

Parish Newsletter
Benefice of Veryan with Ruan Laniorne
February 2021

The parishes of **VERYAN** and
RUAN LANIORNE

Priest-in-Charge:

Vacancy

VERYAN
(St Symphorian) Parish Church
Churchwardens

Mr David Elliott

Boswague, Tregony [501230]

&

Vacancy

Hon. Secretary

Mrs Sarah Rundle

Trevarthen Cottage

Veryan Green

[500950]

Treasurer

Mr Roger Kirkpatrick

[treasurerveryanchurch@outlook.com]

Organist

Mrs Joyce Goldie

[501565]

PORTLOE
(All Saints) United Church

Church Steward

Mr Trounce Guy

Pengelly Farm

West Portholland [501471]

Hon. Secretary

Mrs Jeanne Hitchings

End Cottage, Portloe [501114]

Hon. Treasurer

Mrs Joyce Gilbert

Porthjulyan

Pendower Road

Veryan [501365]

RUAN LANIORNE
(St Rumon) Parish Church
Churchwardens

Mrs Caroline Martin

[501697]

Mr David Hughes

Castle Towers

Ruan Laniorne [501855]

Hon. Secretary

Mrs Pat Farr [501599]

Hon. Treasurer

Mrs Pat Farr [501599]

Church services

At the time of writing our churches remain closed for services: please check notice boards for any Covid-related changes.

Meanwhile we include below the readings and psalms set for each Sunday in February.

Readings & psalms for February

Sunday 7th 2 before Lent

Proverbs 8, 1, & 22-31; Colossians 1, 15-20; John 1, 1-14; psalm 104, 25-37

Sunday 14th Next before Lent

2 Kings 2, 1-12; 2 Corinthians 4, 3-6; Mark 9, 2-9; psalm 50, 1-6

Wednesday 17th Ash Wednesday

Isaiah 58, 1-12; 2 Corinthians 5, 20, to 6, 10; Matthew 6, 1-6 & 16-21; psalm 51, 1-18

Sunday 21st Lent 1

Genesis 9, 8-17; 1 Peter 3, 18-22; Mark 1, 9-15; psalm 25, 1-9

Sunday 28th Lent 2

Genesis 17, 1-7, 15 & 16; Romans 4, 13-25; Mark 8, 31-38; psalm 22, 23-31

Sunday 7 March Lent 3

Exodus 20, 1-17; 1 Corinthians 1, 18-25; John 2, 13-22; psalm 19

So what happened to Septuagesima?'

When I was a child I was intrigued by the names given in the prayer book to the Sundays before Lent: Septuagesima, Sexagesima, Quinquagesima. Lent's first Sunday, Quadragesima, '40th', clearly referred to the 40 days of Lent, but why the others - 70th, 60th, 50th?

The names were established probably by the 7th century. Following the obvious Quadragesima, Quinquagesima is, if you include Easter Day, 50 days from Easter Sunday.

The previous two Sundays are 57 and 64 days distant, but maybe 'near enough' to mark the Sundays intended for preparation for Lent.

Common worship has renamed these Sundays as so many 'before Lent' depending on the date of Easter.

One modern cleric has declared that the old names 'have become not only misleading but unintelligible to modern worshippers...there is no merit in naming Sundays after inaccurate Latin calculations'.

Correct or condescending?

Surely something that has survived - and been understood - for over 1000 years is part of the history and tradition of the church; I for one am glad that at least the names survive in the Book of Common Prayer. *Ed.*

And see much more information about the 'gesimas' from Fr Doug on page 3

December 100 Club Draw winner wishes to remain anonymous and has kindly donated the prize to Church Funds

Membership Details from Ann Craven 01872 501731

Veryan WI

Members have continued to keep in touch mostly by email and occasional socially distanced face to face encounters in the village or on the beach.

As we were not able to hold our annual Christmas meal each member received a surprise goody bag, containing some daffodil bulbs, a torch and some hand cream as well as a Christmas quiz and WI membership booklet.

The torch proved very useful during the recent power cuts and the hand cream essential with all the hand washing we are being asked to do! We are all looking forward to the bulbs coming up in the spring, possibly they might be the subject of a future photographic competition or display.

