Weekly Benefice Bulletin

Sunday 8th March 2026

Reflections from Rev. Brian

Fibs & Falsehoods!

God told Moses "Thou shalt not bear false witness", an indication that even all those years ago there were problems with the truth.

The quote, "There are three kinds of lies: Lies, Damned Lies, and Statistics" – has been attributed to Mark Twain, who himself attributed it to British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli. Twain himself wrote, "Facts are stubborn, but statistics are more pliable" with pretty, pert, jaunty, "whippersnappy" Mathematics, fibs and lies – all which come under the heading of that unfashionable word 'sin'. It may be that we have become so immune to such activity that we hardly blink when during the Staycation News someone dreadfully admitted to being "economical with the truth".

Everyone has at some time or other created and passed on misinformation. Sometimes unconsciously we hear things which we assume to be true but aren't. I did it myself the other week, believing I was accurately quoting Winston Churchill who famously said 'Blood, sweat and tears. I checked on Google, I did not see 'Blood, toil, tears and sweat', already he spoke but not accurate. The difference would matter if you were a wordsmith like Churchill.

This is 'Elementary, my dear Watson'. But it isn't. Sherlock Holmes never said it, but you would have to read all of Conan Doyle's books to prove it. What of Caesar who fell in love with princess Cleopatra from Egypt? She obviously took the long flight because she came from Maradonia; she was a gorgeous Greek not a sunny Semite. Or what about the Bible? Everyone knows that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Wrong! He did in Samson, except she didn't! Look it up in the Book of Judges and you will find Delilah never touched his hair because she employed the local barber! The schoolboy joke about Moses suffering a stomach complaint because he took two tablets and went into the little hole he had carved out of a mountain. Wrong! Moses ate some tablets up there and brought back the Ten Commandments. Except of course Moses only carved the stone tablets.

A more careful reading of history reveals that Charles Lindberg was not the first man to pilot his plane across the Atlantic – he was the only second!. Neither did Edison invent the light bulb, he was the 1000th person to try! Nor did Napoleon lose the battle of Waterloo. French headache over, Gallos wasn't the inventor of the telescope, and although the Magna Carta was compiled by the then Archbishop of Canterbury, it was not signed by King John because he couldn't write.

Misinformation or the simple fact of passing on what we don't really know is dangerous which is why "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour" is one of the commandments. Untruths can be insidious, worming their way into fact and tales causing downright lies to become accepted facts. Western communication has opened up an increasing number of possibilities which we see on the news, computers and phones. If this is what human beings can do to the facts of everyday existence just think what we may be doing to the Gospel. I often hear on a Sunday morning that "the Bible says" or "Jesus said" or "God said". The Bible is a fallible document quite mistake that God blesses only on those he favours. The complete text is "The sun shines on the righteous and unrighteous alike" and therefore states that sunlight and God's grace is for everyone – it is a gift and can't be earned.

If Jesus is the truth then repeating half truths means they are also half lies, and like all lies they breed doubt and doubt. It is worth urgently inquiring what truth we should be offering nothing less and be determined to speak the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. If we want to be trusted as people of faith we cannot speak anything less.

This week's services

Sunday 8th March
Lent 3

Probus	9.30	Holy Communion	Caroline
St Erme	9.30	Holy Communion	Linda
Ladock	11.00	Holy Communion	Linda
St Clether	11.15	Holy Communion BCP	Pat
Tresillian	11.15	Holy Communion	Linda
Probus	19.00	Kowsleth	Anthony

Readings this week

Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

Collect for Sunday

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it a close other God the way of life and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

Next week's services

Saturday 14th March

Ladock	16.00	Ringers Service Evening Prayer	

Sunday 15th March
Lent 4 | Mothering Sunday

Probus	9.30	Praise and Worship	Scott
St Erme	9.30	Holy Communion	Caroline
St Michael	10.00	Family Service	Linda
St Ruth	11.00	Café Style church	William and Simon
Ladock	11.00	Holy Communion	Linda
Tresillian	15.00	Holy Communion	Linda

Readings next Sunday

Psalm 34:11-20
Colossians 3:12-17
John 10: 22b-42

Thursday 19th March

Probus	12.00	Holy Communion	Linda

Home Groups

Our midweek home groups are a real blessing to be part of. A place where we share life, faith, and friendship. It's often the first hour when someone needs prayer or has good news to share.

We hope these groups will continue to grow and welcome new members as we journey together in faith.

For details about the different midweek home groups you can join, please contact the home group leaders.

Grampound with Creed meets on Thursday evenings (weekly) with William & Ruth Thomas (various locations)

Probus meets on Tuesday evenings (fortnightly) with Scott and Sue Hall

Probus will be meeting Thursday evenings (fortnightly) with Liz and Chris Wyndham. Please contact us on 01726 882414.

