

VICTORIAN CHURCH NANSTALLON

OUR BEAUTIFUL PLACES

St Stephens, was built in the 1870's as a mission or 'daughter' Church to St Petroc's. The relationship of the churches is shown by both saints being depicted, either side of Christ, in the stained-glass window, over the altar.

St Stephen is recognised as the first Christian martyr. Stephen was elected a deacon in the Early Church, chosen by the apostles as a man of "good standing, full of spirit and wisdom and renowned for his teaching". He was sent to help sort out problems that had arisen in the distribution of alms throughout the region and trying to create unity between the branches of early Christianity. Stephen's ideas did not find favour with all, and he was eventually arrested and stoned to death.

St Stephen's festival is on Boxing Day. The village church now celebrates this festival on the first Sunday after Christmas, with members of the local Methodist Chapel.

By 2000, St Stephen's had fallen into disrepair and required complete restoration. The 'Friends of St Stephen's' were instrumental in organising the major repairs, not only fundraising, but also encouraging donations of materials and time and undertaking much of the work themselves, such as carpentry, replacing the panelling, relaying the floor and decorating. This was completed in 2005. Today the group still maintain the building. A recent donation has helped to repair the interior west wall, whilst a past donation provided new gates to the churchyard.

There is the site of a Roman fort in Nanstallon, excavated in 1965, that is now covered over and lies under the fields to the side of Berry Lane. As a Roman out post from Exeter, it was established circa AD 55-60, to protect the trade route from the Camel river to Fowey, along with another fort at Restormel. The straightness of the Ruthern to Nanstallon road and the Old Coach road, would suggest these routes were Roman fosseways.

The Flamank family of Boscarne is recorded as being the squires of the Nanstallon Manor from 14th Century until the early 19th Century. Thomas Flamank led an unsuccessful rebellion against Henry VII's plan to raise taxes from the Cornish to support the costs of battle against the Scottish borders.

The growth of this rural farming and mining community was advanced by the building of the Bodmin to Wadebridge railway line, which opened in 1834, with a station at Boscarne and halt platforms at Dunmere, Nanstallon, Grogley and the Shooting Range. This new transport superseded the project that had begun to develop a canal to join Wadebridge to Bodmin.

Since the railway line's closure in the late 20th Century, the track has formed part of the Camel Trail, which is now a section of The Bodmin Way's walking route, joining the five churches of the Bodmin Team Ministry.

Judy Squibs

