

The Benefice of St Germans
with Antony and Sheviock

THE MINISTRY TEAM

Sunday Services**3rd Jan, Epiphany**

10am Holy Communion @ Sheviock
10am Morning Prayer @ Dowlerry
7pm Sunday Worship on Zoom

10th Jan, Baptism of Christ

10am Holy Communion @ St Germans
10am Morning Prayer @ Antony
7pm Sunday Worship on Zoom

17th Jan, Epiphany 2

10am Holy Communion @ Dowlerry
10am Morning Prayer @ Sheviock
7pm Sunday Worship on Zoom

24th Jan, Epiphany 3

10am Holy Communion @ Antony
10am Morning Prayer @ St Germans
7pm Sunday Worship on Zoom

31st Jan, Presentation of Christ in the Temple

10am TBC
7pm Sunday Worship on Zoom

Correct as at 1 Jan 2021

Rector:

Revd Canon Lynn Parker
Tel: 01503 230676
Email:
Parker30@hotmail.com

Curate:

Revd Laura Bushell Hawke
Tel: 01752 851187
Email:
RevLauraBH@gmail.com

Licensed Lay Ministers:

Matt Frost
Susan Irving
Richard Laugharne
Margaret Sylvester-Thorne
David Watters

Local Worship Leader:

Steve Guffick

SAFEGUARDING

Any safeguarding concerns should be passed to the Safeguarding Officer via the Vicarage:
01503 230676

The Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser is:
Sarah Acraman
01872 374351

Daily Services:

Monday 7pm on Zoom
Tuesday 10am at Tideford
Wednesday 10am on Zoom
Thursday 10am at Hessenford,
7pm Prayer Course on Zoom
Friday 10am on Zoom
Saturday 7pm on Zoom

Email: Parker30@hotmail.com for the Zoom link

Introducing..... Susan Irving, Licensed Lay Minister

I was born at home in a coastguard cottage in Portwrinkle, a breach presentation and awkward from birth according to my mother! The younger of two sisters with the war years between, my sister Pauline has returned to live in Craffhole where she was born.

Our three hundred year paternal family line connection to St Mary's can be traced as one walks down the church path, where Henry Davey "Clerk of this parish" and John Davey and their wives are buried. Sadly the more tragic grave of our grandfather who committed suicide remains as a shadow in our hearts; as he was also a church warden, he was granted special permission to be buried inside the walls.

My mother, originally a Baptist was born on the south side of Dartmoor, her mother then died when she was 16. She converted to the Anglican church when an adult. I was educated first at Sheviok school and then at Saltash Grammar.

Having moved to London, planning to train as a nurse, I instead trained in Hotel and Catering, got married at 19 in a misguided attempt to appease my father and was lucky to have two children, Charles and Morwenna. My second marriage brought the joy of a third child Ben and indirectly nine beautiful grandchildren.

My early experience of God was via some good bible stories at school and a frightening, punishing, intimidating God in Church.

In my mid twenties I decided to train to be a social worker, specialising in psychiatry and after the sad failure of my marriage became fascinated in what caused relationships to fail; a question the answer to which I still pursue avidly to this day. Indeed I believe I am still attempting to make reparation for the damage caused by these failures. I am also intrigued by what constitutes a good relationship with God.

I discovered a more loving and forgiving relationship with God via my work in a Christian therapeutic community in Trethill in the 1970's and this warmth and vision has stayed with me inspiring my further training, initially as a psychotherapist and then a psychoanalyst and Couple psychotherapist.

My faith has been a part of my life, symbolised by the Lifeboat which comes alongside when I am lost and fear that all hope is gone.

The latest 'crazy idea' in my life was training to be a Reader, whilst living in London; three years of a weekly 600 mile return journey to Truro, but worth every mile.

The last two years I have had the new adventure of learning to live alone; not something I ever thought I would want and another steep learning curve, but contributing a lot to my understanding, empathy and compassion.

Vicar's News

We come to the start of a new year, but before we launch ourselves into 2021, let us take a moment to thank God for all that has happened in 2020.

That may be a strange thing to write bearing in mind all that we have been through with the Covid epidemic, but for some it may have been a good year, with lots of new opportunities, good health, and happiness. And we can rejoice in that and remember with thanksgiving that God has seen us through a difficult year.

