

# Five Alive

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



Jason Heale-Jackson

**SEPTEMBER 2022**

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## FIVE ALIVE MAGAZINE

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**by FRIDAY 16 SEPTEMBER**

## Rector's notes – SEPTEMBER 2022

I wonder if you were following much of the Lambeth Conference at the end of July and beginning of August? It's the once-per-decade event when Anglican bishops from all over the world meet at the invitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, to talk about matters of mutual interest and concern.

The massive issues of poverty (especially with rising global food prices), climate change and the persecution of Christians in many countries, alongside mission generally, deserved to take centre stage. But to no one's surprise, it was the issue of human sexuality that threatened to derail the conference at the start. Yet because of ++Justin's humble and godly leadership, it ended up being the issue over which hopeful new ground opens up. He introduced the subject like this:

*"For the large majority of the Anglican Communion the traditional understanding of marriage is something that is understood, accepted and without question, not only by Bishops but their entire Church, and the societies in which they live. For them, to question this teaching is unthinkable, and in many countries would make the church a victim of derision, contempt and even attack. For many churches to change traditional teaching challenges their very existence.*

*For a minority, we can say almost the same. They have not arrived lightly at their ideas that traditional teaching needs to change. They are not careless about scripture. They do not reject Christ. But they have come to a different view on sexuality after long prayer, deep study and reflection on understandings of human nature. For them, to question this different teaching is unthinkable, and in many countries is making the church a victim of derision, contempt and even attack. For these churches not to change traditional teaching challenges their very existence. So let us not treat each other lightly or carelessly. We are deeply divided. That will not end soon. We are called by Christ himself both to truth and unity."*

The situation was named honestly and openly, and as Bishop Philip wrote afterwards, 'it allowed bishops of all convictions to find a rich and deep communion beyond our divisions'. +Philip went on 'there was a strong sense of the Holy Spirit having transformed something into a hopeful future'.

I'm really proud of what all these bishops of such different views managed to achieve together! They have modelled how to disagree well, while continuing to respect each other as God's people. May God give us similar grace to honour each other when we too disagree about subjects close to our hearts. Do see elsewhere in this Five Alive for details of how to join a 'Difference' course, which is very much on this theme.

***With my prayers and best wishes  
Caspar Bush (Team Rector)***

## The Woven Cord: Part 2

We previously looked at the spirituality of the Celtic Church and how its deep vein runs through the Cornish land and how our faith is like a woven cord, of our life, God's love, and the community that surrounds us. May we think about how God is woven into our lives today, how we are woven into others' lives and how we can share the hope that is found in Christ.

As I walk and ride through this amazing part of the country I am struck by the beauty of the old mining engine houses that we see in the landscape. An echo, a whisper, a shadow of a great past that has sadly passed. As one Truro Canon reflected recently; 'headstones' to an industry that made Cornwall great. It saddens me to know that those days have passed and left scars and wounds across this land, in its people, and we live in that aftermath today.

Reflecting on this whilst reading the book, 'Restoring the Woven Cord', by Michael Mitton, who considers, that the healing of His people is not detached from the healing of the land. One of the Celtic forefathers, St Cedd, believed that the land redeemed is a symbol of the redeeming of humankind and as we see in 2 Chronicles 7:14, God says *'if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land'*. He hears us, He waits for us, and He responds - in grace. How are we to respond?

How do we respond? For me, this is a dichotomy as it is both simple at the same time as it is hard. We pray; for our land, for our community, for the Church and how it is to reach those who don't know God's promise of healing, both in the land and in their lives. If we seek redemption, we must seek it for all creation. Prayer may look different to us all, but it is something we can all do and something God wants us to do. He waits to hear from us, he wants to respond, he wants to heal.

May we not look upon these engine houses as mausoleums but as monuments of greatness. Not of a greatness that is gone but is the greatness that is woven into the character and spirit of this great land and its people. A spirit of ingenuity and entrepreneurialism. May our prayers be to see God's glory in this land again, and may he lead us there to see his kingdom come here in Redruth, Lanner, and Treleigh.

