

# OUR NEWS

## AUGUST 2020



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## BISHOP HUGH CONSECRATED IN JOYFUL SERVICE IN LONDON

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Justin Welby, heard the oaths of the new Bishop of St Germans as he was consecrated in a joyful service at Lambeth Palace Chapel this morning.

The Rt Revd Hugh Nelson was consecrated by three bishops laying their hands on him – the Bishop of London, the Rt Revd Dame Sarah Mullally, who led the service; the Bishop of Dover, the Rt Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin; and the Bishop of Guildford, the Rt Revd Andrew Watson. In normal times this would be done by many more bishops at a bigger service, usually in a cathedral.

Archbishop Justin also preached at the service and presented Hugh with his symbols of office – his ring, cross and staff. In his sermon, Archbishop Justin spoke of the dangers of the abandonment of humility for grandeur, and also urged the new bishops to lead a non-anxious church.

Attending the service were Bishop

Hugh's family, and the Bishop of Truro, the Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen. Consecrated at the same time was the new Bishop of Horsham, the Rt Revd Ruth Bushyager.

Because of changes to the date of his consecration stemming from Covid-19 restrictions, Bishop Hugh officially started in his new role on July 1. He is greatly looking forward to beginning his role more fully, though, and to meeting people throughout the diocese.

There will be many opportunities for people to meet Bishop Hugh over the coming weeks and months, and it is hoped to hold a service of welcome in Truro Cathedral once health guidance permits.

[Watch the service here.](#)

## ARCHDEACON AUDREY TO LEAVE DIOCESE

Archdeacon Audrey Elkington will sadly be leaving the Diocese of Truro in February 2021.

After nearly ten years serving the diocese as Archdeacon of Bodmin, she will be returning north to Tyneside. After a good rest, she will explore how she may be of use to God through non-stipendiary ministry.

She will be very much missed.

Bishop Philip said: "We will be very sorry to see Audrey go, although obviously pleased that she is following her calling. In addition to her great knowledge, diligence and devotion to her office, I am also personally very grateful to her for all the friendship, support and encouragement she has shown me, and I know I am not alone. It's not unexpected to any of us that Audrey doesn't want a fuss, but we look forward to embarrassing her just a tiny bit in the new year."



# THE SAINTS' WAY: A VISION FOR OUR DIOCESE

## WALKING THE SAINTS' WAY

Let me share a little secret with you. Even when it was still only a possibility that I might be the next Bishop of Truro I knew if that were to happen I'd want my pectoral cross to contain some genuine Cornish tin. And so indeed it does.

My cross, in fact, expresses in itself two convictions which are close to my heart: convictions at the heart of our new diocesan vision and strategy, 'The Saints' Way'.

One conviction is about the very special place Cornwall is: a place with a very distinct heritage and history. So, as well as being made with good South Crofty tin, my cross is made by a Cornish craftsman, Charles Hall from Gwinear. And the image of Christ upon the cross is taken from one of the ancient Celtic crosses that still mark our landscape.

One conviction is about Cornwall. The other is about Christ. We are called above else to be Christ-people, filled with his Spirit, being his body, sent on his mission – a mission that is ours through the agony and triumph of his cross.

So I wear the cross around my neck close to my heart to remind me of my twin commitments: to Cornwall and to Christ.

The task 'The Saints' Way' sets us, in a nutshell is to bring those two together, building on a connection between them that goes back many hundreds of years to the days of the Celtic saints. We are their inheritors, called to walk in the way of faith, hope and love as they did – hence the name: 'The Saints' Way'.

### HOW WILL WE DO THAT?

I believe our God is calling us to focus on five distinct areas so we may move forward faithfully and effectively in mission and ministry. We are to be:

A Church that conspicuously celebrates children and young people at its heart – restoring them to their rightful place in our life together;



A Church that unashamedly embraces an innovative pioneering culture – not being afraid to step out in faith in new adventures;

A Church that is increasingly confident in its calling – not doing things because we always have, but sensing specifically how God is calling us forward;

A Church that rejoices in strong, warm and mutually encouraging international links – recognising we have a lot to learn from others;

A Church that rejoices in the generosity of God – a generosity that allows us to be generous ourselves.