Not forgetting of course that for others there may have been times of struggle, loss, or ill health.

But even in the dark times, what we have to remember is that God will not stretch us beyond what we can cope with. He is always there to call upon, to strengthen us through times of trials, to support us and give us hope, even in our bleakest hour.

So, we need to look back at the past year with a reflective and positive mind and try and think of some of the good that has come out of adversity. We never know how things that have happened in the past year will affect our future, or come in useful as a new skill learnt, or as a problem tackled that can give us insight into how we might help others.

So whatever 2020 gave us, let us thank God for all that makes up our lives, the good times and the bad, all that gives it character and meaning. And let us reflect on our experiences, that whatever has been, we can use to strengthen us, and to give us courage, to start this New Year with a positive and thankful attitude.

May God bless you, guard over you and guide you, and lead you in the ways of peace through 2021.

Yours in Christ

Lynn

the
prayer
course

Prayer Course

Starting on 7th January we will be running the Prayer Course from 24/7 Prayer, an international, interdenominational movement. This course is based on the Lord's Prayer to help us grow and deepen our prayer life. The course will run on Thursday evenings from 7pm via Zoom. The link will be shared in the daily prayer link email, so do make sure Revd Lynn has your details for the list.

Whether you have prayed every day since you were a child or are new to prayer, join us as we explore topics such as: how to pray, adoration, petition, intercession, unanswered prayer, contemplation, listening and spiritual warfare. Using videos and discussion we will discover the importance of prayer and hopefully renew our passion for all aspects of prayer.

The book "*How to Pray*" by Pete Greig accompanies the course, but it is not essential to have a copy. It is currently available on Kindle for 99p.

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

**When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:**

**To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.**



Christingles

Covid meant we had to think of a new way to do Christingles this year, because the services are so well attended we could not risk encouraging so many families into our buildings. Instead over 300 Christingles-in-a-bag were distributed through the three primary schools of St Nicolas, Antony and St Germans as well as to church families. A copy of the Bible Society's "It Begins in Bethlehem" was also added to each bag.

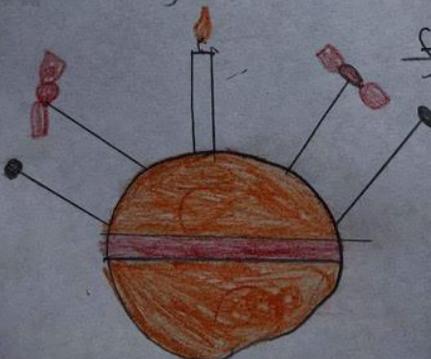
Thank you for all the kind contributions and also thank you to the team who very patiently assembled these bags and distributed them to the schools.

Dear the Church,

I'm Writing to say thanks you for providing St Nicolas School With christingle bags this year. We all enjoyed finding out the meanings behind the christingle and had lots of fun making them too. We hope that the children Society raised lots of money for children who are unfortunate.



Merry Christmas,



from St. Nicolas School



St Nicolas CofE Primary School

www.st-nicolas.cornwall.sch.uk

Main Road, Downderry, Torpoint, Cornwall, PL11 3LF

Tel: 01503 250565 Email: dkinman@stbarnabasmat.com

Head of School – Mr Jake Imrie

23rd December 2020

To our Local Church and Wider Community,

I am writing to express our gratitude to our local Church and wider community who, once again, have risen to the challenge of ensuring no one in our school is left without during this very difficult year.

During the initial lockdown period in March, the Community came together (led by members of the Church) to coordinate aid for families who found themselves with difficult and unexpected financial strains. Families have been left in difficult circumstances, some completely 'out of the blue'.

The work of our Local Church and wider community has continued into the Autumn term. This week, I have had the proud honour of supporting families with donated food hampers, financial support and signposting to local support groups. None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of our Church and local family. We also owe a huge 'Thank you' to Downderry Stores. Without them, this wouldn't have been possible.

The aid provided by our local community has been so forthcoming, that we have been able to support families in neighbouring communities too; they are very grateful and this demonstrates our commitment to supporting children and young people, no matter where they are from.

To summarise; Thank you. It has been a difficult journey for your local school this year, as it has been for all. The knowledge that we are part of a community, striving for the greater good, for all, has enabled us to achieve our goals this year.

