

OUR NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2021



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BURIAL GROUNDS PROJECT TO CREATE DIGITAL RECORDS

Family history research is now big business and a hugely popular hobby drawing people from all over the world to seek out old records and old graves.

A new, free Burial Grounds Project by the Church of England nationally will see every churchyard in the Diocese of Truro digitally mapped along with the digitization of parish records meaning parishes and public will now be able to view the information freely and easily.



Record, the national database of the Church of England, which the diocese has access to.

A simplified version of the digital map and images of the records created will be safely and permanently curated and will be freely available.

The Bishop of Truro, the Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen said: "Having laboriously traced my own family tree in the old Cornwall Council records office many years ago, I know what a valuable resource this digital tool will be for many people researching their own genealogy. It's also a way of making our churches more 'porous' and welcoming to visitors: I'm very much in favour of anything that helps us do that, so I commend this project wholeheartedly."

The project is free to parishes and the work will be done by a team from Atlantic Geomatics, the company hired by the Church of England nationally to undertake the project.

All parishes will be required to do is allow access to the churchyard and church so that the mapping and digitizing of the parish records can occur. These digital records and images will then be integrated with the Church Heritage

Staff from Atlantic Geomatics will contact parishes to arrange a date to come and complete the work.

What do parishes have to do? Nothing except grant access to the churchyard (and church) for the purposes of the ground survey, which will take less than half a day and involve a member of staff walking through the churchyard with a backpack containing an array of lasers and cameras. There will be no impact on the churchyard or people and it is not necessary to close the churchyard for this purpose.

Access will also be needed for the Atlantic Geomatics staff to digitise the parish records held in the church or elsewhere.

The diocese will be among the first in country to be digitized having signed up to be part of the first cohort.



DIOCESE OF TRURO

DISCOVERING GOD'S KINGDOM
GROWING THE CHURCH

SEPTEMBER'S DIOCESAN SYNOD: 'CONFIDENT IN OUR CALLING'

The September diocesan synod meeting will take place via Zoom on Saturday, September 25 starting at 9.30am.

This gathering will be the first of the new triennium and a portion of the meeting will be given over to welcoming new members, introducing how synod works and giving a presentation on how synod members can be confident in their calling.

There will be a focus on The Saints' Way priority to be 'more confident in our calling' as well as an update on On The Way and Models of Ministry.

Among other items for consideration are new Standing Orders for deanery synods.

The meeting will then divide into the House of Laity, House of Clergy and House of Bishops of Synod for the election of secretary and vice-chair for each House, to consider any co-options to diocesan synod to the respective houses and any other business relevant.

The members will once again come together as a general meeting of the Truro Diocesan Board of Finance, Ltd to elect the chair of the Truro Diocesan Board of Finance, Ltd.

To join via Zoom please register in advance for this meeting [here](#).

REACH THE YOUNG, SERVE THE POOR

GIVING THE GIFT OF CLOTHES

A church project in Wadebridge is aiming to help families by providing clothing to children.

The Grace Project, which launched at the end of July, was set up and is being run by church members at Egloshayle Church, Wadebridge, following an appeal in May for clothing donations.

The project is not a charity or a profit making organisation but rather a community project that takes the gift of pre-loved children's clothing and re-distributes it to those who are in need. No money is involved.

The idea for the Grace Project came from church member Helen Eustice who saw the impact the Cornwall Children's Clothing Bank in Truro had on families and thought there might be a need in Wadebridge.

"I could not believe there was such a high demand for children's clothing in an area like Truro and the number of families that relied on it to clothe their children. When I learned that the local foodbank and storehouse was moving to larger premises in this town it confirmed to me that there was a definite need so I went to talk to our vicar."

With advice from those behind the Cornwall Children's Clothing Bank, the Grace Project idea sprang to life.

Due to the current circumstances the clothing, which is for children aged 0 -12 years, has been carefully packaged in to individual bundles for girls and for boys, depending on their ages and sizes. These bundles can be collected from Egloshayle Church by prior arrangement or drop-offs can be arranged if transport is an issue.

Revd Steve Payne said: "We put out an appeal in May for donations of children's clothes and had a terrific response from the community. The project is inspired by a similar project in Truro. In these last couple of months, we have been packaging bundles of clothes in age groups



PICTURED ABOVE:
Volunteers Jackie Payne and Bernice Saitch, who have been helping to bundle the clothes and fundraise

for distribution. The costs of the project have come from church funds and individual donations of church members."

Clothing is always needed so donations are most welcome and can be left at the church between 10am and 4pm any day of the week. A team of ladies from the parish then get to work sorting and bundling the clothing, ready for distribution. Shoes and coats are also available.

