

Having turned left, keep on this lane following the signs for St.Tudy and ignoring any side turnings. Drive in to the village and park, close behind each other, in the road opposite the school or, if not enough room there, follow the road round to the other side of the church where you may find room.

Having left St.Mabyn village and gone past the turning to Tredinnick, you pass the imposing entrance to Treblethick on the right. This was the home of the Hamley family till the mid C17 when it was sold to Sir Christopher Treise of Blisland, from whom it descended to Sir John Morshead. It was sold in circa 1807 and by 1867 it was the property of R.H.Andrew esq. Another property that passed from Sir Christopher Treise to Sir John Morshead was that of Tenant in Duloe Parish. In 1803 Tenant was sold by Sir John Morshead to John Buller, a member of the Buller family of Morval.

You rejoin the B3266 road at Longstone, so called because of a prehistoric standing stone which once stood on the waste ground opposite. It is said that in the C19 the owner of this piece of land had the stone cut into gateposts for his farm at Treblethick. I don't know if the present small standing stone here is part of that earlier one, returned to its rightful place, or not. There is also a medieval wheel headed wayside cross close by. The head, with a small part of the shaft of this cross were found cemented into a farmyard wall at Penwine, a short distance along the Blisland road. In 1947 it was agreed to move the cross to Longstone, but this wasn't achieved till 1969. The head was mounted on a newly cut shaft and base stone although there is an ancient base stone close by that must once have held a cross. The Penwine Cross, as it is known, has a fleur-de-lys symbol carved on one face and an equal limbed Greek style cross on the other. In 1875 a chapel was built at Longstone that could seat 150 people. It is to the right of the lane opposite whilst on the left is the Sunday-School room. Both are now converted.

As you drive along the B3266 you pass a farm called Hendra on the left. There are over 30 farms of this name throughout Cornwall but especially around the edge of Bodmin Moor. The name originally referred to an ancient farmstead but its meaning changed, at an early date, to refer to a '*winter farmstead*'. The early farmers here would have moved with their animals up to the moors for the summer grazing and returned to their 'Hendra' for the winter. It is thought these transhumance left a few members of their family in the winter homestead to see to the hay and corn harvest whilst the rest were away with their livestock on the moor.

Having turned off the B3266 the lane drops down through a tunnel of trees and as you crest the next hill you will see the tower of St.Tudy church nestling in the trees in front of you. As you drive up into the village you pass a small lane on the left that leads down to Wetherham. A note on the inside cover of an early St.Tudy baptismal register states that Alice Reskymer gave the house and glebe of Wetherham to the living of St Tudy. The Church Guide Book written in the 1970's disclaims this as the dates don't tally, and informs us the rectors only moved from the old house in the village to Wetherham in the early C19. The present Church Guide Book, published in 1994, confirms that Alice never owned Wetherham but that it, together with the Advowson were conveyed by the Killgrens to John Billing in 1351. A terrier of 1604 mentions both '*the Parsonage house called Wetherham and a house called the Vicarage House, joining with the churchyard*'. A look at the 1680 Glebe Terrier shows that the then rector Edward Trelawny was certainly in possession of Wetherham at that time. Edward describes the house as being built of stone with a slate roof. It contained a hall (the main living room of the house), a parlour which was floored with wood, a kitchen, 2 cellars, a dairy, 5 chambers (bedrooms), and a study. Outside was a stone built brewhouse, the roof half slate half thatch. A thatched stone built stable, a cob and thatch malt house and a '*pigeon court*'. What is being described is a very

pleasant, possibly early C17 gentleman's residence, most of which is still standing today, including the beautiful *'pigeon court'*. However, I'm sure there must have been a much earlier house on this site before the C17 one. The 1840 Tithe map shows Wetherham as having a lawned garden in front of the house and, to the side, a six-sided walled garden set within an orchard and pleasure ground. Although it is now believed Alice didn't give Wetherham to the church she, the grandmother of Jonathan Trelawny, the first Trelawny of Trelawne, and Rev. Edward, the grandson of that Jonathan's brother, both had strong connections with the parish of St. Tudy. And they are not the only ones.

