

# Five Alive

**The Magazine of the Redruth Team Ministry**  
St Euny Redruth, Christchurch Lanner, St Andrew Pencoys  
St Andrew Redruth and St Stephen Treleigh



**APRIL 2024**

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REDRUTH TEAM MINISTRY

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# Sojourners

In the run-up to Lent, I thought it wise, as did those around me, to take a respite from parish life so that I can gather myself physically, mentally, and spiritually, preparing for the upcoming Passion Week and Easter Weekend. For a long while, I yearned to take a long journey on my motorcycle, to venture beyond my natural boundaries and take the road less travelled. Somewhere new. Somewhere different. New roads; new experiences.

It was a long, hard slog. Despite God's grace providing a brief respite of relatively pleasant weather, I endured harsh conditions of wind and rain. Was this what it was like in the wilderness for Jesus? This expedition was more than a mere physical trek; it was a voyage of self-discovery; rediscovery, sacrificing comfort, yearning for purpose, stepping away from the ordinary, and grappling with the divine in challenging circumstances. Along the rugged path, I felt as though I was traversing my own Lenten pilgrimage, navigating the wilderness of the road.

The journey did have a purpose. I travelled to Bristol to visit my old theological college, to spend time in spiritual reflection/direction, to stay with old friends, and to revisit familiar places. It was pleasant. However, despite its pleasantness, my time in Bristol was challenging. I struggled. I felt uncomfortable and uneasy. This city didn't feel like my own, and its inhabitants weren't my people. I felt a sense of lament for the city and its people; a deep sadness arose within me as I sensed something missing. However, I soon came to realize it wasn't them; it was me.

Something deep within my soul knew that I was not meant to be there. This was a temporary stay; I was a sojourner, a new word in my vocabulary that has made me think. Are we not all sojourners? Temporary residents on this earth, on an unknown journey with a destination that is unclear, but we know why the road needs to be travelled. The road of Lent, the journey of Easter, it physically, mentally, and spiritually prepares us for His sacrificial glory, to remember what he did for us and why, so that we may take up our crosses, to be sojourners like Jesus was. To be vagrants of Grace.

While in Bristol with my friend, he suggested that I extend my stay, but there was something within me, a stirring in my soul, my very soul pulling me, urging me to move on, and as I bid farewell to my friend, I told him, 'The open road, the horizon, and the wild coast call to my very soul, and there, there I find my home.' May you embark on a journey this Easter, exploring new roads and new horizons that God has ordained and prepared for you since before time itself began. Be Lenten Sojourners, Sojourners at the Cross. May we all be vagrants of Grace.

***Amen***

***Revd Chris Harrigan***

## **THE WALLS WE BUILD ON EARTH DO NOT STRETCH TO HEAVEN**

The Lent group in Lanner broke new ground as it brought together Anglicans and Methodists from across both the Anglican Deanery and the Methodist Circuit. The group, usually around 20 studied the well-known hymn "Amazing Grace" and related its themes to our world today. The following prayer / poem emerged from that group:

**Heavenly Father, Prince of peace, light of the world,  
Grant to the leaders of nations and to us all  
A desire for peace.**

**We pray for the release of hostages on both sides of any conflict,  
That it may be the key to peace.**

**Lord, give us peace in the hopelessness of darkness.  
Dear Father, Lord, in these times that should bring joy,  
Grant to both sides in any conflict that they may recognise  
That peace is the only way to proceed.**

**Place your loving arms around those who are suffering,  
And Lord, allow your grace and wisdom to guide all to peace.**

**May all know your enduring love and peace,  
Because with you there is always hope,  
Even when things look hopeless. AMEN**

May this prayer remind us all that different traditions can work together and that divisions can be set aside when God's love for all life is understood and embraced.

***FP***

## ST ANDREW REDRUTH

### The legend strikes again!

My early memories of family life are filled with the comings and goings of a variety of domestic pets, not least among them my darling dachshund, Fritz.

Fritz was incredible. To me he was the perfect best friend. A gentle, loving companion, my devout silent witness, my accomplice, loyal to the bitter end. However, to some like Mr Keast the Postman, he was a Rottweiler, a commando trained terrorist ready and waiting to give chase (and a nip,) whenever the opportunity arose.

