

From: Sarah penwithdeanery@send.mailchimpapp.com
Subject: [Test] Early March Edition
Date: 9 March 2024 at 00:51
To: penwithdeanery@gmail.com

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Penwith Deanery News

Sharing the Good News across Penwith



Early March Edition



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Welcome

to the first of our March editions of Penwith Deanery News and apologies that this edition is being sent out a little later in the week (it's been a busy one). It's hard to believe that we are heading towards Easter, but we are heading toward that sacred time at a rate of knots!

This edition includes a write up about the ministry of All Saints Church, Marazion after spending time with church warden Julia. I also met with Tracey who is another tirelessly working church warden at Gwithian Church in the Godrevy benefice and on Tuesday night we had the joy of welcoming their new Priest into our Penwith family. Michelle Porter-Babbage who has joined the Godrevy Benefice as Pioneer Priest in charge was Licensed by Bishop Hugh at a joyful service held in St Gwinear Church. We are looking forward to getting to know Michelle as she starts her work among us, and to all that God will do through her ministry here in Cornwall.

I can't stress enough how in awe I am of all of the amazing mission and ministry initiatives that take place across our deanery and which bless and benefit our local communities. I want to encourage you again to please forward items for inclusion within the Deanery News letter. These give people such encouragement as they reflect upon your story, whether in regard to the influence or joy that a worship song or hymn has had upon you, a favourite Bible verse or a personal



DIOCESE OF TRURO
DISCOVERING GOD'S KINGDOM
GROWING THE CHURCH

testimony about how God has worked, and is continuing to work in your life and your circumstances - they really are powerful tools in our building up of each other. The Penwith Deanery News is YOUR newsletter, and so it would be wonderful to include items from YOU! You can email me at penwithdeanery@gmail.com and I very much look forward to hearing from you.

With every blessing,

Sarah

Zoom Communion Service



The Parish of St. Ives holds a zoom Communion service at 12.00 noon every Wednesday (unless advertised to the contrary) that lasts approximately half-an-hour and includes a time of open intercessions. We warmly invite anyone who would like to join us during these zoom sessions. If you are interested, please email Debbie Harris who will send you the link and meeting ID and password.

Her email address is debbiesjif@gmail.com. The only disadvantage is that you have to provide your own bread and wine!

If you don't have zoom, this can easily be downloaded just google 'zoom' and go to 'download'.

Fr Samuel Marsden



Breakfast Club

First Thursday of the month

8:30-10:30am

St Buryan Church – Café area

Everyone welcome!

Get your day off to a positive start!

Drop in and enjoy Tea, Coffee, OJ, Toast, Croissants, Bacon, Fruit ...and a chat!

Suggested donation **£2.50** – all proceeds for the upkeep & ministry of the Church

Any questions contact Fiona 07846 230189
The Breakfast Club is part of St Buryan Church's 'A Warm Welcome' project funded by a grant from the Diocese's Energy Mission Fund.



Marazion Churches

Together

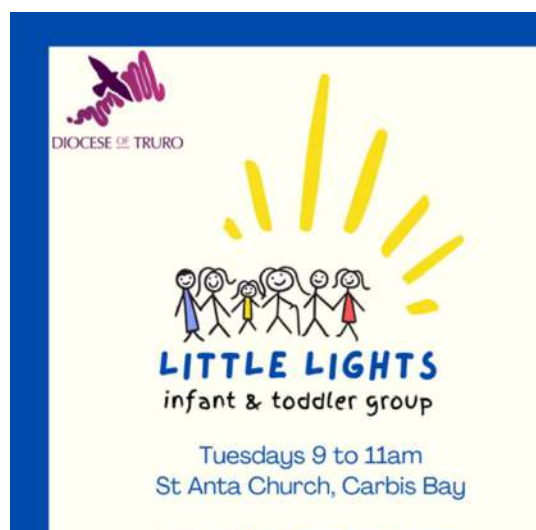
Community Breakfast

Saturday 16 March

All Saints

Church Hall

10am – 2pm



All welcome

All profits to the Lent Appeal
Solar Aid (SunnyMoney)



ST EARTH COMMUNITY CAFÉ

St Erth Church Hall
every Friday

12 noon to 3pm,
during the cold winter months until
Easter.

Come and relax in a warm and
welcoming environment.

Light refreshments & free Wi-Fi.



Sometimes when we get
overwhelmed we forget how
big God is.

A. W. Tozer

All Saints Marazion Church – looking forward in ministry and witness

I spent a lovely morning with Julia Greig recently, talking about all sorts of matters around faith, church, ministry and mission. Julia worships and holds the office of churchwarden at All Saints Church, Marazion. I was shown their beautifully refurbished church hall which is a great asset for all sorts of groups who meet there, as well as a warm and comfortable overnight stop for the many walkers who undertake the Cornish Celtic Way pilgrimage. The Hall has recently had a disabled toilet and shower room installed as well as updating the kitchen facilities



COMMUNITY CAFÉ

Phillack Church Ha

Thursdays
12 noon til 3pm.

