

OUR NEWS

MAY 2023



SIGN UP TO OUR MAILINGS HERE



Ordained and lay people from around the diocese came together at Truro Cathedral on Maundy Thursday for the annual Chrism Eucharist service.

DIOCESAN SYNOD THIS MONTH

The next Diocesan Synod takes place on May 20 at St Martin's Church in Liskeard and online via Zoom.

This first meeting of the synod in 2023 will start with worship and the Presidential Address by Bishop Philip Mounstephen.

Items of the agenda include the Armed Forces Covenant and a presentation on military chaplaincy, a report from the Church of England's General Synod and a presentation and discussion on the Diocesan Plan for Change and Renewal.

Meeting as the Truro Diocesan Board of Finance Limited, members will also hear a presentation on the Annual Report and Statutory Accounts.

Synod members will have the opportunity to ask questions. If you are a member of one of our church congregations and you have a question for synod, please contact your local synod member who can ensure they submit it in time for the synod deadline of May 13, 2023. The second diocesan synod will take place in September.

You can find out who your diocesan synod representative is here <https://trurodiocese.org.uk/resources/policy-governance/diocesan-synod/governance-diocesan-synod/>

THANK YOU!

Thank you to the parishes that have completed their Statistics for Mission return. This year we have seen the highest completion rate ever – 85%!

Your parish's Annual Statistics, Finance and Energy Footprint returns are really important information. Accurate statistics are essential to the ongoing care and understanding of our churches and congregations and fundamental to the deanery plans. The data is used to help with support planning and the allocation of resources.

You can access your data from the online system whenever you wish. Contact info@truro.anglican.org if you need help with this or if you would like your most recent parish dashboard, which gives a handy overview of the parish statistics.

The deadline for Return of Parish Finance is June 15 and the Energy Footprint tool is July 31.



THE BEAUTIFUL GAME

In spring 2021, many British people were starting to plan what they might do once the third national Covid-19 lockdown was done. We were starting to hope and plan and dream again.

It was then that a group of friends in Truro had an idea. They resolved that at the first opportunity they were going to start playing football together once a week. They expected their physical and mental health would gain much-needed benefits from it. It started with just five of them, but over the months their group began to grow. And grow.

Two years on, there are now more than 40 of them. They hire the football ground at Truro School every Tuesday evening. Each week, up to 18 get together to play. They range widely in ages, backgrounds and footballing skills.

"Some are Christian, some aren't," explains founding member Joff Phipps from Transforming Mission Truro. "They come from different walks of life. Some are looking to find friendship, some to get fit, some to support their mental health.

"We were trying to be different from other football groups. You could join us and find a warm welcome – and no

judgment – however good or bad you were. It's a friendly and inclusive space. We call it Truro's friendliest kickabout." Within a few months, they had people coming from as far afield as Wadebridge, St Austell and Falmouth.

It's a Christian group but Joff emphasizes that it offers a subtly different ethos from some other such gatherings.

"Many people wouldn't know it's a Christian thing," Joff says. "The intention isn't to get people into church but to introduce them to the ways of the kingdom of God through how we treat each other."

It also presents a very different approach from other amateur football groups. "One guy said to me recently that it's so nice not to be sworn at every other minute on the pitch," Joff explains. "We're about supporting each other, about cheering each other on."

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

THE FALMOUTH WAY - AIMING TO INSPIRE WALKERS

The Falmouth Way has become the latest of several paths of Christian pilgrimage, both ancient and modern, across Cornwall.

It joins the Saints' Way, the Cornish Celtic Way and the Bodmin Way, as a recognised route for both pilgrims and tourists.

Local churchpeople have published a booklet which guides visitors round a series of nine walks between a dozen churches in the area around Falmouth and Penryn.

The booklet also invites walkers to consider the natural world around them as they walk. It is available for free at local churches.

At the launch event, Bishop Hugh Nelson expressed his hope that these walks would inspire walkers in their care and consideration for the natural environment.

"I hope that those who walk the Falmouth Way will make the choice for creation."

[FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)

QUIET PLACES ON THE WEB

Celtic Quiet Places in Cornwall haven't been deliberately hidden from tourists, but they've always been one of those off the beaten track 'if you know, you know' destinations. But now, a new website will reveal these gentle treasures with anyone looking for peace and quiet reflection. There are currently 78 Cornish churches designated as a Celtic Quiet Place, each offering a peaceful haven in a world that can seem increasingly chaotic.