After we had moved to Coach Lane I was allowed to walk Fritz on my own, though only as far as the end of the road. I would often take him in my dolls pram, wrapped in a baby pink blanket where he would just settle his head, on the pillow and fall asleep. On some occasions I would dress him in my dolls clothes and he would sleep for hours in the pram, snuggled up beneath cosy, warm blankets.

Just up the road from number seven lived a lady called Mrs Salter. If I was passing her gate she would often ask me about school or if I had seen her cat that was always disappearing. One particular Saturday I was pushing my dolls pram when she came out of her gate. She smilingly looked beneath the hood of my pram, obviously expecting to see some beautiful, curly haired doll. What she actually saw was one rather disgruntled dog dressed in a lemon knitted dress with matching bonnet and mittens on his paws! Fritz did not take kindly to being disturbed. He opened one hooded eye, curled back his top lip showing a set of rather fine, sharp white teeth and gave a low, blood curdling growl.

Mrs Salter, unlike poor Mr Keast, got off lightly with just a warning and she beat a very hasty retreat back behind her garden wall. She later complained to my Mother and after that, I lost all interest in playing with my dolls pram.

Eventually my Mother moved it out to the Wash House where it resided with the rest of the 'unwants', my brother's old bike, my beloved tricycle which I had outgrown and all the household items long past their sell by date.

On cold, wet, winter days when we were all hunkered down in front of a blazing fire, Fritz would quietly slip from my lap and make his way to the Wash House. There he would nestle down in the old dolls pram and dream his doggy dreams. I often wondered if they included wearing a lemon knitted dress, booties and a bonnet?

*Pie Louis-Smith*

## **St. Andrew's Pencoys with Four Lanes Methodist Church 'FLAPJACK'**

Worshipping, praying and working together as 'One in Christ. St. Andrew's Church remains open daily from about 10am until 4pm with optional Covid-safe precautions in place. Please take care, as Covid is still with us!

Just a reminder that all are welcome to the Teatime Celebration at Four Lanes Methodist Church on **Easter Day 31<sup>st</sup> March** at 4pm, when we shall be making Easter Bonnets!

At the First Sunday Evening Event on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, a total of £200 was raised to support The Leprosy Mission and we thank all who came and donated to this very worthy cause. The next Event, the first of our 13<sup>th</sup> year of First Sunday Evening Events, will be at 6pm on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April at St. Andrew's Church, Pencoys**, supporting **The Prostate Cancer Appeal**, to which all are welcome. We are extremely grateful to everyone who has supported these Events over the past 12 years, during which many thousands of pounds have been raised for deserving causes.

Flapjack services and events during **April** will be:

Said Holy Communion each Wednesday at 6.m St. Andrew's, Pencoys.

**Please note that alternate Sunday morning services will now be held at 11.15am at Four Lanes Methodist Church and St. Andrew's Pencoys, starting on 14<sup>th</sup> April.**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April** : Quiz in Pencoys Hall 7pm

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April** : Flapjack Holy Communion Service 11.15am Methodist Church  
Lighthouse Young People's project 3–5p.m Methodist Church  
First Sunday Evening Event 6pm St. Andrew's Pencoys

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April** : **Flapjack Family Event** 11.15am with Holy Communion  
St. Andrew's Pencoys

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April** : **Games Evening** (Bingo) 6– 8pm Pencoys Hall

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April** : Methodist Service 11.15am Methodist Church  
Holy Communion 6pm St. Andrew's Pencoys

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April** : Bangers & Mash Methodist Church from 1pm

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April** : Flapjack Holy Communion, St. Andrew's Pencoys 11.15am  
Teatime Celebration, Pencoys Hall, 4–5pm

The Wednesday Social afternoons continue at Four Lanes Methodist Church on 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> April, when all are welcome.

***Jill Tolputt***

## ST EUNY

Fr Peter has written about the funeral of Pat Ince in his Moving Forward Together Article which is on the website, held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March, St Piran's Day, at St Euny, and it was a great privilege to have five serving priests as well as Jason our lay reader, leading the service. Although it was a tribute to a life that has come to its natural close, it was also a bringing together of many generations of St Euny family and for that we are grateful.

