



# The Parish Post

## *Benefice of Veryan with Ruan Lanihorne*

### January 2024

*We know not what the future holds, but we do know who holds the future.*

– Willis J Ray



#### The parishes of **VERYAN and RUAN LANIHORNE**

##### **VERYAN**

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

Julia Pound, Calendra Farm  
churchwarden@veryanchurch.org.uk  
Pippa Stephens, Cherry Tree Cottage  
churchwarden1@veryanchurch.org.uk

##### **Hon. Secretary**

Mandy Holloway

secretary@veryanchurch.org.uk

##### **Treasurer**

Mrs Carol Hughes

Castle Towers

Ruan Lanihorne

[501855]

treasurer@veryanchurch.org.uk

##### **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 LANIHORNE**

##### **(St Rumon) Parish Church**

##### **Churchwardens**

Mr David Hughes

Castle Towers

Ruan Lanihorne

[501855]

Mrs Caroline Martin [501697]

##### **Hon. Secretary**

Mrs Holly Ledson

##### **Hon. Treasurer**

Mrs Carol Hughes

##### **Submissions for the Newsletter**

Pippa Stephens

Cherry Tree Cottage

Veryan [501652]

veryanparishnewsletter@gmail.com

## Congratulations to **Margaret Cortis**

**on receiving the medal of  
B E M in the New Years  
Honours List**

**Well deserved and we are  
all so proud of you and are  
in awe of all that you do!!**

#### **Services in our benefice in January**

##### **Sunday 7th January**

##### **Epiphany**

*Ruan. 9.30am Holy Communion*

*Portloe. 10.30am. Morning Worship*

*Veryan. 11am Eucharist*

##### **Sunday 14th January**

##### **Epiphany 2**

*Portloe 10.30am Morning Worship*

*Veryan. 11am Eucharist*

(Revd Douglas Wren)

##### **Sunday 21st January**

##### **Epiphany 3**

*Ruan. 9.30am Matins*

*Portloe 10.30am Morning Worship*

*Veryan. 11am Eucharist*

(Canon Simon Cade)

##### **Sunday 28th January**

##### **Epiphany 4**

*Portloe 9.30am Holy Communion*

*Veryan 11am Matins/Service of the  
word (David Hughes)*

##### **Sunday 4th February**

##### **Epiphany 5**

*Ruan. 9.30am Holy Communion*

*Portloe. 10.30am. Morning Worship*

*Veryan. 11am Eucharist*

#### **Readings for January [Veryan]**

##### **Sunday 7th January**

##### **Advent Sunday**

*Isaiah 60, 1-6 Chris;*

*Ephesians 3, 1-12 Sue T*

##### **Sunday 14th January**

##### **Epiphany 2**

*1 Samuel 3, 1-10 Blair;*

*Revelation 5, 1-10 Pippa*

##### **Sunday 21st January**

##### **Epiphany 3**

*Genesis 14, 17-20 Doreen;*

*Revelation 19, 6-10 Dave S*

##### **Sunday 28th January**

##### **Epiphany 4**

*Deuteronomy 18, 15-20;*

*Revelation 12, 1-5a*

##### **Sunday 4th February**

##### **Epiphany 5**

*Malachi 3, 1-5 John V;*

*Hebrews 2, 14-18 Julia*

Our thanks go to David Hughes who stepped in at the last minute for our Midnight Mass service. We really appreciate it and it was a wonderful service, thank you.

Thanks must also be given to all of those who created beautiful flower displays for the Church.

And finally, to those who decorated the church and set up for the family service.

Happy New Year one and all!

# Your Church

***Let's create a warm, welcoming and busy Church!***

*'...this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord ... (Psalm 27:4)*

Let's turn our conversations into action! In January, we're holding a working party meeting to kick-start the project of making sympathetic alterations to the church so we can hold various events, exhibitions, recitals etc. Rest assured, no changes will be made without PCC approval and informing the wider community.

We value your thoughts and would love to hear from you. As we celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity this month (18th - 25th January), it's a perfect time to connect with other local Christians. Consider visiting their churches and exploring what they have to offer.

