to Portsmouth as Chaplain Promoter, where he is currently based.

During the questions that followed we learnt of Will's many tales of life on board for a chaplain and how they celebrated Christmas on board with carols, before telling the group about his first book, *A Floating Parish,* which many of our members then purchased.

For our August MOSSAF Dr Mark Butchers, until recently the Principal of South West Ministry Training college, was our guest speaker.

Mark's introduction to 'church' was when his school friends took over a Christian holiday boarding school and invited him. He subsequently returned!

At university, he started on his Christian journey and felt a strong call to ordination, although he was an irregular attendee at chapel.

Mark had been chaplain at Keeble College, Oxford for six years when a parish came up less than a mile away. He moved there, stayed for 10 years and subsequently became Rural Dean of Oxford. Later he transferred to Devon and became Archdeacon of Barnstaple.

In 2020 he joined South West Ministry Training College as full time Principal and retired in 2023. Mark still occasionally teaches at SWMTC where he gets much enjoyment from the community of attendees, though isn't so keen on the marking!

Both evenings were very good indeed and enjoyed by all our members in attendance.

Our next meeting is on Monday, 9 September at 7pm in the social area of St Stephen's Church, when Rev Ian Provost of the Plympton benefice will be our guest speaker. If you are interested in joining us you are very welcome. Please contact Steve Hookway on ☎ 07855 600241 or email stevenhookway@hotmail.com

Ashtree Quiz

In July, St Stephen's men's quiz team were the winners at the monthly Ashtree Quiz. It raised £105 for the Ashtree Charity. The evening included rounds XYZ, a music round on Motown and a picture round on the crests of Premier League football teams past and present. The quiz was challenging and great fun.

A Book to Remember…

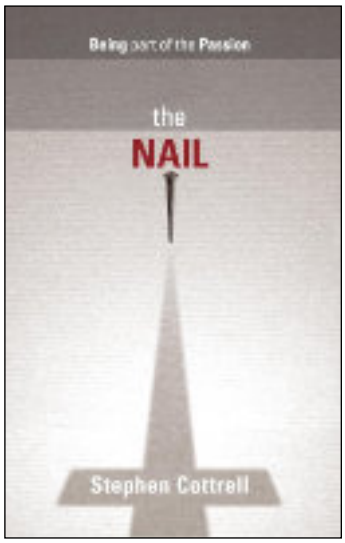
We continue our series in which a member of one of our five congregations is invited to tell us about a book that has been important to them in their Christian journey.

Darren Jane

is familiar as the resident organist at St Stephen's. He is also well-known as an inspirational teacher of music in our local schools, as well as privately. From weddings and funerals to the joyful music group, Darren says, 'Music is my calling.' Darren attended church as a choirboy, later joining the congregation and then becoming the resident organist. Darren was baptised and married at St Stephen's, and attends with his wife and twin children, who also take part in the music group.

Which book have you chosen?

My book is *The Nail: Being Part of the Passion,* by Stephen Cottrell, now Archbishop of York.



The Nail describes Christ's crucifixion from different points of view. It imagines the Cross, with one large nail lying at its foot. Who will pick it up? Each character considers the part they played in hammering the nails into Jesus. Included are Peter, the Roman centurion, Caiaphas, Pilate's wife and Mary Magdalene, and others. They give a vivid personal account which is followed by a Bible reading and a short prayer from their perspective. It is in three parts: Friday afternoon, Friday evening, and Towards Easter. It then ends by bringing each of the characters together to ask, 'Will you let Jesus forgive you?'

Why is this book important to you?

Rev'd Pam Sellix read a small section in a sermon. This started me thinking more about the Passion. She explained after the service how to think of the events of the Passion as each of those who were involved might have done.

I am not a big reader, but the way it is set out in short sections makes it easy to pick up, and then come back to again. I am taking it with me on holiday.

Is there a particular section that is important for you?

The perspective of the Roman centurion is that he was following orders; and Pontius Pilate was complying with the wishes of the majority. The centurion concludes, 'When I hide behind the decisions of others, use a uniform, a badge, an office, to disguise myself – Speak to my heart…'

Would we accept the nail that crucified Christ? Will we recognise our role in the drama of the Cross?