The Church maintains a regular Sunday Communion service at 9.45am each week unless there is a joint meeting of the churches within the Mount's Bay Benefice. On Wednesdays it hosts a midweek 10am Prayer time which is followed by a short service of communion at 10.30am and there is opportunity to meet for a more reflective time during Lent and Advent seasons with a half hourly Taizé style Sacred Space meeting on Tuesdays. The Sacred Space meetings are held again during the summer months and all start with a welcoming tea and coffee time. All Saints has worked and continues to work with the local Methodist Church in Marazion with both church congregations working in close partnership to host and support joint church and civic events. Previous collaborations have included Messy Church services but these are now more intermittent due to a fall in the numbers of families and children attending locally.



To counteract this, an exciting new venture is going to be taking place in the town over coming weeks, that is a jointly run 'Café Church' ministry which is taking place on Saturday mornings at 10am and being held in the local Community Centre situated at the top of town behind the GP's surgery where there is plenty of parking.

Julia explained that these new style 'services' will be led by local worship leaders and will be a much more informal affair, starting with hot drinks and croissants they will include Bible readings, hymns and songs and collective prayers and there will be alternative activities on offer for smaller younger children. The service will stop for a break halfway through, following which people can then spend time in reflection around the topic of study/discussion for that day. It is hoped that this new style of worship will attract younger families, as well as those who may not necessarily feel comfortable attending a traditional 'church' building.



All Saints Church is a popular venue to host local choirs and musical events throughout the year with concerts by Acapella groups, the Mounts Bay Singers, Breage Silver Band, Penzance Silver Band and Cornwall Youth Choir all taking place in the church and which prove a popular attraction to locals and visitors alike. There was a happy buzz around the annual Christmas Craft Fair which attracted many people in to peruse the art and craft creations that were for sale and the summer

beach service is always well supported and takes place on Marazion Beach at low tide with the full support and blessing of James and Mary St Aubyn.

Another fairly new initiative is the Community Breakfasts that the church is hosting every couple of months. The most recent one took place in their newly refurbished Church Hall rather than the Community Centre and all agreed that this was a positive move with the breakfast well supported. The next community breakfast will take place on 16th March from 10am until 2pm, please do consider supporting this initiative.



There is going to be a busy Holy week and Easter period for the Marazion Church and the Mounts Bay benefice including a Holy Week Procession on Sunday 24th starting at Marazion Community Centre together with (it is hoped) a live donkey, heading down into town stopping at Prayer Stations en-route. The procession will stop at the church for a time of communion, it is also hoped that there will be a beautiful Labrynth for people to complete and all finishing with pasty lunch. A sacred space meeting is being hosted at All Saints on the Tuesday, and on Wednesday a re-enactment dramatisation of the last supper is being planned to take place in the Marazion Community Centre. A Messy Church service, in partnership with the Methodist church in Marazion will take place on Good Friday and on Easter Day there will be a sunrise service led by the Methodist Church. For details and times of services and events please check out the Mounts Bay Benefice website.

<https://mountsbayub.wordpress.com>

Prayer Focus

- Pray for the Parish of Sancreed;
- Pray for Sancreed PCC, the church wardens, and the ongoing ministry and pastoral oversight of the congregation and the parish;
- Pray for our Rural Dean, Rev Dr Nick Widdows, for his wife Claire and their family.
- Pray for Nick as he manages the responsibilities of both deanery and his

The poster has a purple background. At the top, it reads "PENWITH PILGRIMS BENEFICE" in white capital letters, followed by "LENT COURSE" in larger white capital letters. Below this is a small illustration of two figures, one in a red robe and one in a blue robe, sitting and talking. Underneath the illustration, the text "LENT WITH THE BELOVED DISCIPLE" is written in white and yellow. To the right of the illustration, there is a block of white text: "This year's Lent course is based on Bishop Michael Marshall's 'Lent with the Beloved Disciple: The 2024 Lent Book'." Below that, it says "Over the course of 6 sessions, we are invited to set out as pilgrim people on the 'inner' journey of faith. Our guide and companion on the way will be none other than One who is the Way - Jesus, the Christ of God." At the bottom, it says "We will be reflecting on the Four Gospel, informed from the perspective of the one who is..."

benefice.

- Pray for the Deanery Implementation Team who next meet on 14th March at Heamoor, and pray for wisdom and discernment in their discussions and decisions.
- DIT members are Dan Garside; Michael Laramy; Fiona Vinnicombe; Helen Purchase; Kay Short; Maureen Edwards; Rev Karsten Wedgewood; Mary Wooding, Rev Dr Nick Widdows; Daniel Mantell-Roberts

Fundraising Event in St Buryan Church Sat 16 March - 10am-1pm



Pre-loved, quality, branded clothes
(Men, Ladies & Children)



Bargain Basket
Bric-a-Brac stall **SALE**

Tables to hire for £5 – de-clutter, crafts etc.

**Refreshments – Continental Breakfast,
Coffees, Teas & Cakes**

Raffle

Enquiries to Fiona: 07846 230189

All money raised is for the on-going mission and ministry of the Church

Michael Marshall perspective of the one who is referred to as 'the beloved disciple'.

