

# FIVE ALIVE

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



**DECEMBER 2020**  
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### FIVE ALIVE MAGAZINE

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**by FRIDAY 11 DECEMBER**

## Rector's notes – December 2020

### A new church year, and another Christmas!

In the church of course we do this slightly odd thing of having the end of the church year a month or so before everyone else ends their year. Advent Sunday marks the beginning of our new church year, but it seems appropriate to dwell for a moment on what has happened in 2020.

*A prayer for church growth  
God of Mission, who alone brings  
growth to your church; send your  
Holy Spirit to give vision to our plan-  
ning, wisdom to our actions, and  
power to our witness.  
Help our churches grow in num-  
bers, in spiritual commitment to  
you, and in service to our local  
community; through Jesus Christ  
our Lord. Amen.*

What an extraordinary year it has been – 2020 will forever be associated with Covid and the uncertainty, anxiety, hardship and grief it has brought, not to mention the lockdowns we've lived through. And as a group of churches we have had to think on our feet, adopt new technological skills and ways of worshipping together, and of keeping in touch with each other. The biggest encouragement to me has been the development of a new praying community – mainly at our daily Zoom morning prayer time. If you could, but you haven't tried it yet, I urge you to give it a go at least once!

But in amongst it all - God has been with us. In fact the pattern of the church year I find really helpful in that it unfolds over the months regardless of what else the world is hurling at us. Advent is a season of expectation and preparation looking towards the celebration of the most extraordinary event since the world began – the coming into the world of the Son of God as a helpless baby, born to show us how we should live – how we should treat each other. That truth is just as wonderful as it ever was, and we will celebrate it somehow or another, whatever restrictions we're still living under by then.

### Advent Courses

To help us prepare we are again running several Advent courses, all on Zoom (but phone access is easy – please ask). The theme is 'journey', and we are returning to the main players in the nativity accounts: The wise men, Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, and the inn-keeper (pretty short journey for him / her!).

Please keep a look out in the weekly bulletins for the ways of accessing these meetings.

As each of us makes our journey towards Bethlehem this year, it will undoubtedly feel different from normal. So may we be ever attentive to noticing Jesus present in our midst, and ready to welcome Jesus – on our own, and in all the people we do manage to encounter.

With my prayers and best wishes for a peaceful and joy-filled Christmas

***Caspar Bush (Team Rector)***

**Revd Graham writes .....**

***Christmas: Even if the doors are locked?***

Advent is all about expectation and preparation: we spend nearly a month getting ready for Christmas, with decorations, lights and trees going up and presents being wrapped. Lots of people have started early this year! St Ives set the pace this year with the town's lights being switched on by the end of October, and I wonder how many of you have already got decorations up by the time you read this?

Christmas 2020 is most definitely not cancelled, but it will feel a bit different no doubt as family travel plans and traditions are on hold. But as we get ready for Christmas behind closed doors, we can remember that Advent is about the church preparing to celebrate the arrival of Jesus in the incarnation and also looks forward to his arrival as he comes to us again.

And even if the doors *are* locked, isn't it at Christmas that children look forward to the arrival of someone who prefers to use the chimney, and seems to always find a way despite the lockdown?

And even if the doors *are* locked, we have the promise of Jesus who turns up to be present to his followers. That story of Jesus after his resurrection has a powerful resonance for us in this season. Luke 24:36 says, "Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

Wherever we are this Advent and Christmas, and whether or not we can connect with loved ones on Zoom, Facetime or some other technology, the miracle of Christmas is in that other name of Jesus: Emmanuel which means 'God with us'.

Wherever we are, whether we may go out or not, whether we may travel to family or welcome them into our homes as we normally would, may we know the promise of 'God with us', and find ways to share that promise and Christmas magic with others.

## NATIVITY

Ten years ago, there was a four part series on BBC1 called THE NATIVITY. The author of the script, Tony Jordan was an atheist when his pen hit the paper. When he had finished writing he was a believer.

