



Diocese of Truro

archdeacons' visitation news

First in, Last out!

One of the images of leadership that speaks most to us is from Joshua 3. The chapter tells the account of the people of Israel crossing the river Jordan and of Joshua giving instructions about how that should take place.

The priests were told to carry the Ark of the Covenant and go before the people. When the priests carrying the ark went down into the river the waters were cut off so that the priests could stand on dry land and the people could cross the Jordan.

Very little of that sounds straightforward and it always makes us consider how long the priests must have stood in place waiting for the whole people of Israel to pass through. The priests were first into the river and also the last to leave.

First in and last out is often the lot of priests but of Churchwardens too.

It's not unusual for us to be worshipping with a different church community each Sunday and often when we arrive at a church building it is a Churchwarden we meet first. It happens this way because they are the one who has been unlocking and setting up and are charged with meeting the Archdeacon and explaining the ropes.

At the end of a service it is often a churchwarden who is busy clearing away, chatting with people, checking the latest leak in the roof, reminding us about the register, waiting to lock up and secure the building.

The responsibilities of a Churchwarden are significant and as our go-to book *Churchwardens: A Survival Guide* (Martin Dudley & Virginia Rounding) reminds us, 'becoming a Churchwarden can be a richly rewarding experience, but the role is not an easy one.'

Churchwardens are key leaders in the life of a church community. Christian leadership has a particular shape because we follow the example of Christ who came to serve; it is a spiritual calling as well as a practical one. Churchwardens might be found on their knees assessing the pipework or replacing kneelers, and they certainly need to be on their knees in prayer and be supported by the prayers of their churches too.

Churchwardens, thank you for all you do and the humility with which you serve. May you continue to follow the example of Christ and play your part in helping the people of God to move and grow and flourish.



The Ven Kelly Betteridge
Archdeacon of Bodmin



The Ven Paul Bryer
Archdeacon of Cornwall

Newly appointed

Fiona Bowkett was appointed as Executive Assistant to the Archdeacons in November 2021.



Fiona, originally from Co.-Durham in the North East, comes with 17 years' experience in a rural diocese, working in the Ministry and Training department and closely with Lay Ministry, an Intergenerational Team and Messy Church.

After moving to Cornwall with her husband and two young children, Fiona has spent the last two years running her own business supplying locals with celebration cakes and handmade chocolates.

Fiona said: "I have always believed working for a diocese is a way to help those you'll never meet through the clergy and parishes you support in all departments and roles. I'm looking forward to getting to know Cornwall better and the experience of working for Archdeacons Kelly and Paul."

Fiona will be working Monday to Friday, 8am–2pm, and as Executive Assistant, she is the first point of contact if you wish to speak to an Archdeacon or book an appointment or have a Church-related query.

Fiona can be contacted via email:
archdeacons@truro.anglican.org
or call **01872 247218**.

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Harvest and Intergenerational Church

The Ven Kelly Betteridge, Archdeacon of Bodmin

The summer was always a busy season in my childhood home. My dad, a farm labourer, would often be working around the clock to bring in the harvest before the weather changed. Sometimes as a small child I'd join him on the combine harvester, enjoying the responsibility of activating the grain chute. As a teenager, I'd occasionally be allowed to stack bales with a telescopic forklift.

Prior to mechanisation, harvest was often a community effort. Gathering hay in early summer or the corn harvest weeks later could create a workload beyond the capacity of the regular farm workers. Thus men, women and children from the wider community might head into the fields to ensure the crops were safely gathered in.

It puts me in mind of the story *The Enormous Turnip*; a tale of cooperation in which everyone (man, woman, boy, girl, dog, cat and mouse) works together to unearth a giant root vegetable! For me, it has become an unusual symbol for intergenerational church because it explains in simple terms the notion of a diverse group of people engaged in an activity that they would not be so able to do alone, offering their contribution because their efforts were needed. Presumably they all reaped the rewards as well but that doesn't seem to be their primary motivation.

