

OUR NEWS

MAY 2021



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ANTI-RACISM TASKFORCE CALLS FOR URGENT CHANGE

The Archbishops' Anti-Racism Taskforce has published its report 'From Lament to Action' proposing a suite of changes to begin bringing about a change of culture in the life of the Church of England.

It issues a warning to the Archbishops that a failure to act could be a "last straw" for many people of UK Minority Ethnic (UKME) or Global Majority Heritage (GMH) backgrounds with "devastating effects" on the future of the Church.

The **report** sets out 47 specific actions for different arms of the Church of England to implement across five priority areas: participation, governance, training, education and young people.

Without these changes the Church risks denying and disregarding the gifts of a significant part of the nation, the Taskforce makes clear.

The Bishop of Truro, the Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen, the Bishop of St Germans, the Rt Revd Hugh Nelson and the diocese's ethnic minority champion the Revd Patrick Gilbert have now issued a statement.

"The last few days have sadly been a stark reminder of the Church's failure to address institutional racism. The Archbishops' Anti-Racism Taskforce report and the recent BBC Panorama documentary have demonstrated the lack of compassion for those of us from

***Father, forgive us for our racism
Forgive us for our inaction
Heal us so that we can change
Let your church be one
Amen.***

global majority backgrounds that have, at one time or another, experienced failure by the Church.

"The findings of both highlight the need for change when it comes to handling issues around Race. 'Apologies and lament' must be followed by swift actions to see the kind of change we long for as a church community.

"The George Floyd murder trial has also brought to the surface the evil of racism and how it so easily destroys lives. We, of course, condemn these kinds of injustices, celebrate the victories, and say "black lives do matter"; but there are times when words alone just are not enough. The question we must ask ourselves as a Church is how should we respond in light of recent revelations?

"The answer is simple: we must repent, our hearts must change, and we must keep moving forward with one voice that loves unconditionally."



NEW INDEPENDENT CHAIR OF SAFEGUARDING PANEL

Justine Hosking has been announced as the new Independent Chair of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel, taking over from Nigel Druce.

Justine Hosking is a solicitor specialising in social care law. She previously managed the Cornwall Council legal team supporting children and adult services and education and was the chair of the Cornwall Family Justice Board. She is married to a Cornish daffodil grower and has raised 2 children, chickens and a few eyebrows as a result of her extended hikes on the Camino trails across the South West and Europe.

Justine is looking forward to starting her role as the independent chair of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel in order to support the Church to successfully implement the next stage of its safeguarding strategy across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. She believes passionately that 'safeguarding is everyone's business' and hopes to build on the joint work of the multi-disciplinary panel from April.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

EDUCATION

TRUSTEES & GOVERNORS WANTED

What is a trustee of a multi academy trust? What even is a multi-academy trust? It wasn't that long ago that schools were run by local education authorities. Governors (most of whom were local) acted as critical friends and local councils got the flack when things went wrong. Local was most definitely the common thread.

That has changed. Guidance for schools comes predominantly from central government. Trustees, who are a blend of old school governors and commercial business directors, govern from a centralised locality and governors are local eyes and ears in the school. And schools are most likely called academies. However, in our Cornish Church of England primary schools, we try to keep it as local as possible.

We have two significant multi academy trusts, or MATS: St Barnabas and Celtic Cross Education. Mark Lees, former head teacher and chair of St Barnabas MAT says they currently have six schools but will soon have eight within their MAT. He explained how the governing structure works: "The board of trustees are like the root and trunk of a tree, grounding the schools, with local governors as the branches that stem from the trunk and feed into the schools."

Local governors are close to the original role of school governors in that they are critical friends of the school and hold the school to account in terms of performance. They are generally from the local school community with a vested interest in the school. They don't have any strategic input into the running of the school, but they have the close attention of the trustees because of their unique position.

Trustees of the MAT have oversight of all the schools in the MAT. They have



to understand and be responsible for how the school is faring. Recognising and championing what is good and challenging what is not. Trustees are also responsible for the financial solvency of the schools and ensuring the resources are used well. Resources come from the Education Standards and Financial Authority.

Being a trustee and a governor is an important role. Both are voluntary but both require investment in terms of heart and head space. Many come to the role after a career in education, and within the St Barnabas MAT this is no different. The time demands of the role generally mean retired people (from education) become trustees, but the MAT would dearly love to recruit people from outside that demographic.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

CLIMATE EMERGENCY TOOLKIT FOR CHURCHES

The **Climate Emergency Toolkit** provides churches with a route map to respond to the climate emergency. Step by step, it contains simple but powerful actions

that will have an impact far beyond your own walls or community, and enable you to influence the decisions of those in power.



