

OUR NEWS

FEBRUARY 2020



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GENERAL SYNOD AGREES 2030 'NET ZERO' CARBON TARGET

The Church of England's General Synod has set new targets for all parts of the church to work to become carbon 'net zero' by 2030.

At its February 2020 meeting, members voted in favour of a revised date encouraging all parts of the Church of England to take action and ramp-up efforts to reduce emissions.

A motion approved today called for urgent steps to examine requirements to reach the new target, and draw up an action plan.

An amendment by Canon Prof Martin Gainsborough (Bristol) introduced a more ambitious target date of 2030, fifteen years ahead of the original proposal. The Church of England has also announced an energy footprinting tool for parishes to calculate their carbon footprint.

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CORONAVIRUS GUIDANCE

The Church of England has offered advice to parishes.

This page ([click here](#)) on the national church website will be updated to reflect any change in circumstance.

The threat posed by Coronavirus (COVID-19) has been assessed by the Chief Medical Officer as 'moderate'. This permits the Government to plan for all eventualities. The risk to individuals remains low.

Churches should already be following best-hygiene practices that include advising parishioners with coughs and sneezes to refrain from handshaking during The Peace and to receive Communion in one kind only.

[+ MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE HERE](#)

BISHOP PHILIP ISSUES SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." (John 10:10)

We are very familiar with the second part of the verse above. But we do well to remember that Jesus' words about his own purpose set him in stark contrast to 'the thief', who 'comes only to steal and kill and destroy.' It is a very telling contrast – and hugely relevant to the issue of safeguarding.

One year on from being welcomed to the diocese as bishop, and in the light of recent events, I want to put down very clearly where I stand on the issue of safeguarding – and where we must all stand. What I

write here has been reviewed both by our own Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, Sarah Acraman, and, even more importantly, by a survivor of abuse, as a representative of that group of people whose views and feelings have so often been carelessly and cruelly overlooked.

As Jesus' words above make clear, abuse of any kind is not only incompatible with the good news of Jesus Christ, it is an outright denial of it. If the gospel is about the free, open and un-coerced entry of human beings into fullness of life in Christ, abuse is its direct opposite: its currency is secrecy and coercion and its consequence is the denial of life. It cannot, then, be tolerated in any form or to any degree. Safeguarding is not therefore a 'bolt-on' extra.

If the gospel is about human flourishing, and abuse is a denial of that flourishing, then we can never say safeguarding is a side issue. It's core business for us.

As your bishop I have a particular charge laid upon me 'to serve and care for the flock of Christ', and as chief pastor of the whole diocese I will never abrogate that prime responsibility. I bring many years' experience of devising and implementing safeguarding policies to this role: but that very experience teaches me that in this area there is never any room at all for complacency.

[+ READ BISHOP PHILIP'S FULL STATEMENT ON THE DIOCESAN WEBSITE](#)

THE CROSS OF ST PIRAN 2020 RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

Seventeen lay people from across the Diocese of Truro are to be recognised for their services to the Church and their local communities at the annual Cross of St Piran awards in March.

As in previous years, the awards will be presented by the Bishop of Truro, the Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen during two services on **March 8** at St Piran's Church in Perranzabuloe.

Among this year's recipients, there are individuals who will be recognised for their long contribution to the church, for their work with local charities and community groups and for their efforts to help others.

Each year deaneries are asked to nominate individuals who have gone above and beyond in their service.

THE RECIPIENTS

Patrick McWilliam (Bishop's Award),
Elaine Searle (East Wivelshire Deanery),

John Trethewey (West Wivelshire Deanery),
Ann Scawn (Trigg Major & Bodmin Deanery),
Roger Sullivan (Penwith Deanery),
Deborah Harris (Penwith Deanery),
Linda Cobbletick (Stratton Deanery),
Malcolm Hersee (Kerrier Deanery),
Lindsay Hockley (Kerrier Deanery),
Pauline Sansom (Truro Cathedral),
Brian Spong (Truro Cathedral),
Jill Greet (Powder Deanery),
Monty Hooper (St Austell Deanery),
Phil Tremain (Pydar Deanery),
Margaret Johnson (Cammarth North Deanery),
Janet Thomas (Cammarth North Deanery),
Barbara Jenkins (Cammarth South Deanery).

THY KINGDOM COME 2020 LAUNCHES: JOIN IN!

Thy Kingdom Come 2020 launched at Lambeth Palace in London in February.

As in previous years, there will be resources available on the main Thy Kingdom Come website including the Prayer Journal, The Novena and Prayer Adventure, the family prayer adventure map, which this year has been updated and will have an accompanying app.

If you are planning on holding events and activities during Thy Kingdom Come 2020, which runs from May 21 to May 31, please do let us know. You can do so by contacting Jane Horton, Prayer and Discipleship Coordinator, via email at jane.horton@truro.anglican.org

One event already organised for this year is the South West Awake Chain of Prayer. On Saturday, May 30 between 2pm-2.30pm, thousands of Christians



of all traditions across the region are being encouraged to come together to stand and pray on the South West Coast Path.