The series tells the traditional Christmas story from an intensely human angle and in so doing provides answers to so many questions .....

HOW DID GOD OVERSHADOW MARY?

HOW DID MARY'S PARENTS AND JOSEPH REACT TO MARY'S PREGNANCY?

WHAT WAS THE ATTITUDE OF THE NAZARENES TO AN UNMARRIED MOTHER?

WHAT WAS THE JOURNEY LIKE WITH JOSEPH FEELING BETRAYED AND MARY NOT BEING BELIEVED?

WHEN DID THE THREE WISE ONES BEGIN THEIR JOURNEY AND WHY?

There are so many other questions that perhaps you ask each Christmas. This beautiful series of four programmes will not answer them, but it may help you to think about just what went on 2020 years ago and why.

For me, it is the actual birth scene that gives the Christmas story a new and dynamic meaning. Throughout the film, Joseph has refused to believe that God overshadowed Mary and that she carries God's son. Despite Mary pleading with him he turns away. Finally, in Bethlehem, with Mary in labour Joseph finds a midwife. As the final contractions gather strength the midwife shouts at Joseph: HOLD HER HAND.

It is enough. Joseph is united with God's love, he understands God's love for Mary and for him. The child is born and Joseph allows the love of the baby to flood out and touch the first visitors, the shepherds and the wise ones. Everyone is changed. As they all place their hand into the hand of the Christ child they know that their lives will never be the same again.

This Christmas put your hand into the hand of Jesus and allow his strength, love and light to lead you on your journey, wherever that journey may lead you.

With love from Christchurch, Lanner and St Andrew, Pencoys

*Fr Peter*



## ST STEPHEN'S TRELEIGH



**From the beginning of the first lockdown** our Team Rector, Reverend Caspar Bush and the Ministry Team have worked tirelessly to bring the Church into our homes via Zoom. There has been a weekly Sunday Holy Communion Service at 10.30 am which continued even after we were allowed back into our Churches to worship under full Covid Guidelines and that has been a great comfort for those people who were shielding or unable to actually get to Church. We have daily Morning Prayer at 9am via Zoom, plus prayer groups, bible study, teatime chats and church meetings. Monthly magazines and prayer sheets have been delivered or posted and phone calls made to ensure more vulnerable church members are not alone in these worrying times. Our sincere thanks to Caspar and his team for their exceptional diligence in keeping us all in the loop.

**As we go into our second lockdown** we at least know it is only for one month and pray that this will make a significant difference to the spread of the virus.

**In view of the present situation** it is hoped that St. Stephen's Patronal Festival on December 26th at 10.30am, taken by Rev'd Peter Fellows, will go ahead. This of course depends on Covid regulations at the time.

**In 2004 Family Tree Magazine** published a short article of mine in the February issue. The subject was writing a church news page and its importance to future historians, so Treleigh hit the headlines! Following on from that I had five phone calls from readers of the magazine based in various parts of the country, and sold three of our Church history books. The most exciting phone calls were from a descendant of Fanny Moody, the Cornish Nightingale, and the Hampshire-based grand-daughter of Treleigh's Vicar, Rev. John Treharne Phillips who was at Treleigh from 1932-1940.

**If you see a pub outside Cornwall flying the Cornish flag, curiosity is immediately aroused.** We passed a pub in Sherborne, Dorset, and did a double-take! Surely that wasn't the Cornish flag? The second time we passed by, we stopped and went in to sort out the mystery! It was the Cornish flag and the licensee had previously had the Miners' Arms at Plain-an-Gwarry and before that the Railway Inn at St. Agnes. Added to that he came from Falmouth. Mystery solved!!

*A Very Happy (and probably different!) Christmas to you all*

**Take Care & Stay Safe all of you,  
Trish Rowe**

## ST EUNY NEWS

I hope this magazine finds you all well and surviving during these extraordinary times and I report as follows:-

We were disappointed to have to close the doors of church again for our bi-weekly Sunday services of Holy Communion and our weekly Tuesday service of Holy Communion. However, St Euny, in line with Government guidelines, remains open for Private Prayer each Wednesday afternoon 2-4pm.

