

# OUR NEWS

## APRIL 2023



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More photos available here [trurodiocese.org.uk/2023/03/cathedral-full-for-celebration-of-lay-ministry-2/](https://trurodiocese.org.uk/2023/03/cathedral-full-for-celebration-of-lay-ministry-2/)

## CATHEDRAL FULL FOR LAY MINISTRY SERVICE



Truro Cathedral was full over the weekend for a service to celebrate Lay Ministry.

Local Worship Leaders and Local Pastoral Ministers gathered at the Cathedral alongside Local Lay Leaders who have recently graduated from the Sens Kernewek Leadership training and Lay Pioneer Leaders.

Bishop Philip gave the sermon for the service which focused on Luke 10: 1-23 – Jesus sending out the 72 disciples. Representatives from all four lay ministries played a part in the service.

Those being commissioned for the first time received certificates and a holding cross and all were able to renew their commitment to the roles at the end of the service. A number of people also came forward at the end for anointing by Bishop Philip, Bishop Hugh, and Archdeacon Kelly.

## BISHOP PHILIP TO TAKE SABBATICAL IN AUTUMN

Having consulted with other members of Episcopal College Bishop Philip has announced that he'll be taking a sabbatical this autumn.

Bishop Philip said: "We encourage clergy in this diocese to take a sabbatical from time to time to aid their own personal and ministerial development – and bishops are no exception to that rule!

"I'm planning to take a relatively short sabbatical this autumn which will include trips to both Lebanon and Israel, and I intend to find further opportunities to invest in the work on Freedom of Religion and Belief I've been engaged on over the past four years. I've always said this work is a natural expression of our diocese's commitment to encouraging

international links, and indeed to Cornwall's spirit of 'One and all' so it seems an appropriate thing to do.

"I was encouraged to consider taking a sabbatical by the Archbishop of Canterbury in a recent 'Ministerial Development Review' (such as all clergy undertake). It's 18 years since I last took a sabbatical so, to be honest, I'm looking forward to this one!

"I know the diocese will be well looked after by Bishop Hugh and other members of Episcopal College in my absence and I look forward to returning with fresh vigour for the work of seeking fruitfulness and sustainability upon which we've embarked."





## 2023'S CROSS OF ST PIRAN RECIPIENTS

# A TALE OF TWO CITIES

Bishop Philip has just returned from a whistle-stop visit to Hull and Athens. He says:

The two cities we normally associate with that phrase are, of course, London and Paris. Both are cities in which I have been privileged to minister, and which I hold in great affection. But I want to write about my recent trip to two quite different cities – to Hull and Athens.

In both, I was responding to long-delayed invitations to speak on the subject of Freedom of Religion or Belief, following the work I did a few years ago for the Foreign Office on the persecution of Christians. That work both led (to my great surprise) to a change in government policy, and has become an enduring passion of mine – a cause which I believe God has laid on my heart to continue to champion.

In Hull, I was invited to deliver the William Wilberforce Lecture, in honour of Hull's greatest son: the great champion of the cause of the abolition of slavery. It was good to be back in the city not only where Wilberforce was born, and which he

represented in Parliament, but in which I myself used to live.

And it was, I felt, a very fitting subject to speak on there. Today, many, many people the world over are having their rights compromised, and their livelihoods – and their very lives – threatened, simply because they belong to religious minorities. Their lives and livelihoods are threatened through oppressive governments which combine, to varying degrees, a toxic mix of authoritarianism, nationalism and fundamentalism.

From there, I headed off to Athens for a very full four days of meetings and events. On the Sunday it was great joy to preach and preside at St Paul's, the Anglican Church in the city, where I also conducted a baptism and confirmation and received two people formally into the Church of England.

[READ HIS FULL BLOG HERE](#)

## THE FALMOUTH WAY - JOIN THE LAUNCH EVENT

The Falmouth Way will be launched at a special event at Higher Wayfield, next to Budock Church, at 12.30pm on Saturday, April 8, led by Bishop Hugh.

Local churchgoers in the parishes around Falmouth and Penryn have produced the new guide to a series of country walks around the historic churches in the area.

Their booklet, the Falmouth Way, will guide readers to 12 local churches, as well as Glasney College Field, site of the

ancient Glasney College, founded in 1265.

The booklet will be available from participating churches after the launch event. Copies are free, but donations in support of the project will be gratefully received.