When you visit other churches, it's an exciting opportunity to observe and learn. Look beyond the architecture and historical monuments. See what ideas and practices they have that we can learn from and implement in our own church. And if something doesn't quite work, make a note of it too.

Above all, let's truly experience what it's like to attend these churches. Are they welcoming and vibrant? Or are they struggling and uninspiring? The spirit of the church matters more than its traditions.

Let's also consider inviting a non-church friend to attend our own church. Their honest first impressions could pleasantly surprise us and give us new insights.

We've heard from the community that our church is important to the village, but it feels dark and cold. We need better lighting, especially for performances. A toilet and a refreshment area are recurring suggestions that would greatly enhance our church's appeal.

Let's make our church a welcoming and caring place where everyone feels at home. Together, let's make our church a warm and inviting place for all occasions.

We would love to hear your feedback and ideas. Please email [churchwarden1@veryanchurch.org.uk](mailto:churchwarden1@veryanchurch.org.uk) or have a chat with someone you know on the PCC for them to share your thoughts on your behalf.



## **Join our BIG DEEP CLEAN**

Thank you to all who helped clean the  
Church in December.

The next clean will be before Easter, tea  
provided - bring a duster!

# What's On.....

PRAYER – it's so important!

Which is why there is a new monthly Prayer Meeting lasting an hour on the second Thursday of each month. The first one is this Thursday (11 th ) at 7pm in Philleigh Community Hall and also via Zoom (link below). There will be a varied diet of topics and styles and this month the focus will be on Tregony, so do come and join with the angels, archangels and other Christians from the Roseland to pray for our community.

Douglas

The Zoom link is here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85908349044?pwd=SHhXK0N1anpCN0tZOGhRVWZWamNxUT09>

Meeting ID: 859 0834 9044

Passcode: 717165

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Prayer for Christian Unity, “strong relationships across the Roseland churches”

Porthscatho Chapel (aka The Retreat) are inviting all of the churches on the Roseland to a joint service for Christian Unity on Sunday 28th January at 3pm, which is just after the global Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

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## A weekend commemorating The Hera

On the night of the 31” January - 1” February 1914 the “Hera’ was wrecked on the outer stones of the Gull Rock just off Nare Head in this parish.

Only five of her crew of 24 survived. Fifteen bodies were eventually recovered and are buried in this churchyard. The captain, and the three men whose bodies were never found, are commemorated on the memorial stone that marks what is reputed to be the longest grave in the country (*excerpt from the “Wreck of the Hera brochure available in the Church)*

We are hosting the following events to mark this occasion, we hope the community will come together to remember those lost.

Friday 2nd Feb, 2.45. Veryan Church.

The children of Veryan School will share with family and friends from the community their work and knowledge of the Hera

Saturday 3rd Feb, all day.

Photos and memories will be displayed throughout the church

Saturday 3rd evening, 6.30pm.

Kevin Patience, author of “Hera, A Cornish Shipwreck Tragedy” will be hosting a talk about the history of the ship, the events of the evening, the reporting of the news and what the Hera looks like if you were to dive to it today.

He will provide fascinating insights and stories along with various items to display during the evening. Refreshments will be provided afterwards

Sunday, 11am.

A special Sunday service dedicated to those who lost their lives and for those who helped during and after the fateful night.

Kevin has offered to visit Nare Head after the service if anyone wishes to view where the wreck lies.



**Philleigh Folk**  
Presents- Tickets £8.00



**Chris Hvtah** **Fred Cartwright**

**ANNOWN**

**Cornish Legends Folklore & History**  
**Thursday 18th January at 7:30 pm**  
**At Veryan Sports and Social Club**  
**Elerkey Lane Veryan TR2 5UW**

Tickets may be obtained by ringing 07736 065406  
Or e-mail [philleighfolk@btinternet.com](mailto:philleighfolk@btinternet.com)

## Warm Hub Community Cafe

CHAT, CONNECT, RELAX & STAY WARM



- Free weekly hot lunches, tea & coffee
- Advice packs & leaflets
- Free Wi-Fi
- Board games

A place to catch up with friends and meet new people

.....

