

OUR NEWS

MARCH 2021



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CHERISH CREATION, CUT CARBON, SPEAK UP

The Diocese of Truro has launched its new environment vision and strategy.

Cherish Creation, Cut Carbon and Speak Up: a diocesan vision and strategy for creation care sets out three specific priorities for the future.

Cherish Creation: We will encourage the diocese at every level to care for those parts of God's good creation for which we have responsibility, stewarding them for the benefit of plants, animals and biodiversity.

Cut Carbon: We will cut our carbon footprint year on year and to net zero by 2030.

Speak Up: At every level of the diocese, we will speak and act boldly to promote the enjoyment, cherishing and sharing of God's good creation and, where possible and resources allow, we will work in partnership with others who share the same aims.

An environment board chaired by the Rt Revd Hugh Nelson, Bishop of St Germans will oversee the work. Bishop Hugh said: "So much has changed in the last 18 months; the XR protests, David Attenborough's powerful warnings, new commitments from local and national government to making carbon cutting a priority and Covid-19, which has confronted us with our fragility and given us the opportunity to make different choices for the future. These new priorities commit the Diocese of Truro to getting our own house in order, particularly by cutting carbon, and to playing our part in cherishing God's good creation."

To support this vision and strategy, the diocese has appointed a new diocesan environment officer. Ben Lillie started in late February.

CHERISH CREATION CUT CARBON SPEAK UP

A DIOCESAN VISION AND STRATEGY FOR CREATION CARE

As well as being the new environment officer, Ben is also a husband, father and surfer and a local leader for Christian Surfers around his home near Bude.



Ben, who is ordained, says he was drawn to the role because it was clear the diocese had put significant effort into a new diocesan environment strategy. "It's obvious the environment is top of the agenda. It is not a by-product. When I read the strategy and saw the depth of thought that had gone into it, it completely bowled me over. This is not just some institutional remit - there is a real sense of the spirit moving."

Ben is hoping that people will be excited to join in with his work and the new strategy. "I hope people will see the quality of thought and attention to detail that has gone into this and that they will want to join in."

Ben is keen to emphasise the working together aspect of the climate work. "We all have responsibility. I can't do this on my own but together as a diocese, we can do it. Everyone has a role to play."

Bishop Hugh said: "I am delighted at Ben's appointment. The diocese has been pushing boldly on with a vision for creation care for many years, and we owe a huge debt of thanks to Luci Isaacson for everything she has done. With Covid, the G7 coming to Cornwall, COP26 in

Glasgow and the Church of England commitment to Net Zero by 2030 this is a critical time for our relationship with God's good creation. Our new priorities 'Cherish creation, cut carbon, speak up' and Ben's appointment to support the churches and schools, give us renewed momentum for the urgent task before us."

Ben's appointment is very much an investment in the diocese's churches and it is hoped churches will draw on his expertise. If you would like to Ben to come and speak at your Sunday service or to your church community, email ben.lillie@truro.anglican.org

[READ MORE HERE](#)

THANK YOU!

Luci Isaacson, writes: "As I hand over to Revd Ben Lillie, I wanted to take the opportunity to say a huge thank you to the Environment Core Group and everyone who did something to lessen the impact on our environment and make things wonderfully interesting for others to experience! It's been great. I shall miss you all."



To read more about Luci's environment successes, [click here](#).

EMBRACING AN INNOVATIVE & PIONEERING CULTURE ON THE WAY TO FRUITFULNESS

We are the happy inheritors of the faith that was shared and taught by the Saints whose names are carried by so many of our towns, villages and churches today.

They walked, prayed and preached during a time of massive change and disruption. The Roman Empire had collapsed and much that had seemed sure and certain had turned shaky and uncertain. Plague, famine and invasion were all regular threats, and in part it was these disruptions that gave them the impetus to travel to and across Cornwall.

Their faith, courage and willingness to set out into an unknown future are why the church that we know and love is in Cornwall today.

And now we face our own time of significant disruption and change. The church has always changed, and things were changing rapidly already...and then Covid-19 came along. And the question before us is no longer 'do we want to change' but, 'how will we engage with change?'

And because change is demanding, we want to support churches and deaneries to engage creatively and courageously with the future that God is calling us into. We're calling this On the Way and this [video](#) explains why.

On the Way will work with deaneries; from February 2021 with Penwith, St Austell and Kerrier, and with others over the next 12 months. They will each be given the support of two On the Way advisors who will work closely with the Rural Dean to enable the church communities and those that they serve to dream, pray and plan for the future.

And two words are crucial to On the Way: fruitful and sustainable. Together they describe the destination we are seeking. And On the Way will include lots more about what those two terms mean, both theologically and practically, as well as resources for listening to each other, the communities we serve and the Lord we follow, as we seek to become more fruitful and sustainable.



