

OUR NEWS

OCTOBER 2019

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SEARCH BEGINS FOR NEW BISHOP OF ST GERMANS AFTER SYNOD VOTE

Truro Diocesan Synod voted to approve the appointment of a new Bishop of St Germans, when it met on Saturday, September 28.

The synod was asked to give formal approval to the appointment, following a decision by the Diocesan Commission to go ahead and recruit a replacement for Bishop Chris Goldsmith.

Bishop Chris resigned the see in order to take up a post as the director of the Ministry Division of the Church of England.

Announcing the news to synod in his Presidential Address, Bishop Philip said: "Essential to the focus of the work of a new Bishop of St Germans is that he or she should be an agent of

hope, encouragement and change for us all across the diocese, and that he or she should continue the ministry-focused work Bishop Chris began in encouraging and nurturing the developing ministries of both churches and individuals.

"We should be proud that the outstanding work he's done here in Truro has been recognised by the wider church, and I've not doubt he will be a great blessing to the Church of England as a whole."

To read the full Presidential Address, click [here](#).



NEW MINISTRY IN ST FIMBARRUS, FOWEY

The Bishop of Truro, the Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen, has appointed the Revd Ian Gulland as interim Priest-in-Charge in the benefice of Fowey.

Bishop Philip has chosen to appoint Revd Gulland to this role for six months, asking him to work with the parish in exploring their future mission and ministry across the whole town.

Ian will be licensed in his new role in St Fimbarrus Church at 7pm on Wednesday, October 2.

Bishop Philip said: "I am delighted that Ian has taken on this role as we seek, with the parish, to discern our next steps and to ensure that we have a joyful and welcoming expression of our faith for the people of Fowey."

Ian said: "It is a real privilege and I am grateful for the warm welcome I have received. I look forward to being part of the church in Fowey, where all are welcome and where Jesus will be proclaimed afresh to all generations."

Ian's first services will be 8am and then 11am on Sunday, October 6.

The interim role is part-time, and Ian will also continue as assistant curate in the St Austell benefice.

BISHOP PHILIP BACKS CALL FOR RESPECT IN DEBATES

The Bishop of Truro, the Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen, has urged people to heed calls for debate to be carried out with respect - saying that to do so is a part of our Cornish tradition.

A joint statement issued on behalf of the Church of England's College of Bishops calls for respect on all sides, amid growing acrimony over the debate on Britain's withdrawal from the EU.

The statement asks for a new tone of listening and respect in debates and describes the use of language in some cases as "unacceptable".

It calls for the 2016 referendum to be honoured and for the rule of law and impartiality of the courts to be upheld.

"We should not denigrate, patronise or ignore the honest views of fellow citizens, but seek to respect their opinions, their participation in society, and their votes."

Bishop Philip commented: "Our Cornish motto and tradition calls us to value 'One and all'. My prayer, and my call, in these difficult times, is that we do just that."

[+ READ MORE](#)



OUR VISION FOR EDUCATION

Revd Simon Cade, the Director for Discipleship and Education talks about the diocese’s vision for education:

All over Cornwall, and on the islands, people are doing their best for children; one of the great things about my job is that I get to hear about them.

I hear about the parents who struggle through chaos to get their children to school with the right kit, ingredients, outfits, homework and uniform, even when nobody mentioned half of it until Sunday night. Or about the grandparents on the school-run, providing tea and taking to cubs, and about the governors and trustees who give hours behind the scenes to make sure that things in school are run well.

Last week I heard about a teaching assistant who goes way beyond what she is paid for, she makes sure that the most vulnerable children are not forgotten. I have teacher colleagues who keep their passion for lively and fulfilling education, even when the government is obsessed with league tables and narrowing the curriculum. One of the ways that the Church of England supports this work is with our “Vision for Education.”

The vision talks about educating

for wisdom, knowledge and skills. This promotes ideas that broaden education from a narrow set of tests to something much richer and deeper, with the ambition for every child to fulfil their potential.

The vision is also about hope and aspiration, taking failure seriously, but refusing to see failure as the end of anyone’s story.

The vision recognises that any individual story is part of the whole story of society, so it promotes educating for community and living well together – building the communities in which we live as much as individual achievement.

Fundamental to human flourishing is educating for dignity and respect, vital if we are to be faithful to loving our neighbour whoever they are. These four themes, educating for wisdom, for hope, for dignity, and for community build on scripture and Christian tradition, and it is a vision increasingly valued by those who work in education beyond church schools and parish life.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORY CHANGES & UPDATES

LICENSED CLERGY

Revd Howard Flint* has been licensed as rural dean of St Austell. **Revd Dr Peter Knight*** has been as licensed rural dean of Trigg Major Deanery.