Every Saturday morning at 11am at St Just's parish room followed by a simple soup lunch (follow the church round and look for the footpath taking you down the hill, it's the building on your right).

You might like to buy the book to prepare or review the sessions, but please don't feel you cannot come if you have bought the book.

Equally, please do come along even if you can't manage the sessions.

St Buryan Church



Whole Team Spring Labour Sat 9th March until 12:30pm

To get our churchyard gardening teams off the ground for the Summer season, we are holding a joint effort of **Weeding, mowing or strimming in the churchyard from 8:30am**

Everyone is very welcome even if you only have an hour to spare

Refreshments available for all the workers!

For further information, please contact
Fiona Phone: 07846 230 189
Email: fiona.vinnicombe@btinternet.com

Tony Phone: 07939 232 030
Email: tonyjamesneave@gmail.com

Welcome & Licensing of The Rev Michelle Porter-Babbage as Priest in Charge of Godrevy Benefice

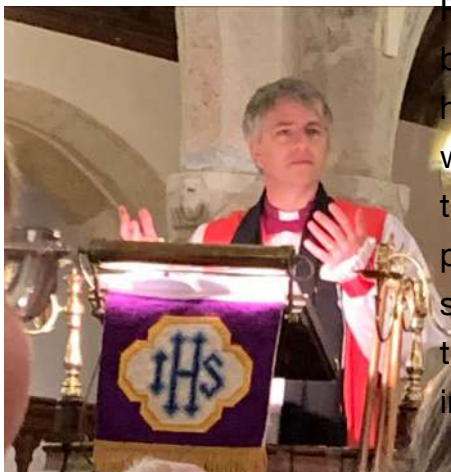
It was a joyous occasion on Tuesday evening, "St Piran's Day," when a large number of supporters, friends, and family members, together with congregants of the Godrevy Benefice and from across the wider Deanery met together to witness and to celebrate the Licensing by the Right Revd Hugh Nelson, Bishop of St Germans and the installation by the Venerable Nick Shutt, Archdeacon of Cornwall of our new priest

Michelle.

In his sermon, Bishop Hugh spoke about our brains being greedy for patterns and the rule of three is the pattern that the brain finds easiest to recall, hence so many memorable phrases, “the good, the bad and the ugly”, “blood, sweat & tears” and “live, laugh, love” we are much more likely to remember phrases that reflect this rule of three. Bishop then encouraged Michelle and all of us to consider a ‘rule of three’ that give focus for being church in the times of today. His rule of three for church was “faithfulness, curiosity and mutuality”. He encouraged us to think of these in terms of spiritual disciplines for a season when ‘being church’ is harder than it has ever been but is as important as it has ever been. While people are less interested in attending Church, they are nevertheless still interested in ‘God’ and spiritual matters. People are still seeking hope and God remains the answer to peoples’ needs today.

FAITHFULNESS - in reading any of the books of the Bible, especially the Old Testament, the thing that stands out time and again is that God is FAITHFUL. The God of yesterday, is our God of today and will be the same God tomorrow. God will not leave us nor forsake us. Everything in Scripture says “God is dependable, God is faithful”. God is ever present and He will not let us go, no matter what is going on in our life, no matter what we have done, GOD IS, He will not leave us, nor forsake us! This is still a wonderful basis on which to build our lives. We need to be faithful because God is faithful - FAITHFULNESS

Second - **CURIOSITY!** If God is faithful, which He is and if He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, which He is! Then He is as active and involved now, here, today as He has ever been - AND HE IS! We need to learn to be curious, to look and to listen at how God is present and working in those around us, because HE IS then we need to develop a Godly curiosity about what God might be up to in the people and world around us. He is working wonders right now!



Finally - **MUTUALITY!** St Paul writes clearly about us being a particular part of the body of Christ. Some are hands, some are feet, some are eyes or ears! They all work together in mutuality and this is a powerful picture of the body of Christ both locally and more widely. The problem in the world today is that hands tend to want to stay with other hands, and feet with other feet and it is too easy for each part to think of themselves as more important than the other parts that make up the body. Bishop Hugh expressed that unfortunately, this happens

all too often in the church of today, BUT, he stressed, we all need each other. We are called to be different, not different and better, because that also causes division just different and we must recognise that we are to do 'life thing' and this 'faith thing' not on our own but together, in mutual support and recognition of the value that we find in each other. His prayer for Michelle and us all as God's church was that we would reflect on his rule of three, on Faithfulness, Curiosity and Mutuality.



Michelle was well supported by priests, readers and retired clergy from across Penwith at the service and she was formally welcomed by representatives from each of her parishes as well as Hayle Mayor and representatives from Cornwall Council and from the local Methodist Church Circuit. The Rev Dr Nick Widdows as interim Rural Dean also warmly welcomed Michelle and expressed his joy at her joining the clergy team for Penwith and his continued hope and prayer that we would grow our support and ministry of each other as a deanery.