We know that we will not reach this goal by writing a strategy for fruitfulness and sustainability, which is then given to churches to put into action. The Holy Spirit is much more likely to be at work in and around local communities, and the fruitful and sustainable future we long for is most likely to be discerned by local churches, working together in deaneries, seeking the Spirit and looking to join in.

And so On the Way is not a plan designed by others for the local church – instead it is an invitation to meet together for prayer, listening, dreaming and discussion, some ways for doing that, and some people to help you along the way, with the hopeful expectation that this will result in a clear plan for fruitful and sustainable church communities for the future God is calling us towards.

ON THE WAY PRAYER

Faithful God, as you led your people of old into a new and fruitful place, So lead us too today we pray. Show us the way to go, and help us on the way with the courage and the faith and the imagination that we need that we may be the church that you truly called us to be. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



ARCHDEACON ZOOMS TO SUPPORT ONLINE APCMS

We know that many of you will have been through this once already for last year's APCM but we know that holding your APCM during Covid-19 is a challenge.

The deadline for your APCM to be held is **May 31, 2021**. If this changes we will notify you immediately.

The Bishop has given permission for APCMs to be held virtually. As we are currently still in lockdown we will assume that it will still be best for them to be virtual. Click [here](#) for more detailed guidance on how to hold a virtual APCM.

There will be an online session, via Zoom, on 2 March 2021 at 1pm with Archdeacon Paul Bryer and Alex O'Byrne to give guidance on holding your APCM virtually. To sign up for this click [here](#).

FAREWELL TO AUDREY: JOIN US ON FEBRUARY 28

A celebration of Archdeacon Audrey Elkington's ministry in the Diocese of Truro is planned for February 28, 2021 and individuals and parishes are invited to attend.

Archdeacon Audrey, along with her husband Revd Dave Elkington, will be heading north for new adventures in the coming weeks and we couldn't let her go without a small event to thank her for all of her hard work as Archdeacon over the last ten years.

On Sunday, February 28 at 3pm there will be a virtual Farewell hosted on Zoom by Bishop Philip. Places are limited on a first come, first served basis. If you wish to take part, please register by clicking on the link [here](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

COVID MEANS CHANGE TO THIS YEAR'S SERVICES INTRODUCING 2021'S CROSS OF ST PIRAN RECIPIENTS

Fourteen people from across the Diocese of Truro will receive a Cross of St Piran award in March for their services to the church and local communities.

As with most things, covid-19 has meant the services this year will not take place in the usual way. The recipients will attend an online service with the crosses and citations sent to them by post.

Many of those nominated this year have been selected for their efforts to support their local communities adapt to the new way of life we are all experiencing in a pandemic.

As in previous years, the service will be led by the Bishop of Truro the Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen.

The Cross of St Piran are annual awards. Each year deaneries are asked to nominate individuals who have gone above and beyond in their service.

RECIPIENTS

Nigel Owen (Penwith Deanery) is a Founder Member of CHIN (Christian Helpline in Newlyn) and has been its chair for over 35 years. See Nigel's story [here](#).

John Boase (Kerrier Deanery).

Ian Smith (Carnmarth North Deanery).

Jim Seth (Carnmarth North Deanery).



Monique Collins (Pydar Deanery).

Nina Davey (Powder Deanery).

Marie Liddicoat (St Austell Deanery).

Robert Pearce (Trigg Minor Deanery).

Edward Lancaster (Trigg Major Deanery).

William (Bill) Taylor (West Wivelshire Deanery).

Jenny Bushrod (East Wivelshire Deanery).

Hillary Rogers (Stratton Deanery).

Chelly Sturgess (Stratton Deanery).

Sharon Wicks (Penwith Deanery).

[READ THE CITATIONS HERE](#)

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT WITH BISHOP PHILIP..

Here's a fun fact for you – well I think it's quite fun anyway!

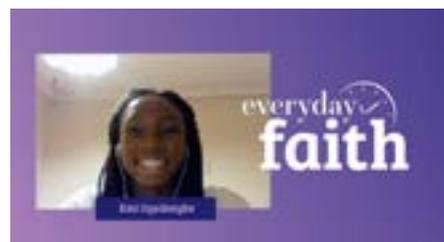
If you go to the Book of Common Prayer, the Church of England's old prayer book that's still used in many churches, and find Psalm 46, it's said you'll find something very strange.

Count 46 words in from the beginning and you find the word 'shake'; count 46 words in from the end (and this is Psalm 46, remember so that number is significant) and you find the word

'spear'. Put them together and of course you get the word, the name, 'Shakespeare'.

