

# *Parish Newsletter*

## *Benefice of Veryan with Ruan Laniorne*

### *December 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**  
Mrs Carol Hughes  
Castle Towers Ruan Laniorne  
[501855 or hughes995@btinternet.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**  
Mr David Hughes  
Castle Towers Ruan Laniorne [501855]

Mrs Caroline Martin [501697]

**Hon. Secretary**  
Mrs Pat Farr [501599]

**Hon. Treasurer**  
Mrs Pat Farr [501599]

### **Church services in December**

**Sunday 5 December Advent 2**  
Ruan Laniorne 9.30 am Holy Communion  
Portloe 10.30 am Morning Worship  
Veryan 11 am Eucharist

**Sunday 12 December Advent 3**  
Portloe 10.30 am Morning Worship  
Veryan 11 am Eucharist

**Sunday 19 December Advent 4**  
Portloe 10.30 am Morning Worship  
Veryan 11 am Eucharist

**Friday 24 December Christmas Eve**  
Veryan 11.30 pm Midnight Mass

**Saturday 25 December Christmas Day**  
Veryan 11 am Eucharist

**Sunday 26 December St Stephen**  
Portloe 10.30 am Informal worship  
Veryan 11 am Morning Worship

**Sunday 2 January 2022**  
Ruan Laniorne 9.30 am Holy Communion  
Veryan 11 am Eucharist

*For details of carol services see next page*

### **Readings & Readers for Veryan**

**Sunday 5 December Advent 2**  
Baruch 5, 1-9 *David Elliott*; Philippians 4, 4-7 *Linda Kerswill*

**Sunday 12 December Advent 3**  
Zephaniah 3, 14-20 *Margaret Cortis*; Philippians 1, 3-11 *Sue Jeremy*

**Sunday 19 December Advent 4**  
Micah 5, 2-5a; Hebrews 10, 5-10 *Valerie & Brian Willis*

**Friday 24 December Christmas Eve Midnight |Mass**  
Isaiah 8, 2-7 *David Elliott*; Titus 2, 11-14 *Linda Kerswill*

**Saturday 25 December Christmas Day**  
Isaiah 52, 7-10; Hebrews 1, 1-4 *READERS TO BE FOUND*

**Sunday 26 December St Stephen**  
2 Chronicles 24, 20-22 *Christine Edwards*; Acts 7, 51-60 *Sue Truscott*

**Sunday 1 January 2022 Christmas 2**  
Jeremiah 31, 7-14 *John Veness*  
Ephesians 1, 3-6 & 15-19a *Julia Pound*

## **Thank you!**

*to Fr Doug who has given freely of his time in this past year to maintain church services in our benefice, with advice and a listening ear whenever it was needed, and sound counsel over the proposed restructuring of our Roseland cluster parishes . Thank you too to Linda who has also provided thoughtful and spiritual services at Veryan; we hope that the new year may prove to be positive and joyful after so many anxious months.*

### **Carols at Christmas**

#### **Portloe Saturday 11th December**

There's no Celebration of Christmas this year  
but we're planning

**Carol singing outside Portloe Church at 5.30pm**  
for about 20 minutes (weather permitting), with the  
Portloe Mobile Christmas Refreshments  
and good cheer

#### **Veryan Wednesday 15th**

**Service of Nine Lessons and Carols 6.30 pm**

#### **Ruan Laniorne Sunday 19th December**

**Carol Service 6 pm**

### **From the Registers**

#### **Burial at Veryan**

**Monday 22 November**  
**CYRIL CHARLES CHANNON**  
**aged 82**

**Rest in Peace**

#### **Veryan church flower rota**

**No flowers in Advent but there's  
a Christmas list**

Thank you to our volunteers who decorate our  
churches throughout the year -  
you are appreciated!

### **VERYAN CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

The Christmas Lights Committee has been busy with repairs and we are hoping this year to be able to put up the display without any Covid-related restrictions.

We are delighted that the school will be helping with  
**the lights countdown**  
**at 5 pm on Saturday 4 December**  
during their Christmas Fayre in the parish hall.