The scheme's website is full of useful and interesting information. As well as opening times, directions and facilities, it reveals the story of each location's Celtic history. How it came to be named and who the saint was that founded it.

The launch of Celtic Quiet Places fulfils the vision of Revd Canon Pat Robson. "I realised many years ago that despite there being over 300 Cornish Celtic Churches, not to mention the towns and villages named after Celtic saints, Cornwall did little to promote or celebrate its Celtic presence in the world. If you want to have any kind of intentional Celtic experience, you'd have to travel to Lindisfarne or Iona."

Making the Celtic Quiet Places happen led Revd Pat to visit almost 80 small churches, hearing or sharing with them their Celtic ancestry. Together they form a network that laces its way across Cornwall. From Morwenstowe to Zennor and St Levan, there will be quiet sanctuary for anyone who needs it.

And for those who like the idea of pilgrimage there will be passports to record each visit, helping to reveal and revive these hidden gems of quiet contemplation.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

PARISH TRAINING

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

May 1 **Parish Safeguarding Officer training**

May 9 **Net Zero 2030: How do we achieve Net Zero 2030 with our church buildings - the dos and don'ts.**

May 11 **Creation Care Network Gathering**

May 16 **Finance drop-in session**

May 16 **Completing your parish return - drop-in for parishes**

[FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)

TEENS FLOCK TO TEATIME CHURCH

Teatime for Families takes place each Tuesday afternoon at St Martin and St Meriadoc Church Hall in Camborne. The growth in its popularity has proven really rather phenomenal. It has become something of a local go-to event.

"Last week we had 125 people come through the doors," says organiser Becky Lines, Camborne's Children and Families Leader. "It's really exciting. When we started, we thought it was just going to be for young families. Then we found we were getting loads and loads of teenagers, and they were starting to bring their friends."

It all began during the pandemic, in the early months of 2021, when the country was feeling the strain of the third national lockdown. It started very simply. Standing at a legally compliant social distance, a youth worker would hand out free hot dogs and doughnuts at the open door of the church hall to young people and families passing by outside.

Teenagers now turn up straight from school, and parents come along with their children. They're provided with a warm and friendly space, hot and cold drinks, snacks and even a family-friendly hot meal – pizza, chicken dippers and



those ever-popular hot dogs – plus homemade cakes and desserts. There's something with pancakes and cream that would blow your mind and your diet.

Camborne's Revd Graham Adamson sees the initiative as seeking to help meet the needs of the people of Camborne, to take the pressure off families hit first by Covid-19 and then by the cost-of-living crisis.

"We've been told for years that young people don't want to come into churches," says Graham. "We've been told that families who don't go to church are sceptical about the church. That's all simply not true. Most of the people who come here weren't previously connected with the church."

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

TIME TOGETHER IS TIME WELL SPENT IN BODMIN

Elaine will be celebrating her 98th birthday later this year. These days, her eyesight is severely impaired and her hearing isn't perfect either. But she says she loves coming along every Wednesday morning to the Shire House Suite in the centre of Bodmin for the weekly 'Time Together' event.

"I do enjoy coming here," she says. "I look forward to it. I don't go anywhere else."

Eight years her junior, her friend Maureen holds her hand. Maureen is twice widowed, a retired nurse who has, in years gone by, also worked teaching blind people how to shoot competitively. Maureen continues to keep busy, and particularly likes coming here each week.

"It's lovely," she says. "It's brilliant to come and have somebody to talk to. Things like this are why I'm glad to keep going."

Time Together is part of the Bodmin Way, a major social enterprise initiative established by the people of St Petroc's Church and supported by funds from



the Diocese of Truro. Around 45 people come along each week.

Local worship leader Rosie Waldron says that it's the highlight of many people's weeks.

"It does me as much good as it does them," she adds.

The sessions are organised by Abbie Cavallera and her team of volunteers.

"We welcome anybody and everybody," Abbie says. "It's very social. People get together and chat with old friends and make new ones."

[READ MORE HERE](#)

'THE DOERS' OF LISKEARD HELPING THE COMMUNITY

A social action initiative is set to ramp up its efforts and extend its operations over its region of southeast Cornwall.

