

Five Alive

The Magazine of the Redruth Team Ministry
St Euny Redruth, Christchurch Lanner, St Andrew Pencoys
St Andrew Redruth and St Stephen Treleigh
(REDRUTH PCC - registered charity no 1204231)



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Canoeing the Mountains

I have had the privilege of being invited to take part in a national programme run by Trinity College in Bristol which is reviewing how parishes engage with families, children and young people. We have a smattering of a few youngsters left in this parish, some of whom are more sporadic as church feels so far from their lives. The purpose of the programme and those of us engaging with it is to make church a place where children are safe, and where children want to be. And it starts by asking why we want to be there, and what makes it important for us.

I have been reading a fascinating book called “canoeing the mountains”. It’s about Church Leadership, and particularly about the challenges that face the church today (but church, it means in the western world). The reality is that the way we have done church for the last 500 years is not connecting with society today. That’s not to say we need to stop doing what we do, but we need to be prepared to learn new ways of enabling people to engage with God. For some of us hymns, regular, predictable service orders, Eucharist, and set words are incredibly important in providing a rhythm to worship that sustains and supports us. But if those things are completely alien to a person, there is a whole language or set of behaviours to learn, before they can begin to connect with God. Many people find that they readily connect with God (even if they don’t recognise God!) through the environment, or being creative, or through exploring ideas in conversations.

In *Canoeing the Mountains*, Lewis and Clark are commissioned to navigate the river to the Pacific Ocean, in order to provide an easy trade route across the country. But rather than navigating the river, they quickly came upon the Rocky Mountains. Suddenly the mission they had prepared for had changed entirely. No longer were they canoeing a great river, but finding the route to the Pacific involved a long and arduous journey over the mountains.

It’s similar to the place the church finds itself. We find ourselves in a time and place in history where much within the Church has been for the last 500 years is suddenly not enabling us to be the Church to those outside our walls.

At its heart, Church is an organisation that exists for the good of the people outside of it. We are Christ’s body on earth, and commissioned to share his Good News and Presence with our communities. But in reality we struggle to do that. We are great at enjoying beautiful worship that makes sense to us, and which enables us to worship and connect with our creator (and this is incredibly important!), but until 50 or so years ago, we didn’t really need to make any effort to be “missional”. Suddenly people have stopped coming to us, and we aren’t at all sure what to do next.

Continued

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Lewis and Clark faced choices. They could turn back, or they could adapt to the challenges before them, and pursue their mission. They pursued their mission, and “Canoeing the Mountains” takes their story as an analogy for where the church finds itself today. We cannot remain as we are now, as our modes and processes are unsustainable. Priests now do the job that four or five of their predecessors did, and are expected to do so with an increased burden of administration and governance (much of which is right and proper!).

We expect more of our congregations, often asking for them to step into roles of leadership in worship, developing mission, and pastoral care. I do believe this latter change is very much for the better, as we should share the mission of the church together, not simply join in with the priest!

As we pray and consider the vision we believe God has for us in this next season, we need to be prepared to be brave. If we seek to remain the same, and do a bit extra to try and attract those who would rather stay in their pyjamas with a coffee, or go to the beach, we are unlikely to make any difference. If we are serious about introducing people to faith, which they so desperately need, we need to be willing to make them feel safe and welcome in our church buildings and gatherings, in the same way we seek to make people comfortable and welcome in any other setting. And we need to help them discover how much they are loved by God.

Revd Becca Bell

News from Canada

Margaret Paterson (Jenkin) has sent me a note to say that her husband David is in hospital recovering from an operation. Please remember David and Margaret in your prayers. They look forward to receiving Five Alive via email each month and Margaret says that it brings Pencoys alive to her all over again.

In Montreal at the moment, Margaret said that they have very deep snow—about up to waist level in their garden. She also remembers climbing over the wall behind the vicarage and Duck Lane and has very fond memories of Pencoys Church.

Rosemary

Working it Out

This week, the General Synod debated the barriers working-class people face in the Church. Reverend Alex Frost, a former Argos manager-turned-vicar, spoke candidly about a "language of snobbery and elitism" that can make the Church feel inaccessible. The discussion was striking, with Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell quoting Eminem to highlight the need for cultural relevance. Ultimately, the Synod voted to develop a national strategy to encourage more working-class participation.