Life has continued in a sort of normal way and during the past month we were able to oblige two families by holding their family funerals in church. We've also continued with the Community Cafe on a Wednesday afternoon, where we had made a start with the Kruthyl Creative Writing Project, which is continuing throughout lockdown. If anyone is interested details are on the St Euny Facebook page. Thanks to Ruth Purdy at MitberCIC (Make it Better Community Interest Company) for facilitating this.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> October we ran our last session of this season for families in Redruth, holding creative crafts and play and ending the day with a nutritional and healthy cooked meal. Thanks again to Ruth Purdy for facilitating this and to Deb for finding the funding to run these outreach sessions.

On Sunday, 1 November, we held a 'Remembering' service and invited those who had lost a loved one throughout the year to come and light a candle in memory of them. The service was led by Revd's Deb and Caspar and was interspersed with lovely, soothing music. Names of the deceased from across the years as well as the last year, were read out.

Gardening Club resumed on Monday, 2 November and it was lovely to welcome two new members – Neil and Arlene. Thanks to Anthony, Clive, Margaret and Paul for all their hard work too and thanks must go to Paul for his interest in the graveyard and churchyard which has led to the names of the deceased in these areas (approximately 3,000 names) being transferred to an online digital spread sheet. This is not completed but is currently ongoing. If you see someone taking rubbings of headstones in the churchyard, it will be our Guest Artist, Caroline and she will be doing this and engaging with people, with the blessing of the Church Council.

So dear reader, after several years of writing this column for St Euny Church which I have greatly enjoyed, this will be my last one. As we move into the year 2021 and I have been reporting our news since around 2012, I think it is a fitting time to relinquish this role and hang up my quill!

With all good wishes for a peaceful and stress-free Christmas and a hopeful New Year.

***Margaret Johnson***



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

### **Working, praying and worshipping together as 'One in Christ'**

The Church remains open for private prayer on **Tuesday and Saturday** afternoons from **2pm to 4pm**. *Following* the second Lockdown period, from **5<sup>th</sup> November to 2<sup>nd</sup> December**, Sunday worship *may* resume and comprise **said** services of Holy Communion on the first Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> December, at **10.30 am**, on the third Sunday **evening** (20<sup>th</sup>) at 6 pm and each **Wednesday at 6 pm**, observing the necessary safety guidelines, at which everyone is very welcome; also the shared Service of the word at Four Lanes Methodist Church on Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am. However, these arrangements may change if the present lockdown is extended. For up-to-date information, please see the weekly prayer sheet, available online at [enquiries@redruthchurch.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@redruthchurch.org.uk) or contact Fr. Peter (07903 807946).

Our **grateful thanks** continue to go to our faithful clergy for enabling us to meet weekly via zoom to share our Sunday Benefice Holy Communion Service, at 10.30 am and weekly social gatherings. These will continue until further notice. The latest information and/or for the Zoom link to join the weekly service and social times are available from Revd. Caspar Bush, at [casparbush@gmail.com](mailto:casparbush@gmail.com). (01209 216958). Fr. Peter also continues to publish his weekly informative and interesting 'Together' sheet, at [baptism66@gmail.com](mailto:baptism66@gmail.com).

On All Saints' Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> November our **LAMP First Sunday Evening Event** was held at St. Andrews Pencoys, featuring The Saints; many thanks to everyone who was able to be part of the Event, which raised £110 towards the cost of posting to Malawi necessary items for the most needy families, made by Pat Bassett. The next First Sunday Evening Event will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> December, World AIDS Day, at Four Lanes Methodist Church (to be confirmed). Everyone will be very welcome, when the present safety guidelines will be observed, including the use of face coverings.

