

Five Alive

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



OCTOBER 2023
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FIVE ALIVE MAGAZINE

Subscriptions (£8.00 PER YEAR OR £1.00 PER COPY): please contact your Churchwardens

Articles and advertisements: please contact:-

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by FRIDAY 13 OCTOBER

Cracks & Lime Plaster

Do you know what is interesting about lime plaster? It is durable and unaffected by water; It reduces the risk of structural damage and weakening; It absorbs bad things like Carbon Dioxide; It is permeable, allowing for moisture diffusion and evaporation; It neutralizes odours and deprives germs of their livelihood; It can improve air quality by acting as a natural dehumidifier; and lastly, it is malleable, flexible but can take a knock. Malleable.

Like any change in the environment, the change in the atmosphere affects its surroundings. This is especially true in buildings when it comes to moisture. Expansion and contraction. Cracks and openings appear.

This week we had our parish profile meeting with the Archdeacon, the Rural Dean, and a member of CPAS (church patron). Believing this meeting was to sign off the parish profile, it came as a shock when additional late comments were made leading to extra work being required (our thoughts are with Jim). Though this was annoying, what came from this was quite an encouraging witness.

The first thing I witnessed was the body of the church coming into defence of Jim and his work. The work Jim had done was great and their comments seemed really unfair. We were not going to let anyone criticise one of our own. Then accept late comments or additions which didn't align with what we believed. I then witnessed our church stand up for what it believed and not let others impose their wishes on us. I have also seen in the last few weeks people coming together, stepping up, being understanding, and carrying on as usual.

What this is showing me, is that like lime plaster, 'WE' are malleable, flexible and can take a knock. We have the strength to neutralize things that are unhealthy for us and reduce the risk of damage and weakening. We, the church, are durable. Yes, some cracks appear here and there, but they are minor and can be repaired easily with a little care and attention. We can expand and contract with the change in environment, change in atmosphere, and we will be okay.

Our hope, as always, is in Jesus Christ, but he lives in us, we are his body, and his hope also resides in us. Our unity is our strength, our love of Christ is what binds us, and our love of our community is what energises us. As we are told in the psalms (133), unity commands a blessing. I saw this blessing this week. I have hope for the future of our church because I have hope in all of you. Long may this continue in His name.

God bless.

Revd Chris Harrigan
Assistant Curate

THE WORLD OF 'THE INTERIMS'

The word 'interim' has its origins in Latin and means *in the meantime*. When a rector / vicar left a parish the church used to use the word *interregnum*, meaning the 'time between rulers'. That expression became unacceptable and has been replaced by the word *transition*. However, as we now live, pray and worship through a time of transition, we also live in a world of 'interims'.



Truro Diocese has an INTERIM Diocesan Bishop, Bishop Hugh, now that Bishop Philip has left Cornwall

The Benefice Ministry Team (Jim, Jason, Margaret, Chris & FP) has an INTERIM chair, The Rev'd Margaret Saville

Fr Chris. has an INTERIM Training Incumbent, FP

BUT INTERIM doesn't mean collapse. When Jesus ascended into heaven, he did not appoint an INTERIM Messiah, he sent the disciples (which today is YOU) out into the world. That group of faithful followers became the pioneers of the 'ecclesia' the new world. So, it is to everyone's credit that the services, clubs, meetings and activities and pastoral care has continued seamlessly as the time of transition entered our lives.

FP

ST ANDREW REDRUTH

The Birthday Party.

I have always loved the feel of a Friday, even as a small child. That wonderful feeling of two whole days of play and pleasure.

It was one particular Friday that my brother came home from school with an invitation to a Birthday Party from his friend, Michael Penna. Mrs Penna had added a post script to the invite. "Do bring Patience as well". At five years of age I had yet to experience the pleasures of 'Pass the Parcel' never mind the oodles of jelly and Birthday Cake. I remember being so excited though I'm not sure my brother felt quite the same!

My Mother decided a party dress was needed and party shoes. I can't remember where my dress was bought, perhaps John Knights or West End Drapery Stores but I do remember the colour and the feel of it. The dress was a golden yellow with a large sash that tied in a bow at the back. My shoes were golden sandals and we had gone to Cockings to buy matching hair ribbon.