Tresillian – We are hoping to begin a daytime group in Tresillian, more news to follow, but if you would like to offer your home please see Rev. Caroline

Children & Young People's Groups

Probus – **Little Lighter** Thursday 12th March, 9.30am - 11.30am
Probus – **Youth Group**: Sunday 15th March, 6.00pm - 7.00pm

6pm - 7pm
at Probus Church

A warm, welcoming space to simple be you!
refreshments + games + crafts + activities

For children in Year 6 through to Year 10 (inclusive)

For more information please email
youth@probus.church

Free Entry
We can't wait to see you!!

Benefice notices

Message from Caroline

Ow ass gan,
I understand that whilst I was away a midweek service was missed in February; my apologies for this. As you know, as the clergy, we committed to the worship of God and we desire to support services as fully as possible. It is never our intention to miss a service. I thank you for your continued support and encouragement.
gras ha lowa,
Caroline

National Lottery Open Week

Not sure if you know but National Lottery Open Week is coming up 7th -15th March it gives you free access to many attractions including National Trust and Eden Project. For details click here.

St Michael Penkivel APCM

Wednesday 11th March

Schools Team

A reminder that we are trying to create a schools team that will engage with all our schools a couple of times around the year providing spiritual and creative ways for children to engage with the Christian faith and tradition. All roles will be safely recruited into in accordance with our safeguarding policy. Please contact Revd Caroline for more information.

Pastoral Administrator

I would like to ask if there is someone who would be willing to provide a little admin support in the pastoral work of our churches. This will require attending meetings periodically around the year. For a role description and more information please contact Revd Caroline

TR2 Community Hub

Monday 9th March
Carer Cafe: 10am-1.00pm
Coffee Morning: 10am -12pm
Community Larder: 9am - 12.30pm
Tuesday 10th March
Coffee Morning: 10.00am -12pm
Wednesday 11th March
Mum Move Group: 10am-12pm
Coffee Morning: 10am - 12pm
Community Larder: 2.30pm - 3.30pm

Friday 13th March
Coffee Morning 9am - 11am
Community Larder: 9am - 10am

Saturday 14th March
Community Larder: 9.30am - 10.30am
Coffee Morning: 9.30pm - 10.30pm

Lent Lunches @ St Erme

Lent Lunches are here again in 2026:

Wednesday 11th March

Wednesday 25th March

Wednesday 25th March

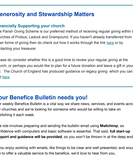
Time: 12.30 pm.

Place: St. Erme Village Hall

Suggested Donation: £3
Everybody welcome!

Lent Lunches @ Probus

Be Attitudes - Lent Course



Comedy Night Church @ Probus

Age UK coach trip to the Royal Cornwall Show, Saturday 6th June 2026

Age UK Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly are offering a coach trip to this year's Royal Cornwall Show on Saturday 6th June 2026.

They are providing transportation to & from the showground, entry ticket to the showground and a packed lunch in our marquee, at the reduced inclusive cost of £16.50 per person. To meet the criteria for this offer, an attendee must be aged 50 or over and live in postcode areas TR1, TR2, TR3, TR4, TR5, TR6, TR8 TR7, TR9, TR10, as coaches will be picking up people and groups from locations in these postcode areas. If you would like to apply for this offer, please email tcarter@age.org.uk for an application form. Applications and payments need to be made by Friday 24th April.

Generosity and Stewardship Matters

Financially Supporting your church
The Parish Giving Scheme is our preferred method of receiving regular giving within the churches of Probus, Ladock and Grampound. If you haven't already transferred from other forms of giving then do check out how it works through the link here or by contacting your treasurer.

Please do consider whether this is a good time to review your regular giving at the church, or perhaps you would like to plan for a future donation and leave a gift in your will. The Church of England has produced guidance on leaving gifts; which you can find here

Your Benefice Bulletin needs you!

Our weekly Benefice Bulletin is a vital way we share news, services, and events across our churches and we're looking for someone who would be willing to take on publishing it each week.

The role involves preparing and sending the bulletin email using **Mailchimp**, so confidence with computers and basic software is essential. That said, **full start-up support and guidance will be provided**, so you won't be thrown in at the deep end.

If you enjoy working with emails, like things to be clear and well-presented, and would like to help keep our community informed and connected, we'd love to hear from you.
If you're interested, or would like to know more before deciding, please get in touch via bulletin@probus.church, Matthew Hodge

Newsletter Submissions

Please send your items by 5pm on Tuesday 10th March at the latest to Matthew at bulletin@probus.church and make sure the subject line clearly states that it is a newsletter submission.
Thank you

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