The sun rises, God's promises remain the same, and as we see in Chronicles 7, *'His love endures forever'*. May we know, live in, and share His love, today and forever more.

Amen

**Revd Chris Harrigan**

# REACHING OUT INTO THE WORLD

You will probably have heard about the 'On the Way' project. This is designed to support the churches in the Diocese of Truro in the years to come, as each church seeks to be both sustainable and fruitful. One way of trying to be both of those qualities is to 'reach out' to children and young people. The Benefice of Redruth is really trying to do that with .....

## **Family and All-Age Services**

**TOAST** (a youth club held in the Crypt each Friday)

**TIDDLERS 1** (held in the crypt on a Thursday)

**COME RAIN OR SHINE** (held each school holiday in the Crypt on a Thursday)

**TIDDLERS 2** (held in Christchurch on a Tuesday)

**LIGHTHOUSE** (held in the Four Lanes Chapel on the last Sunday of the month)

## **\*The Summer Holiday Project**

**\*The Don't Stop Believing Youth Theatre Group** / DSB (re-starting soon)

**\*The Catch-Up Club** (held each school holiday in Pencoys)

All of these projects seek to work, not only with the children and young people but also with their families. baptisms, weddings and funerals all are arranged through these meetings, and God's love is shared and touches the lives of many.

Those who attend may not come to church regularly, but they will know that they are beloved of God and that the church, perhaps just briefly was there for them and enriched their lives. It was Mother Teresa of Calcutta who said **"cast your stone into the water and watch the ripples go out; you may never know where the ripples will go, what they will touch or where they will lead"**.

There is an ancient proverb that says: **"Do not be afraid to sow, because of the birds"**. As we struggle to 'grow the church' never forget that what you sow may be reaped by someone else, by another church. What is important is that we keep reaching out into the world and reflecting God's love to all whom we meet.

***\* These activities are organised by independent community groups which the Redruth Team Ministry is delighted to support***

**FP**

## ST ANDREW REDRUTH

Over the summer our toddler group was officially closed for the holiday. We will re-open on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September and run as usual from 9.00am to 11.15am. We have a very friendly group of parents, grandparents and carers who bring their young charges and are welcoming to new members. Many of our regulars have commented how important this time has been to them and the children. They appreciate the opportunity to meet and play, share experiences and allow the children to mingle with their peers, learning to be more sociable and sometimes to share! We aim to have a relaxed and open atmosphere with optional activities and play. If anyone who reads this feels able to spare a few hours regularly or occasionally to help run this important offer to our community, please do get in touch with Fran, Lez, Caspar or Linda.

Although the toddler group was officially taking a break, 'Come Rain or Shine' has been operating throughout August on Thursday morning with art and craft activities to suit a wider range of ages. This has included a play area for those of our 'toddler family' who wished to come over the summer, and has been popular with them, nine or more families attending every week so far (another attestation to the support that this has offered). You might notice some of the creations in the crypt, adding a colourful decoration to the area.

On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August Dhiworth-an-Gollon have organised a 'Mexico Night'. Mainly aimed as a foodie event, various entertainments have been planned and tickets were sold out well in advance. Father Peter claims credit for this with his Mexican joke, which we will not repeat because most have heard it.

Redruth Town Band has been performing at a very high standard in recent years and will be holding their next concert in St Andrew's on the evening of Sunday September 4<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm. We are lucky to have such a dedicated and skilled group representing our town so it would be good if we could support this as much as possible.

The Redruth Mining and Pasty Festival takes place over the weekend of 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> September. Our special service will be at St Euny, but St Andrew's will be running a bookstall on the day of the town festival, from the crypt on Clinton Road. As usual contributions to refreshments and support in running the event are welcome. If anyone is able to offer to issue small leaflets in Fore Street to visitors, guiding them to the church, please see Lez.