This initiative is part of the Diocese of Truro's increasing emphasis on the role the church must play in caring for all of creation in a time of environmental crisis.

[FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)

## FIGHTING THE BITTER CHILL

We are all experiencing the cost-of-living crisis. People across the country are struggling to feed their families and heat their homes.

In response to this desperate situation, one unprecedented in modern times of peace, a national initiative has registered more than four thousand organisations providing services and spaces which offer warm welcomes to those most in need of support through these extraordinarily difficult days. The parish of St Agnes on the north Cornwall coast is now playing its part in this vital work.

It was the poet John Keats who two centuries ago observed the "bitter chill" that in the heart of winter suffused his vision of the Eve of St Agnes. But today the Church of St Agnes has been working to protect its local community from the worst effects of that cruel cold.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)



## SALT OF ST ERTH

You, Jesus told his followers, are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world.

It was through their good deeds that this light might shine.

Halfway between Camborne and Penzance, the Cornish village of St Erth might today seem a very long way from first century Judaea. Yet in the charity and fellowship of its community of parishioners the spirit of the Sermon on the Mount continues to burn bright and true.

Since just before Christmas, thanks to the generous efforts of local volunteers and supported by funds from the Diocese of Truro, which have helped with the costs of food, energy and equipment, the parish has run a weekly community café to help local people, including young families and the elderly, who are struggling, like so many of us, with the pressures brought by the current cost-of-living crisis. The café meets every Friday afternoon at the local church hall.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)



# KEEPING FAITH WITH ST BURIANA

Named after Buriana, the sixth century saint whose mission once healed the sick on the very site of the church built in her honour some 900 years after she'd died, the rural parish of St Buryan lies towards the tip of the Cornish peninsula halfway between Penzance and Land's End.

Each month, the historic church hosts an informal service led by lay worship leaders and members of the Parochial Church Council.

"These services are very relaxed, looking at various aspects of the Christian faith, often going back to basics for those 'dipping their toes' into Christianity," explains Fiona Vinnicombe, churchwarden at St Buryan. "There's the option for the congregation to participate if they wish, with the prayers often being interactive. Refreshments including warm pastries are available both before and after the service. Newcomers have joined this service throughout its first year and our congregation continues to grow."

The combination of icy weather and escalating energy costs has made it increasingly difficult for churches to keep their doors open for such activities, but Fiona observes that a recent grant from the Diocese of Truro has helped



the parish to continue to resource this service and promote it to a wider community, as well as to develop and extend other provision for the people of the parish.

This grant has afforded funds not only to help with heating the church building through these tough winter months but also to provide kitchen equipment and supplies for its activities.

The church is, for instance, using these resources to support its local community by hosting a Food Larder. "The Food Larder is being well used – with food both coming in and going out, as well as toiletries, cleaning products and pet supplies," Fiona says. "For the winter months we've added a rail of donated warm winter clothes."

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

## ALL SUSTAINED AT SAINTS FALMOUTH

Since last November, a group of about 20 volunteers from two Falmouth churches – New Street and All Saints – have been running a popular weekly 'Winter Warm Space Café' on Wednesday afternoons – based at the latter venue – welcoming a wide range of local people for hot drinks, crisps, biscuits, fruit and homemade cakes, specially baked for these occasions.

There's even a toast station, liberally supplied with jams and honey.

"It's a real joint effort between the two congregations," organiser Bianca Parry explains. "It's really lovely actually."

Between 40 and 50 people come along each week. They range in ages from young children through to the elderly.

"We get quite a lot of young families," Bianca says. "We get lots of mums with their kids, older people, people with disabilities, people who want to see the church, and people who



just want to make a connection with other people. It's a lovely friendly atmosphere. It feels like a real café. It's all about the hospitality."

The Winter Warm Space Café received initial seed-funding from the Diocese of Truro to support its heating and food costs, but it now looks like it will be able to sustain itself beyond the seasonal period for which it had originally been envisaged.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)



## KERRIER WELCOMES NEW RURAL DEAN HEIDI

The Reverend Heidi Huntley has been licensed by the Diocese of Truro as Rural Dean for Kerrier, in the southwest corner of the county, one of the twelve deaneries which constitute the presence of the Church of England in Cornwall.

Her licensing ceremony was conducted by the Right Reverend Hugh Nelson, Bishop of St Germans, at St Michael's Church in Helston on Thursday 16th March.