The rector to serve St. Tudy before Edward Trelawny was Henry (John) Greensworth, and his wife Mary was a daughter of the 1st Baronet John Trelawny. Likewise, the rector to follow Edward Trelawny was George Allanson, the husband of Bishop Trelawny's daughter Elizabeth. Add to this the fact that during part of Edward's time at St. Tudy his Bishop was also his cousin, Sir Jonathan Trelawny 3rd Bart. At least I think they must have been cousins. You will be relieved to know I haven't tried to work out what relationship these three Trelawnys were to each other.

Having passed the lane to Wetherham, you pass a new estate called Glebe Close, which is built on what was part of the Glebe lands. In 1867 there were two Glebes, *'one near the Church of 2 acres on which the old Rectory stands and the estate of Wetherham which measures 36 acres on which there is a hansom residence, surrounded with tasteful and neatly kept grounds'*. When Edward described Wetherham to his Bishop in 1680, he also stated there were two houses in the Churchtown that went with this living. One was built of stone with a slate roof, the other of cob and thatch. We will see what in 1867 was called the old Rectory on the other side of the churchyard.

Next to Glebe Close is yet another *Old Rectory*, but it is not the one Edward described in 1680, nor the one mentioned in 1867. Judging by the 1840 map this present *Old Rectory* was built on a green-field site which was land belonging to the Glebe. This very elegant building of dressed stone was designed by Edmund Sedding in 1909 and the building was finished in 1912. It is now a private house. In 1923 this living was worth £461 net and had a house and 16 acres of Glebe with it. The 1840 Tithe map shows two dwellings on the roadside just past the present entrance to the *Old Rectory*. The first was called the *New Inn* and beside it was a building, probably a stable. Next to it was a house and yard, together with 12 acres, that were occupied by John Billing. In his yard was a substantial farm building. I believe the present house on the roadside opposite the school is John Billing's house and that the cottage next to the (present) Old Rectory was the *New Inn*. I have no idea when it stopped trading as an inn. The other inn in St. Tudy was, and still is, the Cornish Arms. Situated behind the cottages on the far side of the churchyard it was occupied by John Williams in 1840. In 1889, William Lobb was advertising himself as the publican there.

On the east side of the churchyard is a cottage that was known as the Old Rectory in the days when the 1909 rectory was still the New rectory. This cottage, once part of the Glebe, is now called Garlands and dates from the mid C18, again probably on the site of one of the two cottages described by Edward Trelawny in 1680. With so many *'well connected'* Rectors attached to this parish it would have been necessary to provide accommodation for the poor curate that did all the day to day work of the parish. In 1840 it was described as a farmhouse and yard, with two gardens behind and to the side of it. There were also two outlying fields. They were all part of the Glebe at that time.



St.Tudy Village 1840.

But back to this south west side of the village. The first house on the right of the lane as you enter the village dates from the late C18 and is called Butts Park. It gets its name from the field in which it was built. In the Middle Ages, on Sunday afternoon, the men and youths of the parish would gather here to practice their archery. However, by 1600 the 'long-bow' had gone out of favour, which fact was greatly bemoaned by Richard Carew in his Survey. Note the slate slabs forming the garden wall on this house and several others in the village. Next to Butts Park (opposite the present 'Old Rectory') can be seen a, now converted, Chapel. In 1846 this was built as a Wesleyan Methodist Chapel. John Wesley preached in St.Tudy in 1746, yet the first chapel to be licensed in this parish was not till 1814. The present Methodist Chapel and school room is at the far end of the village. It was built in 1869 by the United Methodists at a cost of £700, and could seat 200 worshippers.

Adjoining the churchyard is St.Tudy School. In 1840 this site was a cottage and garden. The school was built as a National School for 80 pupils in 1863. It was extended in 1889, and again in 1904. In 1923 it was said to accommodate 140 children. *The 'National Society for the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church'* was formed in 1811. By 1851 the Society controlled over 17,000 schools. The Education Act of 1870, which provided free education for the poorer children, led to the Society's gradual decline.