Our Open Café continues with the numbers showing a gradual increase. Welcoming dogs into church is popular and several are among our regular congregation as well as café visitors. We hope to provide some doggy refreshment treats in future. The churchyard is a very popular dog-walking spot and on our 'St Euny window' in the north aisle, St Euny is shown on one side of the Virgin Mary holding the baby Jesus, and St Francis of Assisi on the other. St Francis has a special place in St Euny, so it feels appropriate for us to hold a special welcome for animals. The window is dedicated to the Rev. Samuel Sharp Walker, his son Francis Harry Walker, who died at less than one year old in 1869, and his wife, Susan Eveline Walker, who died in 1910. Samuel Sharp Walker was curate at Redruth from 1869-71 and it was whilst he was here that his young son died. The window was donated by the eldest son of Rev. Samuel Sharp Walker, James Manders Walker, who was also ordained priest in the Church of England, and became vicar of Newark, Nottinghamshire. In 1922 the Rev. Dr. J.M. Walker donated a three-light window in the church of his childhood home, Tempsford, Bedfordshire, with a picture of Samuel on one side of St James the Great and St Francis of Assisi on the other side. Beneath the picture of Samuel is a dedication to his father, Samuel Sharp Walker, and beneath the picture of St Francis of Assisi is a dedication to his young brother, Francis Harry Walker, born at Tempsford in December 1868, died May 4<sup>th</sup> 1869. Our window was made in 1924. So there are two windows dedicated to St Francis of Assisi in Britain which are memorials of the same young child who was his namesake. Both windows were made by the firm of Percy Bacon Ltd., a family firm whose work is characterised by richly dressed biblical figures. Another characteristic of this firm was the use of silver nitrate to stain hair yellow (seen in our window in the baby Jesus) and borders on robes which resemble pearls and jewels – also seen in our window on the robe of Mary and the curtain draped behind. Rev. J.M. Walker, the donor, was always grateful that God had spared him life at a time when many of his childhood friends died of a typhoid epidemic.

At the time of our APCM we said goodbye to Lucie as Churchwarden and welcomed Andrew Watts to take her place. Lucie has supported St Euny through several years of change and has always worked hard to keep us going. We are all very grateful for her dedication and wish her well in her next steps on her Pioneer Ministry training.

***Linda Beskeen***



## CHRISTCHURCH LANNER



Christchurch remains open 10.00am– 4.00pm and Holy Communion is celebrated each Sunday at 9.30am. The third Sunday is a Communion with new music and each Wednesday there is a Prayer Book Communion Service at 11.00am. *Due to the 'vacancy' the LAST Sunday of each month will revolve through the SIX worship settings and starts at 10.30am*

**THE CHRISTCHURCH SUPPER CLUB:** Christchurch enjoys a SUPPER CLUB every three months. There is always lots of food etc. brought by the guests and a good time, by candlelight is had by all. The next Supper Club date is: **SATURDAY APRIL 13, 7.00pm**

**OTHER EVENTS AT CHRISTCHURCH:** *Margaret's Last Monday Tea Party 2.00pm – 4.00pm.* Home made cake and lots of chat!! The next tea party is on **APRIL 29.**

**TOASTY TUESDAYS:** As the weather is growing warmer, the event has returned to a fortnightly 'games afternoon'. Thanks to Linda and Margaret who provided a weekly lunch in the cold, wet winter which was much enjoyed. From **TUESDAY APRIL 9**, the group returns to its fortnightly time of **2pm – 4pm**

**CHRISTCHURCH FIRST SUNDAY EVENT IN MAY:** This project, now in its thirteenth year returns to Christchurch on SUNDAY MAY 5 at 6.00pm. The charity to be supported is DEBRA. This charity works with those who have a specific skin disease known as 'Butterfly' skin. DEBRA is a national charity and patient support organisation for people living with the rare and extremely painful genetic skin blistering condition: *Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB)* also known as 'Butterfly Skin'. EB causes the skin to become very fragile and to tear or blister at the slightest touch. With our help treatments and cures can be found for EB.

**THE WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY:** This takes place EVERY Wednesday after the 11.00am BCP service of Holy communion. The group looks at the readings for the coming Sunday and tries to relate it to their own experiences both past and present.

**THE NEW RECTOR:** The Christchurch community and the people of Lanner send their very best wishes to **The Rev'd Rebecca Bell** as she prepares to be licensed as the Rector of Redruth.

