

OUR NEWS

APRIL 2022



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SUPPORTING CHURCHES ON THE WAY TO A FRUITFUL AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

After two years of Covid and in the midst of massive social and economic change, and like many organisations, the Church of England in Cornwall is thinking carefully about the future.

As part of that, local churches have been asked to consider how they might be fruitful and sustainable in the 21st century. That includes considering how we can continue our widespread support for children and families, how we care for the environment and work with the poorest communities, how we help people explore faith and meet God and how we find ways to do all that in a changing world. As part of that planning for the future, we need to think carefully about how we care for the church buildings that we look after.

On the Way encourages and supports local churches, working together in their deaneries, to face the reality of the challenges in front of us.

On the Way is not a 'one size fits all' process. It is also not a plan designed by others for the local church. We think that people in our churches are the best people to make decisions about their futures. We trust them and believe they are best placed to understand their communities.

St Sampson's in South Hill is one church that is currently involved in On The Way. It has taken innovative and proactive steps to ensure it is fruitful and sustainable for the future. There is currently a half a million pound



restoration project underway at St Sampson's and those involved have turned problems into blessings.

Judith Ayers, Reader and PCC Secretary at St Sampson's, said: "Church restoration often starts with the faith community wanting to 'fix' their building. For us this has had an amazing knock-on effect. We needed to think what we could do with the building and community consultation came up with over one hundred ideas. To do any of these we needed to make the building warm, dry and draught free, with works to the roof, ceiling, windows, floor and heating – and we needed to put in a toilet and kitchen. From the start we realised it was not a building project but a mission project. An opportunity to open the church for all to use and for people to experience the awesome sacred place which is St Sampson's Church."

The Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen, Bishop of Truro, said: "I am delighted

when people catch a fresh vision for what is possible in their local church community. That's just what's happened at St Sampson's and I'm an enthusiastic supporter of all they are doing there. I'm overjoyed to see that happening in many other places too."

The On the Way process includes a consultation process of around six to nine months when the deanery team share the emerging plan with their local church communities for input and feedback. Their local churches are the first to see the proposals and only when that stage is complete is it shared with others including the bishops.

The On The Way programme is not about money or closing churches, but rather giving those in the local communities the opportunity to decide for themselves, how best to lead their church communities into the years ahead.

[Read the full story here.](#)

For more information about On the Way, how it works [click here](#) or sign up to receive [On the Way newsletters](#).

See a short piece about it on the BBC Politics Show [here](#).

BISHOP'S LETTER - EASTER

Bishop Philip has written to ordained ministers to invite them to take part in the Chrism Eucharist at Truro Cathedral on Maundy Thursday (April 14).

BISHOP PHILIP

With services in 2020 and 2021 affected by Covid-19, it would be particularly meaningful to be able to come together properly this year.

In his letter, Bishop Philip says:

"This annual event gives us the opportunity to reflect on our own call to ordained ministry in the light of the events of Holy Week.

"This is a very important opportunity for us all to be together and I do hope as many as possible will be present, especially as it is now three years since we have been able to be together in this way. At the end of the Eucharist we will offer anointing to all those present, as a sign of the grace upon which we all depend in ministry and which is freely given to us in Christ. And as ever oils will be blessed for use throughout the year.

"It is right that we reflect in this way on our own calling to ordained ministry, but we should not do so in an



exclusive way. I know many lay people, if not constrained by other commitments, appreciate the opportunity to reaffirm their own commitment to ministry and indeed to receive anointing for themselves if they so wish. Do therefore invite others to join us, and please let people know about this event so that they can pray for and with us even if they cannot be there themselves.

"I look forward very much to seeing you in the cathedral at 10.30am on Maundy Thursday."

THREE SMALL STEPS: CONSIDER THE LILIES

Many parish magazines will be full of articles on the joys of spring – daffodils, new-born lambs and general signs of new life – what did Jesus have to say as He pointed out the creation He saw around Him?