St Martin's Church in Liskeard lists its priorities as growing its mission and ministry, and supporting young people, families, its local community and that community's needs.

One of its key activities has been to work in partnership with Christians Against Poverty (also known as CAP), a national organisation founded in Yorkshire in 1996, which offers free advice on money management, benefits and debt.

The work of the church should be relevant and vital to local people, according to Mike Sturgess, who serves as treasurer at St Martin's and also chairs the Diocese of Truro's Board of Finance.

"We're doers," he says. "There's loads of stuff going on at St Martin's: the CAP debt centre, crisis funding for those in need, parenting courses, one-to-one mentoring for kids who are struggling, bereavement counselling, and teams visiting schools each week."

In addition, he notes, the church runs a very successful babies and toddlers group, youth activities and a warm space popular with elderly people.

Mike emphasizes that the approach at St Martin's is intergenerational, proactive and progressive.

"We don't have the attitude that it's all just about traditional Sunday worship," he says. "We've got kids who run around the church, and no one bats an eyelid."

He adds that one of his favourite blessings at the close of a church service on a Sunday reminds the congregation that their faith calls for a broader kind of service out in the real world: "Our service has ended – now let our service begin."

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

SCHOOL GOVERNORS

School governors are always required for Church of England schools across the diocese.

If you think you have time you could commit to supporting the future, you can find out more information about School Governor roles [here](#).

THE GREEN SHOOTS OF GROWTH IN LANDRAKE

"When we all got involved about five years ago, we tried to take it out of the doldrums."

Simon Norris is one of a team of volunteers who've been going to great efforts to revitalise St Michael's churchyard in the east Cornwall village of Landrake.

Today, this once neglected plot provides a home for hedgehogs, slow worms and the occasional smooth snake. It attracts nuthatches, treecreepers, mistle thrushes, song thrushes, blue tits, robins and finches. You can see four different species of bat there – including even, if you're lucky, the greater horseshoe bat.

"This," says Simon, looking across these lovingly tended grounds, "this is my church here – here in nature."

Each summer they hold special fairs in the churchyard to introduce village families to the wonders of the abundant wildlife on their doorsteps. Simon even dissects owl pellets to enlighten, entertain and enthral the visiting children and parents alike.

He's now working on growing a small wildflower meadow in the church



grounds. Earlier this month, the news that church volunteers were developing a vegetable plot in an unused corner of the churchyard garnered regional and national media attention.

"The press coverage has been so positive," says Simon. "It's brought the church right back into the community. The positivity of the village is absolutely stunning. People stop us in the street and say it's a brilliant idea. It's restored people's faith."

Simon's wife Caroline is a member of the Parochial Church Council. She's clearly very moved by the village's response to their work. They've recently received donations of plant pots, seed trays, seeds, cloches and even greenhouses.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

CREATION CARE NEWS

Our next Creation Care Network Gathering will be on Thursday, May 11 at 10am - 12pm.

We will hear from our champions about God's infinite wonders to be found in their churchyards and a chance to share ideas, as well as a Q&A time. See the details in the righthand column.



[READ THE LATEST CREATION CARE NEWSLETTER HERE](#)

NET ZERO 2030: CUT CARBON, CUT COSTS WORKSHOPS

The next Net Zero 2030 workshop takes place in May.

SESSION 3: HOW DO WE ACHIEVE NET ZERO 2030 WITH OUR CHURCH BUILDINGS – THE DOS AND DON'TS!

Egloshayle Church, Wadebridge
Tuesday, May 9, from 11am – 1pm

[REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE HERE](#)

Our third workshop of the series builds on session two, as we get to grips with the question of how we achieve Net Zero 2030 carbon within our church buildings. We will explore the key 'dos and don'ts' and consider what changes are right for each of our buildings. This session will have representatives of the DAC and a RIBA Conservation Architect present.

WHAT'S ON

MAY

9 How do we achieve Net Zero 2030 with our church buildings - the dos and don'ts, Egloshayle Church, Wadebridge, 11am - 1pm.

20 Book Fair, St Andrew's Church, Stratton. 10am+.

26, 27 Flower Festival St Andrew's Church, Stratton, 10am - 4pm.

[MORE EVENTS HERE](#)

CREATION CARE NETWORK USEFUL LINKS

The next Creation Care Network gathering is on Thursday, May 11 (10am). 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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