Of course, it also resonates with what we find in scripture (e.g. 1 Corinthians 12) about the body of Christ being made up of many different parts with each having a role to play. Not only is this about getting a job done but it is about the message we convey when we choose to be in community together.

When I speak about intergenerational church, people are often quick to respond by telling me that all-age worship doesn't work for them or that they do not have any children in their church. I have sympathy with both positions. However, my understanding of intergenerational church is broader than these issues. I have my sights set on multi-generational church communities, representative of their locality, made up of people who are learning together what it means to be disciples of Jesus Christ and committed to being people of blessing in the world.

This is not something confined to a worship service or expressed in a particular group activity but it is about values and culture and an awareness that God has given us each other as a gift. It is our diversity that brings richness and enables us to be the body of Christ. Our churches are called signs of how the love of God can be experienced and shared by young and old and everyone in between.

The School/Church Connection

Katie Fitzsimmons, Director of Education



My career background is in education, peel back my layers and I am a French teacher. My appointment as Director of Education has brought together the facets of my work in education which I value most – genuinely and authentically working to support schools in delivering the highest-quality educational experience for children. It enables me to work, holding my faith at the heart of

all I do, to enable our children and young people to flourish in God's kingdom. I'm privileged to work with our 44 Church of England schools, Multi-Academy Trusts and the local authority to reach out across all the schools in the diocese.

In this work, I'm privileged to meet many of the clergy and wider parish teams who support our schools in a range of ways: lunchtime meal supervision, assemblies, supporting RE and praying for our staff and students. There are so many ways in which our parishes support schools and the diversity of it inspires me from week to week. Another role is being a governor or trustee, a role which is valued greatly and provides practical support in the running of schools. A governor provides both encouragement and challenge so that our children benefit from the best that schools can offer.

This year, I have seen the fruitfulness of close clergy links to schools, enabling children and their families to take steps in their faith. We have seen baptisms and confirmations in school and even on the beach! These encouragements, rooted in prayer, truly enable all those connected to our schools to see the power of living Christian witness. In so doing, our children and their families see how Christ may work in their lives.

Of course, my job has its difficult times and whilst the pandemic has presented many challenges, I continue to be staggered at the resilience, commitment and love displayed by our school staff. It is truly humbling and I hope you will join me in praying for them.

If you feel there is anything you may be able to offer or an opportunity you would like to explore in supporting our schools then do please **contact me by email via education@truro.anglican.org**. We would be delighted to hear from you and explore any and all opportunities to support schools, children and young people.





Congratulations to our national winner!

Last year, we launched our 'Good News' competition – and now we're proud to announce the national winner.

We asked for stories about your church community – written in the style of a newspaper article, and accompanied by a photograph and a suitable headline. We were looking for uplifting tales – of battling to achieve something special for the parish, perhaps, or tireless volunteering, or dedication to your congregation or wider locality. And we were inundated with amazing entries.

Our judges worked hard to select five regional winners from the huge list, and we announced this at the end of last year, giving each regional winner £1,500 towards church funds as part of Ecclesiastical's aim to donate profits to transform lives and communities.

Now – with the help of the public, through a show of support for their online story – the overall winner, who will receive a further £6,000, has been chosen.

A big congratulations to the national winner

Penlee Cluster Churches, down in the far west of Cornwall – St John's and St Mary's in Penzance, St Peter's in Newlyn, and St Pol de Leon in the village of Paul.

Determined to bring their community together during those difficult months, they launched a fantastic 'Never Alone' initiative. This multi-faceted campaign saw church members team up with local businesses to take pub meals, Cornish pasties, and fish and chip suppers to elderly and vulnerable people. Read their story and those of the other regional winners at:

www.ecclesiastical.com/churchcomp



Meet your Church Insurance Consultants

Our Church Insurance Consultants are a friendly and approachable team of highly knowledgeable insurance experts who are right on your doorstep and ready to offer guidance and help with any insurance or risk-related issues you might have.

