

OUR NEWS

JUNE 2020



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DIOCESAN TEAM HELPS DEVELOP NATIONAL SCHOOLS BEREAVEMENT RESOURCES

New national resources to help schools working with bereaved children and young people have been developed with help from the Diocese of Truro.

With schools set to re-open in the coming months, education leaders and teachers have recognised that many may be returning grieving and traumatised. The resources are aimed at supporting head teachers and schools as they take on the task of helping children and young people to deal with grief and to acknowledge loss of opportunity and missed rites of passage.

The first resource '**Never the Same, grief and bereavement resource for school leaders**' has just been launched. The Diocese of Truro's Education team were heavily involved in producing it.

Katie Fitzsimmons, the diocese's Director of Education, said: "I am

delighted to have been part of the team who produced it and hope that it will offer support to our head teachers in challenging times of bereavement, but also as we help children and young people acknowledge loss of opportunity and missed rites of passage. The coming months, in which we may start to see children and young people returning to school, will see them coming back to the places where they know they are cared for and where they feel safe. This will be our chance to help them as they recover their emotional wellbeing



and start to re-adjust to life outside lockdown. I hope that this resource will help school leaders to start navigating this. I am hugely proud of this resource – practical and rooted in biblical support."

Other versions of the resource aimed at parents and clergy are currently being produced and will be available soon.

The work is part of a wider initiative from the national Church called Faith at Home. More information is available [here](#).

PARISH SUPPORT WEBINARS AVAILABLE IN JUNE: SIGN UP

Over 60 people joined in the first of a series of giving webinars in May on Lockdown Resourcefulness, and a further 17 people attended a repeat session.

Run by Christine Salaman and Liz Wallace, the online sessions are aimed at resourcing churches during the Covid lockdown but also to assist them as life slowly returns to normal. The first webinar looked at the Parish Giving scheme and how this can be used effectively, as well as developing online giving and creative ways to give

online. The sessions featured Q&A opportunities and a clear demand for more was highlighted. As a result the team will be delivering weekly session at 11am each Thursday (June 4: 1.20pm).

COMING UP

THURSDAY, MAY 28: Creatively communicating the financial need in your church;

THURSDAY, JUNE 4: Getting started with online and contactless giving;

THURSDAY, JUNE 11: The Parish Giving Scheme for NEW parishes:

THURSDAY, JUNE 18: Stewardship Surgery – drop in with your questions!
THURSDAY, JUNE 25: Ten top tips for Giving.

To book your place visit **Parish Support Webinars**.

The national church has also produced a new animated video about giving, which can be used in parishes to encourage giving and can be personalised with the methods of giving that are being used in your parish. You can view it [here](#).

COVID-19'S IMPACT ON FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

Fundraising is one of the many things impacted by the Covid-19 crisis, the lockdown and the abrupt closing of doors on expectations, dreams and aspirations. All across Cornwall, plans that communities had prayed over, committed to and fundraised for have come to a halt. Understandably, funders have re-deployed their resources and energy to responding to the immediate needs of the many affected by this vicious virus. And community fundraising, most of which includes mass participation, simply cannot happen given the physical distancing restrictions.

But many of these fundraising projects are vital to their communities, from building a much needed community hub in the centre of our capital to essential repairs on a rural church that, beyond the lockdown, will struggle to keep its doors open if the work isn't done.

Truro Lifehouse is an ambitious project for All Saints Highertown, a church that has grown over the past eight years to become one of Truro's largest community providers. It aspires to transform its tacked onto, patched up 1980s church building into a purpose built community centre, to better serve the hard-working organisations who operate from there. Organisations like Truro Foodbank, the Cornwall Children's Clothing Bank, Singing for the Brain and many other groups and partners providing vital services to our most vulnerable.

Funding applications had been submitted, some very positive responses received, including from the council who recognise it as an



essential development for the area. But then the virus came to our shores, doors had to be closed, applications put on hold and prayers sent up to ask, what next?

Likewise, St Sampson, a small rural church on the outskirts of Callington, has seen the bridge drawn up between themselves and funders.