**BUT IN LENT THE BIBLE STUDY IS REPLACED BY A JOINT METHODIST / ANGLICAN STUDY GROUP ON THE HYMN "AMAZING GRACE".** Please check the weekly sheet for the venue, Church or Chapel.

**WITH BEST WISHES FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER**  
**FP**

## ST STEPHEN TRELEIGH



A few weeks ago we welcomed the Community Choir from Treleigh School who gave a concert on a Maritime Theme for their parents and members of the congregation in aid of the RNLI. You may have seen the amazing choir on the stage in Redruth for the St Pirans day celebrations. We must congratulate not only the school but their music teacher Miss Bailey who has coached a very enthusiastic group of children who sing beautifully.

Our Community Tea Party on the 12th of March was again well attended, with some now familiar faces who look forward to coming in for a cuppa and slice of cake and having a chat with us. Once again Anya our Parish nurse attended and was on hand to answer any questions regarding the children. Our next tea party after the Easter Holidays on Tuesday 16th April.

By the time the magazine has gone to print we will have held the Redruth Parish Meeting when we have the election for Churchwardens and their Deputies. This is followed by the Redruth Annual Parochial Church meeting where among other items on the agenda, the members of the PCC for the following year are elected.

Holy week will soon be upon us beginning with Palm Sunday when our Lord rode in triumph on a donkey down a path strewn with palms torn from the surrounding trees. We at Treleigh start our service in the hall which includes the blessing of the palms after which we parade down the path singing the hymn All Glory Laud and Honour and waving our palms continuing into the church where we finish singing the hymn accompanied by Charlie on the organ. We then continue with our service of Holy Communion. The week continues with services starting on Monday at Pencoys of Holy Communion and Stations of the Cross, Tuesday at Christchurch and Wednesday at St Stephens.

On Maundy Thursday after our morning service we have for the first time the children from Busy Bees coming in for an Easter Service and afterwards they will be given an Easter chick containing an Easter egg to take home with them.

Easter Sunday the Parish service will take place at St Stephens when the Paschal candles for all the churches will be lit from the Easter fire which itself will be lit from the Easter dawn vigil fire at St Euny. Please join us if you can, you will all be warmly welcomed. Refreshments will be served in the hall after the service.

***Mary Harris***

## The beginning of “Redruth’s Mostly Grumpy Old Men”

This story is about my wife Bev Jeffery. My name is Nigel Jeffery and I lost Bev to very aggressive Cancer in September 2021, we spent a month at St Julia's Hospice Hayle where she had amazing treatment and care.

The upshot of this story is that a couple of friends of mine, who I hadn't seen for a few years came to Bev's funeral and at the wake they said we should meet up for breakfast... A few weeks passed and they got in touch and 3 of us went out for breakfast... Anyone who knows me knows that I like to take photos and Facebook them, so we put a few photos on Facebook and a few others who saw them wanted to join, so we went from 3 friends to 6 friends to 10 friends for breakfast. We used to meet every 4 weeks and had a great time catching up.

We had been doing this for around six months, when more friends wanted to join, so we went up to around 20/30 people so we decided we needed a name for our group and came up with "Redruths Mostly Grumpy Old Man's Breakfast Club"...

Our numbers outgrew Jens Diner and we moved to the Penventon Park Hotel Redruth. In the last 12 months the group has grown to 165 members, we meet once a month with an average 100 Mostly Grumpy Old Men eating a delicious breakfast every 4 weeks.

The Penventon Park Hotel sponsored Polo Shirts with "Redruth’s Mostly Grumpy Old Man's Breakfast Club" on the front and the hotel logo on the sleeve, to which we're really grateful.. The group helps people who might have been bereaved or are feeling lonely. It's a place for oldfriends to reconnect and also to make new friends. It's a safe location and it brings people together and allows them to talk about things that they may not talk about in their own environment.

Each month we raise money for charity, so far we have raised £400.00 for St Julia's Hospice Hayle, £245.00 for St Andrews Church Warm Space and £230.00 for Redruth Charity Trust. We also have guest speakers each month who will talk about the charity we're raising money for that month. These people grew from the Grumpies....

Bev brought us together and is probably mad that she's missing out on breakfast! It's really good for men to talk! If anyone would like to join, please contact me on 07759112869 or on Facebook messenger....