From a simple explanation of the basics of your policy, to guidance on how to combat thieves and vandals, guard against fire, and improve general health and safety, they are there for you, free of charge.



The team – (from top left) Chris, Rebecca, Heather, Lynne, Peter, Nicky, Kay and Derek – are all deeply passionate about customer service, and our country's amazing churches.

Amongst them are theologians, choristers, regular churchgoers, and people who have worked with Christian charities here and abroad, so they really understand your specific needs. And because they're based at regional locations all over the UK, they're also able to tailor their advice to your local requirements.

They have decades of combined industry experience – and standing behind them is Ecclesiastical's 135 years of unrivalled expertise and insight in dealing with everything life might throw at you.



Where possible, the Church Insurance Consultants love to meet customers and talk face-to-face, and are happy to host networking events where you can get to know people from other parishes and share experiences, ideas – and smiles.

If you are unable to meet them in person, they're still there, offering exactly the same services online or over the telephone.

To find out more about the team, and how they could help you and your church, please visit: www.ecclesiastical.com/cic or email meetus@ecclesiastical.com (please include your contact details, the name of your church and parish, and policy number if possible), or call them on **0345 777 3322**.

Contains promotional material

Café raises funds – and spirits

When lockdowns led to a dramatic fall in revenue, one church came up with a way to raise funds and create a much needed local community space.



Christ Church in Lofthouse (near Leeds) was struggling for funding, and the village itself had been cut in half by the arrival of the M26 motorway many years ago, leaving its people without a proper place to meet. So the Reverend Mandy Rhodes and others put their heads together and decided to open the TLC Café in the basement of their church.

“Villagers still talk fondly about the old cricket club which was lost when the motorway came through,” said Mandy. “That was where people would meet up for parties and get-togethers. But since it went there hasn’t been anywhere suitable. Like most churches, we were hit really hard by the lockdowns – and we still are, with quite a few of our elderly parishioners now in the habit of joining services online. So we wondered if there was a way we could address both problems, and the café was born.”

They teamed up with CLO Coffee – a Leeds-based Christian coffee shop and roastery – to source a machine and barista training, and redecorated the basement hall, which is the former crypt. In November 2021, they opened the café – and it has gone from strength to strength.

“There’s a lovely, relaxed atmosphere,” said Mandy. “We’re seeing a real group of regulars building – people just like having somewhere to meet up again. After paying off our original outlay we’re now turning a profit, which means we can be more confident about paying our Parish Share. “We have local artists displaying their work here – our current exhibition is of art produced by a local head injury charity – and we take a small 5% cut of any sales, which helps. We have a charity shop and our food bank too. We’re running mother-and-baby drop-ins, and I’m looking at starting baby massage sessions. I’d say the future is bright!”

Especially in rural communities, church buildings are much more than just bricks and mortar. They offer vital spaces for quiet time, reflection and connection, as the TLC Café demonstrates.

From listening to customer feedback, we know that it’s not always easy to pay for the upkeep and care of rural churches, or for the ministry that happens in them.

We asked for your feedback on our printed toolkit – Fundraising in a Box – that was sent to all church customers in January 2021. You told us you liked the toolkit style, but guidance especially for rural parishes would be a helpful addition to our support. That’s why we’ve created a fundraising toolkit for rural churches, full of useful links and expert advice. **You can find it on our Church Fundraising Hub at www.ecclesiastical.com/rural-parishes**

More fundraising support

There are plenty of useful resources and handy templates for all types of churches on our Church Fundraising Hub at www.ecclesiastical.com/churchfundraising

Our Movement for Good Awards open for entry



Charitable giving is at the heart of what we do – and has been for over 135 years. For the past three years, Ecclesiastical Insurance has run the Movement for Good Awards programme, giving away £3 million to great causes.

Did you know?

In 2021, we were delighted to award £25,000 to church-related charities. Please take a look at our winners’ map to see which charities and churches we have helped in your local area:

winnersmap.benefactgroup.com

The Awards are back and this year we have over £1 million to donate, but we cannot do it without you. This year, you’ll find information on the awards on our parent company’s website.