In Matthew 6 (v28), Jesus draws our attention to the lilies of the field and asks us to consider them when thinking about how we will manage to get by and our three small steps come from these reflections.

1. Give from what you already have.

The church already has everything it needs to grow and flourish. The challenge comes in willingly releasing what we have, financially, materially and spiritually in order for that promised flourishing to take place. A bulb cannot choose to hold back its flowers as God has pre-ordained that it should give out what it has stored up, creating a wonderful display for our pleasure. Will you give out what you have

stored up in your life to bring pleasure and glory to God?

2. Don't wear yourself out. So much effort goes in to raising funds, putting on events and literally chasing after money to keep heads above water, yet here we have the lilies, which are not making any effort at all, even to stay alive! While we sometimes need to seek funding help for our larger projects, our day-to-day needs should be met by following God's instructions.

3. Increase your faith. Jesus has already pointed to the birds and now He points to the grasses. You have to realise how much you are worth to Jesus. When you do, you will have no trouble responding to His overwhelmingly generous gifts to you by working out a generous lifestyle of your own.

READ THE GENEROUS GIVING BLOG HERE.

BEREAVEMENT SESSIONS

Bereavement can impact hugely and affect all areas of life. Developed at Holy Trinity Brompton and appreciated by thousands of people over 20 years, The Bereavement Journey is for anyone who has been bereaved at any time and in any way. By means of a series of films and discussion groups it gently guides bereaved people through the most common aspects of grief, enabling them to process the implications for themselves and discern next steps. The course, which is being held at St Martin's Church in Liskeard, offers 5 x weekly sessions for bereaved adults with an optional 6th session. The first 5 sessions look at commonly experienced aspects of bereavement via DVDs and discussion. The hope is that the course will enable attendees to take some steps towards processing their grief and begin to envisage a positive, albeit different, future. Apart from a short closing prayer, there is no specifically Christian content/discussion in these sessions. The 6th session, which is entirely optional, looks at the Christian view of death, healing and the afterlife. As this final session is optional, The Bereavement Journey is suitable for people of any faith or none.

Sessions will be on consecutive Tuesdays, 7-9pm (although we encourage arrival any time after 6.30 pm to chat) starting on Tuesday 26th April. Anybody needing more information should initially contact: nikki@smartchurchliskeard.co.uk or you can register your interest [click here](#).

APRIL PARISH TRAINING

The 2022 Parish Training Programme is now available.

The sessions coming up in April are:

April 26: Responding to God's Generosity, 2pm - 3pm, online. The session looks at new and traditional methods for running a giving or stewardship programme and motivational material for group and personal reflection.

April 29: Finance Drop-In Session, 10am - 11am, online. This is an open session to ask questions about parish finances including preparing accounts and reports.

FIND OUT MORE HERE



CROSS OF ST PIRAN RECIPIENTS RECEIVE AWARDS

St Piran's Church, Perranzabuloe was filled for the two services in honour of those receiving their Cross of St Piran awards on March 6, 2022.



CROWD GATHERS FOR UKRAINIAN VIGIL IN MYLOR WITH BISHOP

Two hundred and fifty people joined a vigil for the people of the Ukraine at the wayside cross in Mylor.

Both Bishop Philip and Bishop Hugh attended the gathering, which had been brought together at short notice to remember all those affected by the Russian invasion of the country.

Two women, who have relatives in the besieged country, spoke about their distress for trapped relatives.

A wide variety of faith groups were represented at the gathering. Bishop Philip led a two minute silence. Bishop Hugh spoke to the group in his capacity as Bishop to the UK Armed Forces.

Bishop Philip's message was that

wayside crosses like this one, erected in 1948 by Ukraine refugees fleeing Soviet oppression, have always been symbols of "service, sacrifice, liberty and life" and this one was no exception.

He recalled that Cornwall's welcome was always to one and all, and the embrace this time should be wide one, extending to all refugees who needed sanctuary.