God bless you all  
Nigel

## Feminist Theology Books Available

If you are interest in any of the following books please let Margaret Saville know – they are second hand and FREE offered by a friend who loves books! Ring me on 219059 or catch me at church

Sexism and God Talk Rosemary Radford-Ruether 2002  
Life Giving Spirit: Responding to the Feminine in God Alwyn Marriage 1989  
Life Cycles: Women and Pastoral Care Ed. Elaine Graham & Margaret Halsey 1993  
Theology & Feminism Daphne Hampson 1990  
Women Before God Lavinia Byrne 1988  
God and the Rhetoric of Sexuality Phyllis Trible 1989  
Rhetoric and Ethics: The Politics of Biblical Studies Elizabeth Schussler Fiorenza  
Found Wanting: Women, Christianity and Sexuality Alison Webster 1995  
The Power of Naming Ed. Elizabeth Schussler Fiorenza 1996 [A Concilium Reader in Feminist Liberation Theology]

### FROM THE REGISTERS

#### FUNERALS

22 February	2024	Joan Katie Ryder	St Euny
22 February	2024	Margery Teague	St Stephen Treleigh
05 March	2024	Patricia Ince (Pat/Cam) MBE	St Euny
07 March	2024	Robert Henry Richards	St Stephen Treleigh <i>(burial at St Euny)</i>
08 March	2024	Thomas Roy Bray	St Stephen Treleigh

#### BURIAL OF ASHES

09 March	2024	Bessie Wara	St Euny
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## Stress Awareness

April is Stress Awareness Month; its aim is to raise awareness about the causes and cures for our modern-day stress. Stress is a normal part of life but too much stress can affect both our physical and mental health. From heart disease and insomnia to anxiety and depression, its consequences are far-reaching.

This year's theme is **#ChooseHope**, it encourages us to move beyond talk and take action. When I was looking into stress awareness month I was surprised and encouraged that the theme was choose hope. How apt I thought?!

Hope inspires us to perceive things differently and create plans to achieve positive change. But our hope is also in God, and that brings such comfort to know that we are never alone. Hope in the here and now and hope in the life that is to come rests on the shoulders of Jesus. Sometimes it's difficult to see hope in a situation. However, the Bible says that true hope is unseen. And if we can be hopeful for one thing, such as our salvation which is unseen, then we can be hopeful for other things too. So, if you're struggling with stress now know that you are not alone and be hopeful for a less stressful future.

Below are some top stress reduction tips.



Remember, there is no health without mental health, and stress awareness month reminds us to prioritize both aspects of our well-being. Let's choose hope and take steps toward a healthier life, hand in hand with Jesus.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13.

With love and prayers,

Anya x

**Anya Dolling**  
**Parish Nurse**

# BENEFICE BOOK CLUB NEWS

Everyone enjoyed reading *Akin* by Emma Donoghue, it was an easy read with a very humane story of a relationship growing between two people from different generations. A reminder of how young and old and total strangers have something to offer one another when they are thrust together through circumstances beyond their control. I do recommend the book to you, which is now available in the Book Club bookcase near the coffee area in St Andrew's Redruth.

When we meet again on April 5<sup>th</sup> we will be reviewing *A Murder Inside* by Frances Brody; a new deputy governor of a former borstal finds herself with a number of incidents to cope with in her first week. She starts her new job of transforming the borstal into an open prison for women but soon discovers there have been some strange goings on in the past which might be related to the soon to retire governor committing suicide. All will be revealed. For those looking ahead, our May book is to be *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. *Kambili, a 15 year old girl lives in fear of her father, a charismatic yet violent Catholic patriarch who, although generous and well respected in his community is repressive and fanatically religious at home. Escape and the discovery of a new, liberated life come when Nigeria is shaken by a military coup, and Kambili and her brother go to live at their aunt's home, a noisy place full of laughter. The visit lifts the silence from her world and in time, unlocks a terrible bruising secret at the heart of her family. An extraordinary debut, Purple Hibiscus is a novel about the blurred lines between the old gods and the new, childhood and adulthood, love and hatred – the grey spaces in which truths are revealed and true living begins.*

Do think about joining us if you like reading – we've had quite a change of people in the last few months so you won't be on your own as a 'newbie'! Ring me, Margaret, on 219059 for further information.