In 1840 St.Tudy parish contained 2,881 acres of which 30 acres were tithable orchard and 30 acres were wood and plantation. In 1923, like St.Mabyn, this parish was still mainly owned by a very few. Quite a large proportion was owned by the Duchy of Cornwall and this is still the case today. The population of St.Tudy in 1831 was 658 whilst in 1991 it was 570. Many of the

cottages date from the C18 and C19 and a stroll round the village another day is highly recommended.

12-00 noon. St Tudy Church.



Saint Tudy was a C6 Breton monk who became Abbot of a monastery. Many churches dedicated to him can be found in Brittany. He may possibly have lived in Cornwall before he went to Brittany. He is said to be the Saint you appeal to for help if you suffer from rheumatism. The first church here was probably founded by one of his monks, sent out to spread the Word of God. St.Tudy Church stands within its circular early Christian enclosure. There has probably been a church on this site since the C6. The present church mostly dates from the C15, when the two transepts were extended to form north and south aisles. The west tower was also added at that period whilst the south porch was added later in the C15. The church was restored by J.P.St.Aubyn between 1873-4. The tower was repaired in 1888, whilst in 1892 further repairs took place, and in 1932 the sanctuary was altered.

We enter the churchyard by the south west gateway, the C19 iron gate of which has certainly seen better days but adds to the charm of the place and I hope will be preserved. The tower, which measures 76 feet to the top of the pinnacles, is typical of so many in Cornwall with its three stages. The slender proportions of this tower are enhanced by it having no buttresses to help support it. The heavily moulded, deep granite arch of the west doorway is made to look squat by the hood-mould above it. The door is C19. Look up at the C15 west window and the 3-light belfry openings with slate louvers. In the tower there now hang six bells but before 1750 there were only four. As you walk round the side of the tower you will see the small slit windows that give light to the tower stair.

Having come round to the north side of the church you will see how much shorter the north aisle is than the one on the south side of the church. Before reaching the north aisle you pass the north door, again with a heavy drip mould which makes it look as if it is wearing a ladies bonnet. This door was blocked in 1873. On the side of the north aisle can be seen the rood stair projection. Before continuing round the church, take the path across to the whitewashed building on the edge of the churchyard and go down the steps to look at its front. Now known as *'The Clink'* this building almost certainly has medieval origins and would have been used as the Church House. Here, on its first floor, parochial meetings would be held as well as social gatherings, whilst on the ground floor the ale for these events would be brewed. The present building is thought to date from the C17. At one time this building was used as the lock-up, it was then used as a school till the new one was built in 1863. It is owned by the Rector and Churchwardens and, now-a-days is regularly used for coffee mornings. In 1986 it was fully restored and the quality of the work earned it a Commendation from the Cornish Buildings Group.

Before walking round to climb the steps up to the east entrance of the churchyard have a look at the old blacksmith's shop opposite. This whole area was restored by the village as a Millennium project and has been extremely well done. Both the smithy and the pump are listed Grade 11 and thought to date from the mid C19 although there would have been a smithy somewhere in the village from earliest times. Look closely at the trough below the pump as it has an unusual

outlet. The pump is not in its original position in the village and no longer works. The small chestnut tree on the green beside the War Memorial is a replacement for one planted in memory of those who died in the First World War. The original tree was grown from seed brought back from the battle field at Ypres. That tree had to be cut down as it was dying, but fortunately the present tree was grown from one of its seeds. Walk past this small tree and the very fine Turkey Oak next to it and have a look at what was one of the old Rectory Houses. It is to the left of the entrance steps back into the churchyard, and is now called Garlands after a former schoolmaster who lived in it for many years.