**Veryan Parish Hall**  
**Every Wednesday**  
**10.30am - 1.30pm**

For more info contact Deanne Field  
on 01872 501974  
07775 682139  
[dee@bobanddee.co.uk](mailto:dee@bobanddee.co.uk)



- ✝ *All those who are worried about what the new year will bring*
- ✝ *All those who are worried about paying household bills*
- ✝ *All those who are away from loved-ones*
- ✝ *All those who have lost loved ones*
- ✝ *All those who feel alone*
- ✝ *All those working in healthcare*
- ✝ *All those who are working for the armed forces*
- ✝ *All those who are suffering from war*

### *A prayer for the New Year*

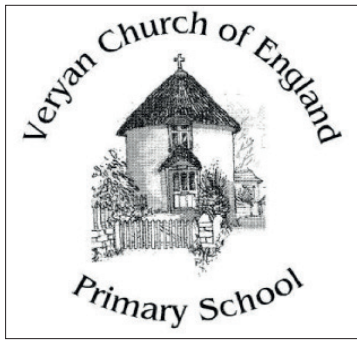
*We stand on the threshold of a new year. Some of us are excited, some of us are fearful. We don't know what 2024 will bring, but we know that there will be ups and downs, joy and sadness mixed in with the months.*

*As we step into this new year, help us to keep our eyes fixed on you; to know for certain that, whatever happens, you will be in it with us, not watching from the sidelines, but right in the middle of it with us.*

*Help us to put our trust in what Jesus did on the cross, maybe for the first time, maybe as a New Year re-commitment, so that we will know that nothing can separate us from you. Let the storm rage, let the sun shine – we are safe! In the name of the risen, living Lord Jesus.*

*Amen.*

*- Daphne Kitching*



## Veryan CE Primary School

On January 4th, we eagerly returned to school, still with a few mince pies left over from our amazing December festivities. Our December was jam-packed with events like parents evening, nativity plays, a day in the wild tribe, dodge ball games, tournaments, a festive fayre, a school museum, school disco, and even awesome school trips! It was non-stop excitement, and both our staff and students couldn't wait for a well-deserved break.

Speaking of our students, they were absolutely incredible. Despite their overwhelming Christmas excitement, they never forgot the true meaning of the season - the birth of Christ, our savour.

We had our Christmas Nativity and Carol service and were very pleased to welcome Douglas Wren to join us. The children were fantastic and thanks must go again to our brilliant staff for all their hard work in putting the service together. We are also incredibly grateful to Karen Green, Jackie Clark and Jack Wilson for giving up their own time to help make it happen.

In the week leading up to Christmas, we took a fun trip to Woodland Valley in Ladock, where our students explored the woods, made reefs, and embraced the muddy joy of splashing in puddles. Who doesn't love a little mud?

