

OUR NEWS

APRIL 2021



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DIOCESE RESPONSIBLE FOR 1,700 TONNES CO2 IN 2019

The first results are in from the Energy Footprint survey churches were asked to complete for 2019 and it highlights that the Diocese of Truro was responsible for 1,700 tonnes of CO2 gross output that year.

This figure contributes to the approximately 185,000 tonnes emitted by the Church of England as a whole.

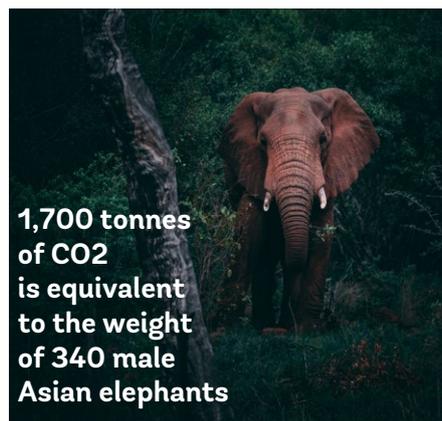
While 1,700 tonnes in 12 months may be shocking to some, Truro is one of the least producing dioceses with 5.43 tonnes per church, ranking sixth in the table of 49 respondents. Indeed its net and gross CO2 emissions were the second lowest overall with only Sodor and Man coming in lower. The diocese was also among the highest number of respondents with 43% of churches, 139 in total, submitting information.

The report highlights how if every church switched to a renewable energy tariff, the overall carbon footprint of church buildings would be cut by 22 per cent.

Bishop Hugh Nelson, who leads on Creation Care in the diocese, said: "The first step in cutting carbon is to understand how much we are currently producing. We are delighted at the response from churches across Cornwall which shows our commitment to getting to Net Zero. Thank you to everyone who completed the footprint tool. I hope it becomes a more and more important expression of our call to care for God's good creation."

The Dean at Truro Cathedral, Roger Bush, who chairs the Diocesan NetZero Committee, said: "It is early days for our planning for Net Zero. This data helps us decide how we can best support parishes, schools and the diocese as a whole get to our target of net zero by 2030. I encourage as many churches as possible to complete the footprint tool this year so we can move ahead boldly."

It is expected that data collection for the Energy Footprint Tool 2020 will begin in Spring 2021 and be open to use until Autumn 2021. You can find out more about the Energy Footprint Tool on the diocesan website [here](#) or for more information on the Diocese of Truro's environment strategy [click here](#).



FIRST CREATION CARE CATHEDRAL CANON

Following on from the launch of the diocesan environment strategy in February, Revd Elly Sheard has been installed as the new non-residentiary Canon for Creation Care at Truro Cathedral.

In a service at the cathedral in March, Revd Elly took the Stall of St Aldhelm. Elly will head a new School of Creation Care at the cathedral alongside the Dean and will work closely with the new Environment Board which has been set up to oversee the new environment strategy across the Diocese of Truro.

Speaking after the service, Revd Canon Elly Sheard said: "Having been deeply committed to the care of God's creation throughout my adult life, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to make this commitment the major part of my ministry going forwards. Being installed, as I was, in the middle of the global eco-catastrophe that is the Covid-19 pandemic brought into sharp focus for me the challenges that God is calling us to address."

[READ MORE HERE](#)

BISHOP'S EASTER SERMON "WE MUST LEARN TO LIVE LIGHTLY"

In his annual Easter Sunday sermon, the Bishop of Truro, The Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen will call on people to not seek to return to the old 'normal' but to seek resurrection into a new way of being.

The bishop's sermon, which he will be giving at Truro Cathedral on Easter Sunday morning, speaks to the position we all find ourselves in as we begin to see the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions and points out that 'Resurrection is not going back to what was before, but a going forward to what is new'.

"We need that resurrection power in the way we live together, in society, both locally and globally; we need that power in the life of the Church; and we need that power too in the life of each one of us.

"How might we see the resurrection power of Jesus Christ in the way we live together, both locally and globally? A key question for us is what life after the pandemic will be like. And I want to say with all my heart that I do not believe we must talk about things going back to normal. It was not normal that we were living unsustainably on this earth, feeding climate change, pursuing ever greater economic growth, as if the earth's resources were inexhaustible and expendable.

"Nor is it normal that in the world today power and wealth lie in the hands of an increasing few; that the rule of law is so often flouted; that strong men (and they are all men) flex their muscles with impunity; that so many minorities are under threat; that religious freedom is so often denied. None of that is normal and nor should we accept it as such.

"Think back to last spring – even in the midst of the pandemic we saw nature



stepping back into its proper place and the world burst into life around us. The pandemic humbled us and brought us up short. We were taught to sit still and step back. It's a key lesson for all humanity.