**Our Patronal Festival**, Sunday 29th November, 6.00pm via ZOOM from St Andrew, Redruth  
(with Bishop Hugh, St. Germans)

#### **Proposed Arrangements for Christmas:**

**Holly tree lights**, Thursday 10th (by request) or 17th December at 7.00pm - outside

**Living Crib Service**, Christmas Eve, Thursday 24th, 4.00pm – 5.30pm in Church - Volunteers need to be in the crib (full details of both in "The Starling", Four Lanes News)

**Christmas Eve Holy Communion**, Thursday 24th December, **6.00pm** in Church

**Christmas Day Holy Communion**, Friday 25th December, 11.00am in Church

**Christmas Day Picnic Lunch**, Friday 25th December, 12noon in Pencoys Hall

**Epiphany Carol Service** (First Sunday Evening Event), 3rd January 2021, 6.00pm in Church

These events may well have to change, depending on Government guidelines, so please check with the sheet on the church website (or at the above).

There will be no formal Christmas Tree Exhibition this year, but you are warmly invited to place a tree in our church where you choose, and to display a card showing which church your tree represents. The church will be open on Tuesdays and Saturdays as noted above.

The members of Flapjack wish everyone a very happy and blessed Christmas and Graham and his family every blessing and success in their exciting new life and mission in Camborne. They will be greatly missed by the congregations of all the Redruth team churches.

**Jill Tolputt**

# CHRISTCHURCH LANNER

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Many thanks to Colour Serjeant Bennett for laying the wreath on behalf of Christchurch. One person representing the different village organisations attended a very short service at the Lych Gate. The prayers were led by Jenny Lockwood and the Last Post and Reveille were played by a solo cornet player from Lanner and District Silver Band.



## CHRISTMAS EVENTS

We have an “adaptable” (hopefully live but could be Zoomed!) programme of Christmas events and services planned for December:

Carol Service:-	Tuesday 15 December 7pm Church
Screening of <i>Nativity</i> :-	Monday 21 December 7pm Zoom
Living Crib Service:-	Thursday 24 December 2-3.30pm
Bethlehem Mass:-	Thursday 24 December 8pm, Church
Christmas Day Holy Communion:-	Friday 25 December 9.30am, Church.

Volunteers are needed to take part in the Living Crib. Please contact Fr Peter if you would like to get involved.

## COMMUNITY PANTRY

The Pantry is still open every day and all day. Fr Peter and Julia will be making up Christmas Hampers for the Pantry. There will be further news and information about this initiative in the weekly newsletters.

## OPEN CHURCH

The church remains open on Mondays and Fridays between 2-4pm and we thank our stewards for facilitating the opportunity for private worship. Ken has been working hard in the church grounds and has planted the bank with bulbs – we can welcome the Spring next year with beautiful flowers!

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*Christchurch hopes that everyone is safe, and that when Christmas Day dawns you, and those whom you love, will be far from the virus and that you will remember the light, the hope and the peace that entered the world through Jesus.*

***Julia Knight-Bennett***

## ST ANDREW REDRUTH

### **Memories**

There is something very comforting about a log fire. It's not just the warmth that it radiates or the mesmerising flicker of the flames. Somehow it just seems to reach out triggering memories of feeling safe, cared for and loved. From within this warm cocoon romantic memories of coming home from school, wet, cold and hungry emerge. The smell of hot buttered toast in the air and a bright fire crackling in the grate. Guy Fawkes night's holding sparklers in wool mittened hands. Carving pictures on the Jack Frost windows, Christmases full of wonder and expectation. The images come quick and fast like glossy photos sitting in an album. Church bazaars, summer fetes under the hot sun in Pat Ince's garden. Names of once familiar faces seem hidden in the smoke going up the chimney but the memories seems as clear as if they were only yesterday.

The log fire will eventually die and become ash only to be cleaned and relit. So we can keep our memories fresh until we are able to make new ones.