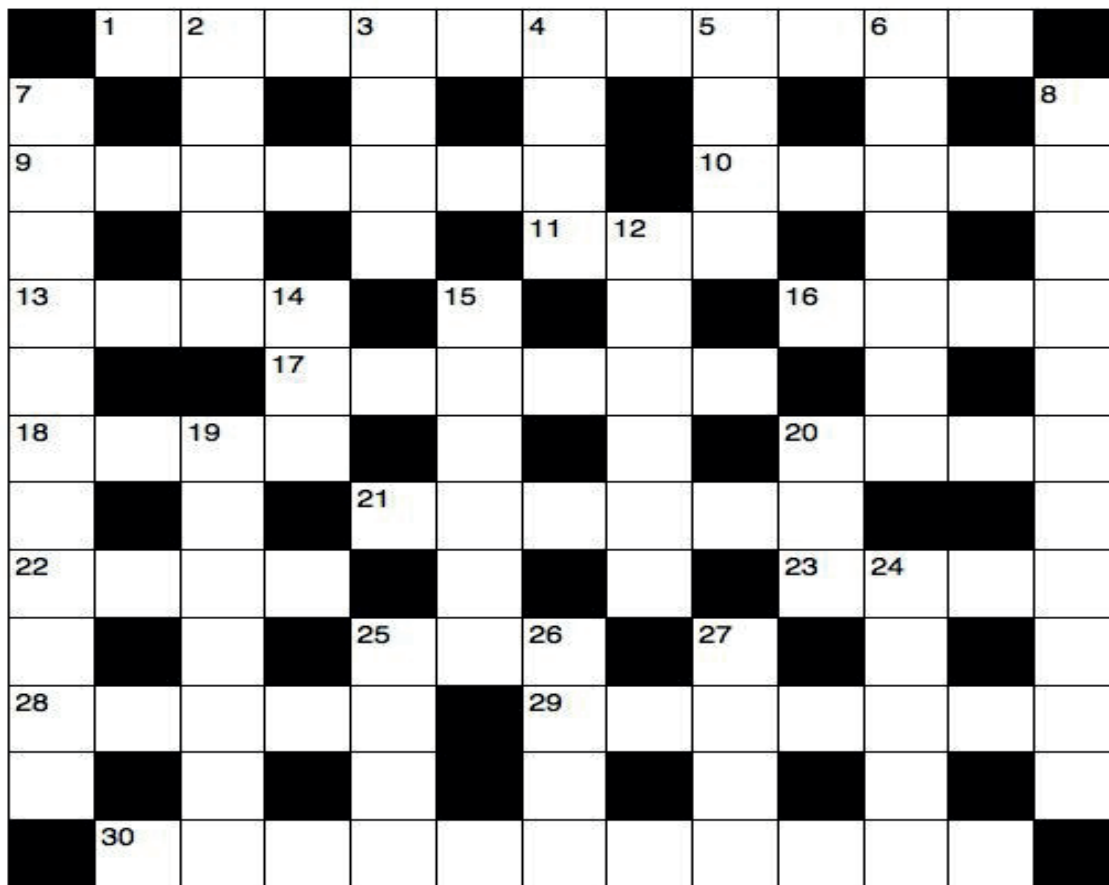
The Rainbow Trust, the academy we are a part of, held their annual carol concert in Truro Cathedral and 6 of our girls from Kiberick class attended. Their behaviour and maturity was implacable and they certainly made us proud with their singing.

Some of the boys from Kiberick Class attended the Roseland dodge-ball competition and I am thrilled to say they are now reigning Champions! Winning 5 of their 6 matches they played with fantastic conviction and showed excellent teamwork skills. We were also very proud of how empathetic they were to the losing teams, shaking their hands and praising the way they played.

With all the incredible memories from December, we're ready to make 2024 an unforgettable year. Get ready for an exciting journey ahead!

- Emily Bennett, School Secretary





#### ACROSS

- 1 Paul said the wrath of God 'is being revealed from heaven' against this (Romans 1:18) (11)  
 9 Go smite (anag.) (7) 10 'But — I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee' (Matthew 26:32) (5)  
 11 'Take and —; this is my body' (Matthew 26:26) (3) 13 Type (2 Thessalonians 2:10) (4)  
 16 'Woe to those who — iniquity' (Micah 2:1) (4)  
 17 'How shall we — if we ignore such a great salvation?' (Hebrews 2:3) (6)  
 18 Opposite of evens (4)  
 20 Previously cited (Latin) (4)  
 21 'There is surely — — of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife' (Genesis 20:11) (2,4)  
 22 The Thessalonians were warned to keep away from every brother who was this (2 Thessalonians 3:6) (4)  
 23 Beat (anag.) (4)  
 25 To trouble or afflict (Job 16:3) (3)  
 28 Part of a roof (1 Kings 7:9) (5)  
 29 Attain (Job 5:12) (7)  
 30 Insect noted for its gymnastic ability (Psalm 78:46) (11)

#### DOWN

- 2 Smell (John 11:39) (5)  
 3 Lion's home (Jeremiah 25:38) (4)  
 4 'Jesus Christ is the — yesterday and today and for ever' (Hebrews 13:8) (4)  
 5 Tidy (4)  
 6 Made their home (Genesis 47:27) (7)  
 7 Their task was to carry the curtains of the tabernacle (Numbers 4:25–26) (11)  
 8 Timothy's was called Lois (2 Timothy 1:5) (11)  
 12 The Lover likened the fragrance of the Beloved's breath to these (Song of Songs 7:8) (6)  
 14 Times Educational Supplement (1,1,1)  
 15 Eight-tentacled sea creatures (6)  
 19 'And lead us not into temptation, but — us from the evil one' (Matthew 6:13) (7)  
 20 D.L. Moody's legendary song leader, — D. Sankey (3)  
 24 Rarely used musical note (5)  
 25 'Your will be done on earth — it — in heaven' (Matthew 6:10) (2,2)  
 26 and 27 'The Lord Almighty will — them with a — , as when he struck down Midian at the rock of Oreb' (Isaiah 10:26) (4,4)  
 27 See 26 Down



