Saltash Area Newsletter

Dec 2025 / Jan 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

The Word AND the Gift

Each year, the John Lewis Christmas advert has become something of a cultural moment. This year's offering, *Where Love Lives,* tells the story of a father and son who struggle to find the right words for their relationship. On Christmas morning, the father discovers a gift: a vinyl record of Alison Limerick's 1990s classic, *Where Love Lives*. As the music plays, he is transported back to his youth, but also to tender memories of his son as a baby and toddler. Finally, father and son embrace, wordlessly expressing what they could not say aloud. The advert closes with the tagline, "If you can't find the words, find the gift."

Image: John Lewis – from the Christmas 2025 TV advertisement

It's a moving reminder that gifts can speak when words fail. Yet as Christians, we know that at Christmas God did something even more profound: He gave us the Word itself, made flesh. St John's Gospel begins with those majestic lines: **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God… and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us**. (John 1:1,14). Where human language falters, God's gift of Jesus speaks volumes. In Christ, God communicates His love not through symbols or gestures alone, but through a living presence among us.

The John Lewis advert shows a son reaching out to his father with music, bridging a gap of silence. At Christmas, God bridges the infinite gap between heaven and earth. The gift of Jesus is not simply a token of affection, but the very presence of God in our midst. Jesus is both the Word and the Gift – the message and the medium. He is the one who makes the Father known, who embodies love in action, who reconciles us when words are not enough.

As we move through December into January, we are invited to ponder what it means to receive this gift. The advert's father is overwhelmed by memories and emotions as the music plays. In a similar way, the season of Christmas invites us to be overwhelmed by grace: to remember God's faithfulness, to recall moments of His presence in our lives, and to embrace anew the gift of Christ. The hug between father and son is a picture of reconciliation. In Jesus, God embraces humanity, drawing us close despite our failings.

January often feels like a quieter, more subdued month after the festivities. Yet the gift of Christ is not seasonal. The Word made flesh continues to dwell among us, offering light in our darkness and hope in our weariness. As we step

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 30 November

From Darkness to Light
6.30pm SS Nicholas & Faith

Sunday 14 December

Nine Lessons & Carols
3pm SS Leonard & Dilpe

Nine Lessons & Carols
6.30pm St Erney

Christmas Sing-Along
6.30pm St Stephens

Sunday 21 December

Quiet Christmas
4pm SS Nicholas & Faith

Christmas Carols
6.30pm Bullers Arms, Landrake

Christmas Eve

Crib Service
4pm 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 SS Leonard & Dilpe
10.15am St Erney

DECEMBER SERVICES

Christmas Services on page 1

Advent 30 November
SS Leonard & Dilpe, Landulph
10am United Service
SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash
6.30pm Darkness to Light

Sunday 7 December
St Michael, Landrake
9.30am Morning Worship
St Stephen-by-Saltash
10am Family Worship
SS Leonard & Dilpe, Landulph
10am Holy Communion
St Erney, Landrake
10.15am Matins
SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash
10.30am Holy Communion
St Mary, Botus Fleming
11.15am Morning Worship
3pm Evensong

Sunday 14 December
St Michael, Landrake
9.30am Morning Worship
St Stephen-by-Saltash
10am Holy Communion
6.30pm Xmas Sing-Along
SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash
10.30am Morning Worship
St Mary, Botus Fleming
11.15am Holy Communion
SS Leonard & Dilpe, Landulph
3pm 9 Lessons & Carols
St Erney, Landrake
6.30pm 9 Lessons & Carols

Sunday 21 December
St Michael, Landrake
9.30am Holy Communion
St Stephen-by-Saltash
10am Morning Worship
3pm Evensong
St Erney, Landrake
10.15am Matins
SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash
10.30am Holy Communion
4pm Quiet Christmas
St Mary, Botus Fleming
11.15am Morning Worship

Sunday 28 December
St Stephen-by-Saltash
10am United Service

Wednesdays (3 & 17 Dec)
St Stephen-by-Saltash
10am Holy Communion

into a new year, we are called to carry that gift forward – to embody love in our own relationships, to speak words of kindness, and when words fail, to let our actions communicate God's grace.

