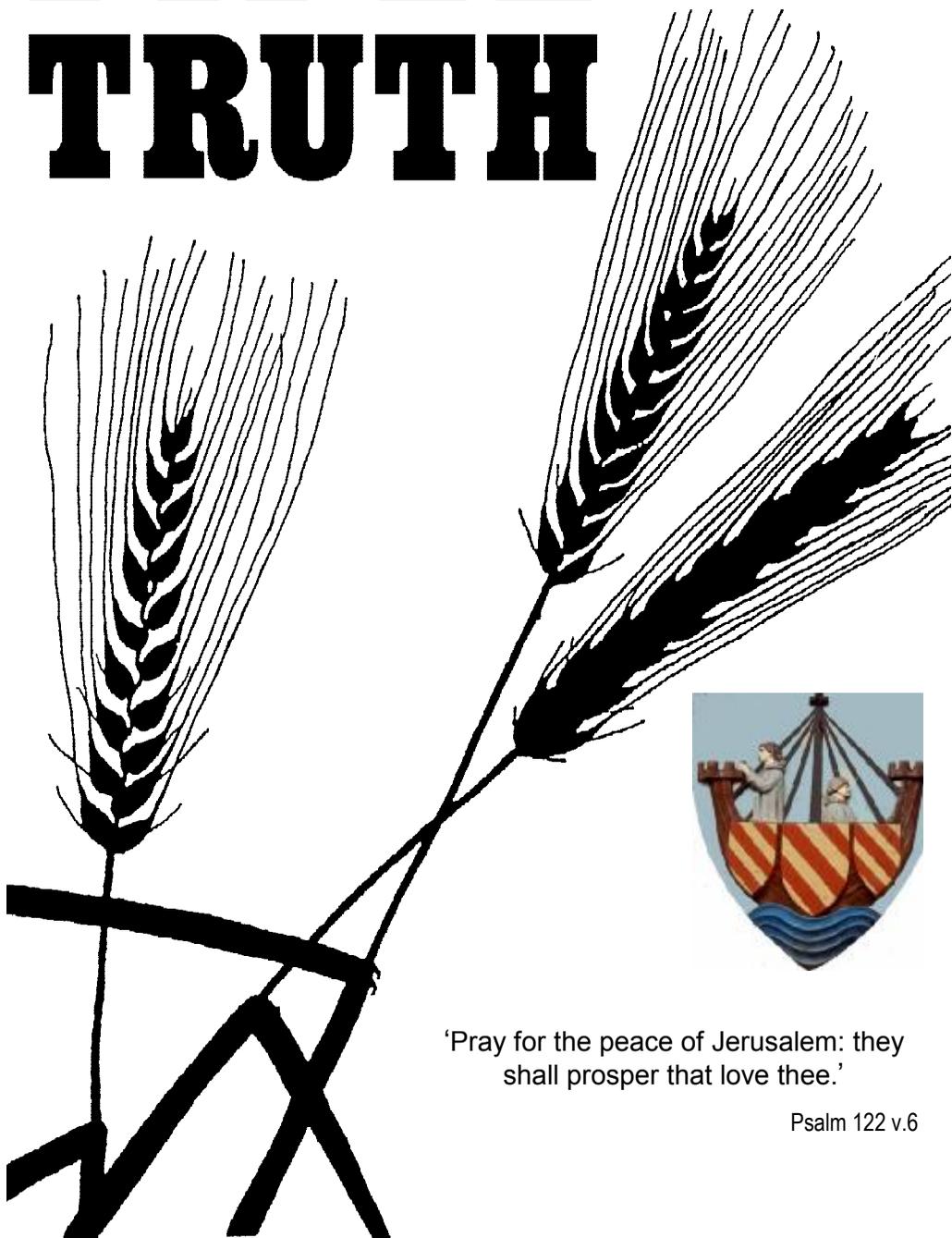


BIBLE TRUTH

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'Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.'

Psalms 122 v.6

Holidaying in Cornwall - Looe & St George's Island

Places to visit by Paul Boyd-Lee



Looe is a small and delightful fishing and holidaying village in south-west England, a little over 20 miles (30 Km) west of Plymouth. It is in two parts lying either side of the East and West Looe rivers which are fed from Bodmin Moor to the north. A mile offshore is St George's Island also known as St Michael of Lammana, normally reached by boat but occasionally during very low tides there can be enough time to wade across from the mainland.

Why is this place important? Because it is one of the locations that Jesus as a child or teenager is said to have come to with his uncle, Joseph of Arimathea*. It forms part of the legends or histories connecting this pair with Glastonbury, St Michael's Mount (some 70 miles further west), the Mendip Hills, and their surroundings. All places where it is thought that Joseph visited whilst he was trading tin and lead between Britain and the Near East.

Indeed traces of old tin workings have been found in the Looe valley and there were larger workings nearby. Looe Island would have provided ideal shelter for ships coming from afar to load their cargo. In the Middle Ages Lammana was still regularly visited and became a site for a Benedictine chapel associated with Glastonbury.

In fact it is said to be the only connection that Glastonbury had with Cornwall at the time, thus adding some strength to it being considered an important place of pilgrimage because of its link with Jesus, just as Glastonbury and its surrounds are.

Certainly the legend of Jesus at Looe has the support of the town because its Coat of Arms depicts Jesus as a youngster in a boat with his uncle, and is similar to the banner in the church at Pilton near Glastonbury.

Another artefact supporting Joseph of Arimathea's visit to the island was the recent discovery of an 'amphora' (earthenware storage vessel). It is thought to have originated from the eastern Mediterranean at the same time as Joseph and so could be attributed to traders coming from there.



Looe Coat of arms over the Town Hall in Fore St. East Looe

Another possible landing place for early shipping is Talland Bay, a couple of miles along the coast to the west, within which is a flat-topped rock in the sea known as 'Aesop's Bed'. Local historians think this name could originate from 'Yesu' or Jesus.

Clearly there is much evidence to support Christianity coming to these western parts of Britain during the early centuries after Christ and this is one such place that is well worth a visit or stay.

[The island can be reached by a boat leaving East Looe near the RNLI slipway and there is information on the times found on a board on Buller's Quay. In 2015 a return fare is £7 plus a £4 landing fee for the island.]

* Joseph of Arimathea took Jesus' body from the Cross for burial

Further reading on this subject

Rev C.C. Dobson, *Did Our Lord Visit Britain?*, Avalon Press

Glyn S. Lewis, *And Did Those Feet?*, Pub. Glyn Lewis 2006

Revd H.A. Lewis, *The Child Christ at Lammana*, *Cornish Times* 1934

Revd H.A. Lewis, *Christ in Cornwall?*, Lake & Co.