St Andrew and St Euny will be running a Christmas Tree Festival this year. Our first meeting will be at 7.00pm on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September to plan the event. Anyone (and everyone) is welcome to participate and if you would like to find out more, offer ideas or help, please do come along to the meeting to be held at St Euny at 7.00pm. Any ideas from people unable to attend should be given to Lez or Linda Beskeen.

The organ at St Andrew's requires some work on the bellows, possibly up to the value of £6,000. Applications for grants have been rejected on the basis of the organ having been altered since it was first installed. If anyone knows of any sources of support, or any more detail about the organ, please see Lez.

***Linda Beskeen***

## CHRISTCHURCH LANNER



Christchurch remains open 10.00am – 4.00pm and Holy Communion is celebrated each Sunday at 9.30am, except on the second Sunday when an informal all age event (CHAMP) is held and Holy Communion 11.00am and follows the Prayer Book rite.

### THE FILM CLUB

The Club meets every LAST Friday of each month, and the next film is publicised in the Benefice weekly sheet. Doors open at 6.30pm and the camera is rolling at 7.00pm. The cost is £3.00 and membership for the remainder of the year is £5.00; however, if you join, then the first film you watch is FREE. The interval ice-cream is also FREE!! The Club is very grateful to Geoff K. who was the original camera technician and who has now handed over the camera to Richard KB.

### SOCK (Support Our Christ the King)

The FOURTH SOCK will be held on SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 24 at 7.00pm. The evening will involve GIN and a celebration of birthdays. Look in the weekly sheet for more details a bit earlier the time.!!

### DESERT ISLAND DISCS

£125.00 was raised for the RNLI when Deacon Christopher shared his 'Desert Island Discs'. It was a very emotional event and everyone present was moved by Christopher's account of his journey towards ordination. THANKYOU so much Chris. YOU DID WELL!! His chosen book was "To kill a Mocking bird" and his luxury was A MOTOR BIKE (he got a Triumph!!)

### MARGARET'S TEA ROOM

This continues in the Church Hall from 2.00pm – 4.00pm on the LAST MONDAY of each month. There is lots of tea to drink, cake to eat and buy and a chance to chat!!!

### COMMUNITY PANTRY

The pantry, which started in the lockdown moved inside during the very bad weather. Linda J. continues to ensure that supplies are kept in place both inside and in the emergency box outside. The pantry is very well used and donations of cash and supplies are always very welcome.

With best wishes and the hope that everyone was safe through the heat wave and now through the water crisis!! FP

**FP**



**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***

What a scorcher it was! About twenty members of Flapjack met at Stithians Dam for our Annual Tea Treat (Pasties and saffron buns) on 7<sup>th</sup> August, to enjoy a beautiful view of the water treatment works! We literally sizzled in the sun and wondered why we chose that view instead of the lake ... it's where the pasties were, of course ..... but perhaps on another visit we could arrange for the pasties to land nearer the lake! Nevertheless, a good time was enjoyed by all who came, and our thanks go to Jenny and FP for organising the delicious food.

Later on, what a wonderful evening it was! At the First Sunday Evening Event, we welcomed Revd. Chris Harrigan (complete with motor bike and crash helmet) to Christchurch Lanner, for an evening of beautiful music and emotional memories. It was a privilege to be able to share the moving story of his faith and life's journey and his personal and family difficulties, and those present were very touched by his generosity in allowing us to get to know him as he 'bared his soul'. Thank you, Chris, for your sincerity and honesty, and for your choice of charity, the RNLI, for which a total of £125 was raised. Our thanks go to all who came to support this event, and to Fr. Peter for his interesting and sensitive questioning. The next First Sunday Evening Event will be a Taizé service on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm at Four Lanes Methodist Church, to which all are welcome.

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

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

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September: Quiz** in Pencoys Hall, 7pm. £1 per person (please bring your own refreshments)

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September:** Flapjack Holy Communion at Four Lanes Methodist Church, 11.15am, followed by a **Flapjack Meeting** at 12.45pm. Lighthouse (Young people's project, parents and carers welcome) from 3-5pm and First Sunday Evening Event 6pm.