In addition, we have provided every child with a set of jingle bells to proudly ring at 6pm on Christmas Eve. **Imagine this year from a child's perspective;** I know they will speak proudly of how their community came together in 2020, when they become the adults of the future.

I speak on behalf of the whole staff team when I say; we are honoured and proud to be part of such a heartfelt community who always puts the needs of our children and their families first.

On behalf of St Nicolas CE Primary School, Downderry, I wish you a joyous Christmas.

Mr Jake Imrie & The St Nicolas School Team.

Thank You!!!

Hi Everyone! It's Charlotte here. It's been 4 weeks now since I lost my leg, as you can imagine it's been a hard time full of pain and grief and loss of independence. I may have lost a lot but the love I've felt this last month is more than many will experience in a lifetime. I may be biased but there is truly something special about our community and I feel immensely blessed to live amongst you all. Everyday I get to look out my front door and see a tree full of beautiful messages from you all, I have the heart of the village in my garden. I have to thank everyone immensely for your generosity and donations to help my family and me. The money so far has allowed me to buy an I-walk, a piece of equipment that will give me independence and make my daily life easier for years to come. The rest of the money will eventually go towards the leg that allows me to live out my passion. Dancing is something that sets my soul on fire, when I dance all my cares and worries disappear and I forget for a moment that I have an illness, and to me that is priceless. It was important for me to tell you all, each and every one of you are amazing loving people with beautiful hearts and I cannot wait to see you all again very soon! I do post updates on my Facebook page of what I'm up to so please feel free to give me a follow.

Best wishes, Charlotte Evans and family Xxx



Church Decorations for Christmas

This year our Christmas decorations have appropriately “looked out” to our communities so that people could see that the churches were alive and active – even through lockdowns and reduced services.

This is the vibrant tree from St Nicolas, Donderry. We were also fortunate to have a Carols on the Beach service at Donderry on Christmas Eve, which being outdoors and socially distanced meant that Carols could be sung! The event was well attended and will surely become a great addition to the Church calendar in years to come.



Nativity Trail

Outdoors at St Germans, the interactive and illuminated Nativity Trail debuted on Friday 18th December, the trail started at the Lych gate and wound its way down to the porch, where they discovered a beautiful crib scene complete with Mary & Joseph. Each figure had a code to scan which linked to our website and gave them details of the story.

In addition, there were 30 pebbles painted as a baby Jesus hidden around the village for children to find. On Christmas Eve they were encouraged to collect a pebble and follow the trail to exchange it at the crib for a treat.

A big thank you to the team who created the trail from scratch, arranged codes, maintained the figures during Storm Bella and greeted the children.



A Reflection from David Watters

As Richard Rhor writes in his meditation on 30 December -

The need to Our call to do our part is at the heart of the gospel message. We pitch in, listen to others, and stay open to the Spirit. We are the ones who have been sent out. The gospel of love will not be experienced unless we live the deeply contemplative truth that our prayer leads to community, which leads to action to heal this fractured world. . . .

It is those whom we encounter and who break open our hearts who keep us faithful. Together we know our existence as one vibrant organism created at every moment by the Divine. This is the source of a hope beyond our wildest understanding.

And it is that hope which will transform us into God's joyful people who can never do enough to serve others as we serve our loving, abundant and generous God. So may we pray for the grace to live our lives as vulnerable servants of our loving God, serving most especially the unlovely and unloveable and those who face injustice on a daily basis whether through the cost of travel or homes where bullying rules

And finally...

Two men were walking through a field one day when they spotted an enraged bull. Instantly they darted toward the nearest fence. The storming bull followed in hot pursuit, and it was soon apparent they wouldn't make it. Terrified, the one shouted to the other, "Put up a prayer, John. We're in for it!"

John answered, "I can't. I didn't do Thursday evening Prayer Course and I've never made a public prayer in my life."

"But you must!" implored his companion. "The bull is catching up to us."

"All right," panted John, "I'll say the only prayer I know, the one my father used to repeat at the table: 'O Lord, for what we are about to receive, make us truly thankful.'"

Newsletter Deadline

If you have any articles or information for the February newsletter, please email it to: benefice.newsletter12@gmail.com by 24 January.

The Benefice of St Germans with Antony and Sheviock

Newsletter email: benefice.newsletter12@gmail.com

 www.stgermansparishes.com www.achurchnearyou.com



St Germans Church – The Priory