Personally, I find the prospect of a church like that very exciting! Such a church draws deeply on its past, but looks hopefully to its future. It's certainly the kind of church as bishop I want to lead. So I invite you to join me on the journey, committed both to Cornwall and to Christ, as together we follow 'The Saints' Way.'

## CLIMATE SUNDAY: WORKING TOGETHER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

There is much talk about the three pandemics raging around us: Covid-19, racism and climate change.

Covid-19 came upon us very quickly and is impossible to ignore. Racism, too often ignored, has sadly been with us for far too long, while climate change is the noisy elephant in the room. Only when the noise stopped as the planet paused during lockdown did the world get a glimpse of how life could be if we did something about this third and most dangerous pandemic.

But what is that 'something'? The world's leading scientists have told us, pleaded with us even, to make a meaningful change as time is running out. Two years ago we had a fifty/fifty chance of keeping the global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees, but by the beginning of this year we were on course to overshoot that by several degrees. The pandemic has proved to be a 'something' but obviously isn't an answer in itself.

Climate Sunday hope that every church community will lead one or more Climate Sunday services from the beginning of Creationtide in September through to November 2021 when the COP26 takes place. Prayer changes things, and so does action.

Simply put the invitation from Climate Sunday is to do one or more of three things:

1. Hold a climate-focused service;
2. Make a commitment as a local church community to taking long-term action to reduce its own greenhouse gas emissions.
3. Join other churches and wider society by adding its name to a call for the government to take much bolder action on climate change.

As well as the Climate Sunday resources, the Diocese of Truro is also offering a Greening Worship Workshop, during August to help with the creative process. [Book here.](#)

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE.](#)

# THE SAINTS' WAY: REJOICING IN THE GENEROSITY OF GOD

## A FAIR & JUST FUTURE FOR CORNWALL REPORT RELEASED

Bishop Philip has added his voice to a report calling for a 'Fair and Just Future for Cornwall' which has presented to council leaders and Cornwall's MPs.

Leading Cornish voices, drawn from business, community, faith and charity sectors, have set out their vision of a 'Fair and Just Future for Cornwall' in a report that will be presented to council leaders and the Cornwall's MPs.

"The decisions we take now will shape our future for good or ill and Cornwall should have a say about its own future," says Andrew Yates, chair of Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum. "As we come out of lockdown we feel it is vital our elected representatives both here in Cornwall, and at Westminster, listen carefully to local businesses, voluntary and community organisations. These are people who live in the communities they serve and know them well."

The report features contributions from 21 different organisations including Anne Thomas, CEO of Cornwall Care, Ann Vandermeulen from Cornwall Federation of Small Businesses, Manda Brookman from Extinction Rebellion, Wailim Wong from Cornwall Citizens Advice, Allister Young from Coastline Housing and Jane Yeomans from Transformation Cornwall.

The Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen, Bishop of Truro and report contributor, said: "Whilst not everyone will agree with its conclusions, we are keen that this report enables a wider



public conversation about Cornwall and what its future might look like. I salute all the contributors for their deep commitment to Cornwall and its people.

"This crisis has forced change on us in a way that few things, if any, will do in our lifetimes. It is our responsibility to respond to, and manage that change in a way that really does benefit one and all - and the natural world around us too. I hope we will commit ourselves - One and All - to work together for a better future."

**Read the full report here.**

## FUNDS FOR MISSION: SMALL & LARGE GRANTS AVAILABLE

As we respond to the call to be Christ-people for Cornwall, and to do this in challenging and strange times, churches are praying and thinking about mission in new ways.

The Funds for Mission grants system

has been revised to support this. You can now apply for small or large grants.

More information is available on the diocesan website [here](#) or email [fundsformission@truro.anglican.org](mailto:fundsformission@truro.anglican.org)

## CHILDREN'S SOCIETY VIRTUAL TALKS

Are you hosting your church services online? Would you be interested in a recorded or live talk from The Children's Society? The society have had to postpone a number of talks due to covid-19. It has been exploring different ways to engage with the church community and other groups. This includes sending over a pre-recorded talk, joining a live service and providing information for a printed service.

For more information or to book a talk contact Jess Meale via email at [Jess.meale@childrenssociety.org.uk](mailto:Jess.meale@childrenssociety.org.uk)

*The Saints' Way: A church that celebrates children & young people*

## SAVE THE DATE: 2020 ROADSHOWS

The 2020 diocesan roadshow dates have just been announced.