Frost shared personal experiences, including a working-class candidate who, when asked about his favourite artist, replied with "Eminem"—only to be met with confusion from a retired priest. This moment reflects a broader disconnect between Church leadership and the communities it serves. While the Church of England plays a crucial role in urban areas—offering food banks, warm spaces, education, and advocacy—its institutional structures can feel out of touch with working-class realities.

Take Redruth, a town where faith communities have played a crucial role in supporting people through economic struggles. For those in places like Redruth or my hometown, Romford, discussions about elitism in the Church might seem distant from their daily hardships. If the Church is to truly serve all, its leaders must reflect the people they minister to. When ministers appear removed from local realities, the gospel's message can struggle to connect in a meaningful way.

As someone from a working-class background with an Essex accent, I felt out of place in the selection process for ministry. Despite having an academic background in architecture—including a degree, graduate diploma, postgraduate diploma, and one of the longest professional training paths—my accent and origins marked me as an outsider, inadequate. I've encountered intellectual elitism in architecture, but I did not expect it to be in the Church. Yet, many voices in Church leadership sound the same—polished, refined, shaped by education and privilege—leaving large sections of society unrepresented.

However, Scripture tells a different story. Jesus did not choose the religious elite or the powerful to carry out his mission; he called fishermen, tax collectors, and ordinary working-class people. His kingdom is built on those the world often overlooks. As Galatians 3:28 reminds us, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." This is a powerful reminder that God's call transcends human social structures.

To anyone feeling their background or accent disqualifies them from serving in the Church—take heart. Relatability fosters trust and makes the gospel more accessible. God does not call the qualified; He qualifies the called. The Church may have barriers, but God's kingdom does not. Those who have been overlooked have a unique and powerful voice to bring. The challenge now is to keep pushing, showing up, and breaking down these barriers so that the Church truly reflects the diversity of God's people.

Revd Chris Harrigan

Exciting Times with Our Young People: New Games, Great Conversations & Toasties!

The past few weeks have been nothing short of fantastic for our youth group, filled with fun, laughter, and some exciting new additions! One of the biggest changes? We now have our very own **volleyball net**—and the enthusiasm has been through the roof (not literally – ha-ha). While space inside the church is a little tight, we've been making the most of the front area, dodging a few obstacles along the way (don't worry, the kids are completely safe!). Another exciting addition is our **indoor bowling mat**, which had been gathering dust under the stage for a few years. The young people have been giving it a go—though patience isn't always their strongest suit just yet! Still, it's been great to see them trying something new and engaging in a little friendly competition.

But if you ask me, the real star of the show is our brand-new **toastie machine**. Last week, the smell of melted cheese and crispy bread filled the air, and the excitement was **real**—mostly from me, if I'm honest! Whether it was classic cheese or cheese and ham, the humble toastie was a massive hit and added a cosy, homey touch to our gatherings.

Beyond the games and snacks, we've also taken time to reflect and engage in some **deep discussions**. Recently, we sat together as one big group to explore weighty but important topics—such as the Holocaust, why it happened, and its lasting impact. We also tackled issues of justice, including the growing concern around knife crime in our country. These moments of reflection are so important, helping young people process the world around them and think critically about their place in it.

And there's more good news! We've welcomed a new volunteer, Robin from Treleigh, which is a wonderful example of different parts of our parish working together for the good of the community. But we're still on the lookout for **female volunteers** to help us continue this vital work—could that be you?

Why This Matters

Investing in young people isn't just about keeping them entertained—it's about **creating a safe space where they feel valued, heard, and loved**. By **adapting our church** spaces, evolving, introducing fun activities, and having meaningful discussions, we're showing them that faith is **alive, relevant, and welcoming**. Sharing God's love in a way that resonates with them is crucial, and whether it's through a volleyball match, a thoughtful conversation, or even a humble toastie, every moment counts.

If you'd like to get involved, **we'd love to hear from you!**

Rev'd Chris Harrigan

Angels and Magi

It was a cold evening as **TOAST** wrapped up, when a young man came into church, asking for a blanket. Not money, not food—just a blanket. Thankfully, there were some in the church, and he was given two. But as he spoke, it became clear that his situation was dire – as was his backstory. He had lost his bag with all his clothes and belongings. He had nothing, no shelter, and was forced to set up ‘home’ in the alley beside the church.

Then, angels appeared.

