

OUR NEWS

AUGUST 2021



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WHAT 'FREEDOM DAY' MEANS FOR YOU & OUR CHURCHES

The latest guidance on opening and managing church buildings in this new stage of the pandemic has now been released and you can access it [here](#).

Within the Church we believe that everyone is known and loved individually by God and that as many members within one body we are called to be responsible to and for one another, respecting the more vulnerable whose suffering is our suffering (1 Cor 12:12-27).

The move to step 4 means we are being asked to take even more personal responsibility around coronavirus than when we were compelled to adhere to Government restrictions.

While the vaccines are very effective in limiting symptomatic infection for those who are fully vaccinated, vaccination cannot be the sole means of containing the spread of the virus: hand and respiratory hygiene, social distancing, face-coverings and good ventilation are also important factors in lessening the spread of the disease. While these are not now mandatory, they are still important public health mitigations and ought to be recognised as such.

WHAT THE GUIDANCE SAYS:

- There is no legal requirement to wear a face covering, although the government recommends people wear face coverings in crowded and enclosed settings.

- There is no limit on the number of people who can attend weddings, funerals and other life events (including receptions and celebrations).
- There are no restrictions on choirs and music groups, whether amateur or professional, or on congregational singing.
- There are no legal restrictions on children and youth groups, and it is no longer required to keep children in 'bubbles'. This applies in all contexts, wherever groups are meeting.
- There are no restrictions on group sizes for attending communal worship.
- The common cup may now be shared, but the Bishops wish to make clear that, given continued potential risks to health, it remains permissible for the president to be the only person who receives Holy Communion in the form of wine.

The full guidance is available [here](#). Read Bishop Philip's own views on the next page.



PICTURED ABOVE: Enzo is confirmed by the Bishop of Truro, the Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen following his baptism in the River Gannel this summer.

FOUNDATIONS IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY PLACES AVAILABLE

Places are available on the Foundations in Christian Ministry Course beginning September 2021.

To find out more about the experiences of previous participants watch the video [here](#).

For more information or to apply, please email: Ministry@truro.anglican.org



THE SAINTS' WAY

WHAT PRICE FREEDOM?

To mask, or not to mask? That's one of the key questions of our day.



**THE RT REVD PHILIP MOUNSTEPHEN,
BISHOP OF TRURO**

Recently Dave Walker in his excellent Church Times cartoon portrayed a small procession in Church. The person at the back in a wheelchair was saying, 'Freedom for you means isolation for me. I'll no longer feel safe going out now most people's masks are off.' The older woman in front of him is saying, 'I'm terrified that my vaccine won't protect me from the new variants that will now develop,' while the person at the front proclaims with joy, 'We can sing again!'

Predictably, sadly, Dave received quite a lot of criticism from people assuming he was criticising one position or other. But I think he was just describing the reality of how different people are feeling.

The New Testament has a lot to say about freedom. 'Freedom in Christ' is a huge, joyful theme. But it is also quite clear that **'may' does not mean 'must'**. So St Paul says that Christians are free

to eat food sacrificed to idols, but then adds, 'But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling-block to the weak' (1 Corinthians 8:9).

Thinking how our freedom impacts on others is always essential and is a Christian obligation. So I will wear a mask when I'm out in shops – and probably in church – because I want to stand with the lady in the wheelchair in Dave Walker's cartoon; I want to stand with those who are clinically vulnerable and for whom our new-found freedom means increased restriction for them.

There's a deeper issue here too. Freedom is never simply an individual thing. Our actions always impinge on other people in one way or another. It's never about, 'What's best for me?', but 'What's best for us?'

For us in the Diocese of Truro at the moment this is a key question we must all ask, not least as we undergo the On the Way process. Asking, 'What's best for me?' is easy. 'What's best for us?' is a much harder question, because it might involve sacrifice and loss on our part. But it's much the most important question to ask.

Because in the end we're not simply freed to be free. We're set free to love.

