

# OUR NEWS

## OCTOBER 2020



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## DIOCESAN SYNOD THIS WEEKEND

The online synod will take place on Saturday via Zoom. While members will not meet in person, there will still be a full agenda.

The synod is one of a number of events this weekend in the diocese, which is also hosting nine ordination services.

The second synod of the year will include the annual general meeting of the Truro Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd as well as the normal business of re-appointing the auditors and solicitors. The diocesan budget will be on the agenda for November's synod.

Bishop Philip will again preside and following opening worship which will be led by Bishop Hugh and feature a young guest, Bishop Philip will then make his Presidential Address.

Following a request from Bishop Hugh for people to share their views on the Covid-19 lockdown, the synod will premiere three videos featuring people from around the diocese talking about the challenges, blessings and opportunities of this strange time in all our lives.

There will also be a report from the Director of Education, Katie Fitzsimmons on children, young people and schools in the pandemic before members will break out into groups for discussions on the subject.

More information is available on the diocesan website [here](#).

## LATEST COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS UPDATE

It currently feels like an ever changing set of rules are being given to us regarding Covid-19 and that is bound to cause concern and confusion.

Be reassured that at this time, places of worship remain open. The rules around funerals have also not changed although weddings and support groups must now include 15 people.

We do not currently have the definite answer regarding standalone baptisms, ie those that do not take place during the normal communal service, however it is expected that they will be subject to the Rule of 6.

From September 28, the NHS Track and Trace QR codes were introduced. On visiting your local church for a service

you may be asked to provide your information. While this is not currently a legal requirement for churches, we are encouraging churches to take part.

It is a legal requirement for church halls to display the code, and if you are visiting a church hall or church for a social event, you may be asked to give your details. Our cafes must also display the code and you will be expected to provide your information.

The Church of England website posts the latest updates relating to churches [here](#) so if you are unsure, please do go to the site and check. We post our updates onto the diocesan website [here](#).

We know this is a difficult time, but please remember, you are not alone.

## CHANCE FOR YOUNG TO SHAPE CHURCH FUTURE

Children and young people are being offered the chance to help shape the Church of England's vision for the next decade through the creation of National Younger Leadership Groups.

Split into primary, secondary and further education groups, this is an opportunity for children and young people's voices to be heard on topics such as diversity, social justice, environment and more.

The three groups will include 100 participants each who have made a one-year commitment. During the year, there will be three consultation events (in November, February and June) and two online leadership development opportunities in January and March. Those nominated will need to be accompanied by an adult from their school for each session.

The initiative, which is part of the Church of England's Growing Faith programme, was launched by the Archbishop of York, The Most Revd & Rt Hon Stephen Cottrell. He said: "I am delighted to encourage young people from every diocese to take part in our three younger leadership groups this November – for your voices to be listened to and for the church's thinking and direction to be shaped and led by children and young people."

This programme also supports the diocese's new vision The Saints' Way, which has made one of its five priorities to be 'A Church that conspicuously celebrates children and young people at its heart'.



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## THE SAINTS' WAY ZOOMING INTO 2020'S ROADSHOWS

The first of the diocesan roadshows took place in the Pydar and Powder deaneries on Tuesday evening.

Hosted by the Archdeacon of Cornwall, the Ven Paul Bryer, the evening saw 45 people zooming in to take part virtually.

The event was the first opportunity many had to hear from the new Bishop of St Germans, Hugh Nelson who spoke about why he felt called by God to Cornwall. He explained: "I know that God has been at work in this beautiful part of his creation in every generation, and that there is a call being made to us today. When I first heard Bishop Philip and others talk about that call, and read it described in *The Saints Way*, I thought - 'yes, yes - that's it. That's the call I want to serve'. And because I long to see children, young people and families being welcomed into communities that are ready to be shaped around their needs and hopes, and I want to be part of leading that into being here."

Bishop Philip then spoke more about *The Saints' Way* and its journey, theology and five priorities before there was a chance for participants to ask questions and discuss its relevance to deaneries further in small groups.

## ARCHBISHOPS' TOGETHER IN UNITY APPEAL

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have launched the Together in Unity Appeal in order to raise funds for Covid-19 needs in the most vulnerable areas of the Anglican Communion.

Writing in a letter to dioceses, the Archbishops said: "As we grapple with the ongoing effects of the pandemic, the tentative return to school and work for many will be accompanied by concerns and uncertainties about health, finances and the future. In other parts of the world, the pandemic is still growing or nearing its peak, with the health and economic impact still increasing, and we want to continue to remember our sisters and brothers who are greatly impacted.



In a break from the norm, this year's roadshow also saw churchwardens for the two deaneries sworn in. In a first for the diocese, seven churchwardens re-affirmed their commitment to ministry via zoom.

