

St Peter's Church
Port Isaac



Our simple seaside Church is open to everyone, every day until about 4pm. We have a service every Sunday morning at 9.30am to which you will be warmly welcomed. You will also find our Church is a lovely quiet place, at any time, to just sit and reflect and be peaceful.

The Church is also home to PISCES (Port Isaac Shared Community Exhibition Space) and you can enjoy the silence and take a look at the current PISCES exhibition - a regularly changing look at life in Port Isaac in days gone by, up to the present day.

Editorial

It was during the saxon period that the idea of the village church took shape. They began erecting churches on their manors, with priests specifically associated with particular feudal communities. The church turned out to be more lasting than feudalism, villages changed and grew around them, but for a very long time they were the focal point of village life, often the largest, most splendid structure in the village, visible to the traveller before any other sign of human presence, where baptism, marriage, and burial repeated the tale of generations and provided the first population records. The church was the village hall, a place of entertainment as well as worship. The nave, uncluttered by pews, was a place for parish meetings, church-meals, and general revelry on saints' days and holidays. The sight of clustered dwellings grouped around the arch symbolises to many the sense of comfort and continuity of home. Whatever our religious denomination, it is to home and family that our thoughts turn at Christmas. Not just immediate family but to friends and neighbours, and to the strife ridden brotherhood of man to which we all belong. Despite our long history of miserable failure, if enough of us go on believing in peace on earth and good will to all men, we may yet achieve it.

November 1982

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, 1884 - 1984

When Canon Carter was installed as Prebendary at St. Endellion in 1881, the Bishop preached on the 149th Psalm, verse 4: 'One generation shall praise Thy works unto another.' He related the history of the collegiate church and made a public appeal for help towards building a house of God at Port Isaac - for which plans had already been drawn. Canon Carter wrote in his diary shortly afterwards that 'this task of bringing the Church of England teaching and worship to a hitherto neglected parish, met with plenty of delays and difficulties'. A year later the foundation stone was laid, and on August 5th, 1884, Bishop Wilkinson dedicated the new Church of St. Peter's. Canon Carter remembered the occasion as 'a red-letter day in the story of Port Isaac'. The church was built at the cost of £1,000 to accommodate about 300 worshippers. The money was collected by donations from the rich and poor alike. Offerings had been made of the necessary furniture and ornaments. All was ready for August 5th. The church was crowded by clergy and lay people from all parts of the diocese as well as by the villagers themselves. The Bishop thanked and encouraged everyone involved in the planning and building of the church. Apparently, however, this joy was short-lived when only 23 years later the building showed signs of weakness - especially in the west wall. It was feared that the whole church would need renewal. As Canon Carter records 'this reflected little credit on those who were responsible for selecting and preparing the site of the church'. It wasn't until 1913 that Port Isaac was constituted as a separate parish when a living was created by the donation of a portion of the benefit of St. Endellion, and Reverend W. T. Martyn was appointed as the first vicar of the parish. Despite all problems both structural and otherwise, St. Peter's church still lives to tell us the tale.

July 1984

MOTHERING SUNDAY AT PORT ISAAC

A combined Mothering Sunday Eucharist for the parishes of St. Kew, St. Endellion and Port Isaac, was held in St. Peter's Church, Port Isaac, at the end of March. Many families attended the service, and uniformed Brownies, Cub and Scouts presented their colours. The Rector celebrated the Eucharist, assisted by Fr. Evelyn Dunford (Port Isaac) and Admiral Weir (St. Kew). Lessons were read by a pupil from St. Ippoly School and by Mrs. Bishop from St. Kew. Organist was Mrs. Janet Townend, and the Sunday School Children trained by Miss Sharon Cann, sang special hymns. Flautists Rowena Barrett, and Rebecca Jodi Gabriel, guitarist Mrs. Caroline Barrett, accompanied the singing by the children. Posies of flowers and Mothering Sunday cards were presented to each child. Coffee and Sinner cake were served afterwards in the Church by ladies from the congregation of St. Peter's Church.

April 198

TRELIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

With regret the Port Isaac Methodist Society no longer meets. Trelights Methodist would like to extend a warm invitation to the people of Port Isaac and district to join them for worship. The Sunday service held at Trelights Chapel are at 11.00am and 6.00pm. If travelling is a problem please ring Mrs. Bunt on 880601 and she will be pleased to arrange transport. If you would like more information or have a chat about services ring our new Steward, Mr Eileen Roberts on 880527. We look forward to seeing you.

