

OUR NEWS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021



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NEW ARCHDEACON ANNOUNCED

The Revd Kelly Betteridge has been named as the new Archdeacon of Bodmin and Director of Intergenerational Church for the Diocese of Truro.

Kelly is currently the vicar of St Nicolas Parish Church in Nuneaton and Priest in Charge of St James Church, Weddington and Caldecote.

Kelly, who will be moving to the diocese with her husband Simon and cat Benny, brings with her a wealth of experience in youth, children and families work with a special focus on Intergenerational Church.

After graduating in 1992 with a degree in education and theology, Kelly began work as a youth and children's worker. While later working for the Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS), she was involved in training and consultancy work with leaders, writing resources and shaping policy relating to children's ministry. She then became the society's Intergenerational Church specialist. Having completed her MA in contextual theology in 2010, she was priested in 2011. It is these range of experiences that Kelly hopes to put to good use when she arrives in the Diocese of Truro.

"I want to focus on three things – enabling the church to be more intergenerational in nature; seeing it grow and flourish with every church discovering something about what it means in their own context. Ensuring mission is central to church life and made easier by the way we facilitate church communities. And to be creative and encouraging in supporting clergy because it can be a really lonely and isolating role and you can feel that you are out on a limb."



Kelly's background in rural and urban churches will stand her in good stead as she moves to Cornwall, a county she is keen to get to know. "I am looking forward to discovering new relationships and opportunities that I can't even imagine yet. I excited to discover the creativity in Cornwall and my husband loves walking so I am sure we will be doing that."

Bishop Philip said: "I'm delighted to welcome Kelly here. Her own rural background, significant experience of church growth and long-standing commitment to developing a flourishing church community embracing people of all ages, will stand her in very good stead in her new role. I look forward very much to welcoming her and Simon into the family of the Diocese of Truro."

Read the full story [here](#).

FAREWELL TO AUDREY: JOIN US ON FEBRUARY 28

A celebration of Archdeacon Audrey Elkington's ministry in the Diocese of Truro is planned for February 28, 2021 and individuals and parishes are invited to attend.

Archdeacon Audrey, along with her husband Revd Dave Elkington, will be heading north for new adventures in the coming weeks and we couldn't let her go without a small event to thank her for all of her hard work as Archdeacon over the last ten years.

On Sunday, February 28 at 3pm there will be a virtual Farewell hosted on Zoom by Bishop Philip. Places are limited on a first come, first served basis. If you wish to take part, please register by clicking on the link [here](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

A collection has also been set up with Archdeacon Audrey requesting that donations are made in her name to the Diocesan Mission Fund.

If you would like to contribute, you can do so by bank transfer to sort code 60-21-37, account number 56497458, bank NatWest or by post to Finance department, Truro Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd, Church House, Woodlands Court, Truro Business Park, Threemilestone, Truro, TR4 9NH referencing 'Archdeacon Audrey donation'.

If you would like to include a message in Audrey's leaving card, please send your entry (200 words or less) by email to comms@truro.anglican.org before **February 17, 2021**.

INVITATION TO PRAY AT 6PM DAILY FROM FEBRUARY 1

ARCHBISHOPS' LETTER

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have written to the nation as the grim total of 100,000 covid deaths was reached in mid-January.

“As we reach the terrible milestone of 100,000 deaths from COVID-19, we invite everyone in our nation to pause as we reflect on the enormity of this pandemic. 100,000 isn't just an abstract figure. Each number is a person: someone we loved and someone who loved us. We also believe that each of these people was known to God and cherished by God.

We encourage everyone who is feeling scared, or lost or isolated to cast their fears on God. We also know that poorer communities, minority ethnic communities and those living with disabilities have been afflicted disproportionately and cry out for the healing of these inequalities. During this pandemic, we encourage everyone to do all they can to live within the guidelines and constraints given by government following the advice of the Chief Medical Officer and Chief Scientific Adviser. We show our commitment, care and love for one another by ensuring we do everything we can to stop the virus spreading.

WE NEED TO SUPPORT EACH OTHER

None of this is easy. Very many of us are experiencing isolation, loneliness, anxiety and despondency like never before. Many people have lost their livelihoods. Our economy struggles. Also, the necessary restrictions we live with have also prevented us from being alongside loved ones as they died, or even at their graveside. All grief profoundly affects us, but this pandemic grief is so hard.

A PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO MOURN

Gracious God,
as we remember before you
the thousands who have died,
surround us and all who mourn
with your strong compassion.
Be gentle with us in our grief,
protect us from despair,
and give us grace to persevere
and face the future with hope
in Jesus Christ our risen Lord.
Amen

Therefore, we need to support each other. Whether you're someone of faith, or not, we invite you to call on God in prayer. **Starting on February 1 we invite you to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6pm each day.** More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love. A number of resources will be made available [here](#).

Please be assured of our prayers.

The Most Revd & Rt Hon Justin Welby,
Archbishop of Canterbury

The Most Revd & Rt Hon Stephen Cottrell,
Archbishop of York

Read the full letter [here](#).

DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES 2020-2023

Parishes are encouraged to take steps to fill any casual vacancies among the parochial representatives elected to their deanery synods prior to holding their Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM).

For those parishes that choose to leave filling any casual vacancies until their APCM, please inform us immediately following the election by providing a copy of the returns form required under the CRR, a copy of which is available on our website [here](#).



HOLDING YOUR APCM IN TIMES OF COVID

We know that many of you will have been through this once already for last year's APCM but we know that holding your APCM during Covid-19 is a challenge.

The deadline for your APCM to be held is **May 31, 2021**. If this changes we will notify you immediately.

The Bishop has given permission for APCMs to be held virtually. As we are currently still in lockdown we will assume that it will still be best for them to be virtual. Click [here](#) for more detailed guidance on how to hold a virtual APCM.

There will be an online session, via Zoom, on 2 March 2021 at 1pm with Archdeacon Paul Bryer and Alex O'Byrne to give guidance on holding your APCM virtually. To sign up for this click [here](#).

CENSUS 2021 TAKES PLACE IN MARCH

Households in Cornwall will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021.

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

It will be the first run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets.

Census day will be on March 21. Households will receive letters with the online codes from early March.

For more information, visit census.gov.uk.

CELEBRATING CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

HELP SCHOOLS PROVIDE THE BEST EDUCATION TO CHILDREN

Schools across the Diocese of Truro have vacancies for governors and trustees. Do you have the skills to help improve the education of young people?

Sue Morrish is a governor who gives her time to two schools, St Mellion and St Dominic. Sue has been on the board of governors for almost five years and has been chair of the board for the last four years.

Sue had spent the last ten years working as a manager in an economic development enterprise agency. "I had business, strategic and management skills and they were easily transferable although the school context is very different to business and I had to learn the language and all the acronyms!"

Sue is very clear what the role of the governing body is. "We are there to take care of business and the better we do that, the better position the school is in to take care of teaching."

While all schools are different, Sue currently chairs a board meeting once a term and all board members sit on two or three of the committees but Sue is keen to point out it isn't all work!

"I am very hands on so I do give a lot of time. I think it is important to be visible and I do get a lot out of it. I

try to go to all the events and I get to judge competitions and take part in Christmas lunches. I get the fun bits of it all really."

Her advice to anyone considering becoming a governor: "Do it, you will love it!"

"When you retire, you have a lot of skills and it's really good to continue using them and sharing them. I am proud that I have been able to use my business skills as chair of the board of governors to ensure our meetings run formally in a business-like way. If the governing board runs well, the school runs better and the school is all about giving a good education to children.

"Ultimately, it's about providing a school that will give the best teaching and learning experience for the children and if you can understand that, you'll make a good governor."

For more information on becoming a governor or trustee, click [here](#) or email Clare Kendle at clare.kendle@truro.anglican.org

Read more [here](#).



Articles on Lent.

The resources are being offered free of charge although a donation towards costs would be welcome. 20 per cent of any donation will go towards the **Trussell Trust** and **Christians Against Poverty**.

To sign up to Share Easter, visit www.canonjjohn.com/share-easter/



INTERNATIONAL LINKS WEBINARS IN FEBRUARY

DIOCESAN INTERNATIONAL LINKS UPDATE: WHAT IS HAPPENING AND HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED?

Wednesday, February 3, 7.30pm - 8.30pm.

In this webinar we will introduce you to the International Links Committee and will welcome speakers to tell us about our Diocesan links with Lebanon, Mzimvu in South Africa and Strängnäs in Sweden, giving you an insight into the work of the church in these areas, and how we, as a Diocese, are linking with them. We would encourage you to join us to learn more about these links, and to find out how you can pray and join in.

To register for this webinar please click on this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82790957065?pwd=ZFN5cHJ3R0MzZ1kvWkxhRjdwdWVNdz09>

EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF AN INTERNATIONAL LINK FOR YOUR PARISH

Wednesday, February 10, 7:30pm - 9pm.