Visit: www.benefactgroup.com/movement-for-good to find out more.





Have you heard the e-news?

E-news is a monthly email full of tips and information and monthly risk reminders for all of our customers and anyone in your church community. To receive it is easy – **all you need to do is register on our website at: www.ecclesiastical.com/signup** and if at any time you decide you no longer want to receive it, you can click the 'unsubscribe' button at the bottom of the email. Feel free to pass on the sign-up link to anyone you think might like it.

'Made Simple' guides



We know that understanding the insurance responsibilities for your church can be complicated, that's why we've created our 'Made Simple' guides.

These guides take you through potential risks and insurance implications of the day-to-day running of churches, as well as activities and projects that PCCs are often involved in.

They cover topics such as administration, events, community outreach, people on church premises, church property, building works and legal expenses. **You can find them all on our website at: www.ecclesiastical.com/church**

Information at your fingertips

The Ecclesiastical website is largely an online library of guidance and support for you and your church community. You'll find information about church and home insurance, risk management, fundraising and grants and lots more. 'Church Matters' newsletter is also on the website, making it really easy to share with others.

Visit: www.ecclesiastical.com/church

Ministry Bursary Awards

Financial support for 2023 sabbaticals

The experience of a sabbatical can be life-changing and have a long-lasting impact on your church and community. Ecclesiastical's Ministry Bursary Awards (MBAs) provide financial support to members of the clergy planning to take extended study leave. Applications are open now until the end of September.

Established in 1987 to celebrate Ecclesiastical's centenary year, the Awards have supported almost 1,400 clergy members from Anglican Christian faiths. The sabbatical breaks and projects have varied greatly over the years – from traditional and modern-day pilgrimages to study visits, spiritual retreats and pursuits of lifelong dreams and hobbies.

Like Rev'd James Radcliffe from Lincoln, who worked in sports-based ministry in South Africa, or Rev'd Rachel Dale, who studied dementia and also worked with vulnerable children. One of our most recent MBA recipients, Rev'd Canon Imogen Nay, spent her sabbatical in 2021 looking at rewilding and green churches.

Ecclesiastical's Ministry Bursary Awards are open for applications until 30 September 2022. Judging of the applications will take place in November and awards will be made during December 2022.

If you would like to read more about James, Rachel or Imogen's experiences and find out more about the Awards including eligibility criteria and application details, **please visit our website: www.ecclesiastical.com/mba**



Financial services

Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Services (EFAS) provides expert, independent financial advice including on pensions, investments, life assurance and mortgages for the clergy, church people and PCCs.

☎ **0800 107 0190**
✉ **getadvice@ecclesiastical.com**
🌐 **www.ecclesiastical.com/financial-advice**

WINNERS of the **NatWest Mortgage Awards 2022, South West and Wales** for putting the customer and local community at the heart of everything we do.



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Our Clergy Motor Insurance is tailored specifically for the clergy and includes benefits such as business use, no admin charges and up to £500 cover for church goods in the car.¹

☎ **0345 450 9396**
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¹ Subject to terms and conditions.



Award-winning home insurance that supports your church



As part of a financial services group that exists to give its profits to good causes, one of the ways in which we do this is through our Trust130 Home

Insurance offer. For every new direct home insurance policy taken out, Ecclesiastical offer to donate £130 to an Anglican church or cathedral of the policyholder's choice.¹

Originally launched in 2017 to celebrate our 130th anniversary, we have since donated more than £460,000, helping to support over 2,500 churches. A donation of £130 may not sound much, but churches and congregations have used the donations in many creative ways to fund all sorts of things:

St Mary and Bartholomew Solihull are using their grant to introduce contactless donations to support the church and raise valuable funds for charitable causes.

*"This is important for both the church to enable us to continue to raise funds, for the parishioners to enable them to continue to donate in church without having to touch cash/the collection plate and finally to the local (and national) charities we support each year through our charitable giving which is only possible from the kind donations our parishioners make." **Duncan Watson**, Treasurer*

St Albans West Leigh, which is located in a growing community, with a new housing development opposite the church and a further development close by in the planning stages, are using the money to welcome the new residents.