Currently members are being reminded to select their choice from the Annual National Resolutions list, these cover a number of topics of national importance, varying from health matters to climate change. Every year all WI members are asked to do this ahead of the National Annual Meeting when the most popular will be debated and one or two selected for various national WI committees to work on with the Government or other national bodies with a view to them eventually becoming law or Government policy.

As I write this the third national lockdown is coming into force so we still have no idea when we might all be able to meet again in the Parish Hall but will all continue to keep in touch.

For further information please ring 01872 501636.
Mary Earp

Children's Society

Thanks to those of you who have household collection boxes - Veryan's contribution this year was £493-81 - wonderful!

**Contact Julia if you'd like to help:
julia.pound@yahoo.co.uk or 501741**

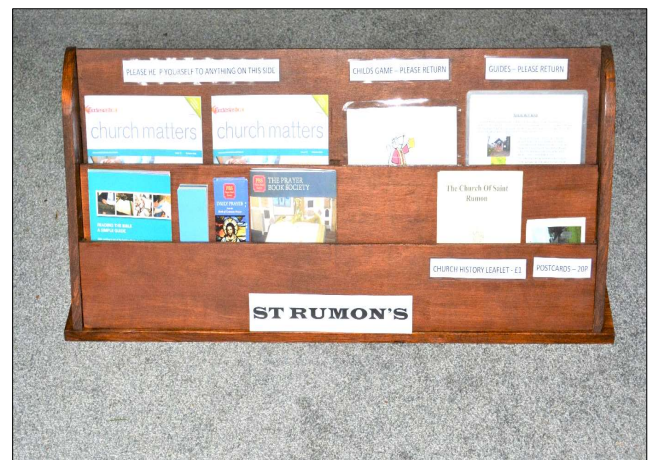
St Rumon's Church News

For many years as you opened the door into the church everything on the table flew off with the sudden draught, sending all the leaflets etc all over the floor.

I decided that with my husband on furlough and under my feet, it would be good to give him a project to do. So I came up with the brain wave of a leaflet stand and having worked out what I wanted, design and size were handed over.

Now you may think this was a good move, but I soon learnt that he was not keen on working outside in the cold, so I ended up with my kitchen full of tools and pieces of wood.

It's taken two weeks, but the finished stand is now ready to grace the table in the church. I still have a kitchen full of tools though! *Carol*



GRAHAM SALMON

We were so sorry to hear of the recent death of Graham Salmon aged 88. He was a long-time joint editor of the old 'Parish News', an enthusiastic member of Veryan Players, a server at Veryan church, a keen astronomer and much else. It was good to hear from Andrew at Christmas that Graham had at last completed his memoirs. He was kind, funny and a good friend to many of us.

TIDE TABLES: DAYTIME LOW TIDES AT CARNE FOR FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1 14.10	2 14.40	3 15.31	4 16.18	5 17.16	6 18.28
7 7.07	8 8.41	9 8.57	10 10.55	11 11.45	12 12.28	13 13.07
14 13.41	15 14.10	16 14.35	17 14.57	18 15.21	19 15.54	20 16.45
21 18.12	22 7.08	23 8.24	24 8.26	25 10.19	26 11.08	27 11.54
28 12.36						

Full moon 27th New moon 4th

Roll on the gesimas

The seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany come to an end with Candlemas on 2nd February, often anticipated on the Sunday before. This year we barely have time to draw breath before the beginning of Lent on 17th March. The Sundays in between used to be known as Septuagesima, Sexagesima, Quinquagesima, and with a very late Easter, even Quadragesima. The season was commonly called Gesimatide, or Shrovetide.

The seventeen day period beginning with Septuagesima Sunday was intended as a preparation for the season of Lent. However, not surprisingly, in many countries Septuagesima Sunday marked the beginning of carnival season, culminating with Shrove Tuesday, or Mardi Gras, (Fat Tuesday).