WELCOME DIRECTORY

The **Welcome Directory** is a multi-faith organisation.

It maintains a directory of registered faith communities who have declared their commitment to welcoming prison leavers and providing them with appropriate support beyond the gates.

This directory is used by prison chaplains, probation workers and prison leavers themselves, to identify welcoming communities upon release from prison.

Courses are available and you can register your faith community. Find out more by **downloading the PDF**.



Welcome to Pilgrim Explorers!

Looking for something to do over the half term?

Four new **FREE** micro pilgrimages are now available.

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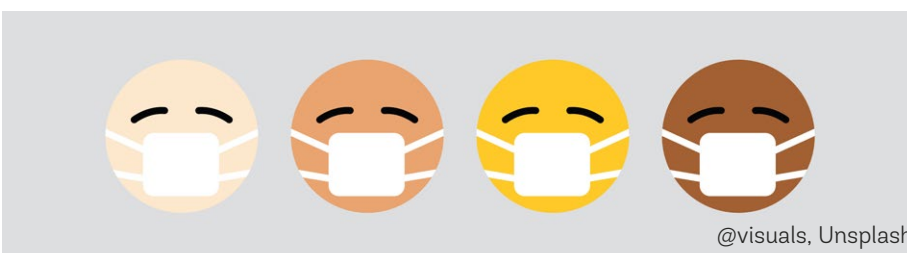
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PRAYER BOOK SOCIETY

Almost 60 churches across Cornwall offer services from the Book of Common Prayer and, through a series of informal events, members of the Prayer Book Society serve to foster this well-trodden pathway towards expressing the Christian faith in an inspirational and meaningful way.

This ethos and activity is reflected in the newsletter, **Article 40** and visitors to our events are always welcome.

See the Prayer Society Events here



@visuals, Unsplash

CONFIDENCE IN OUR CALLING

CLERGY & PARISHES AT THE HEART OF THE CHURCH

Clergy and parishes are at the heart of the Church of England now and in the future the Church's director of evangelism and discipleship has said.

Following a series of recent articles and blogs speculating about the direction of the Church of England's 'Vision and Strategy' discussions Dave Male, the Church of England's director of evangelism and discipleship, said: "I am very aware that some recent commentary in media and social media purporting to set out the future direction of Church of England has caused real anxiety, hurt and pain to many.

"Some of this has been based on a fundamental confusion between **the Church of England's own emerging Vision and Strategy for the 2020s** and beyond, which we will be discussing at the upcoming meeting of General Synod, and a separate initiative called Myriad to create 10,000 new lay-led churches - which is not a national Church of England project.

"It has been claimed in some places that there is a plan to dissolve the



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parish system, sideline or even replace trained clergy, especially paid clergy, or to get rid of our beautiful, historic church buildings.

"So I want to make it abundantly clear that the Church of England is committed, now as always, to the ministry of the whole people of God including to ordained ministry in our parishes."

[READ MORE](#)

SECOND HOME NUMBERS 'DEVASTATING' COUNTY

The Bishop of Truro, the Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen described as "devastating", the number of second homes in Cornwall.

Speaking in a housing debate at the General Synod, the parliament of the Church of England, Bishop Philip outlined "an unregulated market", caused substantially by the massive sale of second homes.

He recognised that second home owners contribute a lot. But said that the sale of homes to people living outside the county was "hollowing out town and village centres, pushing local people to the edge of town."

20,000 SECOND HOMES

There are now around 20,000 second homes in Cornwall, constituting about 15 percent of all housing stock. "It's denying homes to local people, massively ramping up prices and producing a crisis in the rental sector.

"A housing emergency is very likely to be declared by the County Council. As a church we have a voice and we have assets and we need to use both to address this very serious crisis, he said.

You can watch Bishop Philip's contribution [here](#). Move to 4:50:19

MAKING FRIENDS WITH BATS IS THE ANSWER SAYS LAMORRAN CHURCH

Bats are a common 'problem' facing many of our churches but one church in the diocese says the answer is to stop seeing them as something to be eradicated and start looking at how to live alongside them.