Helen added: "We are obviously reliant on the kind donations of clothing from people within our community and we really want to thank all those who have, and are, donating as well as those sorting, bundling, delivering and raising awareness."

If you are interested in collecting a clothing bundle or donating clothing contact The Grace Project via its [Facebook page](#), via email grace@wadebridgeparish.org.uk or the parish Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/info.wadebridgeparish/>



TRANSFORMING MISSION IN CAMBORNE

Transforming Mission makes perfect sense in Falmouth, where it was first pioneered. As a new and exciting mission to grow the church in new ways in new communities, it's also a great fit for Truro, St Austell and Liskeard. But Camborne? Home of brass bands, ex-miners' choirs and staunchly traditional churches, how does a team go about transforming somewhere that seems perfectly happy where they are.

"With grace, love and kindness," says Revd Rosheen Browning, priest-in-charge of the five churches in the Camborne cluster. "We're not about 'doing' things to the community but journeying with them." And so said Revd Graham Adamson, their Lead Minister, Becky Lines, the Families' Lead and Esther Sardar, the team's Worship Leader.

For the team at Camborne there is no blueprint or road map, it's more a blank sheet of paper that they can either get busy trying to fill or lean into God and let Him do the writing. They all prefer the latter, which can be a challenging test of faith. The pandemic has been wretched, but it has opened up spaces – sometimes yawningly empty ones that require genuine courage to wait upon.

The need in Camborne is great. Well off the tourist trail, it's within the 10% most deprived neighbourhoods in the UK, unemployment is high, self-esteem low and life profoundly hard for far too many. Where does anyone begin to make the good news of Jesus relevant?

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)



CELEBRATING CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

DIOCESE FUNDING HELPS PLAY GROUP TO LAUNCH IN PENRYN

A play group for children aged up to four years has sprung to life in Penryn following a successful funding bid.

Little Sparks has opened its doors at St Gluvias Church hall after the Diocese of Truro approved a grant of £1,000 to organisers.



The grant funding has been used to purchase equipment and toys with the group aiming to be self-sufficient in the long term.

Revd Amanda Evans, Priest in Charge at St Gluvias Church, said: "Having talked to local parents and carers, it became obvious there was a real lack of groups for toddlers in Penryn. This became critical as we moved out of lockdown."

With lockdowns having been in place for huge proportions of toddlers' lives, the benefits of social groups for parents and toddlers was highlighted in two recent reports by Ofsted and Oxford University researchers. An Ofsted survey of 208 nurseries in England found children returning after the first lockdown had fallen behind in personal, social and emotional development with the

Oxford study showing that babies and toddlers from disadvantaged backgrounds were most affected.

Amanda said: "We believe working with families in our community should be at the heart of what we do as a church. Meeting young families in a post-Covid society and providing a place for children to play and parents to find friendship is addressing a very real need. This is the best way we can do something to help the Penryn families now. We believe this is the start of something which can grow in to mission here."

Jane Wheeler and Charlotte Butcher from **TM Falmouth** helped to set up the group in Penryn, after the success of Little Sparks in All Saints, Falmouth. They loaned toys and helped with Facebook marketing and bookings. Both are willing to give practical help and advice to anyone thinking about setting up a toddler group. [Email Jane here.](#)

ST SAMPSON'S BATS NEED HELP - SPONSOR A BAT

The bats of St Sampson's Church, South Hill are having a housing crisis and need your help. The church is home to two maternal roosts, common Pipistrelles and the more infrequent Natterers bats. The UK population of Natterer's bats is of international importance and they are listed as declining within the red data book for Cornwall.

The congregation at St Sampson's are keen to keep the bats' home in good repair and ensure their habitats are secure, but to do that urgent roof works on the church are needed. Judith Ayers from St Sampson's says: "We are privileged to have them in our building, but sharing our space isn't always easy. Their habitats are protected by law, but it generally falls upon volunteers and

donations to fund their conservation and enable them to thrive. We, like many churches who share our space with bats, find that it comes at a cost. We are embracing our bats but we would like them to pay some rent!"

In order to help that happen, St Sampson's have launched a Sponsor a Bat appeal and the Bishop of Truro, Philip Mounstephen, was one of the first to sign up. He says: "Learning to live in harmony with nature, rather than trying to curb and control it, is one of the greatest challenges of our time. That's why I'm very supportive of the 'South Hill Sponsor a bat appeal' – and why I'm delighted to be sponsoring a bat myself. Please do consider how you could help support these amazing creatures – and

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY: GET INVOLVED

Safeguarding Sunday takes place on October 10 and churches are being urged to get involved.