Carnival participants were known for excessive consumption of alcohol, meat and other foods, that would be forgone during Lent. Pancakes, doughnuts and other rich desserts were prepared for a final time. It is interesting to note that butter, milk and other animal products were not regarded as being consumed excessively, rather, their stock was fully consumed in order to reduce waste! There was a practical issue. Selected livestock had been slaughtered the previous November and the meat would no longer be preservable.

The winter stores of lard, butter and meat needed to be eaten before they started to rot and decay. Foodstuffs of all kinds would be scarce until spring produce arrived.

Carnival typically involved parades, public street parties, and often bawdy entertainments. Elaborate costumes and masks allowed people to participate without revealing their identity. It also enhanced the sense of social unity.

In Shakespeare's 'Merchant of Venice', Shylock exclaims,

*What, are there masques? Hear you me,
Jessica: Lock up my doors; and when you hear the drum
and the vile squealing of the wry-neck'd fife,
clamber not you up to the casements then, nor thrust your
head into the public street to gaze on Christian fools with
varnish'd faces,*

which perfectly describes the carnival.

The Church was prepared to turn a blind eye to all of this over-indulgence on the basis that the faithful would make up for it with the appropriate sacrifices during Lent.

Fr Doug

Farewell, Mike

There are many people who don't go to church every Sunday but who are supportive and truly Christian.

Mike Harrison was one of those. He always gave his 100 Club winnings back to the church. For two Christmases he donated the trees for the Christmas tree festival and countless people can tell you what he freely stored in his barns; some of the Christmas village lights, for a start, and how he gave land for people to start allotments and wild flower areas and his barn for the Tennis Club fund raisers. Eulogies and life stories are for the family and closest friends, bless them, but other remembrances are for those who saw him every day in the village and had love and admiration for him, admittedly sometimes tinged with frustration!

Personally he was a good friend and mentor. I wouldn't be where I am now without the invaluable freely given help he gave me initially when I bought my farm. He got me started on winter wheat, spring wheat, barley and oil seed rape. He coached me in all the massive regulations regarding hedging, footpaths, transportation and subsidies (he never missed one of those!). His greatest local friends, Gilbert, Roger and David might agree with me that he could be obstinate and whilst he was excessively generous he was always careful. Except perhaps when he decided the cost of servicing his Rayburn was excessive. I found him in pools of oil when home servicing didn't go so well.

And when he was forced to take to wheels his spirit didn't dampen. Even when it rained... →

He'd only had the mobility scooter a matter of days when he drove it into the back of his own truck; the indicator is hanging by a wire to this day. He attempted to get the scooter into the pub, the tyre mark on the wall in the front porch for a long time lay testament to determination tinged with failure. And I will never forget, as we all sat on the pavement on a lovely sunny Sunday, that a little too much speed as he rounded the corner of Pendower Road to the pub lead him head on into a bench seat. The pub on a Sunday lunchtime, (again his generosity had to be reined in), with so many local friends, won't be quite the same.

Generosity, humour and dogged determination wrapped up in sheep's wool with tomatoes and cucumbers.

That's him, and we will all miss him but remember him with a smile. Mike, thank you.

With love from all of us you have helped. X **NB**



*Thanks to
Tony & Jo
for the
photo...*

A LINGUISTIC MOAN...

I suppose it all started with one of those telephone calls: the young person on the phone offered me 'a major grant to replace your old boiler'

Me: 'I don't have a boiler'

YPOTP: 'but you *must* have a boiler'

Me: 'I didn't know it was compulsory'

YPOTP: '???'

Such is the ease with which the meaning of words can be misunderstood. Another recent example occurred one evening when I had half an ear towards the television and was trying to read the paper at the same time. I thought I heard the interviewer ask a sports personality 'Tell me, where did you first meddle...?' Meddle? In what? After listening more intently to the reply 'In Tokyo' I realised that he was talking about Olympic medals: a case of a noun being used incorrectly [to me at least] as a verb. Not a new thing: many years ago a local head teacher asked me 'where did you school?' Yuk! [and - 'Yuk' again - similarly a verb used as a noun - 'invite' instead of 'invitation']

While I'm in 'grumpy' mode why are the rules of grammar now so often ignored? 'I was sat', 'they were sat' - heard often on the radio, and recently, I think on Woman's Hour, we were advised to 'go for a lay down' after exercise. And don't get me started on 'bored of', 'fed up of', even 'could of'!!