**Margaret Saville 219059**

## ***News from the Bell Tower***

St. Euny Tower ringers were privileged to be part of Pat Ince's funeral arrangements on St. Piran's day, when we rang the bells before the service.

After a splendid spread of refreshments, Pat left the church to the sound of the Tenor Bell tolling 89 times, reflecting her age.

**Clive Reynolds**

## THE PARISH OF REDRUTH ANNUAL MEETING 17 MARCH 2024

The above meeting has taken place and the following persons have been elected to serve as PCC representatives for a term of twelve months:-

### **Christchurch Lanner**

Rob Pitcher  
Linda James

### **Deanery Synod Representatives until 2026**

Linda James

### **St Andrew Pencoys**

Brian Gannaway  
Sheila Gannaway  
Jill Tolputt

Jill Tolputt

### **St Andrew Redruth**

Jeff Saville  
Mike Louis Smith

Richard Robinson

### **St Stephen Treleigh**

Robin Knights  
Trish Knights  
Juliet Jenkin

Carol Stewart  
Anne Youlton

### **St Euny**

Linda Beskeen  
Lucie Rogers

Jason Hoole-Jackon

## ***THANK YOU***

I am sure you all will have enjoyed reading Michael Tangye's articles over the past years.

Michael has been unwell and at present is unable to write articles for Five Alive.

We wish him well and pray that he will again soon be able to pick up his pen to continue to write. Michael and Pam still continue to enjoy reading Five Alive, which Clive Reynolds kindly delivers to them

***Rosemary***

***A topical poem penned by a local parishioner that attends FLAPJACK  
"Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart"  
Luke Ch 2 vs 19 and 51***

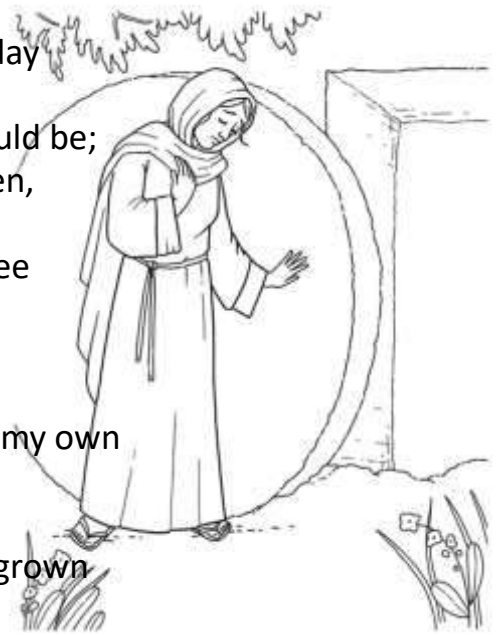
My God! Please be with me this day  
Please help me understand  
I knew deep in my heart, this day would be;  
My Dear Son, Innocent! Was taken,  
Beaten! Crowned with thorns!  
Then cruelly, Crucified Upon a tree

You chose me, as the Mother,  
Of the Saviour of the world;  
But to me, when He was born, He was my own  
My tiny helpless baby  
Whom I cradled in my arms  
To care for, love, protect, till He had grown

I look upon His poor face  
And remember Him, a babe  
But now, I see the thorns, that pierce his brow  
The pain I felt in bringing Him  
Into this cruel world, was nothing!  
To the pain I'm feeling now!

I know, when He is gone  
That very soon, we'll meet again  
My heart keeps telling me, that this is true  
But as I see Him suffering  
I weep for Him, and me  
My heart aches, for the pain, he's going through

When time is right. Your purpose for mankind  
Has been fulfilled  
He'll enter then into this world again  
When people of that time, can feel the way I do this day  
Then your dear Son, my god and mine  
Would not have died this way in vain



