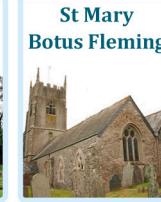


Saltash Area Newsletter

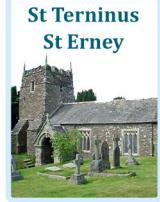
July / August 2021



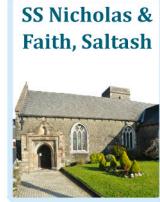
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Landrake



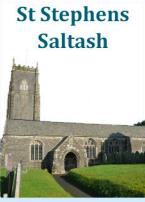
St Mary
Botus Fleming



St Terninus
St Erney



SS Nicholas &
Faith, Saltash



St Stephens
Saltash

DISCOVERING GOD'S KINGDOM – GROWING THE CHURCH
www.saltashteamministry.org



It's Pointless

Linda, my late wife, was a game-show fanatic. Any programme which required using the brain, she was there. Not so me. I watch only two game-shows, *Only Connect* and *Pointless* (the second mainly because it precedes the early evening national news), and at certain times when I join in my answers are correct. Even if I do not manage the correct answer at least I am learning, I hope.



For those of you who do not know the show *Pointless*, tune in at 5.15 pm on any week day evening and it will save me having to explain it in detail. Simply, one hundred people are asked a question prior to the programme (and given one hundred seconds to answer) while the competitors have to guess how many were correct. It is a popular show with a wide following. The other day Alexander Armstrong, the question master, was telling how he was invited to the Sandringham Women's Institute to speak. Prior to his visit the Hon Secretary telephoned

him and said that HM the Queen (their President) would be present on the occasion of his visit and had asked if they could play *Pointless*.

The other evening one of the questions was, 'What is the name of the second part of the Bible?' It was included in a selection of questions in which all the answers began with 'New'. The competitor gave the right answer, 'New Testament.' We later

discovered that of the one hundred asked only forty-three were right.

This reminded me of some words about her school days that Jennie Hogan wrote in her book *This is My Body*, 'Religious studies were two years of colouring in and petty ethical enquiry of "issues" related to the three of the four Gospels.' (p113).

We have heard a great deal about education during the pandemic from the professionals and the politicians as well as scholars right cross the spectrum of the subject. On occasions they have agreed and on other occasions

COMING UP

Breakfast Baps

St Nicholas & St Faith
Church Rooms
Saturdays 7, 21 Aug
10am to 1pm



What better way to spend a Saturday morning than having a cooked breakfast?

Cream Teas

Come along and enjoy a delicious cream tea with friends.

St Michael's Church
Saturday 24 July
Noon to 2pm



SS Nicholas and Faith
Church Rooms
Saturdays 14, 28 Aug
2pm to 4.30pm



JUL / AUG SERVICES

Sunday 4 July / 1 August

St Stephen-by-Saltash

9.30am Holy Communion

St Michael, Landrake

9.30am All Age Service

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash

11am Holy Communion

St Mary, Botus Fleming

11am All Age Service

Sunday 11 July / 8 August

St Stephen-by-Saltash

9.30am Holy Communion

St Michael, Landrake

9.30am Holy Communion

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash

11.15am Holy Communion

St Mary, Botus Fleming

11.15am Holy Communion

Sunday 18 July / 15 August

St Stephen-by-Saltash

9.30am Holy Communion

6.30 pm Evensong

St Michael, Landrake

9.30am Holy Communion

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash

11am Holy Communion

St Mary, Botus Fleming

11.15am All Age Service

St Erney, Landrake

11.15am Holy Communion

Sunday 25 July / 22 August

St Stephen-by-Saltash

9.30am Holy Communion

St Michael, Landrake

9.30am Holy Communion

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash

11am Holy Communion

St Mary, Botus Fleming

11.15am Holy Communion

Sunday 29 August

St Nicholas & St Faith, Saltash

10am Joint Service



have taken divergent views. In the case of the professionals and the politicians, economics has played a part and in the case of the scholars, on the whole, the lack of provisions and/or opportunity.

Of course, religious education in many establishments has taken a back seat, in many cases again due to economics or to the lack of interest in sections of the community (although in recent years in some areas the interest in the academic subject has increased). Recently the weekly opportunity to learn in Sunday

School has largely disappeared from the Church as a whole. A drastic change from the medieval times for, as A Tindal Hart remind us in *A Curate's Lot*, 'The ordinary parish priest was expected, if possible, to keep a school and teach any promising boy what he himself knew free of any charge beyond anything which the parents themselves were voluntary prepared to him.'