# Holy Days in January, lets focus on....

## *11th January – Mary Slessor of Calabar*

Mary Slessor was born in December 1848 into a wretchedly poor family. Her father was an alcoholic who lost his job as a shoemaker. Mary was the second of seven children, and in 1859 they moved from Aberdeen into the fetid slums of Dundee. Her father and mother worked in the mills, and Mary joined them there when she turned 11.

When Mary's father and both brothers died of pneumonia, Mary's mother struggled on to keep Mary and her two sisters alive. By the time Mary was 14 she was doing a 12-hour day as a jute maker.

But life was not all drudgery. Mary's mother was a devout Christian who read the family Bible to her daughters, and also the *Missionary Record*, a monthly publication from the United Presbyterian Church. The stories of the missionaries captivated Mary. When she heard that David Livingstone, the great missionary explorer, had died, she decided that she would follow in his footsteps. She wanted to devote her life to taking the gospel to Africa. She was 25.

In August 1876 the Presbyterians sent her out to Calabar, Nigeria, an area where no European had ever yet set foot. With her red hair and blue eyes, Mary grabbed attention wherever she went, but despite recurring illness and constant danger, Mary settled happily among the tribes. She learned their traditions, quickly becoming fluent in their language, Efik. Soon she won the confidence of their tribal leaders. She taught their children and was soon determined to put an end to some of their barbaric practises, such as the killing of twins (whom they thought were evil).

Over the years Mary put an end to many witchcraft practises, and she adopted every twin child she found abandoned. And she talked endlessly about Jesus Christ, the passion of her life.

Mary was tough – she made long trips through the jungles and took canoes up remote rivers. When her shoes gave out, she went barefoot. Her great passion was to go to 'the regions beyond' with the Gospel. She thrived in places and among people who would have terrified most women in her day.

It has been written of her: "Practically singlehanded she tamed and transformed three pagan communities in succession. It is a question if the career of any other woman missionary has been marked by so many strange adventures, daring feats, signal providences, and wonderful achievements." (Dr Robert H. Glover, *The Progress of World-Wide Missions*.)

When in 1901 Southern Nigeria became a British Protectorate, Mary was appointed the first ever female Magistrate in the British Empire. She became a skilful diplomatic emissary.

She was known for saying: "It is not Mary Slessor, but God and our united prayers that have brought the blessings to Calabar. Christ shall have all the honour and glory for the multitudes saved."

When she finally died of fever in January 1915 the native Christian girls and women wept bitterly: "Our mother is dead. Everybody's mother has left us."

Mary Slessor once wrote to a friend who had long prayed for her: "I have always said that I have no idea how or why God has carried me over so many funny and hard places, and made these hordes of people submit to me, or why the Government should have given me the privilege of a Magistrate among them, except in answer to prayer made at home for me. It is all beyond my comprehension."



### ***21st January – St Agnes, child martyr of Rome***

Agnes should be the patron saint of all the young Christian girls alive today who live in areas of the world where they face kidnap, rape, forced marriage, persecution and even death – simply because they are Christian.

Agnes, born c 291, probably came from a noble Roman family. She converted to Christianity at the age of 10, and took a vow of chastity. When she was only 13, the son of a high-ranking Roman official wanted to marry her. But Agnes refused, declaring herself given totally to Christ.

This was not a safe thing to say in 304. It was a time of great violence against Christians, the so-called Persecution of Diocletian. So Agnes was condemned to death. Some accounts say she was burned at the stake, while Ambrose claims her death came by sword. She may have been sentenced to serve as a virgin sacrifice to pagan deities. Beheading has also been mentioned.

In any event, Agnes became a virgin-martyr, and thus became patron saint of chastity, girls, virgins, engaged couples and rape survivors. In the decades after her death her tomb became a place of pilgrimage, as other Christians sought courage for themselves by remembering her fearless witness.

