

# Parish Newsletter

## Benefice of Veryan with Ruan Lanihorne

### December 2020

**The parishes of VERYAN and  
RUAN LANIHORNE**

**Priest-in-Charge:**  
Vacancy

**VERYAN**  
**(St Symphorian) Parish Church**  
**Churchwardens**

Mr David Elliott  
Boswague, Tregony [501230]  
&

Vacancy  
**Hon. Secretary**  
Mrs Sarah Rundle  
Trevvarthen 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  
Porthjulian  
Pendower Road  
Veryan [501365]

**RUAN LANIHORNE**  
**(St Rumon) Parish Church**  
**Churchwardens**

Mrs Caroline Martin  
[501697]  
Mr David Hughes  
Castle Towers  
Ruan Lanihorne [501855]

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

#### Church services in our benefice in December

**Please check website and noticeboards**

*At the time of mailing we are told that we are 'Tier 1' so we are allowed to hold 'communal worship'; Sunday services are permitted, with appropriate regulations, although we await guidance from the Diocese so we're not sure about Christmas, but we hope to arrange:*

**VERYAN**  
**SUNDAYS** December 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th: 11 am Eucharist  
**CHRISTMAS EVE** Midnight Mass 11.30 pm

**RUAN**  
**6th December** 9.30 am BCP Holy Communion  
**CHRISTMAS DAY** 9.30 am Holy Communion

**PORTLOE**  
*Please check notice board for current arrangements*

#### Readings for December

**6 December Advent 2**  
Isaiah 40, 1-11 *John Veness*; 2 Peter 3, 8-15a *Julia Pound*

**13 December Advent 3**  
Isaiah 61, 1-4 & 8-11 *Ann Craven*; 1 Thessalonians 5, 16-24 *Margaret Cortis*

**20 December Advent 4**  
2 Samuel 7, 1-11 & 16 *Sue Jeremy*; Romans 16, 25-27 *Linda Kerswill*

**24 December MIDNIGHT MASS**  
Isaiah 9, 2-7 *Blair Jobson*; Titus 2, 11-14 *Sue Truscott*

**27 December Christmas 1**  
Isaiah 61, 10 to 62, 3 *Christine Edwards*; Galatians 4, 4-7 *David Elliott*

#### Many, many thanks...

*To so many who have over the past year made sure that our churches have been open where possible for private prayer, and - briefly - for Sunday services, with all the additional necessary preparation, recording names, cleaning and tidying; for our ringers in Veryan for calling us to worship, for our mini-team of flower ladies who have provided flowers and greenery; for Sarah's efforts in keeping the heating under control, and most of all to Fr Doug for taking all our services - and especially for ensuring that our benefice marked Remembrance Sunday with a much reduced, but dignified ceremony to remember those from both our parishes who lost their lives in war.*

*Thank you too to all those unseen but much appreciated helpers who care for the churchyards, maintain clock and bells, clean out the launders and drains - and generally support and look after our lovely churches and graveyards. You know who you are - and we are deeply grateful.*

#### STOP PRESS !

*Veryan church diaries 2021  
should be available from 6  
December in church or from PCC  
members. Suggested donation of £1  
for each diary towards church  
expenses*

## ‘DOWN POND’

*A recent casual enquiry about Eppie MacLeod sent this month's editor scrabbling among the many heaps of papers in her study to find out more about Veryan's rather grandly named 'water gardens'*

IN 1929 Veryan Parish Council was presented 'by Mr McLeod' 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.

This is the only reference I have found to the description of the pond as 'the swan pond', reflecting as it does the early Cornish name of the pre-Conquest manor of Elerchi [Elerky nowadays] - 'elerch' in Cornish means 'swans' or 'swannery'.

Many years ago the late Mr Bert Dowrick told me that the pond was formerly the mill pond serving Elerky farm as the site of the manor mill. He said that the wheel had long since been dislodged, but its location could easily be seen until the early years of the century [that's the 20<sup>th</sup> century of course!] How true this is I have no idea: I've found no other reference to a manor mill in the village, although the force of water running down in the leat in Moor Launder might be strong enough to turn probably an undershot wheel. The roadside hedge too is an ancient one, being recorded on the Elerky manor 'atlas' drawn in the 1690s, with the adjoining fields and plots named in an even earlier document of 1337.