The community around this beautiful 13th century church now stand at the foot of a very expensive mountain. In a village of just 500, the church needs a raft of repairs and renovations, from the roof and ceiling to the stained glass windows, installation of running water to a loo and a kitchen. Funders will come back on stream eventually, but what can be done in the meantime?

The team at All Saints are still talking to funders and working on preparing applications for when funding streams become available again.

At St Sampsons they are doing the same but they are also taking a brick by brick, £1 by £1, approach. Reader Judith Ayers has been very proactive. This time last year, she opened up her beautiful garden for visitors and sold

her produce for fundraising. That isn't possible in the present crisis. So Judith has made her garden available online, though the Just Giving platform, and has so far raised £145.

"I was really heartened by the response. But it is hard to motivate people beyond the immediate community to contribute. We really want our church building to still be around as a community resource, a heart for our village, in years to come."

Judith is part of a fundraising group called CRUX, which stands for Cherished, Restored, Unlocked Church. It is made up of church and community members for fundraising and community engagement. The banner was made by the local toddler group, see the photo above.

It's in times like these that prayer seems to be the only thing left to do. Prayer started these projects and prayer will see them through, as the Bible says, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us."

+ READ MORE

THY KINGDOM COME: SHINE THE LIGHT IN YOUR PARISH

As Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) draws to a close there is still time to join the global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world between Ascension Day (May 21) and Pentecost (May 31) to pray for more people to come to know Jesus.

Due to the current Coronavirus pandemic, TKC looks slightly different this year. There are a range of

resources available both offline and in free online formats. Find out more information [here](#).

Daily Prayer for TKC is a great way to set up regular, daily patterns of prayer to hold these people in prayer – whether you are doing so on your own, as a household, or joining with a small group or as a church virtually.

Watch a special Thy Kingdom Come

Pentecost Service with the Archbishop of Canterbury and other contributors from 9am on Sunday May 31 [here](#).

Also on May 31, at 11am, there will be a virtual service for Cornwall. Led by Revd Steve Morgan, Sarah Yardley will speak and a worship band from across Cornwall will be led by Niall Dunne.

The service will be on [St Martin's Church Liskeard's Facebook page](#).

HOUSE OF BISHOPS PROVIDE PHASE ONE ACCESS GUIDANCE

Revised guidance that will allow nominated members of the clergy or lay ministers to go into churches was issued within the Diocese of Truro on May 7.

All churches have been closed for public worship and for private prayer since March 24.

But following a virtual meeting of the House of Bishops, and the decision to set in motion a phased approach to the reopening of churches, the Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen, Bishop of Truro, wrote to clergy and lay parish leaders in the diocese setting out the new guidance.

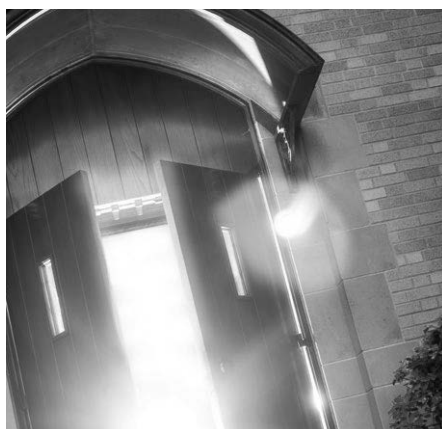
Now, **one person** – generally the parish priest or an authorised lay worship leader – is allowed to access the church. This is for any or all of several purposes:

- To pray the Daily Office and/or celebrate the Eucharist on behalf of the community they serve;
- To stream or record worship;
- To ring one bell to mark prayers being said or to mark events (eg VE Day, or the Thursday evening clap for key workers); and
- To check the fabric of the building.

Before they return to a church that has been closed for some time, the individual must sure it is safe to do so, and the national church has issued some practical guidance to help them do this. They may be accompanied by one member of their household, with whom they live, in order to help them mainly with filming/streaming.

In his letter to parish leaders, Bishop Philip wrote: "Clearly this change is limited in scope – but it is a move in the right direction.