For more information or to sign up visit www.southwestawake.com

Renewal, Cornwall's Beacon event, will take place on May 31, the Beacon event Renewal – worship, celebration, prayer will take place at St Martin's Church, Liskeard.

There will be a celebration service at 10.30am with activities for young people. There will be an all day prayer room and a free lunch and then at 6pm there will be worship night.

For more information visit St Martin's Church Website

+ READ MORE

DIOCESAN DIRECTORY CHANGES & UPDATES

LICENSED CLERGY

Revd Stephen Payne* has been licensed as Priest in Charge of St Breoke & Egloshayle in Wadebridge.

Revd Kirsten Norfolk* has been licensed as Associate Priest of Helston and Wendron, and of the United Benefice of West Kerrier. She is no longer Assistant Curate at Ludgvan, Marazion, St Hilary and Perranuthnoe.

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

UNLOCKING THE POWER: EFFECTIVE PCC MEETINGS

John Truscott describes himself as a passionate behind-the-scenes administrator who loves sorting things out and tidying things up – and yes, he does know how annoying that makes him sound! But these are essential skills for an effective PCC.

John will be leading us in a Parish Administration half-day course on **March 14** at Heartlands Visitor Centre. He is hoping to share some of his enthusiasm and excitement for enabling PCC meetings to be effective, to avoid trivia and focus on what it means to be in the service of Christ.

The one day course will rapidly cover why we have a PCC, why we get together for meetings and how we can prepare a meeting really well. From making agendas effective to focusing on the seating layouts, to determining individual roles at the meeting to writing up the notes, John plans to cover all aspects of active life on a PCC. If notes are not written clearly, or in such a way to prompt people into action, what was the point of sitting through that two-hour meeting?

+ BOOK YOUR FREE PLACE

FOLLOW +PHILIP
Bishop Philip's blog
trurodiocese.org.uk/bishops-blog/
on Twitter:
[@pmounstephen](https://twitter.com/pmounstephen)



The late Revd Julian Drew at sea

Photo by Chris Yacoubian

CHAMPIONING CHAPLAINS

What do you think of when you think of chaplains? Gentle clerics treading apologetically around hospitals, speaking in hushed tones with ever ready platitudes, tissues and a church invite?

Maybe on the TV, but not in Cornwall. Here, the role of the chaplain is robust, frontline and diverse.

A study of chaplaincy in Cornwall in 2017 undertaken by THEOS, a religious and society think tank, revealed, "A picture of a vibrant and extensive chaplaincy scene." It showed that Cornwall has chaplains covering almost every area of life within our county, from the sea to the land, teaching to governance, emergency services to hospices and the forces to the theatre. In total, there were over 200 reported pieces of chaplaincy work in over 116 institutions or organisations in Cornwall. And that doesn't allow for the chaplains that the research didn't reach.

At a time in our county when our clergy are taking on multiple churches under ever increasing benefices, traditional clergy pastoring is under pressure. And that's where chaplains can play such a vital role. They are uniquely placed, on the ground, out where people live, work, study and even die. Chaplains fulfil Jesus' command to, 'Go'. Jesus was always telling his disciples to go – "Go and make disciples..." (Matthew 20: 19); "Go and do likewise." (as the Good Samaritan, Luke 10:37).

Canon Chris Batt has taken this

message to heart. Chris has the very official sounding title of Bishop of Truro's Officer for Rural Affairs.

It's a startling fact that more than one farmer a week dies by suicide in the UK. "Farmers are under siege and the nature of their work and life style often means they have few people to share a pint with, never mind their worries," says Chris. Which is where he comes in.

Chaplaincy takes church outside of church buildings. It isn't about increasing numbers in a parish but going out, as Jesus commanded, and sharing God's love. As the THEOS report revealed, almost 90% of chaplains pitch up voluntarily, turning out in all weathers and circumstances. Think of Street Pastors. Not many of us would volunteer to walk the streets of our local towns and cities to hand out water, flip flops or offer of a mobile phone to call a taxi.

We also have chaplains to the emergency services – could there be a role that's more frontline? The wonderful, but sadly late Revd Julian Drew, who died last year, was chaplain to the RNLI in Penlee and the Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service.

[+ READ MORE](#)

OVER £10,000 RAISED BY CHRISTMAS CATALOGUE

Local charities across the Diocese of Truro will benefit from over £10,000 following the success of the 2019 Christmas Giving Catalogue.

The annual booklet, produced by Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum in conjunction with the Diocese of Truro, has seen a steady increase in the level of donations given and organisers are keen to say a 'Big Thank You!' to all who donated as this year's total reaches £10,200.

The 2019 catalogue featured 20 charities from those supplying backpack beds to the YMCA and Dance Express as well as all the Cornish foodbanks.

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COME RAIN OR SHINE 2020

Following on from the success of Come Rain or Shine in 2019, which happened in 12 churches across the diocese, we are encouraging more parishes to get involved this year with craft activities and food during the summer holidays.