Some people say that shows that William Shakespeare had a hand in putting the Psalms into the language of his day, and that this strange little fact is the way Britain's most famous poet and playwright leaves his 'calling card' embedded in the text, just waiting for someone to stumble over it.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



EVERYDAY FAITH: WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

What is everyday faith? What does it mean and what does it look like? Of course, as Christians we are in a loving relationship with God, so we enjoy constant dialogue, reassurance and everlasting confidence that God has it covered, whatever we're going through. Except, it isn't always like that, is it?

There can be days, weeks, years even, when we feel lost, disconnected and forget our relationship requires us to make an effort. God never leaves our side, perhaps we just forget to turn our heads and include Him in our everyday. Everyday Faith is a series of short conversations that are easy to dip into and remind ourselves what it can be to live and work with God, every day.

You might have caught the Everyday Faith series of short conversations on **Facebook** over the past month or so. People from all walks of life, including a judge and a carer of vulnerable adults, answer four questions that reveal surprising insights to what everyday faith means for them:

1. Who are you?
2. What will you be doing this time tomorrow?
3. What difference does faith make to a normal day in your life?
4. How can your church support you better in your day-to-day life?

The everyday faith stories, or #EverydayFaith if you're searching for them on **Facebook** or **YouTube**, are a great example and encouragement for people being set free.

We would love to hear from you and hear what difference faith makes to your everyday. You can set up a Zoom meeting with someone you trust, hit the record button, ask the four questions and then send the recording to hello@truro.anglican.org. If you're not confident using Zoom, just email us and we will get in touch to help.

Photo with kind permission: PR4PHotos



TRANSFORMING MISSION IN TRURO DURING A PANDEMIC

Transforming Mission (TM) is the exciting Christian initiative in Cornwall churches that has been bedding down in strategic locations across the county, working hard to find ways to reach the missing generations.

Beginning in Falmouth two years ago, Transforming Mission is now also working in Liskeard, St Austell, Truro and Camborne. Each area is distinct with different demographics and needs, but all share a common yearning to know the love of God – even if they might not recognise it as such!

Like everybody else in this pandemic storm, life has been hard for the TM teams. Over the past year, amazing staff have been recruited from across the country, hearing the call for regeneration in Cornwall. But social distancing, repeated lockdowns and shielding have meant that many staff members have never met each other in person, or at best from 2 metres away. And as for the communities they hope to reach out to, these are only encountered through Zoom screens, YouTube or telephone calls.

Yet these are people with mission in their hearts and creativity running through their veins. Each month we will report on what each area is doing, showing how they are making

connections and reaching out to people in ways that are practical, helpful and making a difference in these very strange times.

This month, Truro is in the spotlight. More specifically All Saints Highertown (ASH). There's a lot happening here as the church is at the foot of an enormous project to transform their building into a purpose-built community hub, the Truro Lifehouse. Sitting in an area of multi-generational deprivation, ASH has partnered with a raft of outstanding charitable partners and has grown to become one of the largest providers of community services in the city. Pre-pandemic, it welcomed up to 800 people every week. But the building can no longer cope, hence the ambitious plans for the Lifehouse and an almost £3million fundraising target.

Not surprisingly, the TM team have a strong focus on social justice, inclusion and making sure no one is left behind.

You can read the full article on the diocesan website [here](#).

PARISH GIVING SCHEME ONLINE SERVICE

From March 1, the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) will be launching an online system whereby individual donors can set up their gifts by direct debit online, if their parish is registered with PGS. This will be a quick, easy and secure method to use, without having to worry about paper forms or trying to get through on the phone.

The service has been piloted in five dioceses over the last couple of months and by the end of January, close to 400 people had successfully set up new donations using the website. PGS report that "donors seem to be finding the process of creating an online account and setting up a new donation as easy as we'd intended".

On March 1 your diocesan Generous Giving Advisors will receive resources from PGS including a step-by-step guide for parishes. We will send on some of these resources to you in early March and we are ready to help you to get going with this new system.

Of course, for those who prefer the usual methods, paper forms and the phone system will still be available as ways to set up your donation and we are happy to supply new forms. Please note that after the end of February PGS will only accept forms with the new address which is 76 Kingsholm Road, Gloucester, GL1 3BD. If you need some new forms please get in touch.

If your parish is not yet signed up to the PGS and would like to please get in touch with Christine or Jenny, your generous giving advisors on pgs@truro.anglican.org

ONLINE LENT QUIET DAYS

An online Lent Quiet Day led by the Revd Jane Horton based around the story of Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well, John 4 will take place on March 13 and March 16.

Encounters with Jesus - looking into the well

Saturday, March 13, 9.30am-4pm, everybody welcome. [Book here](#).

Tuesday, March 16, 9.30am-4pm, a day for clergy. [Book here](#).

**LENT & MOTHERING SUNDAY
RESOURCES FROM THE
CHILDREN'S SOCIETY**