The Penna's lived in a large house in Truro and I remember going in through the front door and seeing lots of boys racing around laughing and chasing each other.

The games included Hide and Seek and Mrs Penna asked one of the boys to look after me. I can't remember his name but I do remember his face. He had a mop of pale brown hair and a huge smile. I instantly liked him. After looking for places to hide he opened a cupboard and told me to get in. It wasn't big enough for both of us so he said he would go and find somewhere else. I wasn't quite sure what I was supposed to do other than wait till I was found. After a while I got fed up and tried to open the door but there was no handle and it was very dark. Eventually I was found by Mrs Penna and the boy with the huge smile though he wasn't smiling anymore! Mrs Penna made him apologise to me and she scooped me up and took me off to dry my eyes and get me some ice cream.

I don't think I was too scarred by this incident though I remember my Mother being somewhat upset and saying she should never have let me go.

Later that year I saw this boy again at my brother's Sports Day. He took one look at me, my Mother and my Father and his smile completely disappeared. He then darted behind some laurel bushes and I thought, perhaps this was another game of hide and seek. I do know that if it was, I had no intention of playing!

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-4pm with optional Covid-safe precautions in place (covid is still with us)

At the First Sunday Evening Event on Sunday 3rd September, which featured the charity 'Bliss', Jessica and Jordan brought their baby, Louella, along to help us understand how much they needed help and support when she was born three months early. We thank everyone who came along and raised just over £100 (on the evening) for this worthy cause. The next event will be our **Bring & Share Harvest Supper Service** in **Pencoys Hall** on **Sunday 1st October at 6pm**. Everyone will be most welcome. Gifts of savoury and sweet food will be welcome, but please bring only the quantity you are able to eat and perhaps share. Any donations will provide funds for our Gleaners to support the Open Pantry in the church porch.

Flapjack services and events during October will be:

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

- Sunday 1st October:** Flapjack **Harvest Thanksgiving** Holy Communion 11.15am
Harvest gifts of canned/packeted food for the Open Pantry.
Lighthouse, 3–5pm at the Methodist Church
First Sunday Evening Event: Harvest Supper Service, Pencoys Hall 6pm
- Saturday 7th October:** Quiz, Pencoys Hall 7pm
- Sunday 8th October:** Flapjack Family Event at St. Andrew's, 11.15am
Said H.C 12.30pm
- Sunday 15th October:** Methodist Morning Service 11.15am Methodist Church
Holy Communion St. Andrew's Pencoys 6pm
- Saturday 21st October:** Games (Bingo) Evening 6–8pm Pencoys Hall.
- Sunday 22nd October:** Flapjack Holy Communion St. Andrew's Pencoys 11.15am
- Saturday 28th October:** Bangers & Mash, Methodist Church, from 11.m
- Sunday 29th October:** Breakfast Service 9.30am Methodist Church
Benefice Holy Communion St. Stephen's Treleigh 10.30am
with Bishop Hugh of St. Germans
Teatime Celebration Pencoys Hall 4pm

The Wednesday Warm Welcome social afternoons resumed at the Methodist Church on 13th September and will continue fortnightly at 2pm from 27th September, then on 11th and 25th October, alternating with the Wednesday Club. Anyone of any age will be welcome; also (over 50s) to the Wednesday Club, which meets in the Methodist Church on alternate Wednesdays between the Social Afternoons from 2pm to 4pm

Jill Tolputt

ST EUNY

The unseasonably hot weather continued for this year's 'Mining Sunday' which was well attended and enjoyed by all. Several dogs were exercised on the walk from the Basset Stamps to St Euny Mine, where rose petals were dropped through the shaft with a blessing in remembrance of all those whose lives were spent in this core Cornish industry. The Red River Singers accompanied the walk and participated in the church service, adding a beautiful and moving dimension to the event. The service was short and the talk focussed on the life of William Teague, 1823-1886, born 200 years ago this summer to a mining family. He began life at the low-paid underground position as a tutworker and rose to be one of the wealthiest mine agents and owners in Cornwall. He is buried with a modest gravestone to the north of St Euny north door.