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September: Flapjack Family Event** at St. Andrew's Pencoys, 11.15am followed by said Holy Communion at 12.30pm.

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September:** Games Evening (Prize Bingo) in Pencoys Hall, 6-8pm. £3pp. please bring your own refreshments.

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September: Flapjack HARVEST FESTIVAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE** 11.15am at the Methodist Church; Holy Communion at 6pm at St. Andrew's Pencoys.

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September:** Bangers & Mash, Methodist Church, 11am to 1pm.

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September:** Flapjack Holy Communion with hymns at St. Andrew's Pencoys, 11.15am. Teatime Celebration, Pencoys Hall, 4-5pm.

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September:** Teatime in Church 2-4pm. Please bring your own drinks, cake is provided.

With the approach of autumn and the preparation of preserves for sale at seasonal markets and events, if anyone needs small to medium glass jars with lids, please contact Jill (phone or text) at 07809 043656. These used to go to the lady near St. Euny Church who sells fresh vegetables, for her pickles, but she now no longer pickles her beetroot

***Jill Tolputt***

## ST EUNY

St Euny has continued to be a place of pilgrimage this summer, with many visitors coming to see the church and churchyard and enjoy the peace they offer.

The Community Café took a break over the summer but will resume on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September from 2pm to 3.30pm with a Beetle Drive. This has proved a popular meeting place for many, so if you know of anyone who would like to meet for tea and activities once a week in an informal and welcoming setting, please do let them know. If you know of someone who might benefit but is not confident of meeting a group of strangers, please let Lucie or Linda know and we can arrange to meet them beforehand and familiarise them with us or some of the others.

The Mining and Pasty Festival in Redruth on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September continues with 'Mining Sunday' on 11<sup>th</sup> September. This is the first revival of the event since the lockdowns of the Covid-19 virus and we will be following a familiar pattern. A walk of part of the mining trail from West Basset Stamps will commence at 10.00am and follow the paths to Wheal Euny engine houses where a remembrance service will take place, with petals of remembrance dropped down the shaft. From thence we will progress to the church for a service at 11.30am, followed by a pasty lunch. Everyone is welcome. This is an excellent opportunity to offer hospitality to others who do not regularly attend church. Please do advertise this to anyone whom you know might be interested.

Investigation into the structure of the church building continues. We await further clarification after the expected September rains and will then be in a position to get estimates for the repairs, hoping that the damage is not as deep as at first feared.

St Euny will be working with St Andrew to provide a Redruth Parish Christmas Tree Festival for Christmas 2022. We would like to make this an attraction for anyone in Redruth and further afield so would welcome ideas, offers of support, suggestions for sponsorship etc. to help make this a success. If you would like to be involved, or know anyone in the community who would like to be involved, please contact Lucie or Lez and / or come to our first meeting on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm at St Euny, refreshments provided.

*Linda Beskeen*

## ST STEPHEN'S TRELEIGH



Earlier in August our ladies group at Treleigh decided that in view of the extreme heat we would for this month just be the Ladies that Lunch. Seven of us in two cars driven by Ann and Carol arrived at the Wheal Dream restaurant for a delightful lunch with plenty of chat and lots of laughter.

The congregation of St Stephens Church are extremely grateful to Mary Ladd and her family for replacing the brass plaque on the Paschal Candle Stand which they had kindly given in memory of family members at Easter 2011.

The plaque was blessed by Fr Peter on the occasion of the 25th wedding Anniversary of Mary's daughter, Marie to Mark Alderson when they remembered their Vows in a beautiful ceremony led by Fr Peter, before a few family members.

This week we have had the surveyor from BGMS mapping not only the churchyard, but also the interior of the church. They will be back later in the year when they will take photographs of Headstones to fill into the map.

Our next Graveyard day on the 1st of October will be of added importance when we will attempt to clean any Ivy and Lichen off some of the headstones so that they will be able to be read. We will be appealing for help nearer the time to clean as many of the graves as possible.