'The Nail: Being Part of the Passion' Stephen Cottrell. SPCK. 2011

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

Step outside this Season of Creation. (1 Sep – 4 Oct). Connect with nature and dedicate this time to God as the Creator and sustainer of all life. Choose an idea or two from our resource and encourage your church family to take part too! Free to download at arocha.org.uk/step-outside-this-season-of-creation-resource/

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

Michaelmas

a sonnet for St Michael the Archangel

Michaelmas gales assail the waning year,
And Michael's scale is true, his blade is bright.
He strips dead leaves; and leaves the living clear
To flourish in the touch and reach of light.
Archangel bring your balance, help me turn
Upon this turning world with you and dance
In the Great Dance. Draw near, help me discern,
And trace the hidden grace in change and chance.
Angel of fire, Love's fierce radiance,
Drive through the deep until the steep waves part,
Undo the dragon's sinuous influence
And pierce the clotted darkness in my heart.
Unchain the child you find there, break the spell
And overthrow the tyrannies of Hell.

By Malcolm Guite

Recent Events continued

Mothers' Union

Before our Summer break, Mothers' Union members travelled to Tavistock to visit St Eustacious Church where we received a warm welcome from the recently appointed Minister in Charge, Rev'd Matthew Godfrey, and his Church Warden, Pam Hunter. Rev'd Matt is responsible for the parishes of Tavistock, Gulworthy and Brentor. After a short discussion, the Minister left us in the hands of Pam, who gave us a talk about the Church and its history. We heard how this Parish Church has served the town in the past and is still doing so, providing a welcoming hub for all.

We then had time to visit the town for coffee and shopping before boarding our minibus to travel to the Engine House at Kit Hill for our lunch.

Our annual cream tea, in aid of the MU Summer of Hope Appeal will be on 7 September, 3pm to 5.30pm at St Stephen's Church. Tickets available from Sandra McKee ☎ 01752 846803.

On Tuesday 24 September at 2pm we are holding our Wave of Prayer Service in St Stephens. This service unites MU members all around the world and strengthens our resolve to serve God and our fellow men. All welcome.

Thank You Darren from SSNF

Sunday 28 July was a sad day for SS Nicholas and Faith, it was when we regretfully had to say farewell to Darren.

In the short time that he has been with us it was a joy to have him as Organist and Choirmaster. Thursday evenings are not the same without choir practice and chit-chat.

A presentation was made to him at the end of the service and we wish him well – Darren you will never know how much you are missed.

Royal Cornwall

Since retirement, I have had the opportunity to setup the benefice archives, and research our wonderful historic, and ancient churches.

Some things that I have come across have been interesting and quite surprising as well. I wonder how many of us have wondered and realised why we have the Royal Cornwall Show each year, yet our neighbours in Devon only have the Devon Country Show, or why we have the Royal Cornwall Hospital in Truro, and they only have Derriford Hospital in Plymouth? What is the significance of the word Royal before Cornwall? It isn't something that has happened in recent years, it actually goes all the way back to the English Civil Wars of the 17th Century. Throughout the 10 years of fighting, the residents of Cornwall never changed their allegiance and firmly supported the King and the Royalist Army.

The first war (1642-1646) was fought over the correct balance of power between Parliament and Charles I. During the early part of this war, Charles I wrote to the inhabitants of Cornwall to express his sincere thanks for their loyalty and support, the letter (see right)was sent to all the churches in the county and was read out to the inhabitants, and this is where the Royal assent was granted to Cornwall; so in correct terms our addresses should have the county as 'Royal Cornwall' rather than just Cornwall.

I'll be back with updates from the archives next month.

Andy Evans

WE are so highly sensible of the extraordinary Merits of Our County of Cornwall for their Zeal for the Defence of our Person and the Just Rights of Our Crown, in a time when We could contribute so little to Our own Defence, or to their Assistance; (in a time when not only no Reward appeared, but great and probable Dangers were threatened to Obedience and Loyalty) of their Great and Eminent Courage and Patience in their Indefatigable prosecution of their great work against so Potent a Enemy, backt with so Strong, Rich and Populous Cities and so plentiful furnished with Men, Arms, Money, Ammunition and Provisions of all kinds; and of the wonderful success with which it hath pleased Almighty God (though with the loss of some Eminent persons, who shall never be forgotten by Us to reward their Loyalty and Patience) by many strange Victories over their and Our Enemies, in despite of all humane probabilities and all imaginable disadvantages that as We cannot be forgetful of so great deserts, so We cannot but to desire to punish to all the World, and to perpetuate to all time the memory of their Merits, and of Our acceptance of the same. And to that end, We do hereby render Our Royal Thanks to that Our County in the most publick and lasting manner We can devise Commanding Copies hereof to be printed and published, and one of them to be read in every Church and Chapel therein, and to be kept for ever as a Record in the same, that as long as the History these Times and of this Nation shall continue, the Memory of how much that County hath merited from Us and Our Crown, may be derived with it to Prosperity