We were very pleased to have Chris Godolphin as organist for Mining Sunday and grateful to him for his skill and good will in playing for us.

The decision was made to remain open throughout August for our 'Open Café' on Wednesday afternoons and we consider that this has been a success, with high attendance every Wednesday afternoon. If anyone would like to come along, all are welcome for tea, cake and chat from 2-4pm after the Holy Communion Service at 1.30pm.

Our church opening has brought many additional visitors this summer. We decided to open daily from around 10.00am to 4.00pm until the end of September. This period is now coming to a close so we do not have current plans to stay open during the winter, but this is open to discussion. If you have any thoughts please do let Lucie, our Churchwarden, know.

The Cornwall Archaeological Society will be visiting St Euny as a part of their walk over the Great Flat Lode on Sunday 17th September. It is good to be able to welcome such a range of visitors, some of whom have been great friends to church buildings. If anyone knows of any other groups who might be interested in visiting we would be happy to host them and guide them around the church and churchyard.

Our harvest festival Holy Communion will be the first Sunday of October, Sunday 1st October at 11.15am.

There will be a Benefice service at St Andrew Pencoys on Sunday 24th and there will be NO Evensong on that Sunday Evening. On Sunday 22nd October St Euny will be holding a Remembering Service at 3.00pm for all who wish to remember those who have died recently, with a tea afterward. Again, there will be no Evensong service on the 4th Sunday in October. On Sunday 12th November St Euny will hold a service for Remembrance Sunday, beginning at 11.00pm with the Silence and followed by the usual Sunday morning service.

Plans for the autumn and Christmas events are underway – more information will be given in next month's issue.

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

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY This new venture which is proving to be very popular takes place every Wednesday after the BCP communion service. The group study the readings for the next Sunday; searching for the theme that joins the four readings and relating it to our faith journey in these troubled times. The discussions have been wide ranging and have included topics such as: *guilt, forgiveness, the Christian pathway, creation, the Christian heritage*

THE AUGUST FIRST SUNDAY EVENT The event featured Roxie who shared her experiences of living alongside her mother who struggled with Alzheimers. It was an exceptionally moving occasion and the immediate collection was £250.00. This has now risen to £550.00 which will support Roxie's 'walking marathon' around Salisbury and Stonehenge which she completed in September.

TUESDAY GAMES 'Toasty Tuesdays' have ended to be replaced by **TG** (Tuesday Games). This will take place every other Tuesday which continues at **2pm – 4.30pm**. on **October 10, 24 and so on!!** You will be VERY welcome to join in whatever the games are, which could be: **BINGO, WHIST, BOARD GAMES** etc. as well as enjoying tea, coffee, juice and even **CAKE!!** *By October, depending on the weather we may be back to 'Toasty Tuesdays'*

THE CHRISTCHURCH SUPPER CLUB This initiative and it is hopes to welcome guests from all over the Benefice. The idea is quite simple – you come along, bring something to share and we simply send spend an evening together. The time is **7.00pm** and the next date is: **SATURDAY JANUARY 13 2024 / 7.00pm**. This new date has been delayed so it can mark the passing of the ecclesiastical parish of Lanner. *REMEMBER, the Benefice of Redruth becomes ONE parish on January 1 2024.*

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS Christchurch are very happy to welcome teams of community volunteers who in addition to weeding have painted the hall porch and railings. We are VERY grateful to the team.

OTHER EVENTS AT CHRISTCHURCH

Harvest Festival Quiz on Saturday September 30 7.00pm

Margaret's Last Monday Tea Party 2.00pm – 4.00pm. Home made cake and lots of chat!!

Due to events, the next tea party is on **MONDAY OCTOBER 30**

The Last Friday Film Club doors open at 6.30pm., camera rolling at 7.00pm The cost is £5.00 which includes ice-cream!!

The November First Sunday Event, 6.00pm in Christchurch will be the 'Remembering' service for those who have been loved but seen no longer.

Saturday November 11 Classics by Candlelight on the eve of Remembrance Sunday at 7.00pm. Led by the 4Tunes saxophone quartet the evening will include classic musical pieces and readings to help us remember: ***They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old***

With very best wishes from everyone linked with Christchurch

(PS. The OPEN PANTRY is still there and donations are gratefully received!!)