"I would like to stress that there is absolutely no obligation for you to do this. You may feel that for the time being streaming or recording worship in your own homes would indicate a show of solidarity with your parishioners. That's what I intend to continue to do and will not be recording from the chapel here at Lis Escop.



"There is still a very long way to go in our fight against this virus, and we should not underestimate the size of the challenge ahead. However, we should also acknowledge and celebrate the green shoots of recovery when we see them. Above all let us press forward in resurrection hope."

The phased approach agreed by the House of Bishops was:

- Phase one: an initial, immediate, phase allowing very limited access to church buildings for activities such as streaming of services or private prayer by clergy in their own parishes, so long as the necessary hygiene and social distancing precautions are taken;
- Phase two: access for some rites and ceremonies when allowed by law, observing appropriate physical distancing and hygiene precautions
- Phase three: Worship services with limited congregations meeting, when Government restrictions are eased to allow this.

Bishop Philip added: "I look forward very much to our being able to use our buildings again – and even more so to meeting face to face once again, when we are able. However, it is my strong hope that the valuable lessons about making church accessible and serving our communities in new and sacrificial ways learnt during this crisis should not be lost.

"We are not going back to how things were, but pressing on into the future in faith and in hope."

MORE THAN 60 ZOOM IN FOR MAY MEETING OF DIOCESAN SYNOD

More than 60 members of Truro Diocesan Synod didn't meet last weekend at County Hall, Truro – instead they took to cyberspace and joined in a virtual meeting via Zoom.

Regulations meant that this style of meeting could not conduct the formal business of synod, but nevertheless there was still plenty to discuss.

In his Presidential Address, Bishop Philip acknowledged our diocese had not been as badly hit as some others by coronavirus although, as he noted, that would be of scant comfort to those who had lost loved ones.

The bishop said: "We are faced in many ways with some unpalatable possibilities. If visitor numbers are low this summer we may be spared a second wave of infection... but with no significant summer season the economic impact would be very severe."

Bishop Philip said he had been immensely impressed and encouraged by the way that as a diocese, in our parishes and wider communities, we have risen to the challenges that have presented themselves.

He said: "We really have rolled up our collective sleeves and 'got on with it'. Yes we've done that in terms of online worship, and that's been great, but we've done it in really effective and loving community service too, in ways I've found deeply humbly and encouraging. A recent survey said that 71% of churches nationally were delivering new services they'd not done before, and that doesn't surprise me. And as your bishop I do want to say a huge thank you to you all for the wonderful way in which you have responded in loving service of our neighbours. Thank you so much."

To read the full report of the synod, visit the diocesan website by clicking [here](#).

LOCKDOWN ENVIRONMENT GOOD NEWS

Like much of the rest of the world, our work on environmental matters has continued in recent weeks - mainly online.

Many people are becoming more conversant with video conferencing and other means of virtual working than we used to be. Of course, there are good reasons for us all to want to meet again face to face but the transfer of so much activity online has been truly good news for the planet. We have just lived through the biggest quarterly reduction in carbon emissions ever recorded – if we continued along this track we could stabilise global warming at a temperature rise of 1.5C, the target set by the UN as the maximum allowable if serious consequences are to be avoided.

But this gives us an idea of the magnitude of the changes needed if we are to leave a sustainable future to our children. However, our present experiences have also given us a glimpse of the possibilities for change towards a better future that are within our grasp. There are many ways for all of us to contribute.

You might like to attend the next webinar with the Church House Westminster Eco Staff, as they plan for the 2030 net zero target. All are invited. Don't worry if you've missed any, they will be repeated. **Book here.**

As eco-matters rise in everyone's consciousness, it will be good to encourage as many churches as possible to routinely incorporate care for creation in services. If you are a contributor (in any way) to worship in your church,



whether virtual or, eventually, in church again, then you might find the 'Greening Worship' pack of materials useful for bringing environmental themes into services. A successful training morning was run in May, giving the opportunity to discuss and ask questions, and other events can be arranged on request. Contact **Luci Isaacson** or **Lydia Remick** for more details.