We must learn to live more lightly and lovingly on this earth. And to do so would be a true sign of resurrection life. And it is resurrection we need: going forward to something better; not resuscitation that takes us back to where we were before."

To read the full sermon, [click here](#).

The Truro Cathedral Easter Sunday service information will be available [here](#).

LEAD THEFTS - INSURERS EXPECT LEAD TO BE MARKED

There have been a couple of lead thefts from churches in the diocese in recent weeks.

If you discover a theft then please notify the police. Just pop in your

postcode and you will be able to report the incident [here](#).

It is perhaps worth noting that you risk your insurers not covering the loss if your lead has not been marked.

DIOCESE BACKING FOR RACE EQUALITY COUNCIL

Residents' calls to set up a new Race Equality Council for Cornwall were agreed by Cornwall Council and supported by all partners at a meeting of Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Leadership Board as the significant next step to promoting greater inclusivity and tackling racism.

Key organisations from Cornwall's Leadership Board will support the creation of the council with financial or 'in-kind' contributions.

Cornwall Council Leader, Julian German said: "Racism has no place in our society. The wide range of important work that has already taken place shows how passionate we all are about making Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly more inclusive and becoming an exemplar in tackling racism.

"We have a long way to go but we will continue to prioritise race equality and work in partnership to further strengthen our efforts for a fair, inclusive and anti-racist Cornwall."

A number of people's lived experiences of racism in Cornwall have helped contribute to the work.

Patrick Gilbert, the Bishop of Truro's Advisor on BAME, said: "As someone who grew up in Cornwall and experienced racism from a young age, I am well aware of some of the racial inequities that still exist in our county today. I believe the church has a responsibility to oppose racism of every kind, embracing a Christ-centred radical love for our neighbour. It is time to unite as one church across denominations demonstrating the love of Jesus to all people in the hope that we can change the wrongs of the past moving forward in a shared vision for a more welcoming and loving Cornwall.

"We must continue to take a stand against all forms of racism and help Cornwall become a more inclusive and welcoming place for all."

You can find out more about the work that has taken place on the [council's website](#). You can find out more about the Race Equality Forum on the [Let's Talk Cornwall website](#).

ELECTIONS TO BE HELD LATER THIS YEAR: STAND AND HAVE YOUR SAY

JOIN DIOCESAN SYNOD AND SHAPE YOUR CHURCH

This year we will elect a new diocesan synod to serve for a three year term. Why should you consider offering yourself for this?

Synod members are an important part of the leadership of the church in Cornwall. Members help to shape the big decisions about our work together, and there are certainly some big decisions around for the Diocese of Truro. Among other things on the agenda will be the shape of ministry in our churches, our work with children and young people, our impact on the environment, what it means to be pioneering and to lead change, as well as how we can better serve the poor, and how we rejoice in strong international links.

Synod member Sarah Vinson is the first to admit that she only initially stood for diocesan synod because no one else came forward but that doesn't mean it has been a chore. "I have found opportunities to grow personally as a Christian by being part of synod and being the communication link between the diocese and my parish.

"I run the community debt advice centre in Launceston and at synod I have been able to have conversations about poverty. I was invited to join the poverty forum and I have spoken to bishops about debt and the centre."

The Bishop's Council reports to synod each year and comes to synod to seek approval for the diocesan budget. The debates and conversations that happen around these events directly influence the policy and direction of our work together.

John Pearce became a member when

he retired from work. "I was becoming progressively more concerned about the future of the Church and the Anglican Church in particular. My wife had become a churchwarden, which made me even more aware of dwindling congregations in many areas. I found myself questioning what the role of the Church might be in the future.

"I decided that complaining about the rather static and bureaucratic role of the Church was unhelpful. So I stood for election to the synod partly out of a desire to find out what was going on and partly with the hope that there was a future for the Church."

The synod works in different ways. Sometimes there are detailed reports to read and pray about sent before the meeting, some of our work is in small groups on the day tackling difficult issues and challenges, often there are presentations and debate for the whole room work on. The most important thing that we do is to worship and pray together, we draw on traditions from across the diocese but always committed to listening carefully for God's guidance in our work.

Revd Elly Sheard has been a member of the House of Clergy for the last three years. Chaplaincy, education and a desire to connect led Elly to the diocesan synod. For those considering standing for diocesan synod, Elly says they need to go prepared to speak up. "People need to have the courage to contribute (either in plenary or

small groups) and be willing to have their say. Membership of synod doesn't come with a huge amount of paperwork to read but it is important that people read and consider what they do receive.

"One of the most important aspects of your membership is to act as a conduit to inform your parishes and deaneries about what is going on in the decision making places of the church. The synod is the place where it is clear that all of us are part of the Church of England, not just part of isolated parishes, and communicating that to our fellow church members is a vital part of the role."