In the same week as I read the above, the *Church Times* ran a report of Ofsted which concluded that, 'Teachers are implanting unhelpful misconceptions about religion and are failing to prepare pupils for a multi-religious society....' The report, a review of literature related to RE, highlights "chronic and

intractable problems with school level provision." (14 May 2021).

In the Saltash Cluster we are blessed with having two Church schools which have a long tradition of providing a good secular education based upon religious principles that has also played a sustainable presence in our community. For this, much thanks must go to the heads and staff who deserve our prayerful support.

There is a tendency to leave religious education to the academics – schools, colleges, Sunday Schools. Not so! Religious

education should not be left to others. It is something to which we all should be committed and involved. It has its basis in the family, in the day to day relationships with each other and within community co-existence. It should be adapted and expressed in technology, in words, art, videos and films.

So, let us not cease from supporting all our local schools. Let us, also, continue in prayer that the faith may be spread still through the education of the young, as well as ourselves, and the activity of those who are called to 'Teach'.

Education and Wisdom, we need both at the present time.

Father Brian

Insurance: If you are taking out or have a buildings/contents

insurance due for renewal, get a quote from Ecclesiastical

(<https://ecclesiastical.com/individuals/home-insurance/trust130/>),

and see if you can help our churches get £130 for any policy that is taken out.



All the answers are London Underground Stations.

For example: A king of trees?

Answer – Royal Oak

1. Rabbits would be at home here?
2. Famous school at the BBC?
3. Anyone for Tennis?
4. The Station between the forehead and the ear?
5. Yuppies and Rangers live here
6. A small road with a tollgate?
7. Wellies, hat and duffel coat?
8. Traps a stream?
9. Where you might learn to yodel?
10. Where 007 might live?

Answers on page 7



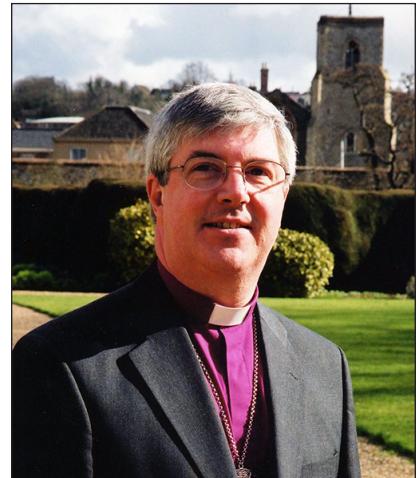
A big thank you to all who supported our Bacon Buttie Morning at SSNF on 12 June, our first event after many months of not being able to do anything. A total of £160 was raised. Thank you everyone, not only to those who supported the event, but to all who helped in any way to make the event a successful one, especially as social distancing had to be observed.

Margaret Evans

Prayer of the Month

**The Rt Revd Graham James,
Honorary Assistant Bishop
in the Diocese of Truro**

After 20 years as Bishop of Norwich I returned to my native county of Cornwall to retire in 2019. My wife Julie and I live in Truro, and the transition has been good. Lockdown has meant that we have walked a lot more than for years, and we seem to be more in touch with the changing seasons than ever before. No more Synods or meetings of the House of Bishops! Much better to be outdoors. And it's reminded me how our church calendar reflects the seasons too.



August 1st is Lammas Day, although it is hardly observed at all in the Church of England today. Lammas Day – *Loaf Mass Day* – is found in the Book of Common Prayer. It was when a loaf baked with flour from newly harvested corn was brought into church and blessed. When Robert Hawker, the eccentric Vicar of Morwenstow, invented Harvest Thanksgiving in 1843, it caught on rapidly. So now we give thanks for the completion of the harvest. And the focus is no longer on bread alone.

A friend of mine took up bread-making in a serious way when she retired, not using a machine but doing so by traditional methods. She did this as an aid to meditation and prayer, as well as producing something tastier than in the shops. The most fascinating thing about bread-making, so she tells me, is to see the yeast, an unattractive lump or even dried particles, suddenly growing before your eyes once given sugar, warmth and liquid. No wonder Jesus used the image of yeast for the way the Kingdom of God grows. As she makes her bread my friend also thinks of the Bread of Life, Jesus Christ, who gives himself as bread for the life of the world (John 6.51). It's a way of integrating prayer with everyday activity. I keep promising myself I will do this too. It will surprise my wife when it happens!