On Saturday 17th September we will be holding a Great British Tea Party in the Hawthorn Garden weather permitting, with the hall as backup if wet. The event will be from 2pm to 4pm and is in aid of the Children's Hospice Southwest and our Church at Treleigh all for £5 per person. Along with Cakes and pastries from all around Great Britain there will be musical entertainment and a raffle.

We look forward to the support from our friends from all over the Benefice in making this event a success.

***Mary Harris***

The power of faith  
in a conflicted world

**differ  
ence.**

Navigating a divided and complex world can be hard. We encounter this in our relationships, in our communities and in other structures and systems. Many of us long to make a difference, but we often don't know where to start.

This course over five weekly sessions is designed to help us cross divides, cope with disagreement and pursue a just and flourishing world, using three habits:  
*Be curious... be present... re-imagine.*

In our benefice the *Difference* course will begin in the week of Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September on these days:

**Wednesdays**

11am – at St Andrew's, with Margaret

11.45am at Christchurch, with FP

7pm at Trish and Robin's house, with Jim

**Thursdays**

7pm at Chris Sargent's house, with Jason and Caspar.

We're hoping also that curate Chris will be running one other course – watch out for more details in the weekly sheet. Do speak to any of the ministry team for more information

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***PASTORAL VISITING GROUP***

We now have coordinators in all the churches for you to contact and they are:-  
Christchurch Lanner—Linda James; St Andrew Pencoys—Fr Peter; Treleigh—Ann Youlton;  
St Euny—Jason Hoole-Jackson; St Andrew Redruth—Pie Louis-Smith and Lavinia Green

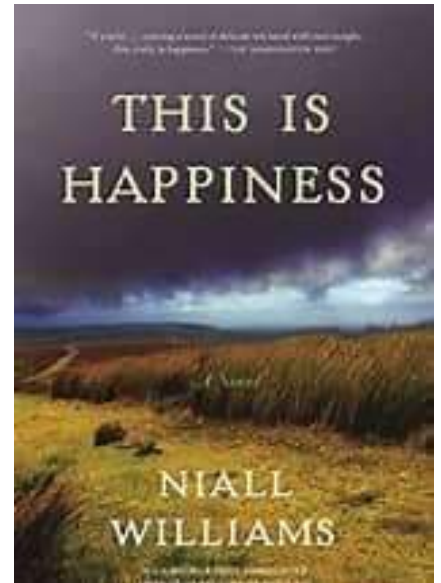
So do please note who your coordinator is, let them know your concerns or who you are visiting and consider being a visitor on behalf of the church. All this helps us care for one another and eases the burden on the clergy. The next meeting of the Pastoral Group is on Monday September 5<sup>th</sup> at Christchurch Lanner at 7.00 pm. Please do come along and find out more.

***Reverend Margaret and Father Peter***

# *Book Club*

***Book Club – open to anyone who likes to read***

When we meet on September 2<sup>nd</sup> we will be sharing our thoughts and reactions having read **This is Happiness** by **Niall Williams** – a novel set in the fictional village of Faha in West Clare, Ireland. The narrator, Noel, a 78 year old man recounts the experiences of his youth in the late 1950's when he was withdrawn from the seminary and sent to stay with his grandparents. Meanwhile electricity is finally arriving in the village. This is a story of faith, youth and first love, but also a careful portrayal of the village itself, and the daily lives of the parishioners who live in it, in a world on the cusp of change.



If you want to get ahead of the game we shall be reading a non-fiction book about nature on October 7<sup>th</sup> – *The Circling Sky* by Neil Ansell, very topical if you are concerned about the environment.

In the form of several journeys over a year beginning in January 2019 Neil Ansell returns for solitary walks in the New Forest close to where he was born. With beautiful sightings and observations of birds, trees, butterflies, insects and landscape this is also a reflective memoir on childhood, on the history of one of the most ancient and important habitats and on the gypsies who lived there for centuries, and were subsequently expelled to neighbouring cities. It is also part polemic on our collective and individual response for the land and world in which we live and how we care for it.