PTO

Revd Greg Stanton* has been given PTO in this diocese.

* Contact details can be found in the online directory at trurodiocese.org.uk/directory-live/

ANTI-SLAVERY DAY RESOURCES AVAILABLE

October 18 is UK Anti-Slavery Day and the Clewer Initiative has put together several resources around the theme of ‘Let’s Talk’, including an anti-slavery day church resource and children’s resource. There are also graphics of the prayers to use on social media. All the resources are available from www.theclewerinitiative.org/resources

As well as resources for churches, there is also a unique poster designed to raise awareness of modern slavery among homeless people for use in winter night shelters, drop ins, and soup kitchens. Alongside it there is a foldable card, designed for people working with the homeless to help them understand the signs of modern slavery, and know what to do when they come across it. On the website there is also guidance for volunteers and project managers on steps they can take in their projects.

MORE INFORMATION

www.theclewerinitiative.org/letstalk

FOLLOW +PHILIP

Bishop Philip’s blog
trurodiocese.org.uk/bishops-blog/

Twitter:
[@pmounstephen](https://twitter.com/pmounstephen)

PYDAR CHAPTER CLERGY TAKE TO THE WAVES TO RE-AFFIRM BAPTISM VOWS

When Revd Anne Brown asked the Bishop of Truro, the Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen, to oversee clergy from Pydar Deanery as they reaffirmed their baptism vows, he was delighted to agree.

His only condition was that he should join them and reaffirm his vows alongside them in the sea at Perranporth.

And so it happened that a small group found themselves heading into the surf – the forecast storms had failed to materialise, the clouds lifted and a small patch of blue sky was even visible.

Bishop Philip and Anne were joined in the water by Revd Chris McQuillen-Wright, Revd Helen Baber and Revd Elke Deeley. And watching on from the sand was Revd Jem Thorold.

Anne said: “As incumbent members of a very small deanery, we have close, supportive working relationships and in one of our regular weekly gatherings, someone, whose name escapes us now, suggested that as a chapter it would be good to dedicate ourselves to our combined journey in Christ through a reaffirmation of our baptismal vows.

“Somehow that then ended up as a trip to the seaside, to give thanks to God for all that has been, for all that is and for all that is yet to be, as together we trust in God and go forward in our shared ministry.”

+ WATCH THE VIDEO

■ **PICTURED TOP RIGHT: Deanery members prepare to go in; PICTURED RIGHT: Revd Canon Anne Brown re-affirming her baptism vows with Bishop Philip and Revd Helen Baber; PICTURED BOTTOM RIGHT: Revd Helen Baber with Bishop Philip and Revd Chris; BELOW: Revd Chris McQuillen-Wright takes the plunge with Bishop Philip and Revd Anne Brown.**



PRAYER & SPIRITUALITY IN THE DIOCESE OF TRURO

Have you ever wondered ... where is God in all of this? Is there more to prayer than I am experiencing? What am I meant to be doing with me life, my work etc?

Have you ever wished you had someone who could listen to you, give you space to talk about your experiences, ponderings and questions and help you make more sense of them? Someone you could talk to about prayer, your relationship with God and how to recognise God's leading in your life? Someone who could help you grow into a deeper realisation of how much God loves you and could 'walk alongside' you on the journey of faith?

These people do exist! They're often called spiritual accompaniers or spiritual directors. It's a confidential, supportive relationship, that involves a lot of listening and encouragement, without patronising or judging.

Spiritual direction/accompaniment is available to anyone who feels they could benefit from such a relationship. It's certainly not just for those who consider that they're 'good' at praying!

The Diocese of Truro is currently seeking to work with ecumenical organisations like Epiphany House, the Spirituality Network for Cornwall and the Vessel Trust to create a new team with a shared vision of continuing to encourage and enable prayer and spirituality across the county. Their work includes introducing anyone who would like to find a spiritual companion to those who are trained and experienced in this ministry. If this is something that might be of interest please contact the Revd Jane

Horton, at Church House or the Revd Janette Mullett, Director of Epiphany House.

And whilst on the subject of prayer ... If you haven't already done so, please do take a look at and try using the new-look Diocesan Prayer Diary: www.trurodiocese.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Prayer-Diary-June-to-Sept-2019.pdf

Praying for others across the diocese, for the wider Church and for the communities in which we live, is a great way to help remind us that we're part of something so much bigger than ourselves.

ENVIRONMENT

TIME TO SHARE OUR LOVE OF THE ENVIRONMENT GLOBALLY

As part of Pledge 9, the diocesan environment officer Luci Isaacson has recently returned from a trip to New Zealand which saw her bidding farewell to family and friends.