MAWNAN PRIEST TO WALK 75 MILES FOR CHARITY

The Revd Johanna Clare, the Priest in Charge of Mawnan, will be walking 75 miles during Christian Aid Week, which runs from May 10 – 16, and each walk will include prayers for climate justice.

Revd Johanna, pictured with her Labrador Rosie, says: "Walking 75 miles in a week is quite a challenge, so I am very grateful to everyone who has agreed to accompany me. I am looking forward to walking and praying with church groups from the deanery and beyond, ecumenical friends, our school, Bishop Hugh, Archdeacon Paul and Elly, the Canon for Creation Care.

"Please email me at rev.johanna.clare@gmail.com if you would like to join a walk near you, or if you would like me to join you for prayers or your favourite walk."

You can support Johanna's walk and Christian Aid by donating via her [JustGiving page here](#).

ARCHDEACON KELLY TO BE LICENSED IN MAY

The new Archdeacon of Bodmin, Revd Kelly Betteridge will be licensed at St Petrocs Church in Bodmin on Sunday, May 23 at 4pm.

Depending on Covid-19 rules, people will be able to book seats in the church in the coming weeks as well as watching online.

More information will be available on the diocesan website in the next few days.

TRURO DIOCESAN SYNOD

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE AT THE HEART OF MAY'S SYNOD

The next meeting of Truro Diocesan Synod takes place on Saturday, May 22.

The synod meeting will take place from 9am on Zoom and among the items on the agenda will be the chance to formally welcome Revd Kelly Betteridge, the new Archdeacon of Bodmin. Kelly is due to be licensed the following day (May 23) at St Petrocs Church, Bodmin.

May's gathering will also include a celebration of children and young people with presentations on teaching and learning, input from schools and students and the Children's Society. Mawnan Primary School will kick things off by leading the opening worship and there will be videos, prayer and music from Five Islands School and St Catherine's Primary School. Sir Robert Geffery's Primary School will close the meeting with prayer, music and a blessing.

Meeting as the Truro Diocesan Board of Finance (TDBF), the members will hear Auditors Report and be asked to re-appoint auditors and solicitors.

There will also be a breakout session for members to consider the various agenda items in greater detail.

Diocesan Synod elections take place this year.

Synod meets three times a year, in normal times in Truro on a Saturday finishing mid-afternoon. We are looking for people who are passionate about the work of the church in Cornwall, the Isles of Scilly and our lucky parishes in Devon. You need to be over 16, a communicant member and on the electoral roll of a church in the diocese.

If you are interested in becoming a synod member you can find out more on the [diocese website](#).

To read more personal reflections on what it is like to serve on synod, visit the diocesan [website](#) where Elly, Sarah and John talk about their experiences over the last three years.

A STORY ABOUT PERCY, GOD'S DOG

I have spent a lot of my working life writing other people's stories, so I thought it was time to share one of my own, *writes Jac Smith*.

This is a story about Percy and how we believed him to be God's dog. Percy came to us for our first Christmas in Cornwall and left us on Good Friday, 13 years later.

When, as a family with our four young children, we moved from London to Cornwall we hoped we were entering a new and exciting stage of our lives. Fulfilling a long-held promise to buy a dog for the children topped off the dream. Except the dream quickly became a nightmare. It was 2007, the year the economy crashed, and we were not spared. We had put a deposit on Percy. We were due to pick him up on Christmas Day but on the day before

Christmas Eve, I had a call from my husband who was working away. He had been paid for some freelance work, the bank thanked us for bringing our account up to zero and then closed the door on our overdraft. That meant we didn't have enough money to pay the balance for Percy, or to buy a turkey. Percy was the children's only Christmas present.

The phone rang again. It was Kate, a new friend from our new life. Kate was a Christian, which was something we shared, but Kate was one of those super-Christians, on direct dial to God.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)



COMMUNITY MANIFESTO FOR CORNWALL

We all think we know what would make Cornwall a fairer and more just place to live. Here is your chance to have your say. **The Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum** are putting together a **Community Manifesto** to share with the prospective new councillors and would love your input.

Most agree Cornwall is a beautiful place to live and visit. It's so much more than the secret beaches and foodie outlets outed by TV presenters and Sunday supplements. It's full of passionate people who relish its independent culture and creativity. But there is also a vulnerable flip-side to the picture-perfect postcard. This is the side the new Community Manifesto hopes to highlight and encourage support for.

Cornish groups working alongside the vulnerable are currently creating the Community Manifesto for Cornwall. They are aiming to articulate the change people living in Cornwall want to see in their county. And how they themselves might bring about that change. But the Manifesto will only be truly reflective if people from the community have their say too.