### **NATIVITY—ST ANDREW'S REDRUTH**

Kim, Nigel J, Bethany Pearce  
Philip and Hilary Meyers, Roger Bush

### **PANTOMIME—ST ANDEW'S REDRUTH**

The Familiar "Ugly Sisters"



### **CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

Brian G, Mrs Crutchfield, Sylvia



### **PARISH FETE**

Pat Ince's Garden



*Pie Louis-Smith*

## Neil Craze—RIP

*'A wonderful service of celebration for the life of my lovely husband Neil Craze was held at St Euny Church on October 9th 2020.*

*Neil who was at the heart of our family has now left us and our lives will never be the same again.*

*We would like to thank the many friends within the benefice and beyond for their cards with messages of sympathy and love. The kindness shown has been, and is, so much appreciated by all of us.*

*We have felt blessed in the knowledge that Neil was cared for, nursed and died peacefully at home with his family around him.*

*We especially thank our dear friend and priest Fr Peter for his care and prayers during Neil's short illness, we also thank Neil's friend and organ tutor, Christopher Uren, for the music he provided and played so beautifully at the funeral service.*

*This comes with thanks from Kathy and her family'*

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## **Greener household energy**

*Luci Isaacson (Christchurch member and Diocesan Environment Officer) suggested I mention my recent green energy small victory! I don't know if you are a regular energy switcher, but I realised my energy contract was up for renewal in November, and logged onto one of the price comparison websites to see what the new prices would be. In my subconscious somehow Luci's voice came to me, and I remembered I needed to click the 100% renewable energy button. To my amazement the price I was quoted did not change by a penny - this was for a gas and electricity contract. Since then I've found out that a change like that can save three tonnes of carbon dioxide being released into the atmosphere.*

*So if you haven't tried switching suppliers recently, why not give it a go?!*

**Caspar**

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***The editors of Five Alive wish everyone a very peaceful Christmas  
and we pray that better things will come in 2021***

***Rosemary and Richard***



## **GIVING OPPORTUNITIES**

Space constraints do not allow us to repeat the information on Parish Giving, QR codes and bank details for each church. You can find these details in earlier editions or by contacting your church Treasurer.

### **BOOK CLUB**

**Friday December 4th**—Bring & Share- poetry, reading or a book on a Christmas Theme

**Friday January 8th**—The Midnight Library by Matt Haig



Somewhere out beyond the edge of the universe there is a library that contains an infinite number of books, each one the story of another reality. One tells the story of your life as it is, along with another book for the other life you could have lived if you had made a different choice at any point in your life. While we all wonder how our lives might have been, what if you had the chance to go to the library and see for yourself? Would any of these other lives

In *The Midnight Library*, Matt Haig's enchanting new novel, Nora Seed finds herself faced with this decision. Faced with the possibility of changing her life for a new one, following a different career, undoing old breakups, realizing her dreams of becoming a glaciologist; she must search within herself as she travels through the

Midnight Library to decide what is truly fulfilling in life, and what makes it worth living in the first place.

***Please contact Sue Pearce for details of venue***

### **FROM THE REGISTERS**

#### **FUNERALS**

23 October	2020	Eveline Gladys Heard	St Euny
23 October	2020	Desmond Roy Abrahams	St Andrew Pencoy's
02 November	2020	Charles Henry Stacey Tyrell	St Euny
04 November	2020	Barbara Sedgman	St Stephen Treleigh
09 November	2020	Pauline Patricia Harrison	St Stephen Treleigh
12 November	2020	Samuel Frederick Leslie Prisk	St Andrew Pencoy's

#### **RIP**

Revd Canon Mike Peters — Priest in Redruth Benefice c1978-1982

Margaret Gunning—St Andrew Pencoy's

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER – OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN**

We live in a unique age – an age of space – of an expanding universe. Every discovery of the Hubble telescope showed the size of our galaxy and that there are millions of other galaxies. A vastness almost beyond our comprehension – of date and space. Our sun is but an ordinary star amongst billions of other stars. Robert Louis Stevenson wrote long before any of this vastness was discovered: “The world is so big and I am so small I do not like it at all, at all...” This raises huge questions about the God in whom we believe, who set this whole universe in being – the mind behind it all and more relevant to us, what relationship we can have with him.