Luci, in a bid to cut holiday air miles by 50 per cent, will now not see this group again before 2027. "This is tricky but, by example, addresses what many people have said across the diocese: 'I struggle to do this pledge, we have family overseas'. The pledge was designed to not be so harsh, but to consider reducing air miles in this way."

Sharing the love

The holiday also proved beneficial in providing time for Luci to reflect on what might be the most important thing to do next. "During a stopover in Toronto, we were driving among four or five litre cars and trucks and having breakfast served up on polystyrene plates, which, as you can imagine, was a bit of a shock.

"It struck me, as churches here are

starting to do so many things to reduce carbon emissions, it's time for us to share our work, not only locally to inspire others (because we know that works), but to also share with any connections you have in other countries."

The final stopover in San Francisco, allowed Luci to explore a huge city that is very environmentally focused; every bin has a composting or recycling bin next to it. City departments carry out measures to de-carbonize buildings and fleets with municipal emissions declining by 30 per cent since 2010.

Catalyst to action

"Our last day, in the city named after St Francis himself, was the start of Creationtide. This is a great catalyst to share things to inspire others. So if you would like to focus your love of creation into action, to know more about what you can do in your church, to celebrate the season of creation this year, or simply to ask questions, sign up to our Environment Champion events, by emailing luci@climatevision.co.uk."

BISHOP PHILIP TALKS ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Environmental stewardship is really helpful term.

It reminds us that we have a God given responsibility to look after and to care for the environment and that goes right back to Genesis and to God's command to do exactly that. We are stewards of the earth and that's a really high calling. If we look at the Genesis narrative, we see that we are part of the created order but we are given a very specific responsibility within that to care for, to husband and to look after the whole of the created order. This gives us great status but also gives us great responsibility, and I think we are becoming awake to, and aware of, the real seriousness of that responsibility now in a way that we never have before.

Environmental stewardship has got to be right at the top of the agenda of our

responsibilities as Christians in how we act and behave in this world. There are things churches can do to improve their environmental stewardship. I want to commend the Green Church Kernow awards and the 10 pledges. There are simple, practical things that we can do that can make a difference. One of the problems is that we often feel like rabbits in the headlights – we feel that we are too small and there is nothing we can do. When we had our motion at general synod on this subject one of the speakers said; "let's be realistic – we are tiny as a church and there is very little difference we can make". In response to that a lady from London diocese stood up and said, "well actually there were only a very few disciples who were witnesses to the resurrection and look at the global difference their witness made".

READ MORE

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OCTOBER

5 Faith & Mental Health Day, Truro Methodist Church - see more next month.

5 Local Worship Leaders & Pastoral Ministers Quiet morning 'Manna on the Way', Degibna, 10am - 1pm, T 01872 274351 or email jane.horton@truro.anglican.org

10 Meet the Funders: Applying for funding for a project, more information www.transformation-cornwall.org.uk T 01872 274351

12 Annual Readers' Service, Truro Cathedral, 11am.

12 Annual Heritage Day, Sheviok Parish Church, 10am - 4pm.

18 Freedom Sunday, The national church is asking churches to focus their services and prayer on modern slavery to raise awareness of the issue and move people towards taking action in their communities.

20 One World Week focusing on climate change.

25/26 Introduction to the Enneagram led by Revd Dr David Rake, Epiphany House, Truro, 01872 272249.

SAVE THE DATE

November 2 Reflective day on Gerard Manley Hopkins led by Revd Professor Paul Fiddes, St Endellion Church, 10am - 3pm, £10. Book judithpollinger262@gmail.com

November 3 Installation of Canons, Truro Cathedral.

November 17 Environment Service, Truro Cathedral, 2pm.

November 23 Service of thanksgiving for safeguarding co-ordinators, St Petroc's Church, Bodmin.

November 30/ December 1: Festival of Christmas trees, St Denys Church, St Dennis, 10am - 5pm, Free entry.

GET IN TOUCH

News story or a diary date to share? Call 01872 360037 Email comms@truro.anglican.org

OTHER LINKS

Maintenancebooker website & newsletter

www.maintenancebooker.org.uk/

Historic England historicengland.org.uk/advice/caring-for-heritage/places-of-worship/maintenance/

CONFERENCE OPEN TO ALL

Research has shown that welcome and initial contact with those on the edge of church is crucial to how people continue on a faith journey. The Church Support Hub 24 conference will explore how to help people discover that they have a place with God. It is open to all and takes place on November 5 or 6. More information go to strangertofriend.org

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