St Moran Church at Lamorran closed in 2014 when cleaning became more than the volunteers could cope with because of the mess left by bats. Nick Jeans, a retired land agent who is acting as Clerk of Works, says the community 'just didn't know what to do' but help has come via the Bats in Churches project. St Moran was one of 120 churches selected (including three others in Cornwall) out of over 630 that applied.

The Bats-in-Churches Project is run by a



Picture credit: Nils Bouillard, Unsplash

consortium formed by English Nature, the Church of England's Cathedral & Church Building Division, the Bat Conservation Trust, English Heritage and the Churches Conservation Trust and is fully funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The team at Lamorran are determined to make the most of the opportunity they have been given. They are hoping to re-open the building later this year and already have ideas about how to embrace their bat neighbours to help grow their church.

Nick says the experience with the project at Lamorran could also benefit other churches. "Not only have we learnt a thing or two that we are happy to share with others but through this project and the development of understanding around the licensing issues, it will hopefully help to streamline things for other churches."

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

CREATION CARE

BECOME A KERNOW GREEN CHURCH & SIGN UP FOR ECO CHURCH ACCREDITATION

The environment is very much at the top of the world agenda and the issues and efforts around climate change are rapidly developing.

The Diocese of Truro has always been a trailblazer against this backdrop, instrumental in encouraging the Church of England in its environmental work and in setting its **2030 net zero** target. Our churches were eagerly doing their bit to work towards better care of creation through the Green Church Kernow Awards before it became fashionable to do so and for that, the diocese is immensely grateful.

With a new diocesan environment strategy and the diocese's vision **The Saints' Way** now putting a renewed emphasis on **Creation Care**, we have updated our awards scheme to help churches as they work towards the **Net Zero 2030 pledge**.

KERNOW GREEN CHURCH AWARD

The Kernow Green Church Award will support parishes as they care for creation and will be a stepping stone towards the A Rocha Eco Church awards. All of this is part of the process of becoming an Eco Diocese.

Ben Lillie, diocesan environment officer, says: "We know that so many of our churches have worked so hard to achieve the bronze, silver and gold Green Church Kernow Awards and we want to say thank you.

"The work that has been undertaken to care for creation is amazing. But as we all know, things move quickly and with 2030 only nine years away, it is now time to really step it up.

"The new Kernow Green Church award will help those parishes that are in the process of working towards awards or



have already attained awards to engage with and attain the nationally recognised benchmark of **A Rocha Eco Church accreditation**.

"By joining with Eco Church, the diocese will be standing together with the national church in our shared goal of Net Zero by 2030. The well developed and accessible Eco Church resources will help to add focus and pace to our commitment to Cherish Creation, Cut Carbon and Speak up."

The diocesan creation care group are developing a range of new resources aimed to support parishes in becoming Kernow Green Churches and joining the Eco Church accreditation scheme. These will be available in early September to coincide with Creation Tide.

We thank you for your continued support in this essential work.

If you would like more information on becoming a Kernow Green Church contact Ben on ben.lillie@truro.anglican.org

SAVE THE DATE!

A Creation Care Service will take place at Truro Cathedral on October 3. More details will be shared on the diocesan website, social media and in next month's newsletter.



Join Cornwall Historic Churches Trust - grants between £250 and £5,000 available. Visit www.chct.info



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Will you stand for the Church of England General Synod Elections?

Standing for General Synod, the legislative body of the Church of England, is an opportunity to represent the concerns of your community and your diocese at a national level. As an elected member of Synod, you will have a say in national legislation that affects all parts of the Church of England. Together with Westminster Parliament, it is the only body in the land which is entitled to make national law for England. In addition to legislation, you can also raise issues and contribute to debates on a wide range of social and policy matters – of national and international significance.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
General Synod is made up of three Houses: Bishops, Clergy, and Laity. For more information about how you can stand for the Synod Elections, please visit:
www.churchofengland.org/synodelections