Our diocese is working closely with Cornwall Council on our shared progress towards net zero carbon, by exploring opportunities including offering pockets of land for possible tree planting, tree nurseries or commemorative woodlands. The 'ecosystem services' these provide will lock carbon back into the ground, boost biodiversity, create cooler places that will be needed in future heat waves and can create natural flood management, including offering suitable habitats for beavers. The previously promised government financial incentives for this work, which some groups may have heard about from Luci, are finally available, so get in touch with

her if you want to know more. Widely increasing appreciation of the environmental challenges we face offers us both opportunity and responsibility to get more deeply involved. Communication is vital if we are all to work together productively and use scarce resources wisely, especially as the pace of change quickens. To keep abreast of local developments and to hear urgent and important news as it happens, Luci has her own mailing list which will really help your local initiatives: **please join it here.** Do also come to the next Environment Champion Event on June 12, which you can **book here.** The event will include information on the Church of England net zero by 2030, getting to GCK Gold in three years (Margaret Johnson St Euny), Church Community Gardening (Julie Munro St Mylor), Green Christian (George Dow St Marys, Penzance), Church House Eco Webinars, The Environment Bill, Covid 19 and the new eco future and local examples of Natural Capital (supported by the Bishop with Beaver Field Trip – see picture, with thanks to Sue Scott).

The changes needed are challenging, but in our national church's commitment to tackling them and following the leadership of our own diocese, we are all called to take a lead in our parishes and local communities, serving the cause of justice for both people and planet now and into the future. If you would like to be part of that, **get in touch.**

KEEPING IN TOUCH

School children at Quethiock C of E primary school have been working together, from home, to put together this lovely film of them all singing 'Looking to the Rainbow'.

The children sing about how they don't know when they will meet again but, even though they are in lockdown, they won't be knocked down.

Teachers across Cornwall have been doing so much to keep connected to the children, and to keep them



connected to each other. From online teaching, checking in on them regularly, to producing fabulous films.

Find out what else is happening **here.**

MAILING LAUNCHED TO SUPPORT SUICIDE WORK

Cornwall Council have launched a new newsletter Towards Zero Suicides which aims to provide and share information and advice between agencies and individuals who are involved in community work.

To find out more information and to sign up to receive the newsletter, visit Cornwall Council **here.**

WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

The spring of 2020 has turned out to be, shall we say, interesting. Perilous might be a better word. It seems a bit odd then, just when the way forward is uncertain and we are all worrying about the here and now and what next, to suddenly talk about last year.

2019 may well seem like ancient history; indeed some people are talking about the “years BC” – Before Covid – but there are some important reasons to give those days some thought.

First of all we have to write an Annual Report to go along with statutory accounts, and the “headlines” (as well as some of the detail) are still as important now as they were last year.

Second, and more important, most of the things that we thought were priorities last year are still priorities this year. Faithfulness has not suddenly gone out of fashion, and God’s truth endures, even in times of plague.

Third, and most important, the “BC – Before Covid” quip is a good one, but there is a profound truth that last year

and this year are both “the year of our Lord” – AD. This is important; God has not abandoned us. Giving thanks for the faithfulness of God in all things, including in 2019, is a good place to start reminding ourselves that God is with us in these perilous times.

The headlines then: The main headline over the whole report is that “with God, all things are possible.” These words spoken by Jesus to his disciples in St Matthew’s Gospel are about blessing, wealth, responsibility and hope. They are the words used by Bishop Philip as he began his ministry among us at the beginning of 2019. Everything last year and this year is only possible by God’s grace.

God is with us, and as we tell our story, we set it alongside the story of our salvation. Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, our story has uncertainty, perhaps for some of us it is a story of disappointment, a story this year of hopes dashed. But do our hearts not burn within us as we hear the Good News, and when we see Christ among us in the breaking of bread then surely our story is united with his Resurrection story.



A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Simon Cade".

SIMON CADE DIOCESAN SECRETARY

GROWING

VOCATIONS

A vocations day held in Truro Cathedral in 2019 to help people explore their vocation.