August 1994



October 2016

Building started on St Peter's, Port Isaac in 1882 and the church was dedicated in 1884 by Bishop Wilkinson. The cost was £14,000. The full story is on the PISCES website in the Church and Chapel Exhibition. Here are just a few extracts from *Trio* over the years.

THE CHURCH IN PORT ISAAC

The two small congregations of Anglicans and Methodists in Port Isaac have been separately and jointly exploring their resources and potential in terms of people and buildings. Regarding buildings, the Methodist Chapel is on the market with a view to meeting elsewhere in the village, but planning restrictions have made a sale difficult. The Anglicans are beginning to find the upkeep of two buildings beyond their financial resources. Aware of these factors, the two congregations met in late September to explore together what God is saying to us as a Christian Community in this village. There was a very positive feeling at this meeting and there is a desire to work more closely together to see how we, as churches, can best serve our community. As a result of this meeting and as a first step in the new year, we shall be meeting regularly for prayer and fellowship. We would welcome any from the wider community to join us - as indeed we would welcome any comments or questions about the Church and its work in our village.

Michael Bartlett (880442) and David Easton (770274).

METHODIST CHURCH

As readers will have gleaned already from one source or another, we have put the church premises on the market and were fortunate to have found a purchaser quickly. However, his plans to convert the premises into three houses were turned down on account of an objection by English Heritage to the removal of the balcony. There is still hope that this refusal may be reversed, meantime, the chapel remains open and Sunday services of worship at 6.00pm. continue (despite village rumours to the contrary).

December 1992

THANK YOU

We would like to thank all those kind people in the village and elsewhere who contributed to the Gift Tree in aid of the Fund for the Parish Church of St. Peter: over £300 was raised and although we are still well short of our target, this is much appreciated, and we are to go ahead with the urgent repairs to your Parish Church. Thank you very much.

The Congregation of St. Peter's Port Isaac.

March 1986

MARRIAGE REGULATIONS

After consultation with the Registrar recently I feel it right to make it clear that residence in the Civil Parish of St. Endellion (which includes Port Isaac) does not confer the right to be married in the Parish Church of St. Endellion. Those who reside in the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Endellion or who are on the Church Electoral Roll are entitled to this privilege. Those who do not fulfil these requirements have to obtain a Special Licence from the Archbishop, and in future residence in Port Isaac as part of the Civil Parish of St. Endellion cannot be regarded as sufficient grounds for recommending the granting of such a licence.

Hugh Fryer, Rector.

August 1985

Will we still have a church this time next year?

Will the church survive in Port Isaac in the twenty-first century? St Peter's serves the community well - do you want it to continue to do so? The community needs the church; the church needs the community.

Over the years the church has managed to make ends meet through the generosity of the small congregation, support from well wishers, fund raising and by eating into reserves. The church now has very little in reserve, fewer supporters and the congregation can give no more.

Expenditure	1999	2000
Running costs (insurance, heating etc)	£6000	£7000
Diocesan Quota (paid by all churches towards clergy stipend)	£5139	£6057
	£11139	£13057

The national average weekly giving is £4.52 per person. However, Cornwall's average is £3.42 per person.

To maintain your church and priest in Port Isaac we need fifty people to give £4 a week. Will you be one of the fifty?

If you can help to keep your church in Port Isaac then please contact the treasurer, Mr Clifford Gaunt, 5 Clease Road, Camelford PL32 9QX, telephone 01840 212411.

Father Michael
December 1999

Christmas Tree Festival - what a success!

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped make this Christmas Tree Festival in St Peter's Church such a great success. There are too many individuals to name but a special thanks must go to Anne Phip (the billy doll), Janet, Des, Marion, all the refreshment ladies and a special thank you to Mark for the electrical work - we couldn't have done it without you all.

The Church looked magnificent with 24 beautifully decorated trees and the concerts held over the weekend were just brilliant. I think everyone who visited the Festival would agree that the atmosphere was very special.

A sum of just over £250 was made for St Peter's, which really was the icing on the cake.