The same evening a kind soul brought him a sleeping bag, a duvet, and a waterproof mat. Others gave him small amounts of money so he could buy a warm drink. Yet, despite these acts of kindness, he was still out in the cold, and it weighed heavily on the hearts of those who had met him.

Something had to be done.

The next day, after making numerous calls for help without success, the Rector stepped in and allowed us to use church funds to secure him a safe place to stay. Another generous donation from an angel in the hairdressers, we provided food for the weekend. For two nights, he was off the streets—sheltered, warm, and safe.

On Monday, he was introduced to the Crypt ‘Warm Space’ and advised to seek medical care and support from specialized charities. At Chy Winder Day Centre, Bex offered kind words, reassurance, and shared our concerns. That night, he went to the hospital, spending hours in casualty before being discharged in the early morning.

But another angel was waiting—the hospital chaplain. She connected him with the hospital’s homeless team, chased person upon person to find him the best help, and in the morning was directed to St Petroc’s, an organization helping the homeless.

Miraculously, he made his way from Treliske to Truro and reached St Petroc’s, where staff arranged a train ticket to take him back to his home city. However, another bitterly cold night followed, and he was found in the street once again. Back to the hospital he went, facing another long night and another early morning discharge.

Yet, despite everything, he persevered. With help, he was driven back to St Petroc’s, where his train ticket awaited. But then, a moment of uncertainty—where was he? He had gone for a walk. Would he return to collect the ticket and find his way home?

We do not know. What we do know is that in his time of need many hands reached out to help him. Many prayed. Many cared deeply. Many tried to help. For there are angels amongst us all the time, and for those without hope, it is these angels that bring hope to the hopeless. Love to the lost. That is our calling. We are but Angels and drunks, we are Magi. Please pray for him. His name is Ash.

ST STEPHEN TRELEIGH



The winter storms have brought down quite a bit of debris from the trees into the churchyard though thankfully nothing serious. The signs of spring are erupting through the vegetation in the form of primroses, celandines, daffodils and crocuses and in a few weeks, with the help of some hoped for sunshine, there will be an abundance of them to bring cheer to all those who walk daily along the paths.

We continue to enjoy our joint First Sunday Services with our friends from St. Euny and it's good to be on first name terms with them, ie if our memory serves us well!!

We look forward to hosting our Parish Service of Holy Communion on Sunday 23rd February at 10.30am after which there will be light refreshments in the Hall.

Our DCC, Chaired by Reverend Chris, was held on Thursday, 13th February following the Holy Communion Service, we discussed dates for our Annual Summer Fete, our main fundraiser, and the Christmas Fayre, also other ideas were put forward and all these will be put to the PCC for approval.

The monthly Tea Party with Treleigh Schoolchildren and their families are a great success and this month we had more children than ever come in to eat the yummy cakes, biscuits, sandwiches and fruit. Trish played 60's music on her phone and this went down well with a grandfather who regularly comes in early for a cuppa and chat before collecting his grandchildren to bring back in for their cakes. It put us in mind to possibly host a 60's Night in the Hall at sometime during the year so, watch this space!

Anyone from the Parish can come to the Tea Party and enjoy a cuppa with us if they so wish. The next Tea Party will be on Tuesday 11th March from 2.15pm until about 4.15pm.

There will be an Upper Room Lent Group, kindly hosted by Trish and Robin and led by Jim Seth and this will commence on Tuesday 4th March at 7pm and usually ends around 8.30pm. For those who haven't joined us previously, it's an evening of thoughtful and often lively discussion following the chosen text or film, usually a hymn/song and prayer or Compline. This all accompanied by tea/coffee and delicious nibbles.

By the time the next magazine is printed we will be looking forward to Easter.

Christine Cunningham

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. *The LAST Sunday of each month will continue to revolve through the six worship settings and starts at 10.30am. In addition, the FIRST Sunday of each month will*

alternate between the settings with their Sunday Service at the same time:

ST ANDREW, REDRUTH & CHRISTCHURCH, LANNER / 9.30am

(March 2 is at St Andrew, Redruth & at St Euny)

THE FLAPJACK COMMUNITY (St Andrew, Pencoys & Four Lanes Chapel) are already linked at 11.15am.