COMMUNICATIONS

Over 150 inspiring stories were shared in 2019 with national coverage achieved for our parishes and individuals within the diocese.

2019 saw the diocesan website being used by an extra 3,000 people (11,467) in just the first 3 months of the year compared with the first 3 months of 2018 (8,469). This is a continued trend of increase since the new site launched in 2016.

We shared our stories and messages on social media achieving 93,364 impressions on Twitter and a reach of 194,794 on Facebook.

Our newsletter subscribers grew to over 2,400 people in 2019 with over 55 newsletters produced.

EDUCATION

We worked with the 44 church schools across the Diocese of Truro, from Five Islands Academy on the Isles of Scilly to St Mark's C of E Primary in Morwenstow, including the 14 academy trusts and the local authority in our role as a significant partner in raising standards for children.

WELCOME

There were 12 churches involved in Come Rain or Shine in 2019.

We undertook 17 welcome audits to help churches improve their welcome to visitors.

We created 12 bespoke family trails for churches around diocese. There were also bespoke children's resources and schools' pack created.

TRANSFORMING MISSION

The first two years focused around Falmouth where we saw success in church planting (New Street Church) and community engagement (via Huddle café). The second phase in Liskeard, St Austell, Camborne and Truro is progressing well with staff teams mostly in place.

In 2019, Huddle welcomed an average of 1000 visitors a week with 3,500 people attending 186 special events. It also saw 40 people regularly attending the weekly worship.

STEWARDSHIP

In 2019, we worked with 7 deaneries running workshops or giving presentations at their deanery synods with the aim of encouraging or equipping them in their giving and stewardship.

The PGS wider community form launched in 2019 and three churches are already using it with many more interested.

Contactless readers are in at least 20 churches with a lot of interest from many others.

We also spent a lot of time helping churches find funding including the use of the Church Grant website and Meet the Funders workshops.

FINANCE

We are investing together in the future of the Church, mostly through Transforming Mission. We are joined in this investment by the national church and our local TM churches.



SUPPORTING

ACCOMPANIED MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT

In 2019, Accompanied Ministry Development worked with deaneries, parishes and clergy as they continue to develop their ministry and mission and to plan for growth and for parishes to sustain themselves in the long term. This involves listening to their stories, helping them discern what God is calling them to be and to do, and identifying what support will enable them to respond fully to God's call.

During 2019 there were 3 cohorts running, 36 parishes involved equating to 150 people.

SAFEGUARDING

We provided 61 in-house safeguarding courses and trained 725 people.

We supported 5 parishes and PCCs in safer recruitment implementation.

We supported our parishes in embedding the Parish Safeguarding Handbook. We did this through quarterly networking/ learning events with 25 people attending.

EDUCATION

Support and training was provided to schools and school leaders. This included our Head Teachers' Reflection Day; bespoke training and governance reviews, and preparing schools, trusts and governors for their SIAMS inspections with all schools inspected so far this year achieve a 'Good' outcome.

We ran a wide range of courses and events supporting over 200 people, as well as cohorts of two national governance programmes - one for clerks and another for chairs.

DISCIPLESHIP

We supported Local Worship Leaders as they played a part in leading hundreds of services across Cornwall, by running two training courses and two network days attended by 17 people.

DIOCESAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In 2019, we formally advised 92 parishes as they went through the faculty process and many more informally. There were 79 site visits made with 72 faculties recommended. There were 51 List B applications processed and approved and 10 amendments to existing faculties approved. The diocese spent £22,032 on faculty fees (£306 a time).

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

We have been supporting the work of our two Messy Church volunteers as they support and advise the 49 Messy Churches across the diocese.

COMMUNICATIONS

In 2019, we continued to develop our wide range of resources to support parishes in their work growing the church. These resources are available via in-parish support and on the diocesan website.

We provided training to 15 parishes in 2019 and support and advice to many more.

In 2019, the diocesan website provided support to over 55,000 users, who accessed pages 525,232 times.