The Church of England is supporting Safeguarding Sunday and a short sermon for use on the day has been provided by Bishop Jonathan Gibbs, the Church of England's lead safeguarding bishop.

"Whether churches can give just a few minutes or dedicate their whole service, Safeguarding Sunday is a really helpful and important way of focusing on all the work that goes on 365 days a year in our churches to make them safe places.

"From our children's and young people's activities to clubs for the elderly and foodbanks, our churches are involved in every community. Protecting vulnerable people is at the heart of the Christian message.

"Safeguarding Sunday is all about creating an opportunity for churches to show their communities that they take this responsibility seriously," said Bishop Jonathan.

The specialist safeguarding charity thirtyone:eight provides bespoke resources including films and animations, prayers, preaching notes, children's activity sheets, hymns and songs and a safeguarding pledge. You can register and access them [here](#).



Natterers bat
Photo credit: Rob Parkin @ www.bats.org.uk

the lovely community of St Sampson's South Hill."

You can sponsor a whole bat or a contribution towards it (whole bat: £200, wing: £50, leg: £20, sonic hearing: £10) and all of your donation will go towards the expense of housing and keeping the bats safe.

You can donate on the [Just Giving](#) page or to find out more click [here](#).

CREATION CARE

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH LISKEARD GOES FOR BRONZE!

Hot on the heels of Britain's record haul of Olympic medals, St Martin's Church in Liskeard has become the first of our Anglican churches in Cornwall to achieve the A Rocha Eco Church Bronze award.



Diocesan Environment officer Ben Lillie says: "Huge congratulations go to the team at St Martin's. I am so excited and encouraged to see the response from St Martin's to Cherish Creation, Cut Carbon and Speak Up through the newly established partnership with A Rocha Eco Church.

"Eco Church is the national benchmark for church environmental accreditation and I can't wait to see more churches register and engage in this essential process – it really does make a difference!"



CREATION JUSTICE TOOLKIT FOR CHURCHES AND COMMUNITIES LAUNCHED

At the end of August a Creation Justice Toolkit is being launched for churches in Cornwall.

The toolkit has been developed by a partnership between Transforming Mission church All Saints Higher Town, Transformation Cornwall, Green Christian and the Diocese of Truro.

The toolkit is designed to help equip churches and their local communities respond to the Climate Crisis and resource churches for the season of creation. The toolkit includes key



resources for the newly revised **Kernow Green Church Award** and registering with A Rocha Eco Church.

DIOCESAN CREATION CARE SERVICE INVITATION

On Sunday, October 3 at 3:30pm there will be a diocesan Creation Care service at St Martin's Church, Liskeard.

Bishop Hugh will be sharing with us from God's word, and we hope to hear the voices of some of our children and young people who have a real concern for the environment.

We would love to have you with us for this service, but also please think about your carbon footprint in terms of travelling to Liskeard.

The service will also be livestreamed on the St Martin's Church YouTube channel, so there is an opportunity for many people from around the diocese to join us in this way.

We are looking for photos or videos to contribute to the service - can you help? The service will help us to think about PLACE - especially about those places that we regard as sacred or special and those places where God's Creation has been de-sacralised, or desecrated.

Send us your photos or videos of places in Cornwall that speak to you about the sacred and the desecrated and we hope to incorporate as many of them as possible into our reflections in the service. Send all contributions to reverendelly@gmail.com no later than September 24.

THE NATIONS' CLIMATE SUNDAY SERVICE

Over the past year, over 1,600 churches have held a Climate Sunday service, to worship, commit and speak up on the climate crisis.

On September 5, the Nations' Climate Sunday Service will take place live from Glasgow Cathedral and you can join in online! We'll gather together to celebrate all we've achieved, and present our commitments to government.

Join us online [here](#).

WHAT'S ON

SEPTEMBER

1 Faith & Mental Health Network, 2pm - 3.30pm, to register for a zoom link, contact **Rosey Sanders**.

5 Nations' Climate Sunday Service, join [here](#).

8 Communicating the need: Some Practical Tips webinar, 7pm - 8pm. Find out more [here](#).

12 Songs & Prayers from Taizé, Kenwyn Church, Truro, 4.30pm, continuing on the second Sunday of each month.

19 Prayer Book Society AGM, 4pm - 7pm, Find out more [here](#).

22 Communicating the need in a modern world webinar, 7pm - 8pm, Find out more [here](#).

22 HeartEdge event feature Sam Wells, 10am - 3.30pm, Penzance. [Click here](#) for more information.

28 Using Google for Parish Administration, 11am - 12.30pm, led by Revd Chris Painter. [Book here](#).

OCTOBER

3 Creation Care Service, St Martin's Church, Liskeard, 3.30pm. See the main event information left.



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