Our thanks to all the households who make it possible for us to light up the parish by hosting a display, and to those who generously send their donations to our treasurer Helen Couch [11 Four Acres Road, Veryan].  
We couldn't do it without you.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas  
and a happy and healthy 2022

#### **Santa Claus - or Saint Nicholas?**

His feast is 6 December; he carried out many miracles but is best remembered for his generosity to a fellow townsman who desperately needed money and planned to sell his only assets, his three daughters. The saint wrapped gold coins in a cloth and when it was dark threw the package in through the window of the girls' bedroom, where their father found it next morning.  
'St Nicholas' turned into 'Sant 'aclus',  
a secret bringer of gifts.

### **The Collect for Advent**

*Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness  
and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life,  
in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility;  
that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty  
to judge both the quick and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal,  
through Him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost  
now and for ever  
Amen*

*This Prayer Book requires that this prayer is said every day in Advent*

## ***On the way . . . What's it all about, Alfie?***

Over the last few months there have been several articles in national newspapers about problems being experienced by the Church of England, and about some of the proposals which have been put forward.

'On the way' is 'a process of listening, praying, dreaming, and planning for every Deanery in the Diocese of Truro' to enable the Diocese to deal with the various challenges it faces. (Deaneries are administrative units within the Diocese of various sizes geographically and differing numbers of places of worship, clergy and population. Deaneries are largely advisory but some exercise some financial control and the allocation of clergy.)

Powder Deanery, which stretches from coast to coast and from Devoran to Grampound, and through a quirk of history also includes the Isles of Scilly, has now started on this process. A time-table has been drawn up following the launch on 21 November 2021. There will be a launch event led by the Bishop of St Germans on 7 December 2021 at 7.30pm at a venue to be announced which will be open to everyone.

A small steering is seeking to set up three local teams covering the Probus Team, The Roseland, and Truro. Each group will be responsible for exploring how ministry might be developed in their churches and communities, but will make connections with the other groups to see how best to support and learn from each other. Volunteers to work in these groups should notify the Rural Dean, Revd Marc Baker, by not later than 9 December 2021. The local teams will begin work on 10 January 2022.

**Parishes and people are being assured that 'on the way' is an invitation for us to think together as a deanery and is not dictated to us from Church House in Truro. It is essential that as many people as possible engage with this process to make sure that this undertaking is upheld and to ensure that the most appropriate solution is found for each parish. If parishioners want to maintain the independence of their parishes they will need to put their case forward clearly and strongly, which will involve coming forward with proposals of how it can be made to work.**

It is expected that first draft plans will be completed by 21 March 2022 and that finished plans will be ready to be referred to Parochial Church Councils by 16 May 2022. Deanery Synod proposes to meet on 20 June 2022 to consider the plan, which if approved will then be referred to the Bishop. If agreed then any changes will need to be implemented, and positions will need to be advertised. There will then need to be an interview process, which again will need to be approved by the Bishop before priests can be installed. This may also involve some further delay as priests may need to give notice and make arrangements about schooling and holidays. The current situation of vacancies may well continue until mid-summer or early autumn.

This process gives a rare opportunity to have your say about how your church is to be run for the foreseeable future. Like sales goods, when it's gone, it's gone. If you don't engage with the process it will be no good to complain that someone else has made decisions you don't like.

***Fr Doug.***

**STOP PRESS! We have received an 'update' from the Deanery' it's sent to you with this newsletter.**

*Below is an extract from a letter from Veryan PCC to the Bishop expressing our concerns at the then proposed changes to our Roseland cluster of parishes. If you would like to read the formal response which was sent please ask Christine for a copy. It may help in the forthcoming deliberations.*

### **Proposal for reorganisation of Roseland parishes: Veryan PCC and parish concerns**

Our PCC, with the other Roseland parishes, received on 5 August 2020 a document proposing radical changes to the organisation and cure of souls of our parishes, with a six-week period to discuss, consult and compose our responses.

The document was apparently the result of 'consultation' over the previous 6 or 7 months.

Conversations with parishioners of all persuasions identified a real need for a priest to be resident in our parish, for a number of reasons.

Other issues raised included a real concern that only two priests, especially with one 'having recently completed training' would be able to get to know their parishioners, and provide spiritual and pastoral care as well as formal church services for nine places of worship in eight ecclesiastical parishes; in addition we identified the practicalities of shared PCC meetings and the allocation of funds, as well as the confirmed loss of significant donations, given the 'dissolution' of our ancient parish boundaries and local identity.