'Politically correct' local government now adds to email messages the pronouns by which the writer prefers to be called; 'he' or 'she' or 'they' - how can one person be described as 'two or more' [my English teacher's definition of 'they'??]

The unlikeable use of 'like' instead of 'as if' has even crept into the 'quality' press: a recent headline in the 'Times' no less advised us to 'behave like we all have Covid'... There was of course at least one [sadly not published] letter to the editor!

And then there's pronunciation: I've heard 'advertisement' several times on the radio, and frequently 'contribute' and 'distribute' instead of 'contribute', 'distribute': if only the teaching of Latin hadn't been abandoned! And talking of Latin, we had a senior committee administrator years ago in County Hall who used to ask for the 'agenda' for meetings: when we pointed out gently that the word 'agenda' was already plural [Latin, means 'things requiring to be done':] she refused to accept it but changed to 'agendas'. And being really pedantic, as the singular of 'agenda' is 'agendum', it follows that the plural of 'referendum' is 'referenda'... I was so pleased when the government scientists correctly used 'data' as a plural noun, which it is.

The American election and aftermath has thrown up some real oddities: I particularly liked 'circulating disinformation': is this American-speak for 'telling lies'? *Mis*informing someone is to give misleading information rather than being entirely untruthful; 'disinformation' isn't in the OED... I much prefer Mr Churchill's 'terminological inexactitude'. And what on earth does 'give me the heads up' mean? [and what's an 'uptick'??]

And finally [for now] one of the regular requests at the Record Office was from family historians for voters' lists to check on addresses for grandparents/great-grandparents. Often we were asked for 'electoral rolls': we assumed correctly that they meant 'registers of electors', the official lists of those eligible to vote in national and local elections. 'electoral rolls' are quite different: the lists of those people in a parish who are eligible to vote for their parochial *church* council. I have seen even this misspelt in the local press as 'electoral role': I hope merely a typing error!

Gosh, I feel better!

Let us know your pet 'linguistic moans' - it can't be only me...

CRE

'Ministry and Mission Fund'

Truro Cathedral has in its recent newsletter appealed, politely and almost apologetically, for donations towards its upkeep, pointing out that it has been 'significantly financially affected by the pandemic...' and how it relies on donations from the public.

Veryan church, like the cathedral and all other places of worship, also relies on donations and active fundraising to meet all its costs. These include the annual contribution to Truro Diocesan 'Ministry and Mission Fund' [the old 'quota'.] Income this past year has of course been very seriously affected in churches throughout the country.

With what seems to be an insensitive demand demonstrating a singular lack of understanding of parishes' financial situation the Diocese is now asking parishes to pay their 'allocated sum' for 2021;

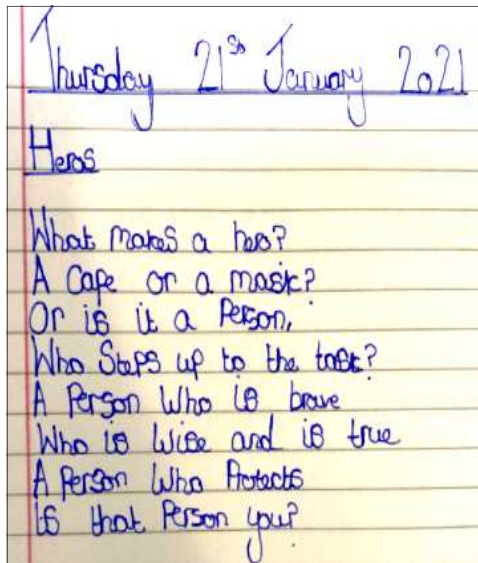
Veryan is expected to pay £12,069.

The Diocese says 'All contributions are immensely valued and assist in providing ministry across our diocese and resourcing the mission of the church'

Readers' comments are invited!

School news

Some of the children at Veryan C of E school have been writing poems on the topic of 'Heroes' - Amy Bullen's is on the left [published with her Mum's permission!].