*"We have decided to use the money to assist in funding welcome packs – which will be a booklet about our church and the locale along with some nice biscuits. The booklet and biscuits enable us to make personal contact with people as they move into our community, and to offer them a warm welcome." **The Rev'd Canon Karina Green**, Priest in Charge St Alban's West Leigh*

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As well as supporting your church, when you take out a home insurance policy with Ecclesiastical you are joining the most trusted home insurance provider with the happiest customers. April 2022 saw Ecclesiastical top the Fairer Finance league table for home insurance for a record 15th consecutive time, retaining our gold ribbon status.²

And don't forget, we offer a discount to members of the clergy.

For more information about Trust130 and Home Insurance, visit: www.ecclesiastical.com/trust130

¹ Terms may apply. ² www.fairerfinance.com/ratings/customer-experience-ratings/home-insurance

Creation Care

Ben Lillie, Diocesan Environment Officer



Firstly can I join my voice with others to thank you for your willingness to serve your parish and the local church. One of the strategic ways you can do this is to encourage the church to take seriously the call to Cherish Creation, Cut Carbon, Speak Up.

As people of faith and goodwill, our shared call to Cherish Creation, Cut Carbon, Speak Up

must start at a personal and local level, worked out in the families and communities in which we live, work, rest and worship.

- **Cherish Creation** might look like establishing a partnership with Cornwall Wildlife Trust for the environmental management of your churchyard or grounds. This is a simple and hugely effective way to increase biodiversity.
- **Cut Carbon** could be expressed though switching to a renewable energy supplier for your church power and heat. Or have a walk to church on Sunday.
- **Speak Up** could be heard by joining with the many petitions urging the Government to take action and respond to the climate crisis.

As a diocese, we urge you to engage in Creation Care through the Kernow Green Church Award.

How do we as a parish achieve this award?

There are just 4 areas for your parish to respond to:

- Pass a PCC resolution to adopt a 'Parish Creation Care Policy' to include the following:
 - Creation Care as a permanent PCC agenda item.
 - Annual carbon footprint return as part of annual parish returns.
 - Creation Sunday service or Creation Tide service / event etc.
- For each parish, appoint a Creation Care Champion or team of champions, who are supported by and report to the PCC.
- Register with the A Rocha Eco Church scheme.
- Carry out the initial environmental audit via Eco Church.

For completing and evidencing these essential Creation Care criteria, your parish church will be recognised with the Kernow Green Church Award. This award will have launched you into the national benchmark environmental accreditation of Eco Church where you can continue your Creation Care journey through the Bronze, Silver and Gold awards.

Visit: <https://trurodiocese.org.uk/resources/creation-care/kernow-green-church-award/>
also <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk>

Could you help find a Creation Care Champion in your parish or benefice?

Maybe you'd prefer Eco Officer or Green Guru? ...more likely you'd prefer no title at all and to gently just get on with it! But the point is, you care deeply for the environment and you long to see a re-flourishing of God's very good creation, this planet – our home.

You are not alone! And we want to help create a network that offers you and your parish community a fruitful and sustainable path, with support and encouragement along the way.

Our diocesan environment strategy to Cherish Creation, Cut Carbon, Speak Up, needs people like you to help breathe it into life and action in every parish in Cornwall... (and a couple in Devon).

As a diocese, Truro is establishing a network of Creation Care Champions in order to offer support, training and a growing community that will enable our churches to respond to the realities of this climate crisis with empathy, knowledge and confidence.

You don't have to do this on your own, maybe you'd prefer to be part of a team? We can help with that.

For further information, please see the Creation Care section of our diocesan website: <https://trurodiocese.org.uk/resources/creation-care/> Or for a conversation, please email the diocesan environment officer: deo@truro.anglican.org



Finance Team

The Finance Team at Church House comprises: Sophie Eddy, Director of Finance and Assets; Andrew Warburton, Finance Manager and Suzi Dyke, Finance Assistant.

