

# OUR NEWS

## NOVEMBER 2020



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## CHARTER FOR ABUSE REPORTING

The Diocese of Truro has published a 'survivor's charter', to give assurances to individuals who come forward to make disclosures of abuse that happened in a church context.

The document, called Safeguarding: Caring for People Who Have Experienced Abuse, sets out how anybody coming forward to talk about their experience of abuse can expect to be treated and the care they should expect to receive. The aim is always to give control to the person making a disclosure, supporting them to access the help and support that they feel is right for them at any stage.

Independent chair of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel, Nigel Druce, said: "The 'survivor's charter' will, I hope, give people confidence to come forward. It offers them guarantees as to how they will be treated. They will remain in charge at all times – the only exception

would be if colleagues believed that an individual was in imminent danger of suffering harm, when they have a legal obligation to intervene. But otherwise it is down to the individual to say what they want to happen.

"We understand that for some people who might have experienced abuse in a church context, the last thing they want to do is to talk to the church about it. That is perfectly reasonable, so we have set up a mechanism by which people can go direct to First Light, who are extremely experienced in helping people who have experienced abuse."

Read the full story on the diocesan website [here](#).

## LOVING OUR NEIGHBOURS SHOULD BE NUMBER 1

Bishop Hugh has encouraged Christians throughout the diocese to make the care of society's most vulnerable people their priority, in the face of a second wave of Coronavirus.

Bishop Hugh said: "We are facing a tough winter, and many people are already running low on reserves – their energy, their money, their resilience. Many people are tired of all the challenge and change, but this situation isn't going away any time soon, so we need to stay committed to caring and looking out for one another – and especially for those who are suffering most.

"Church communities who have been working so hard to care for others cannot continue spreading themselves perpetually ever-thinner. It is important that our clergy and church communities take care not to burn themselves out.

Read the full article [here](#).

## BIGGEST EVER SOUTH WEST CAROL SERVICE PLANNED FOR DECEMBER - JOIN IN!

To mark Christmas 2020, the biggest ever South West Carol Service is planned for December and you are all invited.

The services, which will take place at 7pm, will be screened on the South West Carols website. Join in LIVE on December 5 and 6 for a Christmas like no other.

Celebrate with people all over the South West tuning in from their home for a festive online production featuring home grown talent and headline acts.

Featuring traditional carols, creative musical items, a nativity produced by children across the region, items to make you laugh out loud, interviews



and stories, fun and engaging audience interaction points, and more.

We all know that 2020 has been an interesting year, but that doesn't mean Christmas is cancelled! And the first ever South West Carols event will be a celebration of all the GOOD things that take place at this wonderful time of the

year as we remember the reason for the season.

Organiser and Lead Pastor Mark Pugh said: "Christmas will be different for so many people this year against the backdrop of the Covid-19 struggle. There will likely be a lack of social interactions and regular elements such as large carol services and school nativity plays etc are unlikely to be possible – at least on the same scale as we are normally used to. I think this could be a wonderful opportunity for us to share the gospel in a different way – together."

Find out more on the diocesan website [here](#).

## CELEBRATIONS AS READERS LICENSED IN SERVICES

As with most things in 2020, the service to celebrate Reader Ministry took a new format this year.

Due to Covid-19, the usual service full of pomp and ceremony with choir, processions and the attendance of family, friends, members of our churches and Readers could not take place. Instead it was decided to hold two services – a face-to-face event in Truro Cathedral and a second Zoom service.

Two very different services for a year that has been restrictive. At the service at the cathedral five new Readers - Deborah Mitchell, Matthew

Frost, Penelope Leach, Sandra Massie and Deborah Crocker - were Admitted and Licensed.

During the Zoom service, one new Reader, Roy Cooper, was Admitted and Licensed and two Readers, Michael Waring and Christopher Clark, who are new to the diocese were welcomed.

New Reader Debbie Crocker said: "I thought the cathedral service was a wonderful experience and personally I suspect I found it far more spiritual than I would have with a cathedral full of people and all the associated pomp and ceremony."



## AWARDS MADE THROUGH CULTURE RECOVERY FUND CHURCHES RECEIVE COVID GRANTS

Three churches in the Diocese of Truro have received nearly £50,000 in grants from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Historic England.