FP

ST STEPHEN'S TRELEIGH



August ended with the last ever service presided over by Caspar in the Benefice. From the moment the service began with the children parading down the aisle with their flags, followed by the Churchwardens with their staves we knew it would be a service we would not forget in a hurry. With Caspar's sermon and well-loved hymns to the laughter when stories involving Caspar were told. Trish told of the time Steve wanted to be baptised at St Stephens but this was to be no ordinary service, no Steve wanted to be totally immersed in a tank full of water. This was duly provided and the service was able to go ahead. There is a postscript to this story, Steve is now in his first year of training as a curate having been priested earlier this year in June. The children's portrait of Caspar drew the most applause though. After the service, lunch of pasties and puds were well received, and we were able to say our own goodbye to Caspar.

Although Treleigh church is only open on a Thursday morning, our porch is always open having been renamed the Wayside Chapel. There are pens and paper for anyone to leave a prayer if they wish to, which is read in church the next Sunday. We have also kept the prayer tree from the week of prayer because we still find prayers being added to it.

The council have been and strimmed the churchyard so before long we will be having another churchyard tidy morning. Keep an eye on the weekly prayer sheet and the Treleigh Facebook page for further details.

Our 'Upper Room' weekly meeting has moved from a Wednesday to a Tuesday 7 pm at the Knights home and will include at 8.15 compline (night prayer) which will be on zoom, although everyone is welcome to join us in person at Trish and Robin's for the meeting. We have been following a group of celebrities on a Pilgrimage in Portugal. All of different faiths some practicing and some not so faithful. We are led by Jim Seth with great hosts in Trish and Robin so please join us if you can.

Mary Harris

Baby Loss Awareness Week

October sees us taking part in Baby Loss Awareness week. This annual event runs from the 9th – 15th October culminating in the Wave of Light at 7pm on the 15th.

This year is the 21st anniversary and is an opportunity to mark the lives of babies lost in pregnancy or at birth. It also serves to raise awareness of baby loss and the impact it can have on families.

The loss of a pregnancy is a particular kind of bereavement. To grieve a reality that didn't come to pass can be extremely difficult. All that excitement of what was to come becomes sorrow, joy becomes despair and anticipation becomes anger. To be robbed of all the experiences to come like their first nativity or first day of school can seem very cruel. It is so important therefore that parents are supported and that their loss is valued through events like Baby Loss Awareness week.

The week allows grieving parents to come together to remember and to lament but it is also a time to celebrate those precious lives. As a church we help grieving parents find hope that their babies are held in the hands of God, that God recognises and cherishes all lives no matter how short. Indeed, Isaiah 49:16 reads "Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands". To know their babies are known and loved by God and worthy of celebration and remembrance will help bring comfort at a very difficult time.

Our service will take place at St Andrews on Sunday 15th October at 18.30, we will be taking part in the Wave of Light where we'll join people all over the world lighting a candle for baby loss. So please join us to remember all babies lost too soon and to demonstrate the breadth of God's love to their parents.

Anya x



TIME FOR A QUIZ (*answers next month*)

1. What typically makes up between 0.5 per cent and 3 per cent of the dry weight of tobacco?
2. Which component of the limbic system processes human emotions and memories?
3. By what name is N-acetyl-S-methoxy tryptamine better known?
4. Which head of the Lyceum in Athens published *Historia Plantarum*, the first serious treatise on botany?
5. If an apricot is dried, its carbohydrate content rises from 13 per cent to (a) 25 per cent (b) 38 per cent or (c) 67 percent?
6. Whose binomial theorem applied mathematics to gambling games and developed the notion of betting odds?
7. What is the drawback to superconductors that makes them largely unviable for commercial use?
8. Carrots are good for your eyesight: true or false (with explanation)?
9. In which state did a massive volcanic eruption occur in the US at Mount St Helens in 1980, with fifty-seven lives lost, despite a comprehensive evacuation programme?
10. What are Eagle, Intrepid, Antares, Falcon, Orion and Challenger?
11. What fraction is denoted decimally as 0.2727 recurring?
12. Which science deals with the measurement and calibration of the earth and its surface and gravitational field?
13. What do the initials USB stand for in computer science?
14. What is the hard, set polymer used in old-fashioned telephones and electrical insulators?
15. What name is given to the elementary particle believed to have been finally identified at CERN in 2012?
16. Who discovered oxygen before Joseph Priestley and chlorine before Humphry Davy, but failed to publish and never got the credit?
17. The modern branch of mathematics called algebra came to the West from which area?
18. What was the profession of Edwin Hubble in Pasadena in the 1920s?
19. What, after oxygen, is the second most common component of the earth's crust?
20. What is the third most common gas in the earth's atmosphere after Nitrogen and Oxygen