The next roadshow takes place on Wednesday, October 21 in the Trigg Major and Stratton deaneries from 7pm.

To attend, you need to register. More information is available [here](#).

While you are welcome to attend any of the roadshows, we recommend you select the event for your deanery to allow you to fully participate in the evening's activities.

"We know that many efforts to help are already being made across the Church – for COVID-19, the Beirut disaster, and other needs. Recognising how hard pressed you are, we also recognise that many of our brothers and sisters across the Communion have much less than we do and are in far more challenging situations. We hope this appeal will demonstrate our firm commitment to bearing one another's burdens across the whole of our Anglican family and generate sacrificial giving even in these hardest of times."

If you would like to help, online donations can be made at [here](#).

## TASTER SESSION FOR LIVING THROUGH PRAYER & REFLECTIVE PRACTICE

**InHabit : a course in living faithfully through prayer and reflective practice.**

Written by Revd Bridget Macaulay of The Vessel Trust, InHabit is offered in partnership with the Diocese of Truro.

The year-long course (approximately one day per month) makes use of the physical structure and spiritual rhythm of the monastery as an image and symbol of whole life discipleship and practical prayerfulness. The course aims to build a community of ordinary, prayerful, down to earth 'monastics'!

Reflecting personally and together, we will take stock in the different areas of our often busy and sometimes complex lives. The course aims to build simple habits of prayer and reflection that can find an active outworking in everyday living. By deepening our connection to Christ as the Centre we can respond more deeply to God's calling to be active contemplatives in a world undergoing enormous change and transition. The course will start online in January 2021 and more information can be found here: [www.vesseltrust.org.uk](http://www.vesseltrust.org.uk)

An online Taster Session and explanation of the course structure will be offered on **Thursday, November 12** from 10am to 1pm and a place for this can be booked with Prayer and Discipleship Co-ordinator Revd Jane Horton by emailing: [Jane.Horton@truro.anglican.org](mailto:Jane.Horton@truro.anglican.org)

## 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)

# A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER FOR OUR ORDINANDS ORDINATIONS TAKE PLACE THIS WEEKEND IN BODMIN & TRURO

Eight people will be ordained as deacons along with 11 ordained as priest in services that were postponed from July because of Covid-19. Revd Claire and Rose Jones and Patrick Gilbert share their stories here.

Being ordained as a pair seems a particularly sweet blessing for this couple who have journeyed together on the path towards this milestone. When Revd Rose Jones was studying at Cranmer Hall theological college in Durham, Revd Claire Jones took a job in Sunderland. While there, Claire successfully went through the Bishop's Advisory Panel and, thanks to God's impeccable timing, was accepted to start at the same college the following year. And so began in earnest the exploration of life as ministers in the Church of England.

Rose is based in the North Cornwall Cluster of Churches, arguably the heart of Cornwall's more wealthy tourism industry. The churches are in different settings, from Port Isaac, a fishing village, to rural and coastal locations like St Kew and Rock. Rose was brought up in Redruth, "It's like we have dual congregations – in the summer and during festivals they swell with regular visitors and, in the winter, it is the more comfortably retired who congregate. In places like Port Isaac, we generally don't see the locals until the winter as they are working flat-out and don't have time to come to church."

Claire is based in Bodmin, an area diametrically opposite to Rose's parish, where the living circumstances of too many are profoundly hard. "The work is challenging but the team are great. It was a really exciting time to start as a lot of groundwork had been laid and many things were just about to take off. I was part of a team tasked with creating a new service of contemporary worship, which was an amazing opportunity."

And then the lockdown began. "It feels like two different years, the pandemic changed everything," says Rose. "When I first arrived, it was completely mad! I was catapulted into six churches and



was rushing around trying to get to know everyone and everything. I'd just begun to settle in when the pandemic hit."

Because Rose is one of the youngest members of the team, much of everything to do with the internet fell to her. "We basically started everything from scratch, set up Facebook pages for all the churches, worked out how to record services, re-did the website and got everyone involved up to speed as quickly as possible. There was a lot of immediate creativity and thinking around how to re-define what church could be."

As part of her training Rose opted, albeit reluctantly, to do a module on digital theology. "Who knew it would be so useful! It was the theology behind digital church so it's been really helpful when working through questions about online Communion, what it means to be a community in the church and the body of Christ – can that be achieved digitally?"

For all ordinands, this year has been a year like no other. It's required creativity, nimble responses and an acceptance that it's nothing like they said it would be at training college! The digital door has been opened, life is constantly changing in ways none of us foresaw and the church is doing an impressive job of keeping pace.

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## LOOKING FORWARD TO BEING ORDAINED DEACON

For Patrick Gilbert, ordination as deacon will be another step in an incredible journey that began years ago when he cried out to God to show him that He was real.