Image: John Lewis – from the Christmas 2025 TV advertisement

And as Epiphany reminds us, the Magi brought gifts to the Christ child, recognising Him as King. Their journey shows us that the right response to God's gift is to offer ourselves in return. So as 2026 begins, may we bring our lives as gifts to Christ – lives of worship, service, and love – trusting that He remains the Word who speaks, and the Gift who saves.

May Christ, the Word and the Gift, dwell richly in you this season and throughout the year.

Dursona
Revd Laura

Carol Singing in Treledan & Botus Village

22 & 23 December from 6.30pm

All welcome

JANUARY SERVICES

Sunday 4 January
St Michael, Landrake
9.30am Morning Worship
St Stephen-by-Saltash
10am Family Worship
St Leonard & St Dilpe
10am Holy Communion
SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash
10.30am Holy Communion
St Mary, Botus Fleming
11.15am Morning Worship
3pm Evensong

Sunday 11 January
St Michael, Landrake
9.30am Morning Worship
St Stephen-by-Saltash
10am Holy Communion
SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash
10.30am Morning Worship
St Mary, Botus Fleming
11.15am Holy Communion

Sunday 18 January
St Michael, Landrake
9.30am Holy Communion
St Stephen-by-Saltash
10am Morning Worship
3pm Evensong
St Leonard & St Dilpe
10am Morning Worship
SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash
10.30am Holy Communion
St Mary, Botus Fleming
11.15am Morning Worship

Sunday 25 January
St Michael, Landrake
9.30am Morning Worship
St Stephen-by-Saltash
10am Holy Communion
SS Nicholas & Faith, Saltash
10.30am Morning Worship
St Mary, Botus Fleming
11.15am Morning Worship

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

Christmas Quiz

1. In the book of Matthew, who told Joseph that the baby was to be called Jesus?
   (a) An angel (b) Mary (c) The Magi

2. Which animals were present at the actual birth of Jesus?
   (a) Donkeys & Sheep (b) Horses & Sheep
   (c) The bible does not mention any animals

3. What was the name of the prophetess who approached Mary and Joseph in the temple and thanked God for the baby Jesus?
   (a) Anna (b) Julia (c) Phoebe

4. What name was given to Elizabeth's baby?
   (a) Simon (b) Jesus (c) John

5. In the Gospel of Luke what is the City of David called?
   (a) Nazareth (b) Jerusalem (c) Bethlehem

6. What age was Jesus when His parents lost Him on a trip and then found Him in the temple?
   (a) 12 (b) 13 (c) 14

7. Which angel appeared to Zacharias?
   (a) Gabriel (b) Michael (c) Raphael

8. In the Gospel of Matthew who was Jesus' earthly grandfather?
   (a) Gareb (b) Jacob (c) Medan

9. In the Gospel of Luke what is the name given for an army of Angels praising God?
   (a) Covenant (b) Multitude (c) Heavenly Host

10. Which Christmas Carol brings us "Tidings of Comfort & Joy"?
    (a) Calyspso Carol (b) God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
    (c) It Came upon a Midnight Clear

Answers on p7

Recent Events

MOSSAF

November saw our last meet up of the year, where thirteen members enjoyed a lovely two course meal together at the Lord Louis.

We now close down for the winter months but already have a great dairy of events building for 2026 including a visit from Bishop David.

Wishing all our members a Happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year ahead.

Mothers' Union

Do you remember sitting around the table, cutting, folding and sticking decorations for the Christmas tree? – one of the joys of Christmas which may be slipping away these days. However, not so with Mothers' Union members. At our meeting in November we were busy brushing up on our handicrafts skills, whilst practising our conversation techniques, of course. At the end of the afternoon we had a full bag of decorated wooden items for our Christmas Tree to enter in the festival at SS Nicholas & Faith Church. We have to thank Peter Gwynn for kindly providing the wooden circles after he had cut down a tree in his garden.

During the last week in November in St Stephen's, you may have noticed a chair covered with a red cloth, empty except for a notice, *This empty chair is a symbol of a chair that could have accommodated one of the women and girls who are killed at the hands of an intimate partner or family member every 11 minutes around the globe.* Mothers' Union supports the Red Chair Project and we hope that we have made you think and pray for change.