***Sheila Gannaway***



# My Way to Compostela — Day 10

## Logrono to Azofra

### 38.7km

We were up and out of the pension by 5.45 to a damp and chilly morning. What surprised us both was the presence of revellers still out and about, thankfully without the band. The guide book advises the pilgrim to pay careful attention to the Camino way markers when leaving the city as there are plenty of competing commercial signs attempting to divert pilgrims to various cafes and bars. We make our way out via the medieval part of the city and for the next two Kilometres along the main road, sign posted Burgos N-120. This takes us through the city's suburbs until after the two kilometres, we leave the road and cross a rail bridge which brings us into the Parque de San Miguel, passing through the Parque we emerge onto a road that takes us through a tunnel under the A-12. This was the first time that Andrew and I had to use our head torches in earnest and I have to admit I was more than a little nervous. The tunnel was low and very dark with no lighting and we were in a strange city, so I had a firm grip on my walking pole. However I should not have been worried, for as Andrew turned on his head torch it was so powerful that it would have blinded any attacker and probably caused a black-out in the city!!! Exiting the tunnel unmolested we continue along a paved pathway leaving the motorways behind us and head towards a grove of pine trees which marked the location of Logrono's reservoir, Pantano de la Grajera a further 2.2Km ahead. On reaching the reservoir we turn right and follow along the wall of the Pantano, through a pine wood and over a footbridge and past the Café Cabana del Tio Juarvi (sadly not open) and the picnic area that overlooks the lake. From here we continue on the track for 3.5km to reach Alto de la Grajera. Here at 540 metres we look back at our route and over the city of Logrono. From the Alto, the route takes us on a path that runs parallel to a motorway, which was separated from us by a wire fence. This fence was decorated with hundreds of small wooden crosses made from bark, picked up from a local saw mill and placed on the fence by passing Pilgrims, a visual reminder of the pilgrims who had walked before us and a reminder of the boundary that separates us from the sacred nature of pilgrimage and the secular environment in which we undertake a pilgrimage. We are now, for our sins, on the hard shoulder of the N-120 motorway heading towards Navarrete 3.4km ahead and the prospect of a coffee and some breakfast. We eventually leave the hard shoulder and pick up the route through fields and vineyards (no grapes) before crossing yet another autopista, bringing us to the ruins of a medieval monastery of the order of San Juan de Acre, which dates from the 12<sup>th</sup> century and was built to care for pilgrims. The monastery's former front porch now forms the gateway to the town of Navarrete's cemetery, a reminder that recycling is not a new concept! From this point we continue up a steep stoned path bringing us into the town. Here we find another example of an historical Camino site, in its favour a lot of effort has gone into maintaining the original period homes with their ancient shields and crests. We arrive at 8am and find a bar/ café open and sit down to enjoy our first coffee of the day and a large warm, delicious croissant.

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Into our second cup of the reviving coffee and croissants who should walk into the bar but 'condom man' aka Clive who had teamed up with a chap called Chris, who comes from the same town as Clive. We lingered a little with them, Clive and Chris had stayed in one of the town's Albergues or so Clive said, and had come into the bar for breakfast. So having chewed the cud we leave them at around 8.45 and head back on the trail which we pick up by retracing our way back to the cemetery and follow the route from where we left off. From this point we walk on a track of bright red Riojan earth through the famous red wine vineyards (no grapes) but lots of sticky heavy clay that clog our boots and make the next 3.7km a hard slog, bringing us to a Cruce (cross roads) Here the guide book gives the pilgrim two options, one is to take the left hand path that brings you to the albergue in the small Hamlet of Sotes, which just happens to sit next to the local wine cooperative Vitivinicola de Sotes, the other option is to stay on the main path and carry on to the village of Ventosa which would make the overall distance, 0.4 of a Km shorter and as it was too early in the morning for wine tasting we opted for the shorter route. As we approach the village there were way-markers that showed the pilgrims they could bypass the village and take a different route around which is what we did. This path takes us between two hills where we come across a number of small stone "altars" erected by pilgrims as they passed through to reach the Alto de San Anton, at 610 metres the highest point of today's walk. On our right of the Alto was Roldan's Hill Poyode Roldan. Legend has it that Roldan killed the Muslim giant Farragut with a well aimed rock. This freed the town of Ventosa and the Christian Knights of Charlemagne's army who had been held captive there. A legend similar to that of David and Goliath. From this point we head down through the narrow pass towards Najera passing under, would you know it, the N-120.

**Len Cunningham**

**To be continued**

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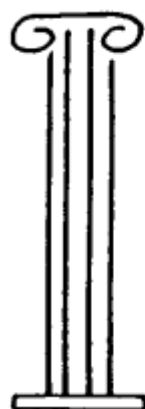


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