My prayer is a poem, written by David Adam, which I've used sometimes when breaking bread at home communions. It's a beautiful way of reminding us that when we touch bread we are approaching the Bread of Life too.

**Be gentle when you touch bread.
Let it not lie uncared for – unwanted
So often bread is taken for granted.
There is so much beauty in bread
Beauty of sun and soil, beauty of honest toil
Winds and rain have caressed it,
Christ often blessed it
Be gentle when you touch bread.**

Mothers' Union



On 8 June in Saint Stephen's Church, Mothers' Union members met for the first time since last December. After prayers, we welcomed the Reverend Bob Munro who entertained us with a talk entitled *Life surprises and shocks.*

Bob was born in Manchester in the first year of the Second World War. His father was a firefighter. He remembers the big party when the war ended and the days spent playing in amongst the ruins of the bombed houses – no health and safety then!

Bob progressed to Grammar School and then Leeds University and became a teacher. After spells in Bristol and Blackpool, Bob arrived in Saltash in 1965 to work at the Saltash comprehensive school.

After some years of estrangement from the church, Bob felt the spirit of the Lord calling him to serve and, with the help of the Reverend Brian Anderson he began training for the priesthood. Many people in Saltash have been helped by Bob either as a teacher or a member of the church. Mothers' Union is grateful to him for sharing his story with us. We followed Bob's talk with our delayed annual general meeting.

The current officers and committee were re-elected unchallenged. Leader Sandra McKee, Treasurer Lorna Courtney and Committee Members, Sylvia Maddock, Leslie Batham, Barbara Reid, Pauline Hack, Glenda Sollick and Margaret Gwynn.

During the past 18 months, in spite of Covid, Mothers' Union members have supported many projects. 2,490 underprivileged people have been given well-needed breaks in England and Ireland, 1.1 million around the world were supported to improve their livelihoods, 77,988 people in Burundi are learning to read and write and, in Britain and Ireland, members produced hundreds of items to support healthcare workers during the lockdown.

We now look forward to our program of events for the rest of 2021. In July we are taking a trip to Plymouth for a guided tour around Saint Andrews Church so our next meeting in church will be on 14 September at 2 pm. We shall be striving to provide a spiritual, financial and practical support to those people at home and abroad who need our service.

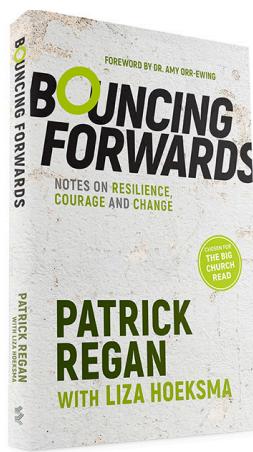
Sandra McKee

Jerome Classic Sparks National Big Church Read

A reading project in which everyone who lived alongside the Thames was encouraged to read Jerome K. Jerome's classic *Three Men in a Boat* sparked Steve Barnett into action.

'The Big Thames Valley Read gave people something in common to talk about,' said Steve, who runs St Andrews Bookshop. 'I wondered if it would work in a church setting. If we could encourage people to read the same book at the same time it would build fellowship, create a sense of shared experience and deepen faith.'

During lockdown, Steve Barnett and Andy Lyon from publishers HodderFaith agreed to create the **National Big Church Read** – if either John Mark Comer or Pete Greig joined in. Both said yes!



One year on, there have been two **National Big Church Reads**. The third began on May 24, focussing on *How to Pray* by Pete Greig. The fourth read follows in September with *Bouncing Forward* by Patrick Regan.

'We encourage groups and churches to journey through the book together with the author,' said Steve. 'The author records a short video

for each week that can be played from the Big Church Read website (thebigchurchread.co.uk) in which the author encourages people to talk about the book.'

What has excited Steve, whose bookshop will exhibit at CRE National (Oct 12-14), is that some people are drawn into reading who might not normally do so – and many read the whole book.