Her role will be to lead on the implementation of her Deanery's plan for renewal and sustainability. That plan lays out the details of Kerrier's mission to engage with local communities, to support those in need, to serve families and young people, to care for the natural environment, and to welcome people of all backgrounds and ages into the activities of the church.

Heidi has come to Cornwall following more than a decade of service as vicar at the Parish Church of St John the Baptist in the Hertfordshire town of Royston.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

## PARISH TRAINING

The 2023 Parish Training Programme is now available. The FREE sessions coming up in April are:

April 1 **Safeguarding Virtual Leadership Training C2**

April 12 **Finance drop-in session**

April 12 **Parish Safeguarding Officer training**

April 13 **Creation Care Network Gathering**

April 19 **Completing your Energy Footprint Tool return - drop-in for parishes**

April 27 **CMD: An established church in a country of nones. What are we to do?**

[FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)

# CREATION CARE NEWS

Our next Creation Care Network Gathering will be on Thursday, April 13 at 7pm - 9pm. We shall be joined by Ruth Lindley from Transform Trade (the new name for Traidcraft Exchange).

Ruth was unable to join us for this month's gathering (Lydia Perris kindly stepped in and briefed us on her visit to COP27).

Ruth will be focussing on Fairtrade and Climate Justice.



READ THE LATEST CREATION CARE NEWSLETTER HERE

## TAKE THE BATS IN CHURCHES CHALLENGE BADGE

Get to know your local church and its wildlife with the Bats in Churches Challenge Badge. It's fun, exciting, interesting, and just a little bit batty.

Choose from a range of different crafts, games, outdoor fun and activities that will get you exploring your local church, hunting for bats and even cooking up a storm in the kitchen.

Once you've completed your chosen activities, we'll send you a special

woven badge for your uniform, or just to keep.

You can do the Bats in Churches Challenge badge with your local youth group, Scouts or Guides, Woodcraft Folk, Sunday School, nursery, or just with your friends and family.

Bats in Churches is a special project helping church communities look after their amazing churches and brilliant bats.

GET INVOLVED HERE

## INDIA TALK - APRIL 2

Revd Alison Hardy and Revd Nicki Farr undertook a mission trip to India in February.

The trip gave an opportunity to engage in the work of 'Reaching the Unreached', and praying for many people across the Christian churches which are overseen by the family the pair visited. The adventure also gave Alison and Nicki a chance to explore the Church and Christian faith in a different culture.

Now safely back in the diocese, Nicki and Alison want to share their experiences of the work they were involved in and their time in India.

They are invited anyone interested to join them on April 2 at Egloskerry Village Hall from 3pm - 5pm.

## 'MEET THE FUNDERS' THIS SPRING

The Meet the Funders Spring event takes place on April 27 at Truro Methodist Church.

The day will be hosted by the Bishop of St Germans, the Rt Revd Hugh Nelson, and Donna Birrell, broadcaster and Vice-Chair of Churches Together in Cornwall.

There will be presentations from funders and opportunities to network with other organisations.

To book your place click on the poster or you can visit <https://bookwhen.com/meetthefunders/e/ev-sn0x-20230427100000>

## WHAT'S ON

### APRIL

**8 Falmouth Way launch event**, Budock Water, Falmouth, 12.30pm.

**19 Completing your Energy Footprint Tool return - drop-in for parishes**, 11am. Book [here](#).

**27 Meet the Funders**, Truro Methodist Church, 10am - 3pm.

**29 Carmarth South Bishops' Deanery Visit**, 40m - 6pm.

MORE EVENTS HERE

## CREATION CARE NETWORK USEFUL LINKS

The next Creation Care Network gathering is on Thursday, April 13 (7pm). All are via the Zoom [link](#).

- + CREATION CARE WEB PAGE
- + REGISTER FOR THE KERNOW GREEN CHURCH AWARD
- + BECOME A CREATION CARE CHAMPION
- + SIGN UP TO RECEIVE CREATION CARE UPDATES
- + CREATION CARE FACEBOOK GROUP

## DIOCESAN PRAYER DIARY

The Diocese of Truro **Prayer Diary** helps us hold in our prayers the world wide Anglican Communion, bishops and their dioceses, parishes in our own diocese, those who minister both clergy and lay, and all who contribute to the life and witness of our churches.



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More information here.