We would like to open our doors and welcome families who may need activities during the summer, which will be free and fun. Added to this will be the promise of a healthy meal too, for adults and children, thereby helping some families who really suffer from the "summer holiday hunger gap". We hope this will attract both local families and those on holiday.

We are providing lots of help and support on the diocesan website for this through our pack of craft ideas, physical games, fun ideas for inside and out and easy recipes to make in church. We also hope there will be funding to cover the costs of materials and ingredients.

[+ READ MORE](#)

ENVIRONMENT

HELP AVAILABLE TO REACH COFE 2030 'NET ZERO' TARGET

You will have already read (*Front page: General Synod agrees 2030 net zero carbon target*) that General Synod voted to adopt a target date of 2030 for the Church of England to be carbon neutral.

'Carbon neutral' means either that total carbon emissions have dropped to zero, or that actions to remove carbon from the atmosphere completely balance the amount of carbon put into the atmosphere. This is both an exciting and a very challenging target, but it is important for us as Christians to remember that it is also a spiritual target.

Speaking afterwards, Bishop Nick Holtam, the Church of England's lead bishop on the environment, said that the decision was "a clear statement of intent across the Church and to wider society about our determination

to safeguard God's creation. This is a social justice issue, which affects the world's poorest soonest and most severely. If the Church is to hold others to account, we have to get our own house in order."

The 2030 target will need the contributions of all churches and church members if it is to be achieved, but fortunately, here in the Diocese of Truro, although there is much still to do, we are ahead of others. In this diocese, the **Ten Pledges** are available to help us to pursue carbon neutrality in our lives as families and individuals and the **Green Church Kernow Awards Scheme** is available to help every church on the journey. We all need to be doing both. If your church is not yet on board with the **Green Church Kernow Awards scheme**, perhaps you could suggest it as an agenda item at the next PCC meeting.

BRONZE GREEN CHURCH KERNOW AWARD FOR LUDGVAN

Inviting Luci Isaacson, the diocesan environmental officer, to speak at your church is a way to help everyone consider how to help meet the 2030 target.

Recently Luci visited Ludgvan Church, to talk about the environment and launch the benefice's environment plan. She spoke about the Revd William Borlase, once the vicar of Ludgvan who, 263 years ago, walked from the church to Marazion, and stumbled over a tree, buried in the sand. He went home, got a spade and Mrs Borlase, and returned to reveal, in amazement, the submerged forest there.

"Sea level had risen 16ft since the growth of the forest," wrote Borlase to the Dean of Exeter. Using Revd Borlase's experience as an example, Luci then spoke about sea level rise, community resilience and the importance of taking action now to limit exacerbating climate change.

Luci presented the church with a bronze



Green Church Kernow certificate (above) and gave Revd Nigel Marns a bottle of beetroot juice in recognition of the church's ingenious environment plan.

If you want more information about developing your own parish environment plan, contact **Luci**.



Lily and Harry with their pictures of the forest around St Michael's Mount

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH

2 Filling Station with Revd Graham Adamson, Penmorvah Manor Hotel, Budock Water, 7.30pm.

8 Cross of St Piran Awards, St Piran's Church, Perranzabuloe, 3.30pm, 6.30pm.

12 Beautiful Burial Ground Conferences, two one day conferences by Caring for God's Acre. Click [here](#) for info.

14 Called to the Nations 2020, The Engine House Church, Redruth, 8.30am - 8.30pm. Click [here](#) for info.

15 Choral Evensong sung by Resonet Choir, St Anietus, St Neot, Liskeard, 6.30pm.

17 St Mellitus College Open Day, 9am - 2pm.

20 Thomas Cranmer Commemoration Event, Truro Cathedral, 3.30pm, £7.50.

26 Beautiful Burial Ground Conferences, two one day conferences by Caring for God's Acre. Click [here](#) for info.

29 Anglican Communion Call to Prayer & Repentance. See more info below.

SAVE THE DATE

April 18: On the Way - A Service for Children & Young People, Truro Cathedral.

April 26: Truro Prayer Book Society AGM, Gerrans Church, 3.30pm.

May 30: Praying the South West Coast Path - Thy Kingdom Come

May 31: Renewal - Cornwall's Thy Kingdom Come beacon event, St Martin's Church Liskeard.

Sept 13: Bishop's Annual Environment Service, St Mary's Church, Penzance, 3pm.

GET IN TOUCH

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

PRAYER & REPENTANCE

The Anglican Communion is called to a week of prayer and repentance during the fifth week of Lent, from Sunday, March 29 to Sunday, April 5.

In a letter to diocesan bishops, the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby said: "Clearly Lent is a busy time and there are many demands on us from different group. I do hope ... that in this year of the Lambeth Conference, we can take some time to pray and reflect on our own relationships with others both in our own church and country and from around the world."

There are resources available to and these can be accessed via the Anglican Communion [website](#).

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