BENEFICE BOOK CLUB NEWS

This is a hasty article written after our meeting on the 15th September. We had a good discussion about *The Island of Missing Trees* which everyone enjoyed and as usual we veered into other topics arising from the story and our own experiences. As we meet again very soon, on 6th October, we have chosen a book which we hope will be an easy and interesting read – *Should We Fall Behind* by Sharon Duggal, a new author to all of us.



Jimmy Noone, a homeless man, walks from one side of a sprawling city to the other, looking for Betwa, a friend he found and lost on the bustling city streets. Jimmy becomes the catalyst for lost lives colliding, exposing stories of tenderness, devotion, displacement and tragedy, and the subtle threads of commonality which intersect them all, making the invisible, visible again.

I believe this was written before the pandemic but the theme of homelessness is quite topical following the Covid pandemic and the current cost of living crisis, Perhaps it will help us all be more thoughtful about those who find themselves thrust into these difficult circumstances.

Trying to get ahead of ourselves again and be prepared for the November meeting, we have chosen a second book – *Night of Fire* by Colin Thubron.

A house is burning, threatening the existence of its tenants: a failed priest, a naturalist, an atheist neurosurgeon, a schoolboy, an obsessive photographer and a traveller, along with their landlord, whose relationship with them is both intimate and shadowy. As the inferno courses through the building we start to notice inexplicable resonances between the lives of the tenants, motifs that recur and details that repeat, and that surely cannot all be explained as coincidence!



Two very different books which I'm sure will give us lots to talk about.

If you fancy joining us please do on either October 6th or November 3rd at 10.00 at my house. Please ring 219059 if you don't know where that is.

Margaret Saville

NEWS FROM THE BELL TOWER

Our ringers were joined by a couple from the Canterbury area for the Mining Sunday service. This enabled us to ring all eight bells, and were somewhat surprised that the congregation applauded when we finished - a first I think!

At the end of September we shall have rung for our last wedding for this year, which means that we have rung for eight weddings this year.

Clive Reynolds

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

20 August	2023	Parker Michael Brian Churcher	St Stephen Treleigh
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WEDDINGS

31 August	2023	Zach Adam Piddock and Ashleigh Jayne Bull	St Euny
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01 September	2023	David Richard Garon Waclawek and Catherine Jane Hailey	St Euny
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09 September	2023	Ryan Joseph Eley and Natasha Leanne Coggin	St Euny
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FUNERALS

25 August	2023	James George (Jim) Selwood BEM	St Andrew Redruth
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07 September	2023	Alan Tripp	St Euny
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08 September	2023	Dr Clive Blake	St Andrew Redruth
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11 September	2023	Margaret Dungey	St Euny
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INTERMENT OF ASHES

05 September	2023	Keith John Porter	St Stephen Treleigh
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Alzheimer's Society Fund raising Marathon

I would like to thank everyone of the Benefice of Redruth for their love, support and encouragement leading up to and during my Trek26 Stonehenge marathon walk last week (2nd September). I really enjoyed the day although at times I had to dig deep and pull myself through the miles, by remembering all the reasons why I undertook this challenge. I spent time remembering my mum, for whom I did this in remembrance. But also, for hope, that those who are living with dementia right now and those who will be diagnosed in the future, will be able to benefit from the funding raised. The Trek took me just over 9½ hours and I was well supported throughout by my wonderful family and friends. I was extremely glad to see the finish line. I have made a photo album of my journey and invite you to have a look through (contact:



roxanne.pollard@brandontrust.org I hope you will feel some of the excitement and fulfillment I experienced, along with the pain and emotional feelings I had.