The BBC Simon Reeve documentary on Cornwall opened the lid on what many of us living here already know. The largely unseen underbelly of poverty, deprivation and struggle. Struggle to get on the rental market, never mind the house-buying one. To get a bus to hospital from a rural location that gives more than a few pence change from a tenner. Struggle just to get a bus.

The idea for the Community Manifesto came from the CIPF, following the publication of its report **A Fair and Just Future for Cornwall**. The Manifesto recognises that we in Cornwall must take the initiative. To take action on all the issues that pull us down and keep people in poverty. This means taking a strategic long-term view before making informed decisions about how change will come about.

PARISH NURSE A BLESSING TO LOCAL COMMUNITY

In 2017 we reported on the hopes for a **parish nursing scheme** in St Goran and St Michael Caerhays. Within a year funding was secured and the region welcomed parish nurse, Sarah Male. The scheme has been a huge blessing to the community.

Parish nurses like Sarah are fully qualified registered nurses, but their role is not to replace clinical nurses, but to compliment them. It can be unsettling when dealing with a diagnosis as, wonderful as the NHS is, they are limited by time constraints. It's also not always easy to ask or think of the right questions in the time allotted. Parish nurses are able to talk things through, de-mystify medical terminology and sign-post where to get more help.

As a parish nurse, Sarah is welcomed by the local GP surgery. "I have a positive and therapeutic working relationship with them, which means I can discuss cases and help to get people the help they need quickly. Parish nursing is not just about direct care, it is about helping people to get the best help available and being available in their time of need."

Parish nurses are there for everyone, regardless of faith, age, race or circumstance. Each area varies according to the need and demographic. In Goran and Caerhays parishes, many of the 1500 residents are elderly but the ministry of parish nursing embraces all areas of need. "It could talking through a hospital letter, or talking to GP's about safeguarding concerns. Or sitting with someone in the last stages of life,



knowing that you are in no hurry to leave. Or listening to a young mum who is struggling with sleepless nights, paying bills and trying to find herself through it all."

Helping people to cope with the pandemic, lockdowns and escalating fear has been a big part of Sarah's role over the last twelve months. "With so many isolated, I routinely called and visited where possible to help people to feel part of a community, to know that they are not alone. I spent a lot of time talking about the vaccines, helping to dispel the rumours around them. I also, when asked, talked to people about faith and God, praying with people in their last days of life."

[READ MORE HERE](#)

CORNISH HOSPITALITY RECOGNISED IN CHURCH AWARD

'Cornwall Hugs' founder, Esmé Page, has been honoured with one of this year's Lambeth Awards given by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby. The Langton Award for Community service recognises Cornwall Hugs for "answering the call to provide holidays of hope to residents and firefighters who

experienced the trauma and loss in the terrible fire in Grenfell Tower."

"The award recognises Cornwall's unbridled compassion," says Esmé. "The big heartedness and 'can do attitude' that are part of our county's DNA..."

[READ MORE HERE](#)

G7 & COP26 BRIEFING: HOW DO WE SPEAK UP?

The UK is the focus for global attention on creation care this year. The G7 leaders are coming to Cornwall in June, and in November representatives of every nation will come to Glasgow for COP26.

Are you committed to creation care and cutting carbon? Do you want to see leaders making decisions that will really make a difference?

Would you like to know more about the issues on the agendas at these two crucial meetings? Would you like to know how you can encourage political leaders to put creation care at the heart of their decision making?

On May 18 from 7:30-8:45pm, the diocese is hosting an online briefing for anyone wanting to find out more about the key decisions that will be on the agenda at G7 and COP26, and what you can do to encourage leaders to act for creation.

Rachel Mander, who works for Hope for the Future supporting churches to communicate the urgency of climate change to politicians and leaders, will lead the briefing with plenty of time for questions and discussion. Ben Lillie, the new Diocesan Environment Officer, will also talk about the new diocesan vision for Creation Care.

[Book your place here.](#)

CREATION CARE CANON SUPPORTS ECO CAMPAIGN

Revd Canon Elly Sheard, Truro College chaplain and leader of its Eco Council, is supporting a campaign aimed at tackling climate change.

Members of the Eco Council have been working together to produce a series of environmental pledges aimed specifically at students, encouraging them to make a series of small lifestyle changes that will have a big impact on the planet.

The idea for the campaign was initially thought of by Elly and IB Diploma student Thomas, who both felt there was a gap for a climate change campaign that was specifically aimed at students.

After weeks of hard work, the Eco Council has created 10 pledges that feature different environmentally friendly lifestyle changes students can incorporate into their daily lives.