Martyn and Liz



The congregation of St Peter's Church would like to thank everyone who was involved with the fantastic Christmas Tree Festival, which was such a success during Advent and Christmas. Particular thanks to Liz Brown and Marion Andrews whose idea it was.

It was lovely to see the trees so beautifully decorated by the many organisations in Port Isaac. The attendance was marvellous and it was wonderful to see the Church become a focal point for the community.

4

February 2010

A MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP OF TRURO

I, as a new boy in the Diocese, have little right or knowledge to write about Hugh and Doreen Fryer. But I sampled St. Endellion on Palm Sunday and came away fed in mind, body, and spirit. I know that sort of ministry, ministry where the bell and telephone go non-stop; when endless numbers of various tasks get done along the way; where all are born in prayerful and cheerful pastoral hearts: I know that sort of ministry, and I know it goes on in abundance in St. Endellion, Port Isaac, and St. Kew. And all done quite naturally without false smiles or attitudes. I know too, that has been the nature of their ministry wherever they have been, and we in the Diocese are enormously grateful. More, much more, could be said, but I won't embarrass them by going on. I wish them great happiness in their retirement and hope they will have a chance to breathe, do the things they've always wanted to do. Our blessings and thanks go with them.

Michael Truro.
April 1990

OUR NEW PRIEST
The Rev. Hugh Fryer, ex North Hill, will be the Rector and Prebendary of St. Endellion. He will be licensed as Priest-in-Charge of Port Isaac and St. Kew on Thurs. 2nd. February.

December 1983



Elizabeth, Michael and the girls

May 2015

Hello, my name is Elizabeth Wild and I am delighted to be coming to North Cornwall as Priest-in-Charge of the Cluster with leadership for Spirituality and the Arts! I am married to Michael and we have three daughters living at home: Avila (14), Maggie (13), and Hildegard (11). My eldest daughter, Lucy, is married to Dan and lives in Chester, Oh, and we also have five cats!

As a Priest, I am passionate about connecting people with God, and seeing faith make a difference in the whole of our lives and the wider community. I really enjoy the interplay between spirituality and creativity of all kinds and am excited about working with such a big team of people in all of the churches as well as Endellion and the St Endellion Festival Trust. I very much look forward to meeting everyone properly and will be holding you all in my prayers as we prepare to move in July.

Wishing you joy and peace.

Welcome to Dr John

A new era begins in the life of our local Anglican churches with the appointment of a new Priest-in-Charge of four local parishes. The Rev. Dr John Alexander Cyril May, Vicar of Western-under-Edge with Greenworth and North Hill, Gloucester for the past 15 years, has accepted the Bishop of Truro's offer to become Priest-in-Charge of the merged cluster of parishes that are located in St Endellion, St Kew and St Mener with St Endellion and St Michael's, Rock. He will be licensed on Monday July 19th at 7.00pm in St Endellion Church.

Dr May is married to Julian - known as Julia - who teaches French and Spanish, and they have three children, Phoebe, 22, Edmund, 20 and Martin, 17. Their youngest daughter takes her last 'N' level at the end of June, so they will move to Cornwall in July, at first living in St Mener vicarage.

Dr May, who is 54, obtained a Bachelor of Divinity degree at Kings College, London in 1977 and a PhD in 1988. After university he taught for a year in France and then worked for Winton, who publish the cricket's 'Cricketer' for three years, before training for the ministry at Lincoln Theological College. After curacies at Tynemouth, Newcastle, he became team vicar of the Glendale group for five years and then Vicar of Western-under-Edge.



Read Dr John May
On his day off he says he enjoys woodwork, painting, sailing, and most of all, his family.

September 2010



Bishop Tim comes to Port Isaac

When midsummer passed in a sea of mist and rain, and then the Bishop came; the sun shone, the sea sparkled and we celebrated St Peter's feast and the wonderful PISCES exhibitions with songs, music and no shortage of laughter. We might not have a church fête at Port Isaac but that certainly doesn't stop us celebrating a Bishop's visit in some style.