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 on **SATURDAY MAY 31 7.00pm**

OTHER EVENTS AT CHRISTCHURCH: *Margaret's Last Monday Tea Party 2.00pm – 4.00pm.*

The **MARCH** tea party is on March 31 and the **FEBRUARY PARTY** is on February 24

FUTURE EVENTS: The games afternoons and the film nights are advertised in the weekly pew sheet. **BUT** to avoid a clash with the Treleigh monthly tea-party the rotation for the games afternoon has been adjusted: **Tuesday March 4, 11, 25 etc.**

The film club remains on the LAST Friday of each month with the next one on **FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28 6.30pm for 7.00pm** and the film is “KEEPING MUM” with Rowan Atkinson, Maggie Smith and Patrick Swaze. The March meeting is on **FRIDAY MARCH 28**. The film is yet to be chosen!!

ADVANCE NOTICE: These dates may help us to avoid diary clashes:

***Lent Study Group which follows the 11.00am BCP service of Holy Communion:-
Wednesday March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9***

<i>Friday</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Whist Drive</i>	<i>7pm</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>Summer Fete</i>	<i>2pm</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>October</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Harvest Lunch</i>	<i>12noon – 2.00pm</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>Patronal Dinner</i>	<i>7pm Mary Anson's House</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>Skyliner Carol Service</i>	<i>7.00pm.</i>

With God's blessing upon Rebecca and our time together as we move as one to Easter

ST EUNY

St Euny Feast, held on the Sunday nearest to 2nd February, fell on a Sunday this year. The service coincided with a 'First Sunday' so the event was also a fund-raiser for Water Aid. We chose 'Water Aid' as a theme because of its relevance to health across the world and as a link to our talk which was on the well-known parishioner, William Pryce.

Water Aid is a relatively new charity compared with many in the UK and was set up in 1981 by members of the water industry in the UK, in part as a response to the UN decade of water health. It has had a wonderful impact in bringing clean water, often using in low-tech projects which are easy and cheap to implement and maintain in areas where clean water is scarce. Clean water is a necessity for good health and survival. We are fortunate to be able to turn on the tap for an immediate supply of clean water, but look back three hundred years to the mid-eighteenth century, and few people in Cornwall had easy access to clean water. Water might have to be collected from wells or shutes, most houses were not provided with running water and privies were basic earth pits. This poor sanitation was the source of several outbreaks of water-borne diseases, notably cholera which regularly threatened life.

Doctor William Pryce used his position and his interest in improving life chances to both spread an understanding of the conditions for the poor and also to advocate for creating a clean and healthy environment for treating people, especially miners and their families, by building a hospital. The first Hospital for Cornwall was set up by a group which was heavily influenced by William Pryce, although it was complete soon after he died. William Pryce himself died of the 'Great Cough Fever' epidemic in Redruth in 1790. We know it as Scarlet Fever. Scarlet fever is spread by infection from the mucus or saliva of infected people, which is more likely when people live in crowded conditions and are not able to keep their hands, clothing, towels and any shared utensils clean. We chose Water Aid for our charity to reflect the link between the needs and work of people here in Redruth in the eighteenth century and the parallels with people across the world today. Thank you to all who attended and contributed to this deserving cause.

Our Wednesday Open Café group has got those knitting needles flying and the crafties are creating beautiful and fun items for our Easter event. Due to diary pressures it has been agreed that we will hold a Palm Sunday event with soup lunches, creating Easter flower displays, decorating Easter Bonnets and building an Easter Garden to take home. These activities will be suitable for all ages and we look forward to making some impressive decorations and gifts. Please look out for the advertisements and encourage everyone to come along.

Holman-Climax Male Voice Choir will be singing for us in concert on the evening of 12th April, promise of another rewarding evening of music.

The Easter Sunrise Service will be at St Euny at around 6.00am on Sunday 20th April with bacon baps and hot cross buns to warm us up afterwards.

Linda Beskeen

St. Andrew 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.

What a lovely evening was had by all at the **First Sunday Evening Event** on 2 February, the St. Euny Feast, when Linda gave a very interesting talk about medical developments in the historic mining industry, and those who stayed enjoyed a sumptuous hot meal with delicious desserts (+ waitress service!) for which our thanks go to Linda and all at St. Euny. A total of £200 was raised for WaterAid, and we thank all who came to support the event. The next First Sunday Evening Event will be at **Christchurch Lanner** at 6pm on Sunday **2 March** when the theme will be Cambodia Revisited. All are very welcome.