However, back to 'Mr McLeod'. He – and his wife Eppie – remain unknown: the parish council minutes record only his surname, but the memorial to his wife has the initials 'W M M'. and the date of his death, 1931. A quick search in the General Record Office indexes of births, marriages and deaths produced one possibility - a William M MacLeod, aged 70, died in Kensington in 1931 [no details unless you buy a certificate] - but I found no information about Eppie. A quick 'google' search produced a tantalising entry in an Australian family history site: one Eppie Macleod married Frederick Stott somewhere in New South Wales in 1912: another entry offered 'Euphemia Macleod'...but since archivists never jump to conclusions but need firm evidence, she's probably a red herring, if you get my meaning...

In 1931 a well-constructed seat was installed in the garden, with a memorial inscription:

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

*Hoc horto conferte  
WMM  
Ipse obit MCMXXXI*

*[this garden was completed  
W M M*



*he himself died 1931]*

In 1931 when the memorial seat was placed in the garden a 'custodian' was appointed to care for the garden and field. Unfortunately the first one was 'dismissed forthwith for not adequately fulfilling his duties'. The Parish Council advertised for a replacement. The 'custodian' was to be paid £12 a year, for 'the cleaning and sluishing [*sic*] of the water garden and catchpits, rebedding of plants and keeping the playing field in order, under the supervision of the Water Garden and Playing Field Committee'. Tools and boots would be provided.

Seven men applied, and after a ballot Mr Lawry Truscott was appointed. [He was regularly congratulated by successive parish clerks 'for his efforts in beautifying the garden'; more recently the garden has been for many years cared for by his nephew, David - did he, we wonder, also claim his free boots?.

The field was used every July for sports, on the occasion of the British Legion Flower Show.

By 1942 the council recorded its concern that the bridges could not be repaired, as 'there was no wood to be had'. The original bridges were replaced with 'temporary' unlovely concrete structures [these were eventually themselves replaced with the present wooden bridges installed to mark the millennium.]

IN 1946 the clerk was instructed to write to St Mawes fire brigade 'who had unofficially been using the pond water for practice; all the shrubs had been ruined, and this had not been authorised by the Parish Council'...

**1921 will mark the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the completion of the water gardens**, a most generous gift to the parish: what a legacy, from that unknown Mr McLeod/MacLeod.

And it may officially be the 'water gardens' but to my generation it will always be simply 'down pond'.

*If anyone has any information about the mysterious MacLeods, I'd love to know - Ed.]*

**. Greetings from the church in Portloe.**

***Thoughts at this time, in four different voices....***

"There is special meaning meeting weekly with friends in "God's house" in Portloe but lockdown in Portholland brings natural serenity and peace by day and that mysterious awesomeness of totally dark nights and the wonder of God is overwhelmingly close and not enclosed within four walls."

Underground church  
Hidden prayer  
Hymns sung to the gulls  
Contemplation in quietness or nature's song  
Listening for God's word  
Pausing for refreshment

Silent church  
Wind in the eaves  
Sun light dapples  
Scents of early narcissi offering their praise  
Resting  
Waiting

My heart beats for those disconnected from loved ones, for those who live in fear - of any kind, and I wish to hug all those in the health and social care sector for all that they witness and must carry.

Singing...  
Spirit of truth and love  
Life-giving, holy Dove,  
Speed forth thy flight;  
Move on the water's face,  
Bearing the lamp of grace,  
And in earth's darkest place  
Let there be light!  
*John Marriott (1780-1825)*

***With thanks to Annie, Mark, Deborah and Lynda.***

**ST RUMON'S CHURCH**

The PCC and churchwardens would like to say a big thank you to all those that have helped decorate or clean the church, mow the grass in the churchyard or trim around the headstones, throughout a very difficult year. We very much appreciate what you all do to help keep our church and churchyard looking beautiful. Thank you to our regular congregation and an especially big thank you to Pat Farr who has retired as churchwarden after fifteen years.

If you could spare an hour every now and then, why not give a hand with flower arranging, cleaning or join the strimming party. You would be most welcome.

Because of Covid restrictions there will be no Carol Service this year. Hopefully we will be able to have our normal Communion on the 6<sup>th</sup> December and a Christmas Day service at 9.30 am. Please see our website nearer the time for confirmation.