A special and very moving feature of Michelle's Licensing service was that, instead of receiving the symbols of ministry and office at the front of the church she received them from members of her different churches at various points in and around the church building. The flagon of water was received and promise to bring new Christians to baptism and to share with them the living water of Christ. was made at the

baptismal font; the receiving of the Holy Scriptures and promise to study God's Word and to preach its story and explore the riches of faith in the Word-made-flesh took place where the scriptures are normally read and the breaking of bread and blessing wine was acknowledged at the Holy Table from where the Eucharist is served.

The group then moved to the place where the prayers are offered and here the congregation reaffirmed for ourselves Michelle's promise to dedicate ourselves to be people of prayer and to place prayer at the heart of our communities. The party then moved to the main door of the church and here Michelle was presented with a basin and a towel and we were all reminded within the dedication of our responsibility to be people who serve those in the world beyond our church building to continue to seek out the lost and the broken and to commit to sharing God's love, mercy and justice to those in need by offering ourselves, our time, our gifts and energy to bring transformation to our communities and beyond.

They next moved to where the refreshments are served within the church and the promise here was to seek to make Christ known through the warmth of our welcome, our hospitality, our love and our acceptance. Finally the party moved to the chancel steps and here Michelle asked us all to recommit to sharing with her in the messy journey of discipleship, to being fully committed to following Christ through lifelong learning, to be willing to listen to one another so that our common life will speak of God's grace!

This was an incredibly moving time together and as Michelle was asked to rededicate herself to Christ's ministry, we in the congregation were also asked to join with her in rededicating ourselves to ministry, prayer, worship and service.

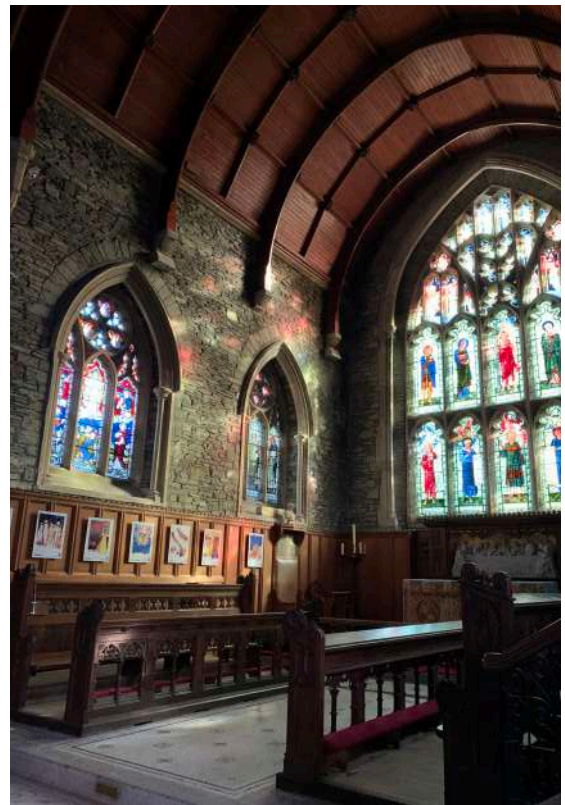
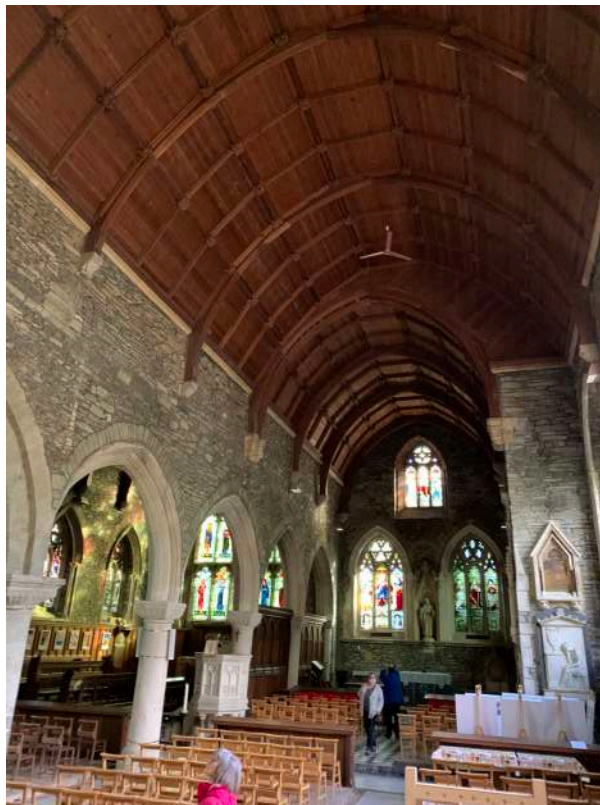
The evening was wonderfully finished with a fine provision of Cornish fair, hot pasties, saffron cake and madeira cake with tea, coffee and for those who wished, a glass of wine. It was a really wonderful occasion and evening of celebration, of reflection and of thanksgiving. **Welcome Michelle!**



ST JOHNS CHURCH HALL
2-4PM



MONDAYS 19:00-20:00
@ ST JOHNS I



Cornish Celtic Way

Guided Walks 2024

Walk One - St German's Priory to Seaton Beach

On Saturday 24th February three of us from the St Ives benefice together with 2 other hardy pilgrims from across Cornwall and Devon, met at the beautiful and impressive building that is the St German's Priory Church at the start of the first leg of the Cornish Celtic Way. Rev Nigel and Penny Marns led the way and even the heavy showers and muddy tracks and lanes couldn't dampen the spirits of all those who set out to complete the first section of the Cornish Pilgrimage.

After exploring the inside of the amazing Priory church (and very importantly, getting our Celtic Way Pilgrimage passports stamped!) we congregated as a group in front of the impressive 'Norman' arched doorway of St German's Priory in readiness to start our walk. We shared a short time of reflection and the singing of the John Bunyan hymn "To be a pilgrim," very apt considering recent weather, and it was in consideration of this that Nigel and Penny together with other members of their organising team, had planned a 'weather friendly' alternative route that took us along farm tracks and lanes thus avoiding heavier quagmired fields.

It was a wonderful time of fellowship as we walked together, with lots of

conversations and sharing of each other's faith stories. A couple had travelled down from Exeter, two others from North Devon and one couple had recently been married after having met last year on one of the week long Celtic Walks! Others of us had travelled up from West Cornwall and Penwith Deanery in particular. We enjoyed a day of sunshine in amongst a few showers of rain and because we were all well wrapped up, there was lots of taking off and putting back on, of hats, jumpers, coats and waterproofs.

Another stop for a further reading, a time of reflection and another hymn at the halfway point (roughly) and from here we headed on to Downton and a very welcome stop for lunch in the hall of St Nicolas' Church. The lovely folk there kindly provided us with hot drinks to accompany our packed lunches and there was a beautiful buzz of sharing with new friends as we sat around tables with people who had been strangers just a couple of hours previously!



From St Nicolas' church hall we crossed the road to walk down onto the pebble beach where we were each encouraged to pick up and keep a pebble, most of these on the beach have white chalk lines running through them, some are quite intricate, and we were encouraged to think upon these as representing our life's pathways and journeying. A further song and we headed on across the beach which also had amazing coloured rocks in shades of reds, purples and blue grey.

The beach itself was busy with families and dog walkers all enjoying the warm sunshine and much needed respite from the rain.

Our pilgrimage concluded at the far end of Seaton beach where we once again enjoyed a time of reflection and the sharing together of our final hymn "One more step along the world I go....and it's from the old I travel to the new.....keep me travelling along with you".

My thanks to both Nigel and Penny and their fellow 'organisers' for a wonderful time spent enjoying God's beautiful creation and sharing with new friends and fellow 'pilgrims'. We are already looking forward to walk number two which will

take place on Saturday March 23rd 10.30 to 2.30pm where we will be completing the section of the walk from Seaton Beach to Lammana Chapel, Looe. Do consider joining the pilgrimage, you won't be sad that you did! If you need more details of further pilgrimage walks that are being planned through the summer months, check out the Cornish Celtic Way website.

Sarah

<https://www.cornishcelticway.co.uk/>



It's not about
who you *are* or
what you're *not*

*it's about
who HE is.*

FREE TO EVERYONE
ON ALL AGES

What's On at Marazion

OF ALL AGES

Warm Space - Ludgvan

Weekly on Thursdays

11:30 – 15:00

Come together for warmth and good company. Refreshments, soup and a roll.

Ludgvan Community Centre, Fair Fld,
Penzance TR20 8ES,

Come & Sing
Choral Evensong
TUESDAY 21ST MAY 2024
ST. JOHN'S IN THE FIELDS
CHURCH,
ST. IVES
(parking available)
Practice 18.00 for 19.00 service.

Music TBC depending on how many
people would be interested.

Please let Di Williams know by 15th
April 2024

diwilliams18481@gmail.com

Tel: 077 583 799



Church during Lent & Holy Week!

Every Sunday at All Saints 9.45 Holy Communion

Every Wednesday 10am Morning Prayer 10.30 Holy Communion

12, 19, 26 March, Sacred Space, 4pm with Tea from 3pm, in church

8, 15, 22 March, Lent Study Group

16 March, Community Breakfast, 10am Church Hall

24 March, Palm Sunday procession

27 March, Re-enactment of the Last Supper

28 March, Maundy Thursday service Ludgvan Church, 7pm

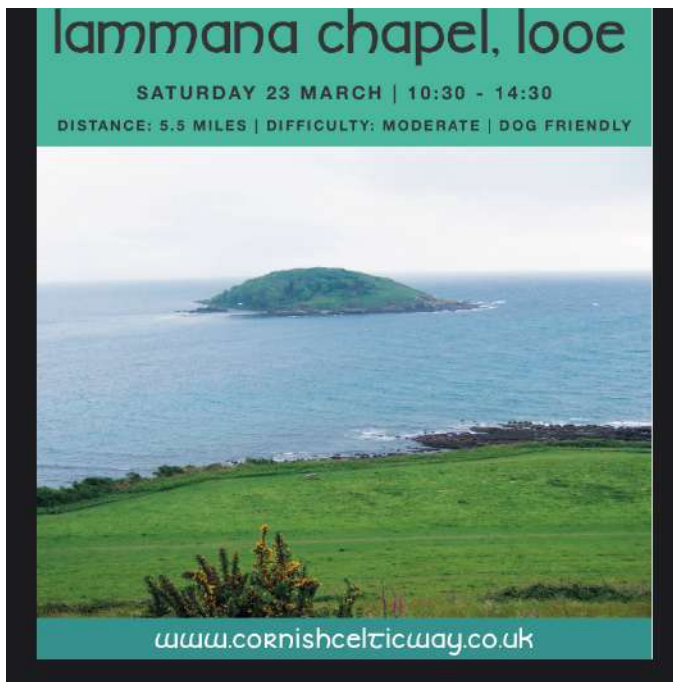
29 March, Good Friday Messy Church 10-12, All Saints Church