Our meeting on 9 December will be our Advent Service and reflection beginning at 2pm. We invite everyone to join us – there will be refreshments afterwards.

We wish everybody a joyful Christmas and would love to see you at our meeting on 13 January 2026.

Recent Events continued

Remembrance

Botus Fleming

Saturday started the events with the Saltash Anglican combined choir leading the pre two-minutes silence with *I vow to thee my country, O valliant heart* and *Steal away* prior to a choir member, Faye Penwill, sounding the bugle. The National Anthem followed.

The full programme of Sea Songs followed with Faye, the soloist, singing an outstanding *Rule Britannia*.

A video of the event is available: youtu.be/RFu0ncuSQlk

Di Burrows led the prayers and was at the War Memorial on the Sunday with a strong village gathering followed by the traditional British Legion Church Service. The names of the dead from Landulph and Botusfleming were read.

St Nicholas and St Faith

Landrake

On Remembrance Sunday, a good crowd gathered at the Memorial for the service led by Rev'd Josie and the Landrake Band. Wreaths were laid by the PCC, Parish Council, Sir Robert Geffery School pupils and the Young Farmers.

A good collection was made for the Royal British Legion and all were able to warm up and enjoy each other's company afterwards at the Sir Robert Geffery Hall, where the Battling On Group added a barbeque to the refreshments on offer.

Prayer for Christmas

Lord Jesus Christ,
Word made flesh and gift of the Father, we thank You for dwelling among us with grace and truth. When our words falter, let Your love speak through us. As the Magi offered their gifts, teach us to offer our lives in worship and service. Bless our parishes in this season of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, that we may carry Your light into the year ahead.

Amen

Kernow Gateway Choir

The choir have performed at seven events since coming together in June and have two more this month.

Why not come and enjoy learning new songs?

Practices take place at St Marys, Botusfleming at 6.30pm on Wednesdays.
Eric Distin ☎ 01752 8436831

Saltash foodbank

Our latest needs:

- UHT Milk
- UHT Fruit Juice
- Sugar
- Coffee
- Tinned Meat
- Tinned Ham
- Instant Custard
- Sweet Biscuits
- Sweets & Chocolates
- Savoury Biscuits
- Snacks
- Jam
- Pickles & Sauces
- Christmas Items
- Gifts for Men & Teens

Make a difference!

Please donate food at Waitrose, Lidl, Co-op, Food Warehouse 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

Christmas Tree Festival at St Nicholas & St Faith

There is a sign up list at the back of the Church if you can spare an hour or two to help with the stewarding. Please sign up if you can.

Ring Out Wild Bells

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

by Alfred Lord Tennyson

Recent Events continued

Landrake Christmas Bazaar

The parish Christmas Bazaar took place at the Sir Robert Geffery Hall. Santa Claus was able to take a break to join us, a good variety of stalls attended (thank you to those who wo/manned these) and £400+ was raised.

Particular thanks to those who came along and ran, contributed or joined in the raffle.

The Derry Airs Concert

At Landrake with St Erney we have recently had a wonderful concert with the DerryAirs that raised over £500. The concert was based around Pickles Day, the music was fantastic and a cheerful compere had us all laughing and joining in throughout the evening.

A splendid buffet supper was laid on by the congregation.

We are very grateful to everyone who contributed and can strongly recommend any future *DerryAirs* concert that you may be able to get to!

Our Church Saints

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

St Mary

Mary was a Jewish woman who lived in the humble town of Nazareth in Galilee. She is a venerated figure of Christianity and known as the Mother of God. In Islam she has the highest position with many references in the Quran, including a chapter named after her.

The gospels of Matthew and Luke describe Mary as a virgin chosen by God to conceive Jesus through the holy Spirit. Joseph married her and they raised Jesus in the town of Nazareth. Mary presented her son at the Temple; they witnessed the coming of the Magi and had to flee to Egypt. When Jesus was 12 years old the family spent a Passover in Jerusalem. Mary saw Jesus perform his first miracle of turning water into wine at a wedding at Cana with her encouragement. Mary's faith led her to praise God in a beautiful song known as the *Magnificat*.