'We discovered that a third of the Christians said they didn't usually read Christian books while many said they did not finish a book they had started,' he said. 'Every one of the people who did not normally read the whole book, did so. We are hearing of how groups have been drawn closer together, lives changed and faith deepened. That is why more than 90% of those who have already been involved in a Big Church Read say they will be joining another.'

Bishop Hugh Answers Our Questions

Why does St Germans have a Bishop and what does he do?

The strange thing is that I don't really have anything to do with the place 'St Germans'. I am a 'Suffragan' bishop, which means I am not responsible for a particular area but, alongside Bishop Philip, for the whole Diocese. I don't live in St Germans but in Tresillian, near Truro and I don't have any particular role in the church or parish.

But every bishop has to have a title, and they are usually connected with an ancient church or abbey – and that's the case with St Germans, where the priory church goes back to the very earliest days of Christianity in Cornwall and was, originally, the cathedral for Cornwall.

What I do varies from day to day, although given the pandemic I've spent most of the year I've been here on Zoom or the telephone! Underpinning all the services, meetings, calls, decisions and prayers is my fundamental call – to support, lead, enable and call local church communities to be faithful and fruitful. I also have particular responsibility for our engagement with creation care, climate change and the environment and with our commitment to being a church with and for the poor.

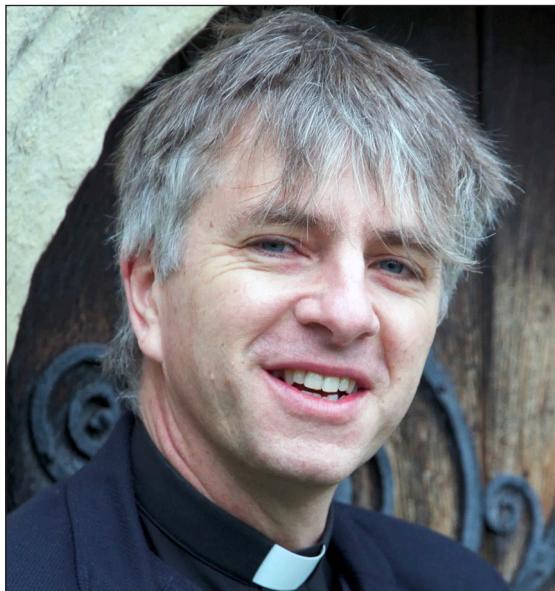
The title of Bishop of St Germans goes back to Anglo-Saxon times. Does the weight of history rest easy on your shoulders? What do you know about your predecessors?

Before we moved to Cornwall I was a Vicar in Kent. Beside the Vicarage front door we had a beautiful framed old document which detailed the names of every Vicar going back to the 11th century. I hung it there so I would be reminded every time I went out that I was only

one in a very long line of Vicars who have been entrusted with the care of the people of God in that place. When everything was going brilliantly well, that helped me remember to be humble, and that anything good was the result of the prayers and work of many people over many generations, and when everything was going

wrong, it reminded me that this too would pass, and that God had been faithful to his people over many hundreds of years. I feel the same about this role. It's a privilege to be the Bishop of St Germans and to carry the responsibility for leading and serving the churches in Cornwall at the moment, but it's not 'my' job, it's the Lord's, and it has been entrusted to me for a while.

That helps me carry my responsibilities gently and lightly, putting my hope and trust in Jesus and without taking myself too seriously.



Your consecration as Bishop of St Germans was unusual and history-making in that your consecration service was the first in the Church of England to be led by a female bishop, Sarah Mullally. How does it feel to have been part of a significant advance in the Church?

My consecration was unusual in all sorts of ways! It was due to be a grand affair in Westminster Abbey, but was delayed by Covid and eventually took place with a very small group of people in the chapel at Lambeth Palace.

The service was led by Bishop Sarah Mullally and I was consecrated by Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Bishop of Dover. She is one of the bishops in Canterbury Diocese, where I was Vicar and from where I was sent to Cornwall, she is also one of the few black bishops in the Church. It was very powerful to be sent out into this new ministry by her and Bishop Sarah, in the midst of a time of change, to serve God and his people in Cornwall.

In your previous life, you worked for L'Arche, a charity for adults with learning disabilities. How did you make the leap from there to ordination?

L'Arche is a Christian community for people with and without learning disabilities who live and work together as friends. I lived there for 13 years and for much of that time the possibility of ordination had been with me. To be honest, it never seemed very appealing. The community I belonged to was a beautiful, faith filled place to live and work and much of the time seemed much more the way 'church' should be than some of the churches I knew. I couldn't figure out why I would want to leave all that to be a Vicar.