Good Friday service 2pm, Methodist Church

31 March, Easter Sunday Family Service

ALL WELCOME!

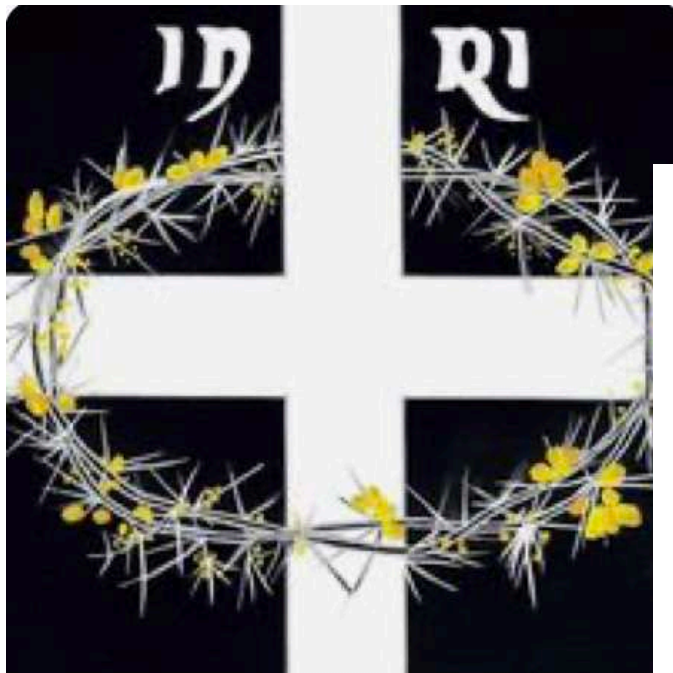




**Thursday 21 & Friday 22
March 2024
11.30am-12.30pm**

**Seeing and Being
with Art
Contemplation
at Morvah Schoolhouse
Gallery**

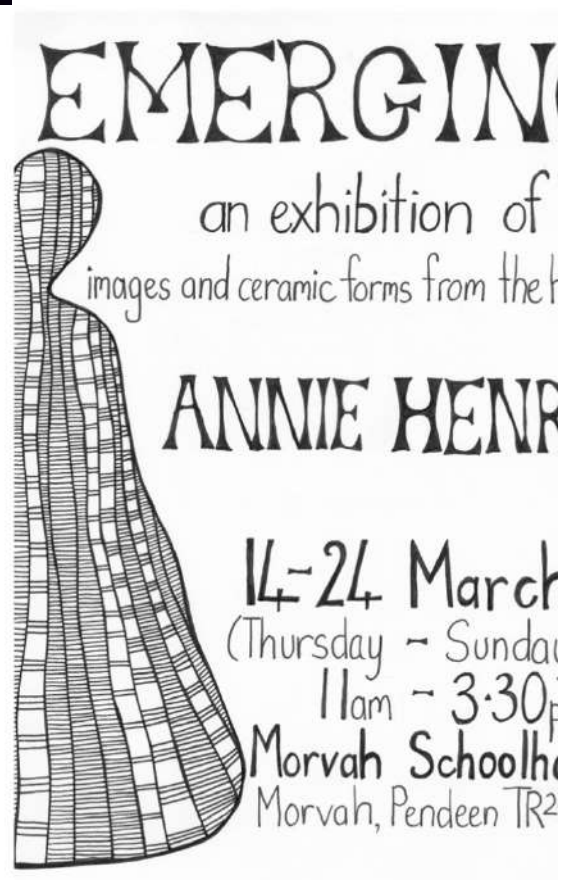
(refreshments available in the café from
10.30am)



**Stations of the Cross Procession
with Music**
facebook.com

**Stations of the Cross
Procession with Music**

Come and contemplate the stations of the cross with award winning songs in Cornish by writer Fiona O’Cleirigh and composer Ben Sutcliffe. Performed by the Brecon Ensemble



**Events at Tremorrant
& the Angel**

the Breseior Ensemble.

The procession will start in the Plain an
Gwarry, St Just on Saturday 30th
March 2024 at 10am.