This webinar is a great opportunity to hear from six different mission organisations about how they can work together with your parish to develop international links in a variety of different ways. It will give you an idea of some of the amazing work which is being done across the world and perhaps inspire you to get involved in some way as a parish. We will welcome speakers from the following organisations: Overseas Ministry Fellowship (OMF), Church Mission Society (CMS), Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), Open Doors, Operation Mobilisation and Serving in Mission (SIM).

To register for this webinar please click on this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88978738090?pwd=UHVyNXg4dE5pdj9HNzNvSVBUtnJnZz09>

SHARE EASTER

Free resources for Easter have been launched.

Share Easter includes:

- The Easter Story animation for children and families.
- An Easter reflection by Bear Grylls.
- Hymns and songs sung by Darlene Zschech, Graham Kendrick, Sheila Walsh, Noel Robinson, Mhairi MacBean and Nicki Rogers.
- Seven Words from the Cross: reflections for use during Holy Week or for a Good Friday service.
- An Easter Day sermon.

LENT CARE FOR CREATION RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Lent begins this year on February 17, Ash Wednesday. Many parishes plan to offer a time of study and reflection during this time and it is perhaps especially important at a time when so many are confined to their homes.

This year care for God's creation may be the theme you would like to engage with and if so here are now quite a few resources available to help Christians consider how God calls us to good stewardship of the world. The following is just a few of possibilities:

A bespoke course, written especially for churches in Cornwall, can be freely accessed through the diocesan website [here](#). This course is based on the successful 'Windows into Eco-theology' course written by Revd Dr Lucy Larkin and consists of four weeks of material bringing together science, biblical reflection and prayer and culminating in consideration of the diocese's bespoke environmental care scheme for churches, the **Green Church Kernow awards**. Groups are invited to spend an optional fifth week considering, as parishes, possible ways to respond as a community.

The well-known series of York Courses has developed a five session course on 'Caring for Creation' for Lent 2021. Course contributors included Dr Ruth Valerio, Revd Dr Dave Bookless and Dr David Clough, all well-known in the field of Christian care for the environment and the materials consist of audio clips (with transcripts) and booklets with quotes, reflections and discussion starters. Materials can be ordered from the York Courses [website](#).

The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book for 2020 is still available. '**Saying Yes to Life**' was written by Dr Ruth Valerio and comprises six chapters based on the creation story of Genesis 1, and incorporating both scientific information and stories from around the world about people whose lives are already deeply affected by the environmental crisis we face. Each

chapter concludes with discussion questions and prayers from across the globe.

Although not strictly a 'Lent Course', Frances Ward's book '**Like there's No Tomorrow, climate crisis, eco-anxiety and God**' would lend itself well to reading during Lent. It is a theologically reflective account of a journey from Norfolk to Cumbria by narrowboat along some of Britain's most well-loved canals. The book is not specifically designed for group study but could be read through Lent at perhaps two chapters a week with a gathering for sharing and prayer week by week. Frances Ward is an Anglican priest and theologian, previously Dean of St Edmundsbury cathedral and now ministering in Cumbria.

Almost certainly, Lent study this year will need to be carried out online. Although none of the above suggestions are specifically designed for 'zoom', all can be done this way. For all of the above, participants will need published booklets or a book, which are freely downloadable (for the Diocese of Truro course), purchasable through online booksellers (Saying Yes to Life and Like There's no Tomorrow) or obtainable through a specific website (York Courses). For the latter, savings can be made for bulk purchases of booklets; note that the audio transcripts can be purchased both as CD's and/or as MP3 downloads.

Please do let us know (reverendelly@gmail.com) if you use these or any other resources for creation care study, either during Lent or at another time. We hope to compile a list of such resources, with brief reviews of how well or otherwise you thought the materials worked, so that we can all share and learn.



NEW DIOCESAN PRIORITIES FOR ENVIRONMENT

The last 12 months have seen a growing momentum for a new approach to creation care; David Attenborough's programmes, the Extinction Rebellion protests, young people becoming increasingly concerned for the future health of the planet and the Church of England's own commitment to reaching Net Zero by 2030 have all contributed to a growing sense of urgency.

And across the diocese more and more churches and groups are committing to change. We know that God's glorious creation is being profoundly damaged by our way of life, and that this grieves his heart and we want to do things differently.

In the autumn a group worked hard to discern the specific priorities we want to commit to, as a whole diocese, around creation care, and we have named three:

CHERISH CREATION

CUT CARBON

SPEAK UP

Over the next few months we will be sharing more about these priorities and how everyone can play their part, as well telling you how we will be offering new support - especially to the local church - so that we can all, together, play our part in the great renewal that is required for creation to flourish in the way God intends.

God bless.

+ Hugh