Climb the east steps, by the side of Garlands, back into the churchyard and look at the tombchest on the right beneath the east window of the south aisle. Beneath this spot rest the bodies of Elizabeth Trelawny, one of Bishop Trelawny's daughters and her husband the Rev Allanson. Elizabeth paid to have this memorial built after her husband's death in 1741. She joined him in his resting place three years later. Elizabeth is not the only Trelawny to be buried in this churchyard. A John Trelawny, who was in Holy Orders, was buried here in 1615. His half brother, also called John, was the husband of Ann Reskymer whom we will meet when we go in to the church. In 1701 the wife of Major General Charles Trelawny was also buried here. The funeral service may well have been conducted by Charles's (Coldrinnick) cousin Rev. Edward Trelawny, whom we have already met. Charles's second wife was the daughter of Richard Lower MD. Charles Trelawny was the brother of Bishop Trelawny and spent his last years at Hengar in this parish. He died there in 1731 but was buried at Pelynt.

Having looked at Elizabeth Trelawny's resting place look up at the rain-water hopper below the valley between the south aisle and the chancel. It is dated 1829. As you walk past the east corner of the south aisle you will see the massive granite blocks used in its construction. Apart from some in the south porch, they are the largest stones used anywhere in this building, and I wonder why they are just on this corner. Next to them, on the south wall is the Priest's door.

As you stand in front of the C15 south porch you will see what I believe are defaced images on either side of the entry arch. Could these be the faces of the people who paid for the building of this porch? When you step inside the porch you are standing on massive granite pavers and above your head is the original roof, though without its plaster panels. Porches are always a good place to study the quality of carving in churches as the roof is so much closer to you than the church roof itself. This roof has shields carved at intervals along the wall plate which may originally have been painted. Churches today are very much duller places, colour-wise, than they were before the Reformation.



On entering this church the first thing to greet you is the small stone carving looking down on you from between the arches of the arcade. This carved head is believed to be pre-Norman. It was found in rubble beneath the altar during repaving of the chancel in 1932. Unlike St Mabyn this church still has some very fine monuments around its walls, whilst slate tombstones have been used to pave the floor. However it has lost the plaster panels between the ribs on its ceiling which rather spoils the look of what is a very fine C15 wagon roof.

As you walk down the south aisle you see two hatchments hanging from the ceiling. They commemorate Mrs Louisa Sarel

and her two husbands Michell and Hervey. Matthew Michell lived at Hengar and died there in 1817. In the past, when someone of local importance died their coat of arms was hurriedly painted on a board which was hung on the front of their house to inform people of the death. After a suitable period of time the hatchment was often re-hung in the church, as in this case. Note the helmet hanging in front of the hatchment on the left, it is said to have belonged to Mitchell, possibly to one of his ancestors. Monuments often get moved around within churches but one that I suspect took some courage to move, can now be seen under the window, between these hatchments. The guide book informs us this slate slab, to the memory of Margery Lobb (1661) and her husband William (1663) threatens *death by arrows to anyone who removes the memorial from the tomb*. The memorial survives but what became of the tomb? I also wonder what happened to the person who moved it!

There are so many slate memorials on the floor of this church you could spend all day on your knees and not get round them all. I hope at least some were transcribed before they became too worn away. Near the east end of the south aisle you come to some really fine carved slate monuments hanging on the wall. In front of them lies a pre-Norman 'Coped Gravestone' which used to be in the south porch. Although this coffin lid may be over 900 years old you can still faintly see the interlacing and foliage scrolls that once decorated its top. Above it hangs a slate memorial with no writing on it. When first carved, people would have readily recognised who was depicted here by the coat of arms above each person's head. Kneeling in front of her prayer desk is Alice, the daughter of John Denzell and widow of William Reskymer of Polrode. He was a Gentleman of the Chamber at the Court of Henry V111 and died in 1563/4. Behind her kneel three of her four daughters, Francisca is not shown as she died unmarried before her mother. At the back of the line is Johanna, her coat of arms tells us she married Thomas Lower. Next to her is Katherine who married Peter Courtney, whilst kneeling directly behind her mother is Anne who married John Trelawny of Poole in 1562. Ann and John Trelawny had two sons and a daughter. John died in 1568 shortly before his wife gave birth to their second son. Their first son died when only a child so the younger son, Jonathan, inherited his father's estate. This Jonathan was the man who, in 1600, purchased the Manor of Trelawne and moved the main branch of his family to the parish of Pelynt, where they remained for over 300 years. After her husband's death Anne married Sir William Mohun of Hall in Bodinnick, hence the two coat of arms above her head. Before leaving this tomb do look closely at the clothing the ladies are wearing and the beads they have draped round their necks. In 1975 this monument was in the north aisle.