The administrative linking with Tregony/Cuby also does not reflect geographical or historical connections. We wonder too why Portloe, one of two local ecumenical projects in the diocese, was not even mentioned...

**St Gerrans and Porthscatho  
Old Cornwall Society**

**Gerrans Memorial Hall 7.30 pm**

**Wednesday 8 December  
'Cornwall's Maritime Churches'  
Garry Tregidga**

**Wednesday 12 January  
'Who needs Recipes?'  
Christine Edwards**

**All welcome: visitors £2.50**

**Can you help?**

We've had an enquiry from Nev Meek about some material given to Gerrans Heritage Centre. It relates to a Reg Cook who was an evacuee, probably at Treviles, who attended school at Veryan.

The papers include some letters from Veryan school.

In 2001 Reg and his wife Evelyn were living in Ilford, but there is no current address. Nev would like to contact their family; if anyone has any information please contact him [581817 or nev.meek@sky.com ]

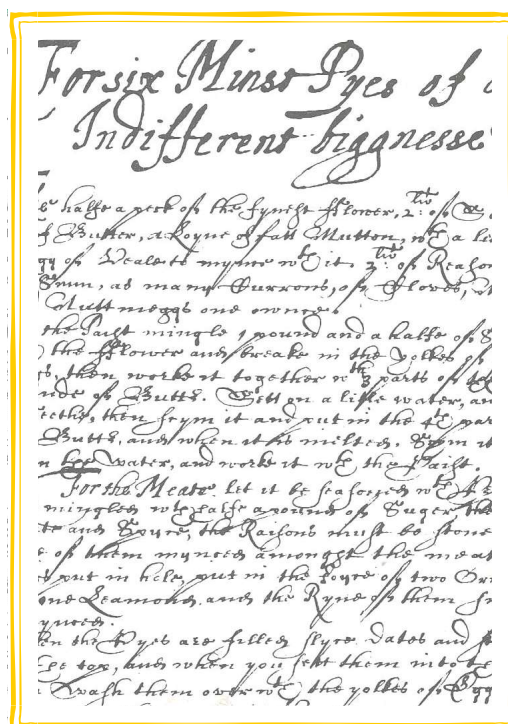
**"Minst pyes"**

If you are planning to make mince pies this Christmas why not try a seventeenth-century recipe? As well as dried fruit, sugar, spices and suet they contained minced meat - hence the name, of course.

All quantities are variable according to taste and to what spices and dried fruits were available . Early recipes were not specific!

Lean mutton or beef, minced, mixed with suet, sugar, 'plenty' of ground cloves, mace, nutmeg and black pepper, a pinch of saffron, raisins, currants, stoned prunes, all finely chopped and all well mixed together. [some recipes also add orange and lemon rind and juice].

The 'paste' or pastry was a rich one made with flour, butter and eggs, used to line 'patty tins' . Add the mixture, cover with the remaining pastry and glaze with egg wash. No instructions are given for cooking the pies!



**TIDE TABLES: DAYTIME LOW TIDES AT CARNE FOR DECEMBER**

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1 8.44	2 9.41	3 10.34	4 11.25
5 12.14	6 13.00	7 13.46	8 14.32	9 15.21	10 16.16	11 17.18
12 5.40	13 6.50	14 7.59	15 8.57	16 9.46	17 10.29	18 11.09
19 11.46	20 12.20	21 12.51	22 13.21	23 13.54	24 14.30	25 15.13
26 16.06	27 17.10	28 5.6	29 6.50	30 8.-3	31 9.11	

**New moon 4th Full moon 19th**

## **Cyril Charles Channon** *An appreciation*

Cyril was born in Veryan Green 82 years ago, the second son of Herbert [Bert] and Edith Channon. After leaving Veryan School he served his apprenticeship in Portscatho, then joined his father and brother Wilfred in the family building firm of H H Channon & Sons. Much of their work was in and around Veryan – surely a real guarantee of quality when your neighbours employ you and your work is seen throughout the parish.



Cyril was married to Pam for over 60 years. They lived in the Green where they raised their family. They moved house several times, but always in Veryan Green, finally living next door to Cyril's 'best mate' Gil. In retirement until the last stages of his illness intervened Cyril, along with Phil, Gil and Wilfred formed the 'Veryan Green Youth Club', whose members regularly enjoyed a quiet drink and much reminiscing.