Patrick has a **story** that movies are made from and finding his place in the world was hard until Patrick let God take the reins.

So, why, after such an enormously varied and exciting journey, would Patrick choose to be ordained in the Church of England? "I grew up in the Church of England, so in some ways it's in my psyche. It feels nostalgic and it's where I feel comfortable."

Patrick was in the States for ten years. "Coming back to Cornwall, and ordination, much to my surprise, I'm hoping to draw on some of the things I learnt and somehow use them in this very different context."

When asked why ordination was a surprise, Patrick laughs and says because he never saw himself as the sort of person who would become a priest in the Church of England. "But I felt that call, went through the discernment process and it just felt right."

Following ordination, Patrick will work at All Saints, Highertown. "I really value the heart of All Saints, its social justice agenda. It's also a good platform as a BAME champion for the diocese. It's a very inclusive church that isn't afraid to speak out."

Patrick says he has mixed feelings about being the voice of BAME issues around the diocese and being on a steering group for Cornwall Council. "It's a great opportunity, but obviously it's very real for me."

"We need more diversity in the Church of England. The very fact that I am to be ordained speaks for itself – there aren't too many clergy who look like me!"

[READ MORE](#)

### WATCH ONLINE

THE ORDINATIONS WILL BE SCREENED VIA THE DIOCESAN FACEBOOK PAGE. WATCH LIVE OR LATER HERE: [FACEBOOK.COM/TRURODIOCESE](https://www.facebook.com/trurodiocese)

# WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE?

The world has changed around us almost out of all recognition over the last six months and continues to do so.

One of the over-arching themes of this time of pandemic has been that of preparedness. How well prepared were we, six months ago, for coronavirus and how well prepared are we now for the covid-related challenges that are likely to arise over the next six months? Most of us have had to make profound changes to the ways we live our lives in response to the threat and the reality of coronavirus – and the situation continues.

But Covid-19 is not the only catalyst for major lifestyle changes to be perceived from the world around us. The warnings of scientists about the damage our ways of living are doing to the natural world are perhaps even louder than previous similar warnings about pandemic diseases; and they call us even more urgently to sit up, take notice and take action. Indeed, as well as the verbal warnings of climate scientists we now have experiential evidence around us regularly about the problems that are already being caused by climate change.

Changes are needed at all levels, from our individual behaviour through to local, national and international layers of governmental policy.

Recent research discussed at the Diocesan Environment Officers' national conference in September explored the science of how personal change takes place and thus how best to influence people to change the way they live. The

research has shown that some people respond to graphs and charts whilst others listen better to story-telling or follow the examples of people they love and respect. The leadership offered by those we regard as 'trusted messengers' has been shown to be a significant factor in successfully persuading others to act, so perhaps, within the church, we can reflect on who are the people we might regard as our 'trusted messengers' – and who might be the people who regard us in that light? There is a long history in the church of the wise leadership of change, both personal and societal, and there is a growing sense throughout the churches world-wide that now is a moment – a 'Kairos moment' – when our world has need of such wisdom again.

On a practical level, of course, we will ask ourselves: 'what change?', 'what can I do in my home, my church, my work and my daily life?'. The Ten Pledges to help the environment and the Green Church Kernow Award scheme, both available on the diocesan website [here](#) are excellent places to start. If you want advice about putting these into practice or if you want to know more about how to seed these vital changes in ourselves and in our society contact the Diocesan Environment Officer via email at [luci@climatevision.co.uk](mailto:luci@climatevision.co.uk) who can help. And please let us know what you are doing both personally and in your churches to get ready.



LEFT: Cornwall councillor Adam Paynter inspecting flood damage in Cornwall in 2017

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### OCTOBER

**1 Meet the Funders Using Data to demonstrate need & top tips for making a strong funding application,** 11am - 12pm. Click on the title to find out more.

**13 The World in which we give: Teaching & preaching on generosity,** 9.30am - 12.30pm. Click on the title to find out more.

**21 Diocesan Roadshow - Trigg Major & Stratton,** 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>

## C OF E 'PRACTICAL PATH TO NET ZERO CARBON' FOR CHURCHES

The national Church has produced a short short, two-page guidance note aimed at summarising how churches can reduce their energy use and associated carbon emissions. They are based on the findings of the church energy audit programme and input from a range of professionals in the field.

It offers a 'practical path' to net zero carbon, setting out where most churches should start, and more advanced projects for churches who use more energy.

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

## APCM DEADLINE

THE DEADLINE FOR APCMS IS OCTOBER 31, 2020. INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TO HOLD A MEETING HAS BEEN CIRCULATED TO PARISH OFFICERS.