Although most children are being taught at home for the time being, a few are going to school - the eight children of the 'Veryan Bubble School' explain why, and what they are doing. Thank you, Bubble, for telling us all what's happening!

Veryan Bubble School

Veryan Bubble school is for children whose parents are key workers or who are struggling at home with their learning. This lockdown we are finding it nicer because there are only eight of us and so we get more attention for our learning. It is peaceful and calm for the teachers and students as there are fewer children than normal. Although we do miss our friends who are doing home learning but we stay in contact with them via social media and gaming. In school we have been much more creative, by making models, painting and inventing vehicles for real life heroes. Of course, we are still studying all the other subjects as normal. We like reading first thing in the morning to prepare for the day ahead. Now we are getting much more fresh air, it is much better for us and we hope this carries on!

We hope you have found this informative.
From the Veryan School Bubble. Jan 21



'Flower of the month' - winter heliotrope

This grows wild in the damp ground beside the road between Four Turnings and Trewartha : one of the earliest spring flowers, it is sweetly scented - it smells like vanilla - which distinguishes it from its similar but larger relative butterbur or plaguewort. Heliotrope was originally a garden flower much liked by Victorians but spread with some enthusiasm and consequently 'escaped' into the wild.

Covid-19 vaccines

Huge thanks to our local surgeries and staff for the mammoth efforts in ensuring that vaccinations are available to those of us old enough to qualify for the first phase; yes, it can be an adventure getting to Roche and it is much further than the 'not more than 10 miles' promised, but be thankful for the dedication and care of our NHS. And it's free, and fair - NO queue-jumping simply because someone can pay. The 'Roche experience' was entirely without stress; you're looked after and guided every step of the way, the injection is merely a scratch, everyone there is kind, helpful and cheerful, and there's plenty of parking.

BUT remember, it doesn't mean that we are fully protected and can do whatever we like: it isn't a 'passport to freedom' as some of the less scrupulous media would have us believe. NO WILD PARTIES! We must all keep to the current lockdown rules - no socialising in others' houses or out of doors, masks everywhere 'public', and keep your physical distance [six feet recommended]. Things will improve!

Mystery of door chalkings unlocked as 'holy graffiti'

By Gabriella Swerling
SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS EDITOR

A MYSTERIOUS series of letters and numbers are appearing on the door-frames of houses across the country.

It may look like a string of code, or a complicated scientific equation, but those worrying that the end is nigh, fear not – this is merely the resurrection of a centuries-old Christian tradition, currently being touted as “holy graffiti”.

The trend for “chalking the door”, a blessing which is believed to have originated in and spread from central Europe at the end of the Middle Ages, has seen an uptake in recent weeks as Britons look for a sense of community in a bid to lift spirits.

Those partaking in the trend chalk their doors with the names or initials of the three wise men, or Magi, and the numerals of the New Year, connected with a series of crosses.

The initials also stand for the Latin prayer request *Christus mansionem benedicat*: “May Christ bless this house.” The holy graffiti has seen huge growth

in England amid Covid restrictions as Christians mark their doorway in a traditional Epiphany celebration.