### ***25th January – St Paul, the first Christian intellectual***

This month, on 25th January, the Church celebrates probably the most famous conversion of all. At least, what happened to a young man called Saul on the road to Damascus has become a byword for all instant conversions – what is known as a ‘damascene’ moment. Saul was a devout Jew, a Pharisee, a student of Gamaliel and a fierce critic of the followers of Jesus, then a very new sect on the religious scene.

On his way to Damascus to start a purge of Christians in that city, he was blinded by a bright light and heard a voice saying, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ He asked the identity of the voice, and was told: ‘Jesus, whom you are persecuting’. Stunned by the experience, he followed further instructions which led him to a Christian man in Damascus, who prayed with him. As he did, Saul’s sight was restored.

The experience convinced Paul that Jesus – crucified in Jerusalem four or five years earlier – was in fact the Messiah and had risen from the dead. After a period of instruction, Saul was baptised and took the name Paul. At first, some Christians were wary about the reality of his conversion, but over a period of time he was accepted and indeed eventually recognised as an ‘apostle’, a ‘special messenger’ of Jesus Christ.

His intellectual stature and leadership gifts quickly marked him out, and within a few years he became a leading figure in the emerging Christian Church, preaching and founding churches all over the Middle East, largely of Gentile converts. He was eventually martyred in Rome, probably in 65AD.

Paul was the first intellectual of the Christian Church, the man who was able to set the events of the life and teaching of Jesus, and especially His death and resurrection, into a coherent theology, with its roots very clearly in the Jewish faith of his own upbringing.

Many people think of Paul as a rather negative, narrow misogynist, but even a quick reading of his letters actually reveals a person of great warmth, who evoked enormous affection and devotion from others. ‘You would have plucked out your eyes and given them to me!’ he writes to the Christians at Galatia. As for the charge that Paul disliked women, even a quick read of his letters will reveal how large a role women played in his churches. In terms of the first century, St Paul was a dangerous liberal! So, all in all, the amazing Paul of Tarsus deserves a bit of celebrating on 25th January.





### Falmouth Tide Times January 2024

1 MON	02:24 L: 1.30m	<b>08:12</b> H: 4.75m	14:48 L: 1.30m	<b>20:35</b> H: 4.35m	☾ 08:19 ☾ 16:27	☾
2 TUE	02:54 L: 1.46m	<b>08:48</b> H: 4.59m	15:20 L: 1.46m	<b>21:15</b> H: 4.20m	☾ 08:19 ☾ 16:28	☾
3 WED	03:28 L: 1.62m	<b>09:29</b> H: 4.43m	15:58 L: 1.62m	<b>22:02</b> H: 4.07m	☾ 08:19 ☾ 16:29	☾
4 THU	04:12 L: 1.78m	<b>10:19</b> H: 4.27m	16:49 L: 1.76m	<b>22:58</b> H: 3.97m	☾ 08:18 ☾ 16:31	☾
5 FRI	05:10 L: 1.91m	<b>11:16</b> H: 4.16m	17:53 L: 1.83m		☾ 08:18 ☾ 16:32	☾
6 SAT	<b>00:00</b> H: 3.96m	06:21 L: 1.94m	<b>12:20</b> H: 4.13m	19:05 L: 1.79m	☾ 08:18 ☾ 16:33	☾
7 SUN	<b>01:05</b> H: 4.05m	07:37 L: 1.82m	<b>13:27</b> H: 4.19m	20:14 L: 1.62m	☾ 08:18 ☾ 16:34	☾
8 MON	<b>02:11</b> H: 4.24m	08:43 L: 1.59m	<b>14:33</b> H: 4.35m	21:14 L: 1.38m	☾ 08:17 ☾ 16:35	☾
9 TUE	<b>03:09</b> H: 4.49m	09:42 L: 1.30m	<b>15:32</b> H: 4.53m	22:08 L: 1.13m	☾ 08:17 ☾ 16:37	☾
10 WED	<b>03:59</b> H: 4.75m	10:37 L: 1.02m	<b>16:25</b> H: 4.71m	23:00 L: 0.91m	☾ 08:16 ☾ 16:38	☾
11 THU	<b>04:48</b> H: 4.97m	11:29 L: 0.77m	<b>17:15</b> H: 4.84m	23:51 L: 0.72m	☾ 08:16 ☾ 16:39	☾
12 FRI	<b>05:35</b> H: 5.16m	12:19 L: 0.56m	<b>18:04</b> H: 4.92m		☾ 08:15 ☾ 16:41	☾
13 SAT	00:38 L: 0.57m	<b>06:23</b> H: 5.28m	13:06 L: 0.42m	<b>18:53</b> H: 4.95m	☾ 08:14 ☾ 16:42	☾
14 SUN	01:24 L: 0.50m	<b>07:10</b> H: 5.33m	13:52 L: 0.37m	<b>19:39</b> H: 4.92m	☾ 08:14 ☾ 16:43	☾
15 MON	02:08 L: 0.50m	<b>07:56</b> H: 5.30m	14:36 L: 0.42m	<b>20:24</b> H: 4.82m	☾ 08:13 ☾ 16:45	☾
16 TUE	02:51 L: 0.60m	<b>08:41</b> H: 5.17m	15:19 L: 0.59m	<b>21:08</b> H: 4.67m	☾ 08:12 ☾ 16:46	☾