It is always good to have a challenge when we read books and these two are very different through choice as we felt it was time to read something other than a novel. If you have a favourite or challenging book to recommend please let us know and tell us why you would recommend it, better still come and join us. We are back at Margaret's home after a brief excursion elsewhere last month.

Ring me on 211775 for more information.

***Margaret Saville***

## FROM THE REGISTERS

**There are no Baptisms, Weddings or Funerals to report this month**

## THE SUMMER HOLIDAY PROJECT 2022

*The Summer Holiday Project is organised by an independent community group*

*which the Redruth Team Ministry is delighted to support*

Once, a long time ago, in the days of SEARCHLIGHT, there were three coach outings, an away week and a theatre week. Maybe those days will return. But the chant remains:

***“ICE CREAMS AT 2 ‘COS THAT’S WHAT WE DO”.***

***The last event for August:***

*Tuesday August 30 / Trebah / coach*

THE COACH OUTING WILL MEET AT ST ANDREW, REDRUTH AT 10.00AM AND RETURN TO ST ANDREW, REDRUTH BY 5.00pm (maybe slightly earlier!!)

THE SUGGESTED DONATION TOWARDS COSTS IS £3.00 / OUTING  
***NUMBERS ARE RESTRICTED TO 25, BOOKING IS THUS ESSENTIAL.***

***A PACKED LUNCH WILL BE NEEDED FOR THIS OUTING***

***FP***



*A  
Great  
British  
Tea  
Party*

**Treleigh Church**

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September

2.00pm - 4.00pm

in our Hawthorn Garden  
(or Hall, if wet! ☔).



**Afternoon Tea £5.00  
Music and Raffle**



*Cakes, pastries and other  
delights from around  
Britain.  
Join us for a relaxing  
afternoon in aid of  
Children's Hospice  
Southwest  
Church at Treleigh.*

## *EXCERPTS FROM A DAILY JOURNAL*

*by Michael Tangye*

**Feb 18 1985** The north foot of Carn Brea is being bulldozed in preparation for a sports ground. Huge 'diggers' are casting aside large granite boulders concealed beneath topsoil and mining overburden. Everywhere are traces of old mining works. A huge crane lowered man in a cage into an old engine shaft of the former Carn Brea Mine which has been dug out and is now being 'capped' with reinforced concrete. In Carn Lane, which ascends from Carn Brea Village and leads to the site, an ancient tin stream brought water across the fields from Carnkie in the 1700's, passing beneath the lane at Carnbrea Farm to continue flowing to other mines beyond; it has now been replaced by a high hedge on the Carn side. The tin slime from this was taken out last year for its high tin content.

**Feb 19** To Carn Brea again to photograph the whole area being cleared. The digger driver was not very happy. He has been told to prepare the first phase of the task by removing the topsoil and then levelling—all very difficult when encountering mining archaeology and huge boulders beneath them!

**June 11** Later note. A friend, Winston Edwards, a miner at South Crofty Mine tells me that £60,000 worth of tin was gained from the old stream bed. It was said to have cost £30,000 to obtain it, the cost also including the hedge building etc. A check on my transcripts of the original Tehidy Accounts Books shows that the stream bed was constructed in 1754.

**June 24** Chatted with an elderly lady of 84 years, born at St Day but now too infirm to care for herself. Extremely interesting conversation about St Day which I wrote down regarding her childhood and life. Her mother was an uncertified nurse noted locally for delivering babies. If required to attend a patient she was always collected by Dr Mitchell on such occasions. 'He would arrive at my home in Chapel Street in a dog-cart pulled by a mule!'