Once again, thank you so much for all of your support. I am so pleased to say that as of now I have raised £1000 for my Just Giving fund which is going to the Alzheimer's Society.

Love and best wishes,
God bless, Roxy

Pastoral Group

Just a reminder to everyone in our churches to look out for one another. If you have concerns about someone who is not well and would like a visit or holy communion at home please tell your church warden or your pastoral co-ordinator (listed below). You may also have noticed someone missing from church over a number of weeks and don't know why. Please do let us know, it's better to hear from two or three people than not to hear at all.

Your co-ordinator is:-

St Andrew Pencoys	Fr Peter
St Andrew Redruth	Pie Louis-Smith and Lavinia Green
St Euny	Jason Hoole-Jackson
St Stephen Treleigh	Ann Youlton
Christchurch Lanner	Linda James

The co-ordinators try to meet once a month to pray for those in need and support one another

Revd Margaret and Fr Peter

Memories of a past Redruth

by Michael Tangye

When young, this writer was fortunate in having a mother who passed on memories of her youth and of events in Redruth at that time. Born in 1900, they tell of a far different town than that of the present time, population nearly without any non-Cornish folk, even in the 1940 period there were only three non-Cornish pupils at the Redruth Grammar School.

By firelight at Christmas stories of family members who had emigrated to America and other distant lands were recalled. They had left Cornwall to join relatives who had settled there in the past.

A number of events once held annually would be discussed with the local Whitsun Fair dominating others. In my great grandmother's days some fairs were mainly of livestock and street traders but they had either been abandoned or were poorly supported. The Redruth Show Fair had been held in February until 1808 probably in conjunction with the Redruth Feast Day, the latter celebrating the Feast Day of St Euny on Thursday 1st. It fortunately coincided with the anniversary of the former United Methodist Free Chapel, once in Fore Street and since demolished but known as 'Flowerpot Chapel' because of its series of sculpted flowerpots on its facade (now a carpark). The notable celebrations held there kept memories of the old Feast Day alive.

In 1877 it was published that services were held there on the Sunday and Thursday, along with a tea. In the evening, there was a public meeting, whilst in 1890 "243 old and poor persons partook of a free tea in the schoolroom".

The first Redruth Show or Exhibition, so beloved during the Edwardian period was held in July 1898 when it attracted 1,000 entries over two days. Flanking a Horse ring were tents and marquees for livestock and horticulture all overlooked by two large grandstands. The band of the Worcester Regiment played during the day, and in the evening gave a concert in the grounds of Penventon, the home of Mr Arthur Carkeek, (later Knighted) (the Band of the Grenadier Guards were to follow in 1901-1903).

This writer recalled such a show:- "As children we stood by the entry to the Recreation ground to watch the people enter the Show. It was wonderful to see the horse-drawn landaus arrive with ladies wearing beautiful dresses and flower-trimmed hats. They carried sun-shades of gaily coloured silks—women were very feminine in those days.

I remember the horse-drawn cabs in Drump Road with the cab-men competing for trade 'Cab Sir?, Cab Sir?'

There were flags in the town, Union Jacks on flag-poles, houses lit with fairy-lamps—a gala day in Redruth—OUR DAY!"

My Way to Compostela Day 6

Puente La Reina to Estella

23.4 Km by Len Cunningham

The day's start was warm and sunny, with the possibility of being very hot. So it was off with the long trousers and on with the shorts, a very rare event for me.

On leaving the albergue the route took us through the town, crossing over the the bridge that gives the town its name Puente-la-Reina. It was in the town that Charlemagne is supposed to have stayed having defeated an army of Moors at Cizur on the outskirts of Pamplona.

Today's route took us through a landscape that consisted of farmland and vineyards, with no steep climbs and unfortunately no grapes to eat!

Much of the walking was on hard packed paths that kept criss-crossing the main regional autoroute A12, a road that we were to walk parallel to for some days.