Now the curmudgeon might ask what all these exhibitions, singing and such-like have to do the Christian faith. It is true that neither Jesus nor St Paul commanded anyone to go forth and help run mini-markets, host exhibitions or serve cream teas. Yet such events help keep St Peter's Church at the heart of the village - a place where visitors and residents can come together. Our church of St Peter has been a witness to the faith for over a century now; a place where we not only gather to worship on a Sunday, but where we commemorate those moments that mark our lives, whether it be by celebrating a birth or the commitment of marriage, or by mourning a death and remembering a life. Our church is in a way a house of memories, reminding us of what brings meaning and significance to our lives and to our communities, and a place which brings us into relation with generations past.

Events like the Bishop's visit also help us all to maintain the relationships that form what we might call the spiritual heart of our community. For at the heart of faith lies the simple commandment ('aspiration' might be a better word) to love God and to love our neighbour. Faith is therefore not just about me and my God; not even just about the church and its God; but about you and me, and even them up the road. If faith is to mean anything, it must lead us to recognise God's presence not only in our own life, but in one another's lives - however challenging that can sometimes seem.

I hope that even if you can't be a part of our Sunday morning congregations, you will still find a way to 'be in relation' with your Church, whether through the PISCES exhibitions or by way of such occasions as a Bishop's visit. Whether it's using it as a place of quiet or a place of music, a place to mourn or a place to marry, a place to be alone in or to join with others. Faith is more than simply obeying commandments it's about forever creating anew the bonds of fellowship, love and trust upon which our humanity and our souls are founded.

Revd Jonathan Mosedale

Janet Chadband worries that there might not be enough food!

July 2011

The Port Isaac bits
The 6 Churches
Art and Literature Festival 2009



November 2009

St Peter's Church Flower Festival

September 11th, 12th & 13th

everyone is invited, to put a display, however big or small, into the Festival
let Dee know on 01208 880862 or 880905

PLUS there will be a Memory area where you can place a display in memory of loved ones

August 2015



The new altar frontal given to St Peter's Church, Port Isaac by Margaret Cann, in memory of her daughter Sharon. The Celtic Cross in the centre was designed by Father Michael. The altar frontal was dedicated by the Ven Clive Cohen, Archdeacon of Bodmin at Midnight Mass in the Church on Christmas Eve.

February 2007

Welcome to Revd Elizabeth Wild
The Port Isaac Christmas CD launch

the CDs will be for sale, £10 each, with all the proceeds going to Port Isaac School

Sunday September 13th 4pm
St Peter's Church
3-day Flower Festival ending with St Peter's Church Harvest Festival
any contributions of fruit, vegetables and flowers will be gratefully received
all the produce and flowers will be sold at the end to raise money for charity

Blessings

One sunny day three enthusiastic male nurses from India collared me outside one of my churches. They had arrived in a rusty old car that one of them had just bought, and they wanted me to bless it. Clearly they wanted me to do it properly - is some suitable words of blessing, PLUS some Holy Water. I pointed out that the Holy Water had salt in it and that I was concerned about aggravating the rust. They smiled, said they and it definitely needed a blessing, and we went ahead. It was a great moment - it meant a lot to all of us. I think it's a good thing to bless a car and all who travel in her, not least because my mother lost her first husband in a car accident, and I have buried a number of motorcyclists and drivers over the years.

Not long ago I was on the beach at Rock and someone quietly asked me to bless their Shrimper. Again I was delighted to do so. Again it meant a lot.

From time to time the clergy are also invited to do 'House Blessings' when someone moves into a new home, or perhaps after a refurbishment, or even after an incident that has left a nasty feeling. We bless those who will work in the heat of the kitchen, those who will share hospitality, a child's bedroom, a study - I have even blessed a wine cellar!

I just wanted to tell you that blessings don't only happen in church. And if you would ever like to invite the clergy to pray God's Blessing in this sort of way, please get in touch!

best wishes from John
February 2007

Calming the seas and hoisting the sails to go into heaven

Hasn't the Church got anything more interesting to talk about than the appointment of a gay bishop? Of course it has! But because the media have got hold of it, it has been blown up out of all proportion (look at the issues that have come and gone over the years). It is my view that providing the person concerned is able to minister faithfully to those in his care and does not engage in gay sex, I can go along with the appointment. Many gay priests, having a very gentle and understanding nature, have a wonderful ability to show love and compassion to those in their care.

We in Port Isaac have far more important things to think about. Raising money to keep the Church building open for everybody.....

July 2003