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

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

Saturday	1 March	First Saturday Quiz Pencoys Hall 7pm
Sunday	2 March	Flapjack Holy Communion Methodist Church 11.15am Lighthouse, yong people's event 3–5pm Methodist Church First Sunday Evening Event Christchurch 6pm (see above)
Wednesday	5 March	ASH WEDNESDAY Holy Communion 6pm with Ashing
Sunday	9 March	Flapjack Family Event with Holy Communion 11.15am M.C.
Saturday	15 March	Games Evening (Bingo) Pencoys Hall 6–8pm
Sunday	16 March	Service of the Word Methodist Church 11.15pm Said H.C. St. Andrew's Pencoys 6pm
Saturday	22 March	Bangers & Mash Methodist Church from 11am
Sunday	23 March	PARISH Holy Communion Service 10.30am Four Lanes Methodist Church
Sunday	30 March	MOTHERING SUNDAY Breakfast service 9.30am M.C. No Holy Communion Service Last-Sunday Teatime Celebration Pencoys Hall 4-5pm

Please note that all **Flapjack Sunday morning** services will be held at the Methodist Church **until Easter Sunday 20 April** (also at the Methodist Church). Third Sunday and Wednesday evening H.C. services continue at St. Andrew's.

The Warm Wednesday afternoons will continue at Four Lanes Methodist Church from 2–4pm on 12 and 26 March; all are welcome.

Jill Tolputt

ST ANDREW REDRUTH

Brassed Off!

A short story in parts by Pie Louis-Smith—Part 3

The three women looked at each other. “I’ve heard some amazing singing in this church but that was something else!” Exclaimed Beth’s. “Who is he?” Asked Sally, “Either of you know?” “No idea, obviously a friend of Maxims”. Replied Angie. “How lucky are we? First time ever I can say brass cleaning has been a joy.” Beth’s laughed, “I wouldn’t go quite that far.”

Maxim’s two friends began putting on coats and wrapping up in scarfs as they laughed and chatted. Maxim locked the organ loft door and the three made their way towards the main church door. Sally walked towards them, calling out to Maxim but they were out of the door and gone before she could reach them. Sally felt a surge of disappointment. She’d loved to have met the two strangers, known a little about them, shared some conversation. After all, it was hardly an everyday occurrence during brass cleaning duties that they were serenaded by such beautiful singing.

The three women cleared away their brass cleaning cloths and tins of brasso. Their soiled gloves testament to their hard work. Sally carefully replaced the now glowing brasses onto the shelves of the Sacristy . There was a sense of deep satisfaction as the three women stood back and surveyed their handiwork. “We could do with a couple more volunteers really.” said Sally, “we used to be a team of five, remember?”. The women looked knowingly at each other. It was so difficult to get any commitment from anyone these days and the truth of it was, none of them were getting any younger. “Young blood, that’s what’s needed!” Exclaimed Beths. “Well don’t hold your breath,” said Angie. “The only young people in this church recently have been Maxim and his two friends today.”

Beths and Angie suggested grabbing a coffee in the new Coffee Shop just opened on the High Street but Sally declined. She felt suddenly a need to be on her own, to be quiet, to be alone with her thoughts. She still felt quite emotional. “You two go ahead, I have a couple more things I want to do here.” The three women hugged one another in genuine affection, the smell of brasso quite distinct on each of them.

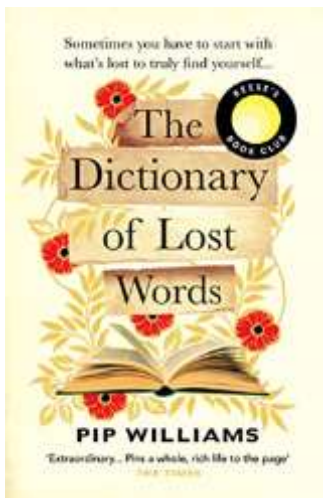
Sally found her old, familiar pew and dropped heavily into it. She allowed herself to just be, to take in the quietness, to absorb, as if through her skin, the wonder of this place, this House of God. After a short while she rose, collected her belongings with a sigh and left. There was still that lingering thought about the young man that sang. Who was he? Had she met him somewhere before? She’d ask Maxim on Sunday, after Morning Service. That would put an end to the mystery for sure.

To be continued.....