Cyril served Veryan church as choirboy and bellringer, and his parish as a parish councillor, where he was encouraged and guided by that other fine son of Veryan, Reg Julyan, eventually following 'RJ' as the council's chairman. Cyril also played a significant part in the realisation and construction of the Sports and Social Club, and was its first chairman, returning many years after his official 'retirement' to steer the Club through a period of serious, but, thanks to him, temporary difficulty.

Cyril's commitment to Veryan's Autumn [and for some years also Summer] Show was lifelong; he exhibited as a schoolboy [drawing and painting] and later as a fine gardener [fruit, vegetables and his beloved dahlias]. It was probably inevitable that he would become its chairman, a role he retained until ill-health intervened, but he still appeared on Show Day – one of the high spots in Veryan's social calendar. The Show's honorary 'temporary' secretary has recorded in a former issue of this newsletter a few of many Show-related incidents involving the unorthodox activities of its chairman...

Cyril was first of all a 'Veryan boy' and was proud of the parish where he was born, educated, lived and worked and raised his family; Veryan is proud to acknowledge the contribution which he made, often quietly, modestly and privately, to his native parish. He was, as his son Steven commented at the funeral, a gentle man and a gentleman. It is somehow fitting that he lies now in Veryan churchyard, not far from two other former Parish Council chairmen, Neville and Ivor.

We will miss him, but we will remember him.

*[I remember Cyril's resigned amusement when Wilfred, instead of holding the ladder while Cyril painted the outside of our house, tried vainly to teach our tortoise to jump the little wall between the two front gardens... Ed.]*



## ***William and Eppie***

*Following on from the Editor's magazine article in December 2020 which recorded that "In 1929 Veryan Parish Council was presented by Mr Macleod 'with 'the old Swan Pond' along with the adjoining paddock, in Trust for the Parish, to be converted into water gardens and a playing field." Susan Warr has discovered much more about this generous benefactor.*

In recent years little has been known about the generosity of William Mackintosh Macleod. William gave Veryan the Water Garden and Moor Launder in memory of his beloved wife Constance Helen Macleod (née Sellar), known to everyone as Eppie. Many of you will have walked past the seat and read the beautiful epitaph to Eppie.

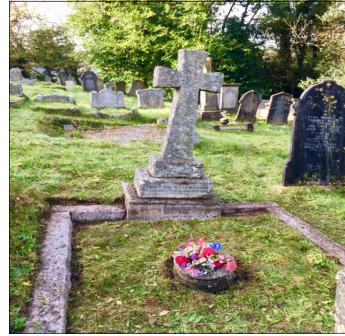
*In memory of my dear wife  
EPIE MACLEOD  
Who loved flowers and beautiful things and  
her neighbour as herself  
This garden and pleasure has been laid out  
and presented to the people of Veryan  
To be for all time a place of rest for the weary,  
of happiness for children and of beauty for everyone*



This gift is still a central part of the village, used on many occasions including Summer Fetes, Autumn Shows, for wedding photographs, a playing field for children and a delightful picnic spot for local families and visitors.

William and Eppie were both born in Scotland. William was a Scottish international rugby union player, a Chairman for the Royal Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Children and later a successful stockbroker with a beautiful house in London. His father was a close friend of Queen Victoria, who placed two stained glass memorial windows in Crathie Church in his memory. Eppie was the daughter of W Y Sellar, a well respected classical scholar and Professor of Latin at the University of Edinburgh.

Such a grand sounding life. But they also had a home at Morvah near Portloe where Eppie died in 1928 aged 69. William died in Kensington three years later in 1931 aged 70. One can only imagine how much they must have loved Cornwall and the Veryan area because they chose to be buried together in Veryan churchyard.



What a generous and wonderful gift to the village. Ninety years later it would be difficult to imagine Veryan without the beautiful water garden and paddock.



### *'Tread lightly upon this earth'*

Or is it too late? I think often of the days, now long ago, when a small child I was told that the mysterious rattling noise coming in the evenings from Mrs Chipman's bay tree was made by a bird called a 'nightjar' which curiously seemed to live on a diet of moths. There were yellowhammers at Four Turnings, and flocks of curlew and snipe in the winter fields .