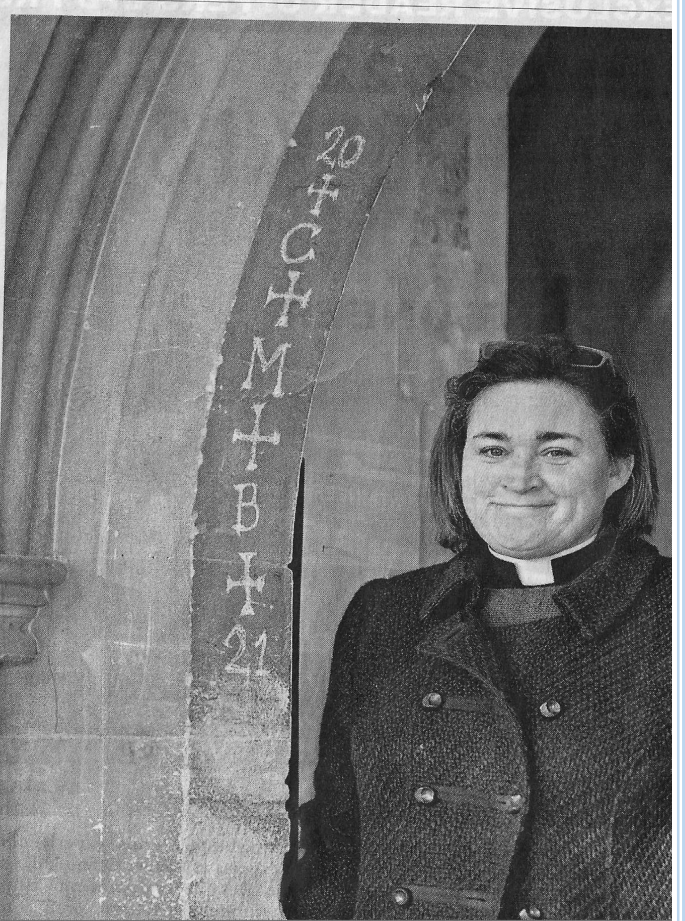
The Rev Arwen Folkes, the rector of St Peter’s in East Blatchington, Seaford, East Sussex, said she began the tradition in her parish last year. “The tradition of chalking the door was new to my parish, but last year I offered it for those who might appreciate it,” she said.

“People did look at me slightly bemused, but lo and behold this pandemic comes and I can’t tell you the comfort this has brought to people.

“In January 2020 none of us knew how profoundly important reviving the tradition of blessing and chalking one’s home would prove to be.”

This year the Rev Folkes has made bags filled with mini-chalk, a prayer, and an explainer for people to use at home. “There is a huge sense of relief, perhaps even joy, at seeing the way in which people have taken this blessing from the church to their own doorsteps,” she added.

“You can walk around the parish and see around 50 houses that have this blessing on the door. What a lovely and



The initials also stand for the Latin prayer request *Christus mansionem benedicat*: “May Christ bless this house.” The holy graffiti has seen huge growth



The chalk markings on the front door of a house and, right, on Rev Arwen Folkes’s church. Below right, ‘The Adoration of Magi’ by Atanasio Bocanegra

from the church to their own doorsteps,” she added.

“You can walk around the parish and see around 50 houses that have this blessing on the door. What a lovely and significant tradition for us to embrace at a time of such worry and uncertainty.”

Her parishioners, Kay Blackburn, a 77-year-old retired history of art lecturer, and her husband, Keith, 77, a retired civil servant, chalked their door last year for the first time.

Mrs Blackburn said: “This is just such a difficult time for everybody, with all this uncertainty, and everyone is missing their family and friends, and it’s not like you can pop round for a cup of tea, so the chalk offers a bit of comfort, even if you’re not a churchgoer.”

On or near Epiphany on Jan 6, a Christian feast day that celebrates the visit of the Magi to child Jesus, the tradition has been to ask God’s blessing on homes and mark the door post with chalks that have been blessed for that purpose.

Fr Fergus Butler-Gallie, of Holy Trinity, Sloane Square, in the diocese of London, said: “I had seen, maybe a decade ago, chalking the door in the Czech Republic but never in England. Now it is everywhere.”

Open to faith Epiphany house chalking origins

In celebration of the Epiphany, the wise men’s visit to baby Jesus in Bethlehem, Christians mark their homes above the front door with chalk,

as a symbol that their homes are a place where Jesus lives.

Often families say a prayer before “chalking the door”, and then mark 20+C+M+B+21.

The letters “C”, “M” and “B” represent the first names of the three wise men, Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, who brought gifts of gold, frankincense

and myrrh to the baby Jesus. The numbers 20 and 21 symbolise the year, and change depending on the year, and the crosses show north, south, east and west.

This lovely feature about Arwen appeared in the ‘Telegraph’ on 7 January; we thought that non-Telegraph readers might like to see it. It occupied most of one broadsheet page, and had to be copied in two pieces...

With apologies to the newspaper if this is a breach of copyright!