BOOK CLUB

Fond memories of reading *Little Women* as children came flooding back during our discussion this month BUT our current reading of it was not so fond! I think we all found the book a little strange in the way it was written and it seems so much longer than our childhood memories. However we did have a good discussion and were pleased we had read it again and would recommend watching the film. We did spend quite a bit of time talking about other books we had read and enjoyed when we were growing up, and those of us with children made a note of authors to introduce to them.

Our next book, *The List Of Suspicious Things* by Jennie Godfrey, will be a good read. Set at the time of the Yorkshire Ripper, which I'm sure most of us will remember, we view social history through the eyes of a child; Margaret Thatcher is Prime Minister and there is racial tension building up in the area. Miv is convinced that her dad wants to move down south because of the murders so together with her friend Sharon they decide to try and solve the case of the disappearing women. Their investigations reveal more secrets than they anticipated - at home, in the neighbourhood and between each other . . .



If you want to get ahead, especially if you are a slow reader, the following book will be *The Dictionary of Lost Words* by Pip Williams.

“Motherless and irrepressibly curious Esme spends her childhood at her father’s feet as he and his team gather words for the very first Oxford English Dictionary. One day she sees a slip of paper containing a forgotten word flutter to the floor unclaimed.

And so Esme begins to collect words for another dictionary in secret. But to do so she must journey into a world on the cusp of change as the Great War looms and women fight for the vote. Can the power of lost words from the past finally help her to make sense of her future?

We meet again on March 10th at 10.00am and always ready to welcome other avid readers of interesting books, you might even like to recommend one you have read. If you want to know more about us please ring me on 07930 471837.

Margaret

Continued.....

..... continued

Will you challenge yourself to read something different?

These are some of the first books I read with the book club when I first joined which I would not have chosen to read if left to my own devices, many of which I have really enjoyed:-

Cold Comfort Farm

The Memory Book

The Snow Child

The Way We Live Now

Weatherland

Death in Venice

Stella Gibbons

Rowan Coleman

Elwyn Ivey

Anthony Trollope

Alexandra Harris

Thomas Mann



The genre of books has often changed when new people have joined us and the discussions are always lively with lots of laughter over coffee and biscuits.

You may prefer just to read our current book or one of our past reads, many of which are there for you to borrow in the book case near the coffee area at St Andrew Redruth.

I will include more lists of our books in the magazine over the next few months hoping to remind you of the vast array of books out there and to encourage you to take time out to read.

Margaret

***If you have any queries please do ask any member of the book club
or ring Margaret on 07930 471837***



***Coming to the Crypt
Parish Cabaret and
Supper Night
Friday 25 July
Save the date***

In case you were wondering what last month's picture was; it's a close-up of a valve from a steam engine - **thank you Jason**

PADDINGTON'S RED HAT WENT THROUGH TO THE END

She was just seven years old and her life slipped from her. But she loved 'The Adventures of Paddington'. So her 'event' had lots of red and yellow scarves, Paddington badges and models of the nation's favourite bear (thankyou Lez for lending your 40 year old Paddington).

There was her favourite music, dancing to "We are the Champions" by her favourite band Queen, there was a poem about snowdrops, tributes from her school and her family, we sang "Amazing Grace" written for those on the edge, there were tears, hugs and lots of applause.

The committal was with just the minister, the undertakers and the chapel attendant. Paddington's red hat went through with her and the curtains closed. It was all too painful for the family.

Hopefully the event enabled her mother, the family, the friends and the many support agencies to give thanks for her life and to know that everything had been done for someone whose life was dominated not just by Paddington but by the most beautiful eyes that shone with love, life and hope.

Sadly, the church was not part of her life and on one level the service could have been seen as 'non-religious'. But God's love was there, powerfully and Jesus was there supporting those who were so upset.

The church bears a great responsibility to be part of life wherever it is. To sometimes put aside its liturgical traditions and to respond to the needs and the requests of those who for whatever reason have reached out to the church at times of joy and sorrow.