In 2019, we saw the number of parish communicators in our Facebook group grow to 49. The group has enabled us to provide help and support to parishes and for parishes to provide help and advice to other parishes and us!

FINANCE: GRANTS & LOANS

We have been encouraging good stewardship and supporting deaneries to work towards today's church supporting today's church. We provided a toolkit that has enabled parishes to plan and we've supported them with it.

SOCIAL ACTION

In partnership with Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum, we produced the Cornish Christmas Giving Catalogue, which helped 20 local projects and charities to benefit from £10,200.

CHURCH HOUSE OPERATIONS

We supported parishes with Statistics for Mission and Return Of Parish Finances (ROPF). As a result our return rates (93% for Stats for Mission and 80% for ROPF) received a commendation from the national team.

Statistics for Mission and ROPF give a window into a parish's health. Returns are vital for planning for our shared mission and ministry and robust data is essential if the Bishop's Diocesan Council and deaneries are to make good decisions about how the church uses its resources.

LIFE ACROSS THE DIOCESE

ISLES OF SCILLY
 We worked with the 44 church schools across the Diocese of Truro, from Five Islands Academy on the Isles of Scilly to St Mark's C of E Primary in Morwenstow.

SENNEN
 We supported parishes with Statistics for Mission and Return Of Parish Finances (ROPF) and as a result our return rates (93% for Stats for Mission and 80% for ROPF) received a commendation from the national team.

CAMBORNE
 We made significant progress towards achieving our goals to instigate mission within communities in Cornwall. We are now Transforming Mission in Falmouth, Camborne, Liskeard, St Austell and Truro.

PENZANCE
 We helped to co-ordinate a Citizens Panel on housing issues and recommendations were made to councillors and MPs. We were supported in this with a grant from Funds for Mission.

NEWQUAY
 We have trained 24 curates for ministry throughout Cornwall including Newquay.

PADSTOW
 In 2019, there were 329 Local Worship Leaders with 17 commissioned.

ST AUSTELL
 In 2019, 1,125 people from across the diocese undertook safeguarding training.

HELSTON
 The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is used in 82 churches and donations continue to grow. In 2019, there were 11,212 donations processed, £739,290 in funds moved (excluding Gift Aid!) and the weekly average gift was £15.16 (again excluding Gift Aid).

ST WENN
 We encouraged individuals to engage with the environment and climate change and enabled them to take action individually and as a church with 32 signing up to the Green Church Kernow Awards.

BODMIN
 In 2019, 151 Open the Book teams brought the Bible to children in schools across our diocese.

FOWEY
 In 2019 there were 305 Local Pastoral Ministers offering a grass-roots ministry that reaches deep into our communities. While the majority of work involves the traditional visiting, teams are now engaged in everything from administering communion in nursing homes to assisting in baptism preparation and helping at memory cafes.

In 2019 £28,283 in small grants were given to 16 parishes and £114,500 was loaned to 4 parishes to enable them to complete development projects.

STRATTON
 During 2019 we worked with Stratton Deanery using the Leading your Church into Growth resources and been excited to see all that God is doing through his faithful people in North Cornwall.

ST GERMANS

LISKEARD
 In 2019, over 600 people joined in with our Thy Kingdom Come beacon events in Liskeard.

LEADING

SYNOD

In 2019 there were the usual three synods. Membership attendance rates were:

	Clergy	Lay
Sept	46%	55%
Nov	48%	64%
May	50%	61%

CHURCH HOUSE OPERATIONS

We produced a parish training booklet and ran 9 training courses in 2019 with 130 people attending.

ENVIRONMENT

In partnership with the Diocese of London, we sponsored a motion calling on every diocese to create an environment programme and introduce a national carbon emissions measuring tool for churches.

SOCIAL ACTION

Our Mission Forum in partnership with Transforming Mission and Cornwall Foundation Trust chaplains held a Faith and Mental Health Day enabling interested parties to discuss the topics. Over 100 people attended. 91% said the day was good or excellent with 87% saying they would do more work in the areas of faith and mental health as a result.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Since 2019, we have been a Trailblazer Diocese for the delivery of the national Growing Faith Initiative. This initiative is a partnership between churches, schools and households looking to work together to enable children and young people to live out a life-long faith.