And then one day, as I wrestled and prayed with the question, I just knew the time was right. It was as if a door had opened, and not only did I know I had to walk through – I really wanted to do so, and that's how the journey to ordination began.

And by God's grace, I realise now, looking back, that L'Arche was a wonderful place to learn about ordained ministry in the church and I know that I learnt more about people, God and community there than I did in the time I spent in theological college.

**How's the role going? If you could change one thing about it, what would that be?
(Be honest – you're among friends!)**

It has been a strange year to start out as a bishop. Zoom is wonderful (and what would we have done without that kind of technology?) but not being able to get out and to meet people in communities around the county has made life more difficult than it would otherwise have been.

Despite that, I have loved getting to know the people and communities of Cornwall. It is a time of great change for us all, and that includes the church. An important part of my role is to encourage those of us who follow Jesus to be confident in his love and presence, to face the future, with all its uncertainty, with faith and hope and to discern what and where God is calling us next. That isn't always easy, because change is hard for most of us, but it's exciting to remember that God has so much in store for his creation and his church and to see so many faithful church communities responding to his call.

If I could change one thing, I'd probably encourage the sun to shine a little bit more!

Summer Sun

Great is the sun, and wide he goes
Through empty heaven with repose;
And in the blue and glowing days
More thick than rain he showers his rays.

Though closer still the blinds we pull
To keep the shady parlour cool,
Yet he will find a chink or two
To slip his golden fingers through.

The dusty attic spider-clad
He, through the keyhole, maketh glad;
And through the broken edge of tiles
Into the laddered hay-loft smiles.

Meantime his golden face around
He bares to all the garden ground,
And sheds a warm and glittering look
Among the ivy's inmost nook.

Above the hills, along the blue,
Round the bright air with footing true,
To please the child, to paint the rose,
The gardener of the World, he goes.

Robert Louis Stevenson

INSTALLING BRITISH SUMMER
PLEASE DO NOT UNPLUG YOUR DEVICE

50% Loaded



Installation Failed
Error 404: Summer Not Found
Summer Is Not Available For Your Country
Sorry For Any Inconvenience
Please Try Again Later

Tracey Fletcher



My name is Tracey Fletcher and I am very excited to be taking up the post of Headteacher at Bishop Cornish CEVA School in September. This is a big move for myself and my husband as we will be relocating from Oxfordshire where we currently live in the Parish of Bladon, and where I have had the privilege of being Headteacher at the primary school for the last five years.

I am married to Tim, who is a secondary school teacher (and has also secured a job in Cornwall to start in September), and we have a son Liam, who lives in Canada constructing zip wires in the ski resort of Whistler. He is the adventurous one in the family!

In my spare time I like to travel to new places, walk, read, and bake.

My background in education has been varied, starting in 1995 in my hometown of Hastings, working with children with high level special educational needs to becoming Headteacher at my current school. In 2001 my family and I emigrated to New Zealand where we lived for 9 years, and I studied for my Bachelor of Education before becoming an Assistant Headteacher in a very multi-cultural school. I returned to the UK in 2010 and have worked in a range of educational settings in the Oxfordshire area, both in the primary and secondary sector. Working in such a wide variety of schools and in a range of areas has taught me the importance of my role and what a privilege it is to be part of children's lives.

As a headteacher I am a very hands-on leader and believe that it is extremely important to lead by example. I want to lead a school that promotes experiences that generate awe and wonder. Education is about developing the whole child, allowing each and every one to flourish in their own right, empowering them to make informed decisions underpinned by Christian values.

My passion academically is literacy and the English language. Literacy in all its guises is such a powerful tool which can open so many doors if children are taught from an early age to love it and immerse themselves in it. As important, I believe, is outdoor learning, which encourages skills such as problem solving and negotiating risk, both really important for child development.

I hold a strong belief in the power of education to change children's lives and the right of every child to receive an excellent education. I am dedicated to building opportunities for all children to achieve the highest academic standards, ensuring that they are known well as individuals and that their unique personality, talents and interests are recognised and developed to the full.