St Petroc's Church, Bodmin, has been granted £25,000, St Teath Church £12,900, and St Dominick, Saltash has been awarded £10,800.

The awards have been made under the Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage, a scheme designed to support heritage organisations that were financially viable prior to Covid-19 but which are now at risk. The grants are designed to help churches ensure their viability, covering costs incurred by Covid-19, allowing for business planning and job retention.

Truro Cathedral also received a significant grant from the fund.

St Petroc's, in the centre of Bodmin, has received money that will help it in several of its endeavours. The church has a whole raft of social outreach projects. Over the summer the church has been putting together 'fun bags' for families in the community. They contain some essentials and food items, as well as games, to help try to brighten people's days.

Read the full story [here](#).



## DIOCESAN ROADSHOWS

**The diocesan roadshows are continuing throughout November and into December on Zoom.**

Each roadshow will be specific to a pair of deaneries as we look to encourage discussion around life in your individual settings.

Hear why the new Bishop of St Germans, Hugh Nelson, believes God has called him to Cornwall and do ask him questions.

Bishop Philip will formally introduce the diocesan vision The Saints' Way and take questions. You will then be invited in your deanery groups to consider the vision's priorities and how they may work in your area or are already at work in your area.

In a change to the normal proceedings, this year's roadshows will also include the swearing in of churchwardens.

The roadshows start at 7pm. To attend, you need to register. You can register and find out more information on the diocesan website [here](#).

## FUNDS FOR MISSION

"Funds for Mission" are blessings to help us join in with God's mission, and that mission is to reflect in heart and hand the passions and priorities of Jesus.

The diocese offers two levels of grant funding to encourage and support parishes in their mission. This funding is particularly aimed at projects that fit with the vision of the diocese and can meet at least one of the five strategic diocesan priorities.

More information is available on the diocesan website [here](#) or email [fundsformission@truro.anglican.org](mailto:fundsformission@truro.anglican.org)



## THE SAINTS' WAY

# OUR CHILDREN ARE UNHAPPY - WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

Our children are unhappy. They are fearful of failure, struggle to make friends and are pressured by school, according to The Children's Society Good Childhood **report** released at the end of the summer. And the data was collected was pre-Covid19.

The Children's Society have been checking in with our young people over the past decade and have sadly discovered that their happiness has been in decline throughout that time. It doesn't take much imagination to guess how much lower that decline must have dropped over the past six months – young people feeling disempowered, choices taken away, rites of passage abandoned, exam results thrown into chaos by ill-conceived algorithms and bickering politicians, and an uncertain future destabilised by the economic crisis.

As Mark Russell, chief executive of The Children's Society says, "Even before the pandemic, which we know has taken a huge toll on our children's wellbeing, many felt their life didn't have a sense of purpose. We believe it is not only a fear of failure – which in previous research we found was higher amongst those living in poverty – but also rising child poverty levels that could partly be to blame."

A situation that is set to get worse as the economic toll of the lockdowns bites harder.

The Children's Society Report yielded the disheartening finding that our

young people had the lowest happiness measurements of any other European country. More than a third of UK 15-year-olds scored low on life satisfaction and didn't fare too well on happiness measurements including satisfaction with schools, friends and sense of purpose compared to children in other European countries.

So what can we do about it?

Many churches are working hard to reach young people, including those at our colleges and university, but it has to be acknowledged that many more churches in Cornwall are more used to tending to our aging flock than our lambs. But we can all be better informed. It's vital that young people know they are loved and valued, ensure that they are able to talk to someone, be it a friend, relative or a professional. They need to know that it's OK not to feel OK, and to ask for help. As the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby says, we've all got to step up and be there for each other and as the young people themselves say, 'Listening to each other is the key.'

Read the full story on the diocesan website [here](#).

## INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PUBLISHED

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, IICSA, has published its overarching investigation report into the Anglican Church in England and Wales, based on the main public hearing in July 2019.

The IICSA report focuses on common themes and issues identified in all three hearings, which included the case studies into Bishop Peter Ball and the Diocese of Chichester, both held in 2018.

The **154 page report** makes eight principal recommendations about a range of issues including the church's response to victims and survivors, which is an absolute priority.

Read more on the diocesan website [here](#).

## VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR BUILDINGS AT RISK ROLE

Would you like to be involved in a new Historic England and Cornwall Heritage Trust grant funded initiative? If so, Paul Holden, lead for this exciting new project would like to hear from you.