After about 5 Km we came to the village of Maneru a medieval village with a long connection with both the Knights Templar and the Order of St John, both Orders were well known for protecting medieval pilgrims. A short 2.8Km brought us to the hilltop village of Cirauqui Plaza. This is a beautifully preserved medieval village with narrow winding streets and houses bearing armorial crests and balconies and a fine village square. Leaving the village through an arch from the square out onto one of the finest examples of a Roman road on the camino, we cross the Roman bridge, to yet again cross the A12. One has to wonder will this new modern autoroute be still around in 2000 years?

A further 5.7Km (hope you are all managing to do your own conversions to imperial measurements) brought us to the village of Lorca. This quaint village is the site of a former pilgrim hospice with connections to the Monastery at Roncesvalles. The route from the village is along a track which runs alongside the A12 passing through farmland and by an ancient hostel, Hospital de peregrinos de Arandigoyenin founded in 1066. From here a further 4.7Km brings us to the village of Villatuerta Puente, and the run in to Estella our stopping place for the night, which would be at the town's municipal sports hall which doubles up as pilgrim accommodation, with evening meal and breakfast. Estella is a vibrant town with a population of 15,000. French pilgrims from the 11th century referred to the town as L'izarra (Basque for Star) which later became Estella (spanish for Star) with all its connections to the Milky Way "Vi Lacteals" otherwise known as the "Way of the Stars" to Compostela. This marks the beginning of stage IV of the Cordex Calixtinus.

Andrew and I had spent our day walking on and off with the German girl, Bridget, Tata the Basque chap and Roy the American. They too had intended to stop at the sports centre. Having showered and got the obligatory beer, which always comes with free crisps or salted peanuts so that you will need more beer, we sat outside in the early evening sun to relax and meet fellow pilgrims. It was here that Andrew and I met a lovely man from North Devon. He was very interested to know why Andrew and I chose to do the camino together. In our conversation he told us that his reason for doing it was in remembrance of his son who had been murdered in a Church in South Africa a few years back and this was Clive's way of reconciling himself to that tragic event.

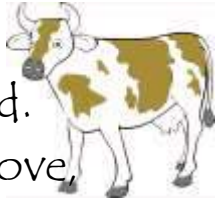
He was to become a constant on our journey, not always walking with us but a reminder of the reasons why individuals undertake this pilgrimage. Indeed, as will become clear in further entries, he was instrumental in doing Andrew a great service and on a lighter note to fall foul of one of my irreverent jokes which he took in very good part.

ODE TO CASPAR



Caspar! Not the Friendly Ghost,
But here, you've been the Friendly Host.
Your cheery smile and gentle way,
Encourage those who come to pray.

You left your farm and dairy herd,
To follow Christ and teach His Word.
From spreading muck! To spreading Love,
The message sent from God above.



When Covid struck! You mastered ZOOM,
To reach us all in our own room.
You welcomed FLAPJACK to the fold,
In doing so, we broke the mould.

We thank you for support and care,
And sometimes just for being there.
Your Facebook page is full of fun,
And made us laugh on every one.

So soon will be your time to go,
You've sown the seeds and watched them grow.
Now off to tend the pastures new,
God bless you Caspar – Alice too.



Sheila Gannaway, 29/07/2023

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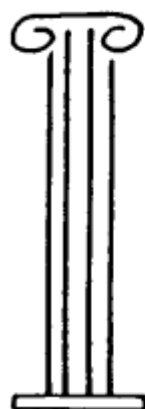


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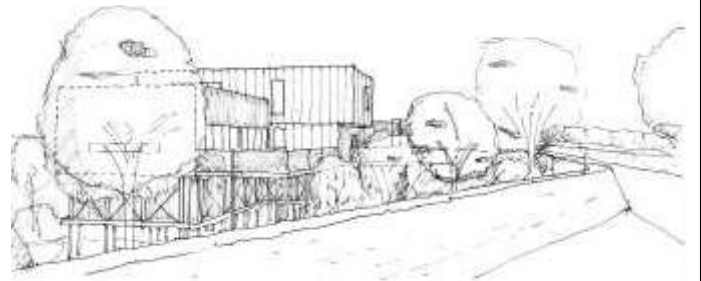
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