FP

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

02 February	2025	Amara May Butler	St Stephen Treleigh
		Sallyanne Kellow	St Stephen Treleigh
		Benjamin John Kellow	St Stephen Treleigh
09 February	2025	Aaron Mays	St Andrew Redruth
		Nova Mays	St Andrew Redruth

FUNERALS

07 January	2025	Maureen Carter	St Stephen Treleigh
21 January	2025	Beatrice Millicent Mitchell	St Andrew Pencoy's
11 February	2025	Edwin Coathupe	St Euny
14 February	2025	Mavis Gwendoline Voisey	St Stephen Treleigh

My way to Compostela

Day 15 Part 2

Rabe de las Calzados to Castrojeriz 28Km

The downside of stopping in Hornillos de Camino was having descended Mule Killer Slope we had to ascend the other side, fortunately for us it was a gentler slope going back up onto the Meseta plateau at 950metres with 20.2Km adjusted for climb to 21.4km to our stop at Castrojeriz. (For any seasoned long distance walkers among you, you will be aware of accrued Kilometres. In this instance it was ascent 250meters = 1.2Km) On this high plateau there is only the sound of nature to intrude on your peace and tranquillity. With no shade it is wise to have a floppy wide brim hat and plenty of water, both to drink and to pour over your hat!

The 5.4 Km to the village of Arroyo San Bol seemed to pass quickly with no change of scenery from the openness of the Meseta. So it was that we descended on a knee saving slope down into the village of San Bol where there is a well to top up your water supply. Legend has it that the waters of the well have healing powers and a cure for aching feet! From the well we crossed a stream and continued up onto the high plateau at 950 metres to head West for another 5Km to the village of Hontanas. It is the quietness of the Meseta that gets to you and allows your mind to divest itself of all the rubbish thoughts that roll around it. That is, of course, if those with whom you are walking could just stop talking or singing for 5 minutes!! At times like this, one either speeds up or slows down to have a time of solitude.

Hontanas is a small village with a population of 80 souls, it is one of those little villages that exist solely because of the pilgrims who pass through or stay at one of the Albergues, of which there are 4 that in total provide beds for 137 pilgrims on any one night. We left the village and after 5.4Km arrived at the small village of San Anton. As we passed through the village we went under the Arco de San Anton. Built into its walls are tiny recesses into which bread was once left for passing pilgrims. There was no bread for us, however the tradition continues in the form of messages or prayers left for fellow pilgrims or loved ones no longer with them. From this point after 2.4 Km of Meseta trudge we arrived at Castrojeriz and the Albergue Casa Nostra, comprising of 26 beds in 3 rooms with obligatory bar and café next door and opposite the Iglesias de Santo Domingo (Church of St Dominic) The locality may give you an idea of how restful the night was!!!!

Len Cunningham

Two Hours of Excitement

What a lovely afternoon everyone has at Margaret's monthly afternoon tea in Christchurch. Well, what are friends for but to listen to and laugh with, at the variety of topics which are talked about. Some people, when grumpy, made everyone else laugh and tease at them.

Childhood memories and do you remember were:-

Table manners were essential. No elbows were allowed on the table to eat, could not leave the table unless we ate everything on our plates and had to ask 'Please may we leave the table' before getting up from our chairs.

Boy friends were not allowed to go upstairs to see their girl-friends in their bedrooms or vice versa. There definitely was no sleeping together before marriage. There were comments that some parents were one of 13 or more children. Who had heard of birth control unless it was to go overseas to work?

Shops are closing and where were the Red Shoe Shop, Chandlers, Knights, Simpsons and the tripe shop. We used to make our own brawn.

Chicken was a real treat usually reserved for Christmas. Sundays were always roast beef. Now it is the other way around.

Pop music was tuneful and easy to sing along with. There was mention of a 'mod' who had long hair and a lambretta and went to Brighton to 'fight' the 'rockers'. Clothes today are just as extreme as they were then.

Car number plates were easily recognised by the year of their birth. How do you recognise them today if you cannot do arithmetic?

Hospital food, maintenance and laundry was always done on the hospital site. In some cases, these services today are provided from many miles away. Is no one able to cook, launder and do a temporary repair?

Our rubbish collection services are going to change. What has happened to the compost heap? Does anyone understand the new system?

But Finally we all enjoyed a hot cup of tea personally poured for you. This was accompanied by delicious home made cakes which a lady had spent the day before preparing. Some people were missing and they were talked about – in a nice way.

All this and more, in a space of two hours. It was non-stop. Perhaps anyone reading this could add a few other memories.

Juliet M. Jenkin

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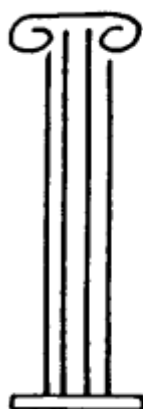


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