Synod meets three times a year, in normal times in Truro on a Saturday finishing mid-afternoon. We are looking for people who are passionate about the work of the church in Cornwall, the Isles of Scilly and our lucky parishes in Devon. You need to be over 16, a communicant member and on the electoral roll of a church in the diocese.

If you are interested in becoming a synod member you can find out more on the [diocese website](#) where more information will be posted in the coming weeks.

To read more personal reflections on what it is like to serve on synod, visit the diocesan [website](#) where Elly, Sarah and John talk about their experiences over the last three years.

NATIONAL PARENTING INITIATIVE ONLINE EVENT

The National Parenting Initiative are hosting a Cornwall Online Vision Event on Tuesday, April 20.

Running from 12pm - 1pm, the event is aimed at encouraging and inspiring church communities to get involved in running one or more

of the various parenting courses available. The session in April will include representatives from Kids Matter, Connected Lives, Fegans and Parenting for Faith.

To find out more, [click here](#).

EXPLOITATION WEBINAR

The Children's Society - Keeping Young People Safe from the Risks of Exploitation webinar takes place on Wednesday, April 28, 11am - 12pm.

Sign up even if you can't attend the day to receive a recording with the presentations & links. [Click here](#).



Revd Canon Bill
Stuart-White



Revd Sophie
Chatten



Bianca Parry



Jane Wheeler



Matt Parry



Jonny Lewis



Charlotte Butcher



TRANSFORMING MISSION

BREAKING NEW GROUND WITH TM FALMOUTH

TM Falmouth is the oldest sibling of the Transforming Mission family that has rolled out across five areas in Cornwall: Camborne, Liskeard, St Austell and Truro.

Like all older siblings, it's the first to break new ground, to try to make sense of what it all means, make mistakes, pick itself back up and get back to leading the way for the rest of the family. Today, three years in, a pandemic and multiple lockdowns later, it's growing up to be an inspiring example of what Transformation Mission is all about.

The jewel in the TM crown was always the Huddle café in the centre of Falmouth. When that had to close over last summer, there was a huge amount of sadness and thoughts of what next?

"Closing Huddle was an incredibly painful decision," says Revd Sophie Chatten, Lead Minister of New Street. "But all is not lost. Far from it. Huddle remains an extraordinary resource from where worship continues, at least it will when lockdown finally ends, and gives us loads of opportunities to think how best to use this gift."

Similar to the pub recently bought by Holy Trinity in St Austell, Huddle is in a prime town centre location with the capacity to reach thousands of

people. Plans include using it as a base for street pastors, Christians Against Poverty (CAP), developing a youth café and a hub for the work Bianca Parry will be doing in her new role as Community Engagement Lead.

Bianca was the original Huddle café manager, then events coordinator. Like her husband Matt, she has become woven into the fabric of Falmouth, understanding how the different communities work together, the opportunities to connect and how best to communicate something meaningful.

Having the Huddle space at the heart of her work presents great opportunities for access and engagement. As we come out of the pandemic a great many will be hurting. It's not just the financial fallout and emotional impact of lockdowns, but the pain of grief and loss. Loss of loved ones, or jobs, missed opportunities or life plans put on hold or diverted. Huddle could be that safe space to help unpack some of those issues.

[Read the full story here.](#)

CALLING ALL CREATION CARE CHAMPIONS

REVD BEN LILLIE
DIOCESAN ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

Over the last few years our understanding of, and the essential need for immediate action to stop polluting, exploiting and damaging our planet – our home, has gathered global pace.

In our own diocese we have been pioneers in leading a commitment to cutting carbon and achieving net zero by 2030.

With the launch of our new **diocesan environment strategy** we have set out our call to action, which is; '**Cherish Creation, Cut Carbon, Speak Up**'.

As your diocesan environment officer my clearly defined focused is set in the areas of 'Cherish Creation & Speak Up' and that's why today I want to invite you to take a step of faith, 'Speak Up' and consider becoming a Creation Care Champion in your parish.

We are committed to developing a growing network of CCCs, along with events, training and future gatherings (when conditions allow) to fully support you in this! As a diocese we have a goal to see a Creation Care Champion in every parish.

Some of you may have already been working as environment champions and I thank you for this and ask you to continue. But as the beautiful, unique, surprising and wonderful family of faith, the language of 'Creation Care' speaks to the heart of our creator God and to our role as stewards of his very good creation.

We are not just looking for environmental experts – although of course your expertise is invaluable and we'd love to have you in the mix, we are looking for people with willing hearts, minds, hands and feet who recognise the very real emergency we are facing and for whom the call to 'Cherish Creation' resounds in the rhythms, worship and purpose of their lives. So that should be all of us then!

If this sounds like something you'd like to get involved in or maybe just tentatively find out a little more, please do register your interest by [signing up here](#) or emailing Ben directly at ben.lillie@truro.anglican.org.

I can't wait to hear from you!