**St Buryan Church Warden Fiona
writes...**

A group of us have just spent a
wonderful morning with the
inspirational Revd Annie HenryHolland
at her home in Botallack. We were able
to give ourselves time and space within
the season of Lent. Time and space for
reflection, absorbing the wonders of
nature and our surroundings, time to
read, time and space for thoughtful
creativity and time to quietly pray, plus,
of course, time for coffee and chat!
Annie's pioneering ministry touches so
many people from all walks of life.

Come and find out more about the
inspiration behind Annie's Art. She is
having a "one-man" exhibition called
"Emerging" at the Morvah
Schoolhouse from 14th – 24th March.
Images and ceramic forms from the
heart. The gallery is open from
Thursday – Sunday 11am – 3.30pm.

She is also giving a talk "Seeing and
Being with Art" on Thursday 21st and
Friday 22nd March from 11.30am –
12.30pm and the café will be open for
coffee before the talk.

I was incredibly privileged to join with
the group of ladies from St Buryan
Church on Friday morning at Revd
Annie's home in Truthwall. I will write

Wednesday 3 April - Friendship W
- Arrive 11am for coffee and
biscuits

11.30am-12.30pm Saunter in the
garden sharing poems, stories,
blessings and silence.

Monday 8 April - Soup & Silence
Arrive 12.15am for soup & a bit c
chat, 1-1.30pm Silence

Thursday 11 April 10.30am - 1pm
Creative Clay in the Studio £25
include clay, firing and refreshment
(Booking essential)

Saturday 13 April -10am-1pm
Create a sea glass ring or pendar
with Jess

All materials and refreshments
included £48 (Booking essential)

Thursday 18 April 10.30am -1pm
Cyanotype Workshop with Sue Sec
in Studio £25 to include all materi
and refreshments & Saturday 20
April
(Booking essential)

Wednesday 1 May Friendship Wa

Saturday 4 May 11am-5pm
Open Garden in aid of Cornwall
Hospice Care...CreamTeas Availab
Gallery Open

Cornwall Open Studios 25 May -
June
Gallery and Studios open every da

about my experience in a future newsletter but for now, would fully endorse Fiona's comments and encourage anyone who has business in their life, (and let's face it, that's most, if not all of us today!) to step away from that business and spend some time in a beautiful countryside setting, to draw closer to God, allowing yourself 'you and God time' and 'breathing space'. Annie and Martin are part of the Quiet Garden Movement.

Even if you think this type of thing wouldn't suit you, I promise you will be VERY surprised at how much you will enjoy it and how quickly the time will pass - you certainly won't be disappointed that you gave yourself the time and space!

Annie also offers art and spirituality workshops and creative clay workshops if that's more your cup of tea!

Please do contact her to find out more or check out their Website:

<https://quietgarden.org/gardens/back-to-the-garden-at-tremorran/>



... and ... 11am-5pm

Artists and Makers : Annie Henri Art, Martin Holland Photography, Simon Tredinnick (lost the plot creations digital clocks), Eric Pentecost Paintings, Maggi Gooding Ceramics, Sandra Lapskas GlassArt

Wednesday 12 June Friendship W

Monday 1 July Soup & Silence

Wednesday 10 July Friendship W

Monday 12 August Soup & Silence

Wednesday 21 August Friendshi
Walk

Monday 2 September Soup & Silen

Wednesday 11 September Friends
Walk

Saturday 14 September 11am-5pm

Open Garden in aid of Cornwall
Hospice Care...Cream Teas Availab
... Gallery Open

Soup & Silence lunchtime sessions are presently fully subscribed on Monday each month but if you are interested in attending these sessions please let Annie know so that a further day each month can be considered.

If you are coming to any of the events, especially Soup & Silence



events, especially Soup & Sherry
please let Annie know so that a place
can be laid for you at the table.

missanniehenry@hotmail.com
07768166309



NightChurch Penzance

23RD MARCH and 20TH APRIL

Please pray for this ministry and
outreach and for all those who use
NightChurch as a safe space.

Pray too for ongoing wisdom and for
the safety of the team of volunteers

St Gothians Church Gwithian



I have been greatly blessed in travelling around the deanery and meeting members from our church congregations and I am in awe of the commitment/dedication that is evident in the various community initiatives that are taking place, being organised, and run (usually) by a relatively small number of individuals in our churches. I recently paid a visit to St Gothian Church, Gwithian which is part of the Godrevy Benefice and met with its church warden Tracey to find out about their ministry within the village.

Lots of their ministry and outreach takes place at the Church Hall which is alongside

the church and was completed for use in 1864. Part of the hall's interesting history that a stage occupied the present day kitchen area and in years gone by the bodies of seamen, lost to shipwrecks, and recovered locally, were kept beneath the stage in a cold and dark until they could be officially dealt with. In fact, a dark void of some depth beneath the present flooring runs the whole length of the hall under which the damp accumulates and causes the wooden floor to rot. The storing of bodies proved very unpopular to those using the hall in those olden times, for good reason! Even so, the hall itself is a lovely space, with a kitchenette and open fire place and chimney that adds to its overall character by having the fire lit on occasions!



During the cold winter months November to Easter, it is a 'Warm Space' venue that is open from 12-3pm on Friday each week serving hot homemade soup, together with cakes and drinks. This is a free to use initiative that is sustained thanks to generous donations, and they have had as many as a dozen villagers and local walkers attend at any one time which is fabulous for a small village community.