With the world still uncertain as to what might happen with Covid-19 in the autumn, and with the need to organise these roadshows in advance, we have taken the decision to take the roadshows online. We hope this will enable more of you to join in from the comfort of your own homes (no braving the dark and rain this year!).

This year's roadshows will take place on: September 22, October 21, November 9, 18 and 30 and December 1. We will provide more information regarding times and how to take part in due course.

We are still keen to meet in person and so we are looking to organise face-to-face events in spring next year.

## CHURCH HOUSE OPENING

Church House in Threemilestone will begin to re-open from August 10. The office will not be open to visitors. Staff will be continuing to work mainly from home.

If you need to contact us please continue to use the main numbers or email the individual directly.

# BECOME AN ENVIRONMENT CHAMPION & HELP YOUR CHURCH BECOME NET ZERO

Despite the ongoing challenges of Covid-19, church activity nurturing the environment continues apace.

Most readers will know that General Synod has committed to a target of the year 2030 for the achievement of net zero carbon emissions across the whole Church of England. It is acknowledged by all that this is challenging, but planning is progressing well both at Westminster and in the dioceses.

At the moment, as with any major project, the most important thing is to know where we are starting from. What is our church's carbon footprint now and where, therefore, might be the good places to start to reduce it?

Measurement of our starting point, our current annual emissions, is obviously vital, but churches are complex organisations and decisions also need to be taken regarding what can and cannot reasonably be included. Consultation is currently taking place about which potential sources of greenhouse gases should be accounted for; it is likely that all church-owned buildings and land and most church schools will be included, as will much church-related travel.

“ Being an environment champion gives me an opportunity to help to make a real difference and to help make our own churches as environmentally friendly and sustainable as we can - with a nice low carbon footprint. There are so many changes that we can make - relatively painlessly - if we just try. It makes sense - and it is really interesting too! We don't work on our own; we work closely together with other members of our parish church and Benefice. And an extra benefit is that the wider community beyond church gets to hear about, and be interested in, what we are doing too, which all helps to raise awareness and encourage action - it is an issue for all humanity. ”

*Julia Harvard, Ludgvan parish environment champion*

Bishop Philip has set up a task group under the chairmanship of Very Revd Roger Bush, Dean of Truro, to oversee our diocese's response to the 2030 challenge.

Every parish can contribute to this challenge. A good place to start is for your parish to have an 'environment champion,' someone in the church - lay or clergy - who feels passionately about protecting the environment, wants to meet others who feel the same and wants to take co-ordinated action, led by the diocesan environment officer, Luci Isaacson.

Some churches have more than one champion. Luci brings the champions from across the diocese together to share ideas, information and support. Everyone is welcome to get involved and all of the champions are keen to hear new ideas and offers of help.

Luci said: "Come and join us, as we enjoy doing our bit towards tackling climate change and protecting the environment, which will be so critical for us all in post-Covid-19 recovery."

## JOIN AN ENVIRONMENT CHAMPION EVENT

If you would like to know more about becoming an environment champion, why not register to attend one of Luci's regular environment champion events.

During August there are two events planned. You can sign up to attend [here](#).

If you are a worship leader (lay or clergy) you may also like to attend the Greening Worship event planned for August 12 to help you bring these very important issues into the services you lead, especially through Creationtide. You can book your place [here](#).



## FIND OUT MORE ABOUT LAND MANAGEMENT

One of the things you might hear about if you go to the environment champions meeting is the importance of environmental land management.

Many churches are custodians of local land and this is a vital resource for developing better climate resilience for the future. Legislation is currently before parliament which, if passed, will provide support for land use schemes which reduce climate risks and churches may be eligible for help.

If you are interested, contact Luci for more information. Schemes do not have to be grand: see for example the apple tree (pictured above), fruiting at St Euny Church, which uses the land there productively and, like all trees, captures carbon from the atmosphere and returns it to the ground.

If you have made changes in the way your church uses its land, let us know and include a photo. Every tree will make a difference!

Contact Luci Isaacson, diocesan environment officer, by emailing [luci@climatevision.co.uk](mailto:luci@climatevision.co.uk)