At this point, we turn to the Lord's Prayer. To his disciples it must have been quite extraordinary that Jesus addressed God as “my Father”. All four gospels report unanimously that he did it in all his prayers. In total there are sixteen separate occasions when this is recorded. Yet the most remarkable is that when Jesus addressed God as his Father, he used the Aramaic word “Abba”. Mark states this explicitly in his report of the prayer at Gethsemane where Jesus says, “Abba Father”. Nowhere in the literature of the prayers of ancient Judaism is the word “Abba” used to address God. We have here the unique way in which Jesus expressed himself in his prayers – “Abba” is His word in his native tongue. It is so unique that St. Paul uses it twice in his epistles as the distinctive prayer of those who receive the Spirit of God – The Holy Spirit, “Abba Father” is the cry of faith. Jesus invites us to prayer addressing God in the way he did.

What then is so distinctive about calling God “Abba”? The Jewish Talmud says that the first words that a baby learns to say are “Abba” and “Imma” translated literally “Dada and Mama”. The early church leaders, like St. John Chrysostom tells us that “Abba” was the word used by a small child when speaking to his father. It is an intimate personal word from family life. We are invited by Jesus to use the intimate word which he used for God “Abba” and share, through faith, this new intimate relationship with God.

It has been pointed out that the Lord's Prayer teaches us to prayer “Our Father”. It is significant that the words “I, me, my and mine” never occur but always “We, us and ours”. The Christian Faith has always been about community – a personal faith within the Faith of the Church. We pray “Our Father” personally and together with all Christians at worship and throughout the world. This creates a settled relationship with each other and the whole local and worldwide community. Our concern can never be limited by ourselves, our place and even our own nation. The Christian is a member of God's family both in the church and outside of it. We cannot function well except in a community. This requires us to engage with the social issues of our times.

Yet there is more “who art in heaven”. Within the intimacy there is majesty. Whilst Jesus invites us into an intimate relationship with God, he stresses the great distance between. This stops us treating him sentimentally, which encourages us to lapse into an easy-going faith in which anything goes. To quote C. S. Lewis “here is no grandfather in heaven whose only concern is that at the end of the day, it should be said that a good time was had by all.” It the Jewish culture of the time of Jesus, fatherhood implied authority. We need a sense of the majesty of God when we pray “Our Father”. There is wonder here - resources here – but also respect. Pray with confidence to the Father whose stands at the centre of everything but do not forget that God is in heaven and we are on earth.

***Revd Raymond Webber—retired priest***

# The Garden

It is not clear whether there has ever been a community garden at St Andrew's Church Redruth where people could come and sit quietly with their thoughts. In 2018, St Andrew's church was awarded the Green Church Kernow award for its commitment to using the Earth's resources with care. This work is continued to this day by a dedicated team to create a space where people can sit and simply enjoy the beauty of the garden.

2020 has been a very difficult year in all our lives. Nevertheless, a great deal of work has been carried out by our church leaders and members to help us all through these difficult times. In the garden, we have continued the good work that had been taking place before lockdown. Back in the summer, after placing a request for much needed gardening tools on Facebook, we were very fortunate to receive donations of a variety of useful gardening tools that have been a great help.

A new bug-hotel has been built from reclaimed bricks to encourage insects that are so important to the well being of any garden. Nest boxes for birds have been installed to encourage nesting and the promise of new life. A water butt is now in situ to conserve water for trees that have also been donated and planted this autumn.



An up-cycled garden bench has been placed in the garden so

that people can come and sit quietly; we thank Craig Pedley for all his hard work in preparing the ground and laying slabs for the bench.

In spring 2021, the gardening team are looking forward to working together on the long border for which several ideas,

that keep wildlife very much in mind, have been suggested.