There have been a number of vigils for Ukraine across the county. More than one hundred people gathered at Truro Cathedral on Sunday afternoon, standing in solidarity with the Ukraine population.



ARCHBISHOP TO VISIT DIOCESE IN JUNE

Across the Diocese of Truro, local churches faithfully share the good news of Jesus every week through their worship, through acts of loving service, and through creative outreach. In June, we are invited to give special focus to this task, as Archbishop Justin joins us for a weekend to lead us in a diocese-wide evangelistic mission.

From 17-19 June, the Archbishop and a small team of evangelists will roll up their sleeves and join in with a wide variety of local initiatives and events, particularly aiming to meet those who don't go to church and don't consider themselves Christians. He, and all those who come to join us in mission, will seek to share some of their own stories as followers of Jesus, and invite others to begin a journey of faith in Christ.

Every church in the diocese has a part to play: we are all invited to take our Sunday service on June 19 outside the buildings and into our communities, making worship accessible to those who wouldn't normally come to church.

Ideas and resources will be available for all who would like to host a community outreach event over the three days. If your parish, benefice or deanery would like to enlist the support of an experienced evangelist to do so, contact the mission team leader Rev'd Li Selman on reviselman@gmail.com. Workshops will be offered to help equip and prepare congregations to share stories of faith in their own contexts – look out for details in the coming weeks.

All are welcome to join short weekly prayer gatherings on Zoom every Wednesdays from 9am.

READ MORE HERE

CREATION CARE NETWORK GATHERINGS & LINKS

The upcoming dates for the Creation Care Network Gatherings are as follows:

Thursday, April 7, 10am – 12noon;
 Thursday, May 5, from 7pm – 9pm;
 Thursday, June 9, 10am – 12 noon.

All are via the Zoom link.

USEFUL LINKS

- + CREATION CARE WEB PAGE
- + REGISTER FOR THE KERNOW GREEN CHURCH AWARD
- + BECOME A CREATION CARE CHAMPION
- + SIGN UP TO RECEIVE CREATION CARE UPDATES

SAVE THE DATE - ROADSHOWS

Come and enjoy tea, time and talks with us.

The diocesan roadshows are making a return in May with a new format. This year's roadshows will be intergenerational with the aim of exploring faith together regardless of your age.

There will be four roadshows taking place in Launceston, Bodmin, Truro and Camborne and each will include many of the usual components of a church service but in a slightly different way, aimed at helping people of all ages connect with God and one another, all while enjoying afternoon tea together.

Bishop Philip will be joining each one and we hope that each will model one approach to an intergenerational church gathering and inspire people to have a go at it in their own context. The events will also provide resources for people to run their own version of the event in their own church.

Archdeacon Kelly Betteridge, who leads on Intergenerational Church in the diocese, said: "We want people to enjoy the roadshows and feel inspired. Intergenerational church isn't about getting children in church or messy

activities. It is about finding a way to be church together meaningfully with every age group being involved. It is about our 'being' as church as much as our 'doing'.

"The roadshows will be a time to come together, build relationships, learn about intergenerational church, worship and enjoy afternoon tea!"

All are welcome to attend. Booking is essential.

WHAT'S ON

APRIL

- 5** On the trail of St Sampson, 7pm - 8pm. [More information here.](#)
- 26** Responding to God's Generosity, 2pm - 3pm. [Book here.](#)
- 26** St Mellitus College open day, 9am - 2pm. [More information here.](#)
- 29** Finance drop-in session, 10am - 11am. [More information here.](#)

UKRAINIAN TOOLKIT

The Church of England's toolkit for parishes wishing to help refugees is now available.

[YOU CAN ACCESS IT HERE](#) or more information is available [HERE](#).

DIOCESAN PRAYER DIARY

The Diocese of Truro Prayer Diary helps us hold in our prayers the world wide Anglican Communion, bishops and their dioceses, parishes in our own diocese, those who minister both clergy and lay, and all who contribute to the life and witness of our churches.