On the way to school at Caerhays, as we walked up the Castle drive, we might see red squirrels , and in March the hedge at Penvergate was white with sweet white violets, always flowering in time for a bunch to be picked for cousin Pamela's birthday on the seventeenth.

Here at Camels the mistle thrush nested in our ash tree, buzzards brought up their young down in 'the Bottoms' and the buddleia bush was covered with butterflies all summer. A pied flycatcher made an annual visit: I haven't seen its distinctive flight for some years. Not enough flies?

In the churchyard we watched treecreepers scuttling up the trunks of the beeches. Car windows had regularly to be cleared of the corpses of assorted insects, and driving at night meant a similar massacre of moths. When did you last chase an intrusive moth out of the bedroom at night?

And when did you last hear a cuckoo? Even our buzzards seem to be in decline: a shortage of rabbits maybe? We used regularly to be visited at night by a badger, a fox and hedgehogs; there are still slowworms in the compost, though the lizards and toads which also made their homes in the back garden seem to have vanished.

We may be glad not to be pestered by flies, wasps and other 'unfriendly' insects, but without them our birds go hungry, and our gardens will suffer from loss of pollination. Hoverflies, frog-hoppers [the beetles that create 'cuckoo-spit'] butterflies of all kinds, even the biting flies which gran called 'Dundella flies' have been scarce this year.

Maybe it isn't too late; We don't all now reach for the weedkiller as soon as a dandelion appears; roadside hedges are allowed to be trimmed only after nestlings have fledged, and we are encouraged to 'plant for wildlife'. I have to admit anyway to a certain amount of deliberate neglect in my garden. Self-sown foxgloves, campions and valerian are allowed to flourish and self-seed. The front 'lawn' has more daisies, hawkbits, clover, yarrow and moss than grass and is not mown as often as some, and I have a collection of tiny seedling trees, currently in pots, which I optimistically expect one day to plant at the bottom of the back garden to provide a small copse of oak, beech, holly, hawthorn and ash, along with a buddleia to replace the one which was cut down last year to make room for a new washing line.

We live in the country; why not let a bit of the country into our gardens? Manicured weed-free lawns and 'tidy' well-trimmed evergreen hedges may be practical to maintain, but are they really easy on the eye? What could be lovelier than a may tree in full blossom, with the promise of berries to feed our birds in winter? How pleasant it is to be in the garden hearing the gentle buzzing of bumblebees busy pollinating flowers of peas and beans, and what better and reassuring sight is there than the first swallow in April ?

And maybe we should be heartened by those familiar words from Genesis:

*While the earth remaineth,  
seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat,  
and summer and winter, and day and night,  
shall not cease...*



*If winter come,  
can spring be  
far behind?*

***The children in Kiberick class have been busy!***



They have clearly been learning about Thanksgiving, and made Thanksgiving Baskets containing fir cones, twigs and leaves, which were placed in church around the font for the congregation and visitors to enjoy.

*[Thanksgiving is traditionally celebrated every year in America and it is said to mark the anniversary of the Pilgrim Fathers' safe arrival in Virginia in 1619. The settlers had a charter from the London Company allowing them to establish a plantation; they were required by the Company to hold a thanksgiving service on their safe arrival in early December. Two years later the celebration was shared with the indigenous Wampanoag tribe whose people had helped the settlers survive their early days in America. Religious services were held to celebrate the harvest, and the Thanksgiving Feast developed to include native American produce including turkey, cranberries, sweet potatoes, corn (maize), green beans and pumpkin. For many years the date varied but from 1942 Thanksgiving has been celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November and is officially a public holiday].*

### **SCHOOL EVENTS**

**Saturday 4th December CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

**Tuesday 14 December CAROL SERVICE**

*Thank you to all our contributors, regular and occasional - your editors welcome features, news and comment! An electronic newsletter is flexible so we can easily increase or reduce the number of pages.*

*We're grateful to those of you who print copies for parishioners who don't use email.*

*A reminder of our editorial 'duty' months below:*

**EDITORS: for January, March, May, July, September, November, Yolande; [yolande.hocking@btinternet.com]**

**For February, April, June, August, October, December Christine [c.edwards531@btinternet.com]**

**Back copies can be found on the church website.**