Please Note: Times are adjust for BST where applicable.

### Falmouth Tide Times January 2024

17 WED	03:34 L: 0.80m	<b>09:28</b> H: 4.95m	16:05 L: 0.84m	<b>21:56</b> H: 4.47m	☾ 08:11 ☾ 16:48	☾
18 THU	04:22 L: 1.06m	<b>10:18</b> H: 4.67m	16:54 L: 1.13m	<b>22:50</b> H: 4.26m	☾ 08:11 ☾ 16:49	☾
19 FRI	05:16 L: 1.33m	<b>11:15</b> H: 4.38m	17:52 L: 1.40m	<b>23:56</b> H: 4.09m	☾ 08:10 ☾ 16:51	☾
20 SAT	06:19 L: 1.56m	<b>12:26</b> H: 4.14m	19:00 L: 1.57m		☾ 08:09 ☾ 16:52	☾
21 SUN	<b>01:16</b> H: 4.05m	07:36 L: 1.64m	<b>13:48</b> H: 4.07m	20:20 L: 1.58m	☾ 08:08 ☾ 16:54	☾
22 MON	<b>02:29</b> H: 4.17m	09:00 L: 1.54m	<b>14:57</b> H: 4.15m	21:33 L: 1.43m	☾ 08:07 ☾ 16:56	☾
23 TUE	<b>03:26</b> H: 4.39m	10:07 L: 1.31m	<b>15:52</b> H: 4.30m	22:30 L: 1.23m	☾ 08:06 ☾ 16:57	☾
24 WED	<b>04:13</b> H: 4.61m	11:00 L: 1.09m	<b>16:37</b> H: 4.46m	23:19 L: 1.05m	☾ 08:04 ☾ 16:59	☾
25 THU	<b>04:55</b> H: 4.80m	11:45 L: 0.91m	<b>17:18</b> H: 4.59m		☾ 08:03 ☾ 17:01	☾
26 FRI	00:00 L: 0.92m	<b>05:34</b> H: 4.93m	12:25 L: 0.80m	<b>17:57</b> H: 4.68m	☾ 08:02 ☾ 17:02	☾
27 SAT	00:37 L: 0.86m	<b>06:11</b> H: 5.01m	13:00 L: 0.77m	<b>18:34</b> H: 4.72m	☾ 08:01 ☾ 17:04	☾
28 SUN	01:09 L: 0.86m	<b>06:47</b> H: 5.02m	13:30 L: 0.81m	<b>19:08</b> H: 4.72m	☾ 08:00 ☾ 17:06	☾
29 MON	01:37 L: 0.92m	<b>07:21</b> H: 4.97m	13:56 L: 0.89m	<b>19:41</b> H: 4.66m	☾ 07:58 ☾ 17:07	☾
30 TUE	02:00 L: 1.02m	<b>07:51</b> H: 4.87m	14:18 L: 1.01m	<b>20:10</b> H: 4.56m	☾ 07:57 ☾ 17:09	☾
31 WED	02:24 L: 1.13m	<b>08:19</b> H: 4.74m	14:43 L: 1.14m	<b>20:36</b> H: 4.43m	☾ 07:55 ☾ 17:11	☾

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## January - Looking ahead

January is named after the Roman god Janus. He had two faces, so he could study the past and see into the future.