FINANCE

Good stewardship of diocesan assets such as Glebe, MMF income, parsonages and investments to sustain ministry and all the other activities of the diocese.

ARCHDEACONS

There were 389 churchwardens charged in 2019.

READERS

In 2019 we had 118 Readers in the diocese.

The number of Readers taking Communion services to the housebound and sick increased in 2019.

There was an increase in the number of Readers involved in funeral ministry.

37 Readers preached 695 sermons in 2019. 722 services were Reader led.



PRAYING

DISCIPLESHIP

The quarterly diocesan prayer diary draws together hundreds of churches and every school in Cornwall, uniting our prayer before God, committing us to serve and give thanks. In 2019, the prayer diary was downloaded 1,170 times.

In 2019, many churches signed up to take part in Thy Kingdom Come. Our diocesan beacon events were held at St Martin's Church in Liskeard and in the Callington Cluster. Over 600 people joined in the events in Liskeard.

We organised 5 quiet days attracting over 50 people.

We also established a new Prayer & Spirituality team with a strong ecumenical emphasis with the aim of connecting, encouraging and promoting prayer across the diocese.

We introduced a list of Spiritual Directors to assist others in their journeys.

ENVIRONMENT

We held our first Diocesan Environment Service at Truro Cathedral in 2019 and over 100 children joined in along with their families. It was a powerful witness to Christian response to God's call to care for creation and work with others as we do so.

SAFEGUARDING

In 2019, we held our first service of thanksgiving for our Safeguarding Co-ordinators. Over 28 attended the service, which enabled us to give thanks for the work of our parish teams in this important area.

READERS

We held a service to celebrate Reader Ministry in 2019, which saw 8 Readers admitted and licensed, 3 Readers welcomed to the diocese, 4 Readers given their first permission to officiate certificate and 4 Readers recognised for giving a combined 175 years in Ministry.

ACCOMPANIED MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT

In our AMD sessions with parishes we focused on the importance of prayer as the expression of ultimate dependence on God and we encouraged hope and trust in our generous God.



600

305

175

50

100+

28



A FINAL WORD LOOKING FORWARD

I am writing these final words at a strange time. This report deals with the period before the 2020 coronavirus crisis – but we can hardly face the future and ignore it.

For all that this crisis has been quite devastating in its effect it's been a time of great compassion too. It's also been a time of great creativity and innovation. And I'm very proud indeed of the way our people and our churches have risen to the challenge that's presented itself to them.

So how then, in its light, do we look to the future? I hope we will do so with no less care and compassion; creativity and innovation. I hope above all we will face the future with faith, confident in the God who always calls us forward.

And we will look forward with a focussed faith. 2020 will, I hope, be the year when we see a new diocesan strategy accepted and begin to be embedded.

At the heart of that strategy is a story: the story of what God has been doing in Cornwall, a story which he is still telling and in which he calls us to play our part.

And more specifically still, I hope that in 2020 we will take ever more seriously the five priorities I've outlined for us. They are where 'the rubber hits the road' for the change we seek.

Thus it's my prayer that in 2020 we will increasingly be:

A church that conspicuously celebrates children and young people at its heart, learning some of the lessons from the crisis about joining across the generations;

A church that unashamedly embraces an innovative pioneering culture, putting into continued practice the inventiveness we learnt in lockdown;

A church that is increasingly confident in its calling, knowing just how best we can reach out in loving service – again learning enduring lessons from the crisis;

A church that rejoices in strong, warm and mutually encouraging international links, because we know without doubt we're part of a global family;

A church that rejoices in the generosity of God because we believe above all else that our God is good and loving towards us.

My prayer is that we should be just such a church. Please do join me in that prayer.



A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Philip Truro". The signature is fluid and cursive.

+PHILIP TRURO MAY 2020

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DIOCESE OF TRURO
DISCOVERING GOD'S KINGDOM
GROWING THE CHURCH