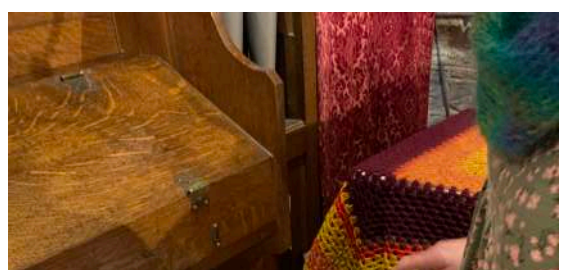
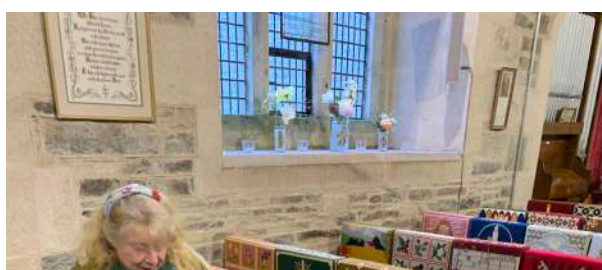
Annual calendar events include the church's Spring Fair which will be held this year on 20th April 10-3pm; the Summer Fete on Bank Holiday Monday, 26th August 10-5pm; and their Christmas Bazaar which takes place on 30th November from 10-3pm. During the summer months, July and August, Tracey and her small team of volunteers host a cream tea from 2-5pm each Wednesday afternoon. The Hall is very much the hub of different village socials, with regular summer exhibitions of arts and crafts by local artists. It is the venue of the Gwithian Christmas Lights social/party following their "switch on" event as well as being used for dog training classes, Young Farmers meetings, and for rehearsals of local musicians and musical groups. It is also a 'stop over' for walkers completing

the Cornish Celtic Way pilgrimage. They work well and in partnership with members from the local Methodist Chapel (always a good sign to non-church folk!) with congregations from both church and chapel supporting one another during workshops and exhibitions.

Tracey explained that the church does not charge for use of the premises but the the Church PCC sees ongoing use of the hall as part of their missional service to the village and surrounding area they are in turn blessed by the different hall users 'repaying in kind', for example musicians offering to play during the cream tea afternoons. As well as the annual Christmas Carol service, Easter celebrations and weekly services, the PCC is anxious to ensure the ongoing ministry of St Gothians Church and hope to introduce 'special services' for community groups, such as a surfers' service and a pet service. There is tea and coffee making facilities for visitors to the church and the Church Council is hoping to go ahead this year with the installation of a shower into the outbuilding behind the church hall.

Not only is the hall used regularly for church activities and by the local community of Gwithian but during the school holidays they hold a 'Nature Church' each Friday for children between the ages of 2-10 years. Sessions run during the summer holidays, and the summer and autumn half terms with a regular number of 6-8 children attending sessions from 10am to 4 pm. Each week they choose a different topic of study and make good use of the natural resources around them - Gwithian Nature Reserve; the Green Conservation Area; exploring the local beach and sand dunes and spending time in the churchyard.

Activities the children enjoy have included foraging, making insect boxes, bee and bird boxes, and the introduction and making of two small nature ponds in the church grounds. They also participate in art and craft activities and lunch and refreshments are provided for attendees with funding from Gwithian PCC who fully support this initiative. Tracey explained that she is very grateful that local experts give their time for free in guiding foraging, informative talks and artistic interpretation sessions. She was keen to stress too, that whatever their activity or topic for the day, they always include a time of quiet and reflection in the church itself and that use of the church is paramount in maintaining its status as an integral part of the community of Gwithian





The church has recently been a collection point for the Hayle Salvation Army Ukraine Appeal and the Red Cross in Ukraine Campaign with Tracey having initiated donations and collections for the past 6 months of warm clothing, blankets, and bedding. There were huge piles of donated items at the back of the church at the time of my visit and she explained that they had already had one large load collected by the Salvation Army for delivery to Ukraine. Donations having far exceeded her expectations, the items presently at the church have been collected only in the past three months. In talking with Tracey, it was obvious that although small in number being a generous church is part of the ethos of St Gothians. They have previously raised much needed funds to support the Children's Society, the Newlyn Fisherman's Mission, Phillack Community Café and they undertake regular collections for Hayle Food Bank. In return, Tracey explained the generous and faithful ways in which God has provided for the ongoing work there at Gwithian.

One such miraculous provision recently followed the gales during storm Ciarán last autumn. Tracey had called in to check on the church building following the storm only to find lots of debris and rainwater on the Church floor at the rear of the church near the bell tower thanks to a wide hole in the roof caused by missing slates! The church was already having some restorative work done and subsequently had scaffold in place around the building. She asked the workmen if they would check the level of damage which they were happy to do, it was significant! On arrival to the church later that week she found that they had gone ahead and repaired the damage to the roof and made good the ceiling inside the church without having to be asked, the scaffolding inside this small church was a sight to behold, God's miraculous provision in action!



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