Beneath the east end of the south aisle is the Hengar vault and covering it are badly worn slate memorials to the Billing family. Fortunately in 1879 Maclean recorded them

The font is very like the one we saw at St.Mabyn except that it has chamfered edges. It has the same design round its sides but is set on a different base. The font used to stand in the more usual position to the west of the south door, but it was moved in 1993 so the congregation could witness Christenings without having to turn round.

Behind the font is a spectacular marble monument to the memory of Anthony Nicholl of Penrose, 1611-1659. It was moved from the choir arcade bay in 1873. Originally it was brightly painted, the traces of which can still be seen. Anthony and Amy are seen kneeling on opposite sides of their prayer desk. Beneath them, on the front of the tomb kneel their five sons, Anthony, John, Peter, Anthony (2), and Humphrey. Anthony Nicholl was a staunch Presbyterian but refused to vote for the death of King Charles 1. He was later appointed Master of the Armouries in the Tower of London, in which office he died in 1659. He was buried in London. The

Nicholl family were, for many years, Lords of the Manor of St.Tudy. next to this monument, in the south east corner of this aisle, is a slab that was once brightly painted but is now faded. It displays a coat of arms with a helmet above. Out of the top of the helmet is thrust an arm clasping a bow. As there is a similar 'device' at the very top of the Nicholl monument I suspect this was once a side panel of that tomb, or if not, certainly connected with the Nicholl family. In the 1990's this slate was above the priest's door.

The Parish Chest is dated 1755. Unlike St Mabyn this one only has three keys, the key-holders being the rector and the two churchwardens. The oak pulpit dates from the C19. On it you will see a wooden statue of the Risen Christ that was carved by Fritz Loeng in 1966. The piece of elm wood came from Hengar Manor and the carving was given to the church in memory of a headmaster of the school.

The roof over the chancel dates from 1873 and replaced the old wagon roof which had decayed. The eight shields represent implements of the Passion. They were cut from some ancient bench-ends. The elegant candlesticks and crucifix were a gift to the church in 1948. Behind the altar can be seen an exquisitely worked C18 silk panel which was originally an Italian altar frontal. The triptych to the left of the altar came from the chapel of HMS King Alfred. The chaplain there became rector of St.Tudy in 1946. The painting on the right was given in 1930 on behalf of Belgian Refugees housed in the parish during the 1st World War. The organ was built by Brewer and Co. of Truro in 1892. It cost £250 and replaced a small harmonium. It was renovated in 1980 at a cost of £3,500.

As with all parish churches St.Tudy has witnessed many marriages over the centuries. In 1754 an Act was passed designed to end the mounting scandal of clandestine marriages. It became law (in England and Wales only) that weddings could not be solemnised till the Banns had been published. The Act also stated that no marriage might be performed except by a clergyman of the Church of England, although Jews and Quakers were exempt. Minors were also required to obtain the consent of their parents or guardians. St.Tudy Church possesses an unusual slate tablet with the laws relating to whom you could, or should I say could not marry, carved on it. I don't remember seeing anything like this on previous Drive-about. It is on the north wall of the nave, close to the north aisle. The rector's list is below it.

In 1689 Mary, the eldest daughter of Sir Jonathan Trelawny 2nd Bart. stood in front of this Altar on her marriage day. Her husband to be, Lt.Col Henry Davies, stood beside her. In front of her (I presume) stood her relation Edward Trelawny, Rector of the Parish. Mary had been the playfellow and friend of Princess Mary and Maid of Honour to her when Princess of Orange (1684-86). The couple were only married for six years as, in 1695, Henry Davies died of wounds received at the siege of Namur. Mary must have been staying with her brother Jonathan, at Winchester when she died in September 1707. Jonathan had been appointed Bishop of Winchester in June that year and Mary may well have been helping him and his wife Rebecca to move in to his new Bishop's Palace. Mary was laid to rest in Winchester Cathedral where there is a monument to her memory.