If you ever have any queries relating to finance, please don't hesitate to contact the Finance Team at finance@truro.anglican.org. The email will then be actioned by the appropriate member of the team.



Specifically with regard to MMF queries there is an FAQ document which might answer any questions you have and can be found on the diocesan website under Parish Facing Support, Finance & Funding, MMF.

The team provide training sessions and, new for this year, offer regular drop-in sessions throughout the year.

More information on this can be found on our website under What's On, Parish Training 2022. Visit: <https://trurodiocese.org.uk>

On the Way Update

The Rt Revd Hugh Nelson, Bishop of St Germans



On the Way is a process which supports local churches, gathered together in their deaneries, to seek God's will for their future, asking in particular how they can be fruitful and sustainable in a changing world. Since you're reading this, you are likely to know about it already!

On the Way starts off with some assumptions. First of all, that God remains faithful and active and that he continues to give us everything we need to be the church he is calling us to be. Second, and as a consequence, the future is not a problem to be solved, but a gift to be received. Third, that local people are the experts in mission in their towns and villages, and know how best to serve their communities in faith and love. Finally, it assumes that, to discern God's call, we all need to work together, both with other church communities in the deanery and with the wider diocese.

It is, in summary, a process that invites us to be *'church communities who are mature in Christ, accepting responsibility for our own plans while also being mutually accountable.'*

I know that On the Way raises a range of responses. For some people it is anxiety provoking, as we grapple with the challenges in front of us. For others it's an opportunity for creativity and opens up exciting possibilities for the future. For others again, it is a potential threat to the life and ministry of their church. And, of course, it may be all of these things at the same time.

My prayer for all of us at the moment, however we are feeling and whatever the combination of challenge and opportunity before us, is that we will continue to hear the words of the prophet Isaiah – *'do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine'*. The world is changing, but God isn't. Our deep call is to believe that truth, which is the deepest truth we can know – that God remains faithful to us and to the world that he loves, and his faithful love will never change.

There's more information about On the Way on the Diocesan website, and you can let Bishop Philip and me know what's going on in your parish at any point by **sending a 'postcard from the way'** via www.bit.ly/Postcardsontheway

God bless and thank you for everything you do.

Safeguarding Team

Andy Earl, Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor



In the latest Leadership Senior Training Module, we were asked to reflect on what drives us to work amongst safeguarding in the Church of England, motivations in the group vary and it mirrors when we ask those who complete the Leadership module, What do you mean by safeguarding?

The questions often provoke a broad range of responses, from enthusiasm through to frustration.

If we are truly committed to the transformational change within safeguarding the Archbishops asked for, we should surely see that safeguarding is who we are; it is not separate to the Gospel we proclaim. It is, I would suggest the visible out working of that call to love one another, rather than something we do under threat of sanction.

Difficult though it may be, hearing the voice of the survivor/victim should be at the centre of all we do; recognising that what we do, or do not do, affects how they and the wider community perceive us.

Good safeguarding allows all of us to fulfil that call to be human, to live life in all its fullness.

Safeguarding should not be seen as an isolated activity, the Safeguarding Team are there to help, offer advice and support. The parish Dashboard can provide a useful check for parishes and will provide a safeguarding action plan as to what needs to be done.

For queries and resources relating to training, DBS or safeguarding practice, please look at the diocesan website or **contact us at safeguardingqueries@truro.anglican.org**

For safeguarding concerns or to report an incident; if urgent and requiring an immediate response contact the Emergency Services on 999, for non-urgent enquiries and **to notify of an immediate response incident, please use safeguardingconcerns@truro.anglican.org**. For more details about how to raise or report a safeguarding concern and what information is required, please refer to the diocesan website.

Recognise Respond Refer Record

For more information

Call: 0345 777 3322 **Email:** churches@ecclesiastical.com

Facebook: Ecclesiastical **Twitter:** @churchmatters

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