I am looking forward to putting down roots in Cornwall and leading Bishop Cornish CEVA Primary School, building upon the strengths of the school. I will be a fully committed, hard-working Headteacher, who will lead by example, nurture growth and provide a place for children and the wider school community to thrive as individuals, living life in all its fullness.



Our latest needs are:

- Milk Powder
- Sponge Puddings
- UHT Fruit Juice
- Sugar
- Shaving Gel / Foam
- Individual Microwave Meal Sachets (Pasta or Rice)

Please donate food at Waitrose, Lidl or the Co-op and/or donate money via the Saltash Foodbank website: <https://saltash.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money>

Prayer at Sea



As the storm raged, the captain realised his ship was sinking fast. He called out, 'Anyone here know how to pray?'

A priest stepped forward, 'Captain, I know how to pray.'

'Good,' said the captain, 'you pray while the rest of us put on our life jackets – we're one short.'

Answers to Quiz on page 3.

1. Warren Street
2. Grange Hill
3. Wimbledon
4. Temple
5. Sloane Square
6. Turnpike Lane
7. Paddington
8. Snaresbrook
9. Swiss Cottage
10. Bond Street

Mary Magdalene

Brenton Blandford

Mary Magdalene, sometimes called Mary of Magdala, or simply the Magdalene, was a woman who, according to the four canonical Gospels, travelled with Jesus as one of his followers and was a witness to his crucifixion and its aftermath. She was mentioned by name twelve times in the canonical gospels, more than most of the apostles and more than any other woman in the gospels, other than Jesus' family.

Who was Mary Magdalen?

The Church celebrates the Feast of St Mary Magdalen on 22 July. Her name simply means, 'The woman from Magdala', a village, near Capernaum on the shores of Sea of Galilee in Roman Judea. Other than that, we have no information about her origins. We are told that she had been released by Jesus from possession by 'seven devils' (Luke 8.2); and it is clear that she was one of Christ's most devoted disciples.

Mary shared with a number of other women the tasks of caring for and helping Jesus and his disciples on their missionary journeys.

We ought not to imagine that Jesus and the 12 disciples lived lives of discomfort all the time; It is quite true that Jesus said 'The Son of Man has no place to lay his head', and certainly Jesus owned no property, but the fact seems to be that – like Gandhi and his followers in India, there were plenty of lesser disciples

who went ahead and arranged lodging for the night, prepared food, and saw to the necessities of life just as they do today.

Generally, the women followers ensured that Jesus and his disciples were well looked after, and had at least the minimum of comfort and care. We can imagine that Mary and the others no doubt shared in the discussions, the plans of the

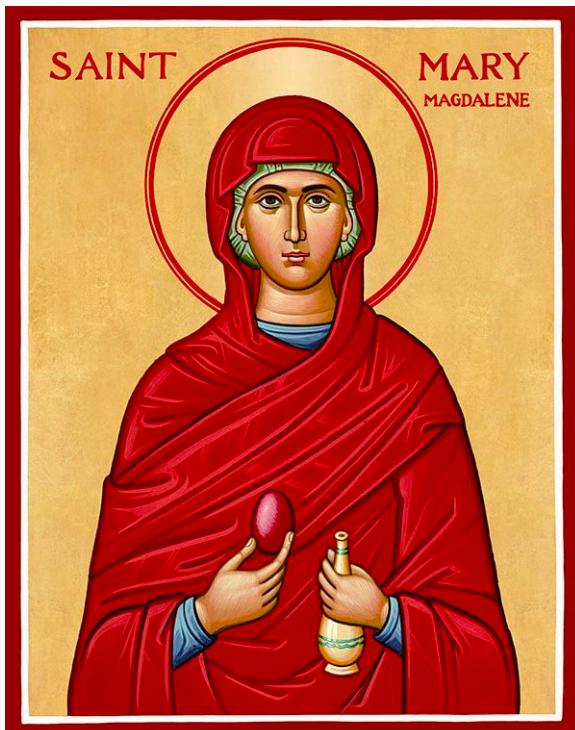
special love and devotion for Jesus, her healer, teacher, and Lord.