The very short north aisle now houses the vestry, the organ and a Lady Chapel. The Lady Chapel has a beautifully worked patchwork altar frontal. On the west wall of this aisle is a large slate with unusual patterns on it, whilst beneath your feet is the Lower family vault. Also on the west wall of this north aisle is a very large tomb-slab of carved granite which is thought to have been removed from the floor when the organ was installed. It is for Margery, wife of Humphrey Lower of Tremeer 1686. Both Margery (nee Billing) and her husband were Quakers and friends

of George Fox. In 1655 Elizabeth Trelawny, the eldest daughter of the first baronet, attended a meeting in Plymouth at which George Fox presided. He later wrote: '*and she came into the meeting close up to me, and clapt her ear very nigh me, which after I perceive she was somewhat thick of hearing, and she was convinced*'. In 1657 Elizabeth Trelawny married the fellow Quaker Thomas Lower of Tremeer despite being considerably older than him. They lived for a while at his Aunt Loveday Hambly's home at Tregangeeves in St.Mewan parish before moving a few miles down the road to Penans. After Elizabeth's death in circa 1662 Thomas Lower married Mary Fell and in 1669 Mary's mother married George Fox. I don't know when Thomas Lower died or if he was brought back to the family vault here in St.Tudy Church for burial, neither do I know where his first wife Elizabeth Trelawny lies at rest.

Behind the organ, in the north aisle, can be seen the stair that led up to the rood loft. The loft and screen only extended over this north aisle and the chancel, as can be seen by the lack of an access hole in the south arcade. In the vestry is a nice Victorian cupboard which has very fine latches on the doors.

Along the north wall of the nave are some interesting items including the list of Rectors showing the 84 uninterrupted years of Trelawny connections with this church between 1660 and 1744. There are also two splendid memorials to those who served in the two World Wars including pictures. This is something I should like to see, before it is too late, in more churches including Pelynt. The informative Guide Book tells us the collection of 68 photographs of people from the parish who served in the Great War is in fact one single photograph made by W.Cutler of Bournemouth. It is thought to be unique. The senior officer shown is Surgeon Vice Admiral Sir Arthur May of Tremeer. This *Remembrance* corner of the church was created in 1979.

In 1873 new pitch pine pews replaced the ancient oak ones which, despite their antiquity and beautifully carved bench ends, were thought to be too uncomfortable to sit on. They were piled up in the churchyard ready for burning when William Lower of Tregreenwell spotted them. He paid £1 for this *architectural salvage* and took them away for re-use in Michaelstow Church. The 1873 pews still have their brass umbrella holders but the drip trays have gone. In 1923 this church could seat 275.

Like St.Mabyn, the tower arch here is now encased in glass. Before 1830 it was blocked by a gallery. This was then considered *offensive* and was replaced by a low screen. The present glass screen was given in memory of Hilda Baldcock (1889-1970), who was chauffeuse at Tremeer. It was made locally. Before ending your tour of this beautiful church by looking at the slate monuments in the south west corner, do look up at the delicately carved Royal coat of arms above the south door. It is said to be made of plaster and dated 1837 but I don't know if it is a memorial to King William IV who died in June that year or a celebration of the accession of Queen Victoria.

The last monuments to look at in this church are yet more finely carved slate tablets on the west wall of the south aisle. Here you will meet, on the left Humfrey Nicoll of Penvose (1535-1593) and his wife. The slate on the right shows Humphrey Nicholls (1577-1642) and his wife Philippa (nee Rouse). Behind them kneel their four surviving daughters.

Before leaving the church I must strongly recommend you buy a copy of the Church Guide Book, written by a previous rector in 1994. It is jammed full of useful information and, apart from the odd error connected with the intricacies of '*the Trelawny family tree*', is very well researched and written.