Sending Love to Ukraine

St Stephen's church continues to support Darren and Cornwall and Devon 'Sending Love to Ukraine'.

The next trip will be in October. Please leave any items at the back of the church or drop off to the church office (next to St Stephen's church opposite the Cecil Arms) on a Wednesday or Thursday.

There is an urgent need the for following items: Nappies of all sizes, Incontinence pads, Baby Food for all ages, Premature baby clothes, Newborn baby clothes, Sleeping bags, Airbeds, Defibrillators, Survival bags, Dry bags, First Aid equipment, Trauma kits, Burns kits, First Responder bags, All over the counter medication (paracetamol cost £10 a pack in Ukraine – if they can get hold of any), Personal hygiene products, Toiletries, Sanitary products, Foil blankets, Power banks, Generators, Thermal socks, Thermal underwear, Hand & Feet warmers, Any and all medical equipment, Wheelchairs, Walking frames, Mobility aids and Shoeboxes of love for frontline workers.

Thank you for your continued support.

Recent Events continued

Saltash Churches Together 2024

The New Year was welcomed in by holding our traditional Covenant Service down at Wesley on Sunday 28 January. This was well attended by most of the main Saltash Churches and we look forward to a similar event in 2025.

On Good Friday, we gathered together at Wesley for a short service before processing down Fore Street with our banners for *The Walk of Witness*. Stopping at SSNF Church, by the War Memorial, for a bible reading and prayers then proceeding to the Baptist Church for hot cross buns and a refreshing drink. This event was well supported and did provoke some puzzled looks and comments from the busy shoppers!

For the early morning risers on Easter Sunday there was the dawn gathering at the Celtic Cross, by the Tamar Bridge, for reflection on The Risen Christ.

In the recent past St Stephens Church have invited the other churches in Saltash to the morning Pentecost Service – I wonder if next year we could revive this important event.

The Saltash Regatta Service was held down on Brunel Green as usual; but this year the lead was taken by Redeemer Church (who meet in The Core) with Rev'd Tim giving the opening invitation to the gathering of about 100 people assembled, some with their camping chairs and rugs. The stage was occupied by the small band who normally lead their church and the first sacred song was the old favourite of The Shakers *Amazing Grace*. The address was on *Christ is the Water of Life*. At the close we were asked to take a carton of spring water adorned with this slogan and pass it on to someone we loved or felt needed God's help. Only a few Anglicans and Catholics joined the gathering this year which was a pity; hopefully next year we can hold more events under the SCT banner.

John West

Answers to Quiz on page 3: 1. Athens 2. Five 3. Three 4. Tokyo 5. Rio 6. Great Britain 7. Every 4 years 8. Sir Jason Kenny (9, 7 gold, 2 silver) 9. 1900 10. Blue, yellow, black, green and red.

In September

Mothers Union Cream Tea

Saturday 7 September

3pm to 5.30pm in St Stephen's Church

In aid of the MU Summer of Hope Appeal

£5 per person, tickets from Sandra McKee in church or ☎01752 846803

All welcome

Coffee, Cake & Chat

Starting Wednesday 11 September

Every 2nd Wednesday in the month

10am to Noon in St Stephen's Church

Posh Tea with Prosecco

From 3pm on Saturday 14 September in Sir Robert Geffery Hall, Landrake

With Live Music, courtesy of Ms Jude Whitlock

Dress Code: Sunday Frock; Shirt & Tie
Forfeit if not correctly dressed: Buy Raffle Tickets

Tickets available from Landrake Stores or LandrakeStErneyFundraising@gmail.com

£10 per head, or make up a table of 6 and buy 5 tickets, the 6th is Free!

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