Traditional Legend

By an old tradition, Mary has been identified with the woman of the town who anointed Jesus' feet at the house of Simon the Pharisee in Luke 7. Hence comes the use of the word 'Magdalen' to describe a reformed prostitute. The story is a

beautiful and touching one, and has appealed to artists down the centuries. The weeping courtesan, her rich auburn or chestnut hair falling round her face, bending to kiss the feet of her Saviour and wash them with her tears, makes an irresistible picture; and many great painters have produced their versions of the incident. There is no real evidence to show what she looked like, so we can only imagine the person of Mary of Magdala. However, we know a good deal about Mary's character. Whether or not we identify her with 'the woman who was a sinner' who anointed Christ's head with precious oil, wet his feet with her tears, and wiped them with her hair (Luke 7.37-38) is open for debate, but we do know that Jesus cast out from her 'seven demons' (multiple sickness mentioned in Luke 8.2 & Mark 16.9). No doubt modern medical and theological people will tell us that sounds more like a deeply-rooted course of sin and evil than some illness of a physical nature.

It seems to be often the case, that those who are most against some cause or plan, can become the



day to day needs and arrangements for travelling, eating and resting after their journey. Mary saw Jesus and his companions tired at the end of the day, dis-spirited when they had met hostility mainly from leaders of different communities, but also Mary also saw them happy and content when things went well; and she saw them bewildered and sad at the Master's forebodings, for Mary of Magdala knew them well, loved them all, but had a

most enthusiastic in favour of it.

We see this in political life sometimes, in religious life more often, and we speak of ‘conversions’ of people in the Christian life. These changes lie deep within us, but we can surely say that in the case of Mary Magdalen it was a capacity for life and love that most of us either lack, or can only faintly echo today. Those with the most capacity for evil are also those with the most capacity for good. In the words of Jesus, ‘Her sins are forgiven, for she loved much.’ For most of us, we may not reach the heights. But we have the consolation if indeed such it is, that neither will we fall into the depths. But it is a salutary lesson to remember that some individuals have within themselves the potential and the abilities to live at a higher level or intensity, and to be transformed as Mary was transformed in her life.

The Scriptures

The only facts that the Scriptures present us with – the narratives of our Lord’s crucifixion and his Resurrection – frequently mention Mary Magdalen. Unlike the men, who had all fled, Mary and the other women remained close to Jesus even to the end. She stood by the cross in the bitter moments of desolation and death. In other words, Mary was ‘Last at the Cross and first at the Tomb on the third day.’ Mary was the first to know that after all, Jesus is still with them,

death has not been able to hold him. Alleluia! He is alive, and he is speaking to her; no wonder she falls at his feet in an ecstasy of joy, relief and wonder. ‘Do not hold me,’ his gentle voice says, ‘but go and tell my disciples that I have risen.’

The first messenger of the Good News of Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of our Saviour was a woman, and it was Christ himself who entrusted her and appointed Mary, with this vital mission.

Whatever the records say, Mary must have been a woman of passion and of deep devotion.



Even if she did not herself actually play the leading role at the house of Simon, the events there are in keeping with her character and her passionate love and devotion.

For these reasons, Mary Magdalene is known in some Christian traditions as the ‘apostle to the apostles’. Mary Magdalene is a central figure in later Gnostic (Mystic knowledge) Christian writings, including the Gospel of Thomas, the Gospel of Philip, and the Gospel of Mary. These texts portray Mary Magdalene as an apostle, as Jesus’s closest and most beloved disciple and the only one

who truly understood his teachings.

Mary Magdalene is considered to be a Saint by the Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Anglican, and Lutheran churches. In 2016 Pope Francis raised the level of liturgical memory on July 22 from memorial to feast, and for her to be referred as the ‘Apostle of the apostles’. Other Protestant churches honour her as a heroine of the faith.

It is widely accepted among secular historians that, like Jesus, Mary Magdalene was a real historical figure. Nonetheless, very little is known about her life. Unlike Paul

the Apostle, Mary Magdalene has left behind no writings of her own. She was never mentioned in any of the Pauline Epistles or in any of the general epistles (eg James, Hebrews). The earliest and most reliable sources about her life are the three Synoptic Gospels of

Mark, Matthew and Luke, which were all written during the first century AD. There was nothing half-hearted about Mary Magdalene! Mary was so swept up in her love and devotion that she could not care less for the formal boundaries of affection and the conventions of behaviour of not only her time but to this present day. Mary was there weeping and distraught, at the foot of the Cross, careless of the biting comments of the passers-by and what the soldiers thought and said. Her reward was that meeting on Sunday morning early, in the garden, with the Love of her life.