At the start of a new year, we dispose of old calendars and diaries. No doubt, it is only natural to look back at the former year. Perhaps we recall occasions of happy times that include special moments with dear friends. On the other hand, our old year may have had disappointments, such as loss of employment or deterioration of health.

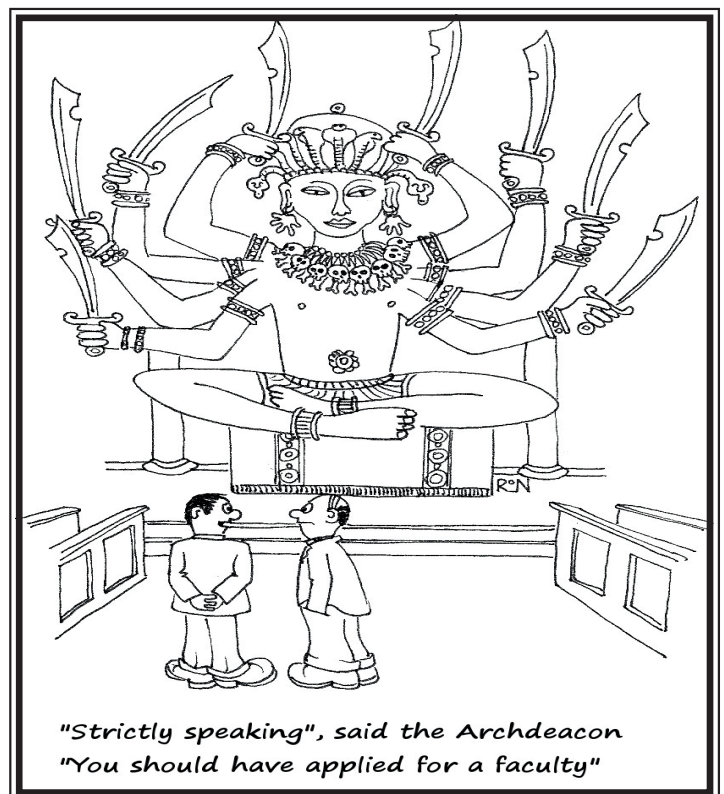
We might also reminisce at the life of our church. We remember our building regularly filled for our services. There were many joyous occasions in which we were encouraged and supported. However, over time, things have changed. We may now have a dwindling congregation, with its regular members elderly and less active.

However, these pondering are not meant to make us depressed! We can look back with thankfulness that God has been with us. Also, we can look to the future, praying that God will give us wisdom, strength and guidance for our journey ahead.

The Bible is full of instances where individuals and indeed the Jewish nation looked back. They had annual Feast Days, through which God showed them His grace and favour. These festivals were important because they had a dual purpose – to look back and face forward. The Passover looked back to the Israelites deliverance from slavery in Egypt. This meal was a reminder that just as God had cared for them in the past, He would be with them in the future.

Similarly, for us, the Communion Service is a reminder of the sacrifice of Jesus who secured our salvation. We look back to His life, death, and resurrection so that we can live with confidence that our sins are forgiven, and one day we will live in God's eternal Home.

January can be a month when remember God's blessings and faithfulness in the past, enabling us to look to the future with confidence. As we start a new year, may it be our prayer that God will enrich us wherever we are, and that we will know He is always with us.





ACROSS: 1, Godlessness. 9, Egotism. 10, After. 11, Eat. 13, Sort. 16, Plan. 17, Escape. 18, Odds. 20, Idem. 21, No fear. 22, Idle. 23, Abet. 25, Ail. 28, Eaves. 29, Achieve. 30, Grasshopper.

DOWN: 2, Odour. 3, Lair. 4, Same. 5, Neat. 6, Settled. 7, Gershonites. 8, Grandmother. 12, Apples. 14, TES. 15, Octopi. 19, Deliver. 20, Ira. 24, Breve. 25, As is. 26, Lash. 27, Whip.