Should anyone wish to donate plants or to offer help it would be very much appreciated. Please contact me by telephone on ( 01209 219364 )

**Joan Doble**

## A Treasured Building Remembered

*by Michael Tangye*

The walls of the present St Rumon's Garden in Penryn Street give little evidence that it was once one of the largest buildings and most treasured in Redruth. Built of Sparnon Stone from a quarry, where the present north end of Trefusis Road lies, it was three storey's high on its west facing façade.

It was destined to become, apart from the churches and chapels, the very heartbeat of the town.

Building commenced on the 22nd November 1850 at a cost of £3,000 financed by £10 shares, 'all taken up by respectable parties in the town,' and was named the 'Redruth Public Rooms.' It accommodated the Redruth Mechanics and Literacy Scientific Institute with rooms and reference books; there was also a newsroom for periodicals, politics, and Financial Marketing, a billiards room and chess room, curator's apartment and another for parochial business. There was also a large hall for entertainment and balls with a large gallery at the end for an orchestra—all designed by London architect Mr W G Habershon—the cost £2,000.

It was opened on the 4th January 1860 and celebrated by a public dinner in the large hall hung with chandeliers. 'Three tables extended the length of the room, and they were crossed by another at the top of which sat the chairman and the principal promoters of the building.' The hall was decorated with plants and the dinner supplied by Mrs Mitchell, of the London Inn. Dessert and wines followed for 120 guests. Mr R Davey MP presided and Mr C G Lanyon occupied the Vice-chair.'

During the dinner the band of the Royal Cornwall Miners' Artillery Militia was stationed in the gallery and played a number of airs and selections from some of the operas. After dinner the ladies were then admitted to the gallery whilst the London Opera Co, who were performing at Falmouth, sang operatic pieces. This was followed in the evening by the English Opera Co who gave Bellini's opera 'La Sennambula' etc. All tickets were sold.

In 1867 the general name of the building 'New Hall' was changed to 'St Rumon's Hall,' followed in 1868 by 'Druids Hall' - it was to become the centre of culture and entertainment. Here in 1865, the unusual was personified by the diminutive American General Tom Thumb and his equally small wife and daughter who had appeared before Queen Victoria at Windsor Castle. Also described as 'the most curious and interesting exhibition that has ever visited this town' were the Siamese twins Miss Christine Nellie and Miss Nellie Christine in 1877. Scientific inventions also appeared—the phonograph, forerunner of the gramophone, in 1878 only a year after its invention. There were also regular showings of illustrations of Europe, America, New Zealand etc at a time of mass emigration forced on the local population by the collapse of the copper mining industry. The hall became a centre for the distribution of forms of relief for the unemployed and starving community. In 1867 the Rector of Redruth, the Rev Hawksley presided there at a meeting of the Gentleman's Committee when £200 had been collected—£40 for a Soup Kitchen where soup was distributed to the hungry, along with blankets and coals; it was stated:- "the amount of utter devastation and poverty now existing in the parish is beyond credit." The hall also became a base for the local Sabbath School for 500 children and the Ragged School of equally large numbers taught by 40 teachers. The Druids' Hall continued to thrive throughout the following years as a base of the Operatic Society, the Gem Cinema, and a Bingo Hall before its destruction by fire in 1984.

*(information sourced—Victorian News files)*





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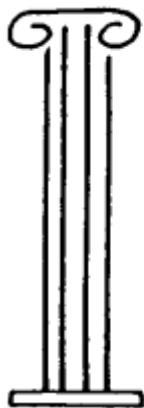
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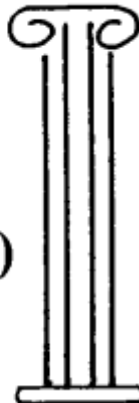
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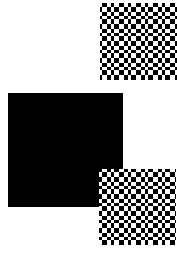
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