**June 28** I had not realised that the Alma Hotel in Alma Place was once the residence of the well recorded Dr Willie Hichens, and used by the rugby players of Redruth Club as a place where they changed into their rugby attire before walking to the recreation ground to play and later return. The club's earlier base for such was in the Temperance Hall situated above the Coffee Tavern in Alma Place. This writer's mother would recall when her brother and other boys would wait outside the building during the Edwardian period to carry the boots of the legendary Bert Solomon and other players

**Nov 28** Ian Botham, the famous English cricketer and scourge of the Australians is marking the end of his walk from John O'Groats to Land's End. He is raising money en-route for leukaemia research. In the ambulance, fortunately not on an emergency call, we met his entourage at Chiverton completely bringing the traffic behind him to a standstill. Police motor cyclists and a police car, all with blue flashing lights preceded him. He followed, a tall figure amongst a group of supporters, whilst behind trailed large vans and television cameras. We later came through Redruth ahead of him where crowds lined the pavements, including children from local schools and their teachers. At the hospital we paused with a group of staff.

**Nov 29** Again met Ian Botham and his supporters, this time at Roseworthy. He had left Cambridge at 8.15am led out of the town by Helston Town Band and a mass of people. He arrived at the Land's End in the afternoon after raising £400,000—he is aiming for his £1 million target!

*continued at bottom of next page*



# “My Way”

## To Compostella

### Preparations continue

I would like to say that my decision to choose April as my start month was based on hard scientific evidence, but in truth it was down to my speaking to my brother in law who lives south of Barcelona and asking him what the weather would be like in Northern Spain in April. He confirmed for me that it could be unpredictable but should not be problematic! So we discussed the 18<sup>th</sup> as the date for the commencement of my Camino starting from the historical start point of St Jean Pied de Port on the French side of the Pyrenees. This is the ancient town in the foothills of the Pyrenees where Pilgrims from France and further east congregated, as there was safety in numbers, before undertaking their gruelling pilgrimage to Santiago. Just because they were pilgrims did not save them from robbery or murder. I myself was not expecting to encounter any of those events! A record of the first pilgrimage from St Jean goes back as far as 950 and was undertaken by a Bishop named Gotescalco. The town however became more important as a start point between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries as Santiago de Compostella grew in importance and prestige. Today the recognised route is better known as the Route Napoléon as it was the way most favoured by Napoleon to get his armies in and out of Spain during the peninsular wars. So, having by the end of 2012 got myself sorted as regards to the practicalities, flight to Barcelona, train to Pamplona and a bus to St Jean de Pied Port, it was now a case of preparing myself both physically and mentally to walk continuously for 33 days. As the average daily distance was going to be roughly 21 kilometers, which is 13 miles in old money, I needed to practice walking on a regular basis, starting slowly and gradually building up to that distance, then starting all over again carrying a back pack. It was at this stage that Andrew my son decided to join me. We had talked about it previously but he was undecided, however having arranged a year's sabbatical from work he was free to join me. Good job I had anticipated his coming and had also booked tickets for him.

So we were ready, trained, packed and rearing to go, looking forward to father and son time and our great adventure!

***Len Cunningham***

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#### ***Excerpts from a Daily Journal continued from previous page***

Dec 28 Visit to the Redruth Cattle Market, which sadly is due to be demolished. Photographed various details of the complex, particularly the animal pens. Built of cast iron, each bearing the name of their Founder 'Visick and Son, Devoran' on the gate pillars, along with pen number.

Yet another aspect of Redruth's commercial life to end. As children, when at Trewirgie School, we went there each week to see the cattle, pigs etc - the loud voice of the auctioneer, the chatter of the farmers in rich dialect—all will now be just a memory.



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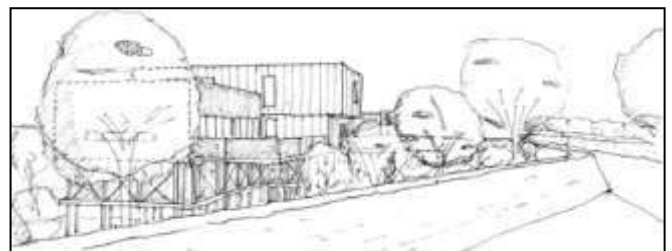
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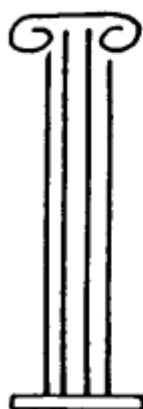


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