The Cornish Buildings Group are leading a three-year project to identify and campaign for Cornish buildings at risk. Volunteers are sought to identify and monitor buildings at risk (including churches) and report any finding back to the project lead.

If you feel you can support the project please get in touch with Paul via email at [cbgcasework@gmail.com](mailto:cbgcasework@gmail.com)

## CHURCHES' £12 BILLION 'NATIONAL HELP SERVICE'

The House of Good report from the National Churches Trust, the UK's leading church buildings support charity, has branded the nation's church buildings a 'National Help Service' after finding they provided £12.4 billion worth of essential social and economic support to local communities during the 12 months up until May 2020.

Read more [here](#).

# HONOUR FOR DIOCESAN ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

The Diocese of Truro's environment officer Luci Isaacson received the British Empire Medal in the Queen's birthday honours announced in October.

Luci has been recognised for her work on flood risk management and on alerting and empowering communities in Cornwall about the increasing danger of flooding due to climate change.

While Luci is clear that the increasing risk of serious flooding is due to the changing climate, she is passionate in her advocacy of a two-pronged approach. She campaigns both for the mitigation of risk through tree-planting, carbon capture and all forms of carbon reduction and also for communities (including churches) to prepare for possible flooding, even if they have not experienced it before.

Within the diocese Luci is someone who has guided and helped us with all forms of caring for God's creation over recent years, and we owe her a debt of thanks for all her work. But perhaps this is also a good example of the importance of working together, in this issue as in many others.

In God's economy there is no separation of church and civic life – there is just human life and the life of the natural world for which we are all called to care.

Luci says: "I want to bring to your attention the **podcast** in the Church Times. It will never be one thing, or even a group of things that will get people doing what we need to slow down or understand climate change, it is unfortunately, many things, which



is why we are in this mess. I think this podcast captures different perspectives and some that really help. You'll hear at the start, Prof Kevin Anderson, who is on one of my favourites.

"Our own Environment Champions across the diocese learnt about the 'carbon budget' watching an amazing short **film** he put together, which today, for me, remains the best explanation, for all. I believe if you all know what we know (from a climate science perspective), you will innovatively grow, work out solutions some of us would never dream up and together we can lessen the load coming, rather than sweep it under the carpet. I'm relying on you."

When you've listened to the podcast and watched the film, have a go at completing our ten pledges.

## COMING SOON: NEW ENVIRONMENT NEWSLETTER

The level of activity within the Diocese of Truro on tackling the climate and ecological emergencies is soon to be reflected in a new 'environment news' newsletter.

If you are interested in how the church is responding to the environment challenges all around us, then sign up **here** to the mailing list and be informed, inspired and illuminated.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### NOVEMBER

**5 The Children's Society Christingle resources webinar**, 11am - 12pm. Click on the title to find out more.

**9 Diocesan Roadshow - North & South Carnarath**, 7pm. Click on the title to find out more.

**18 Diocesan Roadshow - Trigg Minor & Bodmin, & St Austell**, 7pm. Click on the title to find out more.

**30 Diocesan Roadshow - East & West Wivelshire**, 7pm. Click on the title to find out more.

## GET IN TOUCH

If you have a news story or a diary date to share, please get in touch: 01872 360037 [comms@truro.anglican.org](mailto:comms@truro.anglican.org) before the 17th of each month.

## OTHER LINKS

**Prayer Diary** <https://trurodiocese.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/DoT-Prayer-Diary-Sep-to-Dec-2020.pdf>

## THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY CHRISTINGLE RESOURCES

The Children's Society has a selection of new resources for celebrating Christingle. This year it includes resources to help support planning, from a virtual Christingle guide, to informal arts and crafts idea, to Christingle at Home paper bags.

Download the full selection of resources **here**.

You can also help share the light by downloading a window decoration you can colour and share in your community.

If you would like to arrange a meeting, call to discuss ideas about Christingle this year or to book a speaker to join your service – online or in person, contact Jess Meale on 07715 510464 or email [jess.meale@childrenssociety.org.uk](mailto:jess.meale@childrenssociety.org.uk)

The Children's Society Church Team will also be hosting a webinar on November 5 from 11-12 to showcase the new resources, talk about how we can support you and answer any questions. The event is free but you do need to **register**.