Mary was in Jerusalem standing near the cross watching her son suffer. Jesus showed his care for her in his final moments saying, "Woman, behold your son." (John). She remained in the upper room with the Disciples after Jesus rose from the dead. The bible does not have any further details relating to her final years, but Catholic, Eastern Orthodox plus some Protestant traditions believe that her body was raised up into heaven when she died.

Mary is honoured throughout history for her obedience but never worshipped in the bible as worship belongs to God alone.

easyfundraising

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be raising free donations for St Nicholas & St Faith or St Stephen's Church with **easyfundraising**?

There are over 8,000 retailers on board ready to make a donation – including eBay, Argos, John Lewis & Partners, ASOS, Booking.com and M&S – and it won't cost you a penny extra to help us raise funds!

All you need to do is:

1. Go to https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stnicholasstfaithchurch/ or https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ststephensaltash/ and join for free.
2. Every time you shop online, go to **easyfundraising** first to find the site you want and start shopping or make it even easier by clicking on "Add extension" to add **easyfundraising** to your browser.
3. After you've checked out, the retailer will make a donation to your chosen church at no extra cost to you whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and the church will be really grateful for your donations.

Thank you for your support.

Marie Hookway

23/9/1929 - 29/10/2025

Steve and family would like to thank everyone for the kindness and sympathy shown towards them following the death of his Mum, Marie Hookway.

Marie was admitted to the Elms for end of life care for a month over three and half years ago. She had a fantastic innings and despite living with dementia for the last few years and struggling with ulcerated legs her passing came as a surprise to all.

She will be sorely missed by all of us but hold wonderful memories of times shared.

Steve Hookway

Answers to Quiz on page 3: 1. An angel 2. The bible does not mention any animals. 3. Anna 4. John 5. Bethlehem 6. 12 7. Gabriel 8. Jacob 9. Heavenly Host 10. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen.

Please email articles for the next issue to: newsletter@saltashteamministry.org by 20 January 2026

Burraton Boys Christmas Concert

7.30pm, Friday 5 Dec
St Stephen's Church

Tickets (£5) from Piglets, or st-stephen-by-saltash-church.sumupstore.com

Craft Afternoon

Mondays
15 Dec and 19 Jan

2pm in SSNF Church Rooms

Christmas Cuppa

10am to Noon
Saturday 20 December
St Stephen's Church

Tasty cakes and Christmas flavoured coffee

Come and light a candle, place a star on a memory tree and there might even be a special visitor!

Food traders will join us for that last minute treat.

Coffee, Cake & Chat

Wednesday
14 January

10am in St Stephen's

Christmas Tree Festival 2025

Saturday 29 November to Friday 12 December

FREE ENTRY – donations invited

Opening Times

Saturday 29 November: **10am to 6pm**
Refreshments available until 1pm.

Sunday 30 November: **2pm to 6pm**

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

Saturday 6 December: **From 10am**
Refreshments available until 1pm.
Burraton School Choir will be singing.
Mulled wine and shortbread from 6pm.

Sunday 7 December: **2pm to 6pm**
The Burraton Boys will be singing.

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.

Winning tickets will be drawn at a coffee morning on Saturday 20 December, 10am to 1pm in SSNF Church Rooms.

Saturday 29 November to Friday 12 December
SSNF Church
Christmas Tree Festival

Mondays
1, 8, 15 Dec
2pm SSNF Church Rooms
Advent Course

Friday 5 December
7.30pm
St Stephen's Church
Burraton Boys
Christmas Concert

Tuesday 9 December
2pm
St Stephen's Church
Mothers' Union

Monday 15 December
2pm to 4pm
SSNF Church Rooms
Craft Afternoon

Wednesday 17 December
START
Meal with Probus

Saturday 20 December
10am
St Stephen's Church
Christmas Cuppa

Tuesday 13 January
2pm
St Stephen's Church
Mothers' Union

Wednesday 14 January
10am
St Stephen's Church
Coffee, Cake & Chat

Friday 16 January
Noon
START

Monday 19 January
2pm to 4pm
SSNF Church Rooms
Craft Afternoon