We wish you a happy Christmas and look forward to a brighter and better year.  
Keep safe.

Carol  
01872 501855

**October 100 Club Draw**

Winner wishes to remain anonymous and has donated the prize to Vryan church funds - many thanks!

**Membership Details from  
Ann Craven 01872 501731**

***Previous newsletters can be seen on our church websites: [veryanchurch.org.uk](http://veryanchurch.org.uk) & [ruanlanihornechurch.org.uk](http://ruanlanihornechurch.org.uk)***

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

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1 12.07	2 12.38	3 13.10	4 13.44	5 14.22
6 15.08	7 16.08	8 17.24	9 5.53	10 7.09	11 8.19	12 9.22
13 10.19	14 11.12	15 12.02	16 12.49	17 13.32	18 14.14	19 14.55
20 15.38	21 16.25	22 17.20	23 5.43	24 6.47	25 7.52	26 8.50
27 9.40	28 10.25	29 11.07	30 11.46	31 12.24		

**Full moon 30th New moon 14th**

## Musings from the earwig...

When I was 16, many years ago I visited my French penfriend in Strasbourg. Her English was ropey and she wasn't interested in improving it. Her mother, Madame Bouvard, spoke no English at all and her father typically just shouted at me increasing his volume assuming I must surely understand a second or third time. The whole trip was a nightmare. I was soon to embark on an A level in this pesky language.

I didn't enjoy the language and the literature was dire. I only did it because my O level result was surprisingly good and I couldn't think of anything else to top up the three subjects. None of this was helped by the 2ft tall teacher Madame Hellings who also thought shouting would achieve the result.

Anyway, back to the Strasbourg mother. She insisted that I wear a special pair of slippers whilst in the house which I discovered were impregnated with something ghastly which she was convinced cleaned her wooden floors as we moved about.

It soon became apparent that she wanted me never to sit down, clean her floors and surprisingly to speak English and I finally understood why. She hadn't a clue what I was saying but one day she sat down in her chair, rocked backwards, threw out her hands and violently exclaimed 'la langue des oiseaux! She was referring to the proliferation of the letter 's' in our speech.

I defy you now not to listen carefully to the next conversation you have and you will understand what she was saying. Amazing what memory holds, I have never forgotten her exclamation and if I am bored by a lecture or speech I still listen to the proliferation of 's'. Read the first sentence of this article, count the use of 's' and you will see it appears more than any other consonant. It is how others hear us - as the birds.

## CHRISTMAS STAR BISCUITS

Makes about 24-30

185 g butter

225 g sugar

Half a teaspoon vanilla extract

1 egg

Cooking chocolate and gold and silver glitter to decorate

Oven: 180°, gas 4

Beat together butter, sugar and vanilla until well mixed.

Add sieved flour and enough beaten egg to make a stiff dough, mix well until smooth.

Wrap in clingfilm and chill for 30 minutes.

Roll out on a floured board to 5mm, cut out into star shapes. If liked, make holes in biscuits with a skewer

[why? to hang them on the tree with ribbon for decoration]

Put on a baking tray lined with baking paper, bake for about 10 minutes until golden.

Cool on a wire rack [thy will be soft until they are cold—take care!]

Decorate with melted chocolate and glitter.

## 'Angels Over Ringrounds'

When I was very small my gran told me that when she was a little girl she believed that there were 'angels over Ringrounds' - the earthwork above Carne beach; why? because she had sung, at Ebenezer Bible Christian chapel, a hymn which appeared to tell her just that: it's in an early edition of 'Sankey's Sacred Songs and Solos' [you need to amend the pronunciation slightly - 'angels 'over-ing round'...

270 **Angels Hovering 'Round**

ANON. OLD MELODY

1 There are an - gels hov-'ring 'round, There are an - gels hov-'ring 'round,  
 2 To carry the tid - ings home, To carry the tid - ings home,  
 3 To the new Jer - u - sa - lem, To the new Jer - u - sa - lem,  
 4 Poor sinners are com - ing home, Poor sinners are com - ing home.

1 There are an - - gels, an - - gels hov - 'ring 'round,  
 2 To car - ry, car - ry the tid - ings home,  
 3 To the new, the new Jer - u - sa - lem,  
 4 Poor sin - ners, sin - ners are com - ing home: