

OUR NEWS

OCTOBER 2022



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HM THE QUEEN REMEMBERED BY CHURCH COMMUNITIES

HM The Queen was remembered in churches across the diocese following her death at the age of 96 on September 8, 2022.

On hearing the news, churches were quick to swing into operation, with prayers and services being offered and tower teams tolling.

Speaking on September 9, Bishop Philip said: "Her Majesty The Queen was born to a unique vocation, and it was one she took on with utmost seriousness.

"Her long reign spanned some fundamental shifts within our society – among them seismic changes to the way we, as a society, view both the monarchy and religion.

"And yet throughout that time she bridged different worlds and epochs in a remarkable manner and in way that provided a rare thread of stability and consistency. That speaks volumes about the faith which was the sure foundation of her life. She was not merely a titular figurehead in her role as Supreme Governor of the Church of England, but someone with a strong, firm, foundational and personal faith.

"As Queen, she was the very embodiment of the virtue of duty: a sense of duty founded firmly on her faith. Her commitment, stamina and wisdom were rare, unquestionable and deeply admirable. She has shaped all our lives in incalculable ways.



"We mourn her passing, and give our God great thanks for her."

Truro Cathedral played a central role locally in two weeks of national mourning with the county's proclamation being read from the steps of the cathedral. It, like other churches in the diocese, held services and opened their doors for people to come and pray and sign the many condolence books that were available.

Books of Condolence that were setup in churches will remain with each church's individual parish records for the time being. Going forward they will be offered to the County Archives which is planning to keep a representative selection from organisations across Cornwall.

DIOCESAN SYNOD HELD

The theme of change was very much in evidence at September's Diocesan Synod and it was perhaps fitting that the synod was also the last time the Dean of Truro, The Very Roger Bush attended before his retirement.

Dean Roger led the opening worship with Holy Communion before Bishop Philip stood to thank Roger for his service. Speaking to members, Bishop Philip said: "I wish to publicly bear witness to the way Roger and Lois [Roger's wife] have lavished love on the cathedral over the last ten years. I want to personally say thank you for all the support you have given me and wish you and Lois God's richest blessings."

Bishop Philip also paid tribute to Revd Canon David Miller, who is the diocese's longest serving vicar and who, along with his wife Becky, will be moving to Southampton to take up a new position.

A Church that unashamedly embraces an innovative pioneering culture was the theme of the rest of the synod with parish representatives talking about work they are involved in of an innovative or pioneering nature (See Wild Church, page 2).

There were also presentations from the Diocesan Board of Education and the Safeguarding team, as well as agenda items such as clergy well being, general synod and an update from Bishop Hugh Nelson on the Next Steps On The Way.

You can read the Presidential Address [here](#). You can read Bishop Hugh's presentation on Next Steps on the Way [here](#).

More information on the synod is available via the diocesan [website](#).

BISHOPS' LETTER ...

BISHOP PHILIP TO VISIT LEBANON THIS MONTH

Bishop Philip will lead a small team from the diocese to visit Lebanon later this month to set up a link and to see what lessons could be learnt to help us here.

Bishop Philip writes: "Lebanon is a fascinating country. I was privileged to visit it some years ago, and was so very impressed with what I saw of the work of the Church there.

"In one place I visited a couple who have turned their home into a school for refugee children. Young people who had been deeply traumatised by war and conflict in Syria were now laughing and singing and playing. It was wonderful to see. And that was just one example of a repeated pattern of heartfelt hospitality, and deep faith in action that I witnessed. This was a Church, I felt, that has so much to teach us – and that's one reason why, with a small team from the Diocese of Truro, I'm heading back there in October to see what we might do to set up a living link between Cornwall and Lebanon.

"Lebanon is also a multi-faith society. Of course it has had its own traumatic conflicts, but it is perhaps the one place in the Middle East where there is a genuine commitment to religious plurality. So another reason why I'm going is to speak to leaders of various faith traditions about the work I've done in the whole realm of Freedom of



Street art in Lebanon

Photo credit: Christelle Hayek, Unsplash

Religion and Belief, to learn from people there who are similarly committed, and to see how we might advance this cause together.

"There's another profound reason for our partnership. The Lebanese' Phoenician forebears were our ancient partners in the tin trade: and it was a very ancient trade, dating back to around 1600BC. Indeed were it not for that partnership there would have been no Bronze Age, because you can't make bronze without tin. So it's not only an ancient but a world-changing partnership.

"Who knows just what it might achieve in the future?"

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Domestic Violence awareness month takes place internationally in October, the aim is to raise awareness of the various types of domestic abuse and the various forms it comes in.

The Church of England will be raising awareness of domestic through 16 days of sound bites and videos starting in November, followed up by training in 2023. Watch this space for more information about how you can get involved.



More information about domestic abuse and how the church can raise awareness and become a 'safe space' for people to disclose can be found in the safeguarding e-manual [here](#).

WILD CHURCH

There is something new happening in churches across the diocese called Wild Church. It's a way of doing church differently, to attract all ages of churched and unchurched people. It is a way of connecting with God in an outdoor setting. It works for families, individuals and couples.

At New Street Church, Falmouth, the team have been doing Wild Church for four months, using Falmouth's old cemetery as their base. It is a beautiful and peaceful outdoor space, with gated access to the road, and with good tarmacked paths, making the space accessible to all.

So what does a Wild Church session look like? Jane Wheeler, Schools and Families Lead at New Street, says: "We start by gathering together at 4pm on blankets and tarpaulins under a large pine tree in the cemetery. There are biscuits and snacks to help children settle. We begin with a simple prayer, followed by a short Bible reading on the theme. So far, the themes have been: God's Wonderful Creation; Peace & Butterflies; Loving Our Community; and Changing Seasons."

After this introduction, people explore the churchyard with a small list of activities; some for children, some for youth, and some for adults. These are always optional. There is scope to simply sit and immerse themselves in nature, if that's what is needed. Or people can take paper, clipboard and pencils to draw or write in a quiet spot.

Jane says: "Wild Church ends by us all coming together again to show and tell what we have made or found or thought about. The host of Wild Church then uses what has been brought by people and weaves back in the Bible theme. We finish with a prayer. Those who want to can stay for a picnic together."

Wild Church in Falmouth has had families, couples and singles come to find space, peace and freedom to explore a beautiful setting. One mum said, "When did I last find time to look at butterflies with my eight-year-old son? It was wonderful!"

Wild Church gives people permission to stop and look, to wonder, to think and to reflect. It allows children to be active, curious and creative, and it allows adults to be still, to find peace and to pray. We all need a bit of that in our lives.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

GIVE THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS WITH THE GIVING CATALOGUE

The 2022 Cornish Christmas Giving Catalogue will be out in October packed with 20 local charities offering the gift of Christmas to the most vulnerable in our communities.

From Backpack Beds to St Petrocs and Food Troops, the catalogue has a something for everyone.

This year's welcome comes from Colonel Edward Bolitho, Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall and Penzance food bank volunteer Davina Baker.

There are options from as little as £5 with donations of any value welcome. Those buying a gift will receive a certificate.

Gifts can be purchased via post or online with the postal deadline of Monday, December 19 and online deadline of Friday, December 23, although donations are welcome through to January 13, 2023.

[FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)



BISHOP PHILIP BECOMES PATRON OF BF ADVENTURE

Bishop Philip has become Patron of Penryn-based charity BF Adventure.

Bishop Philip said: "I am delighted to be asked to be patron of BF Adventure. I have been immensely impressed by the work of BF Adventure, since first I saw it. In any area where many young people suffer from very significant deprivation, low self-esteem and limited aspirations BF Adventure builds skills and confidence and demonstrates to young people just what it is they are capable of. I'm honoured and proud to be associated with it.

"The Bishop of Truro has had a long association with the charity. The charity was set up by one of my predecessors, Bishop Peter Mumford, who recognised the need to find positive ways of engaging with disadvantaged young people. The connection continued under Bishop Tim Thornton's tenure with a trustee role.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to now play my part in this important work."

Formerly known as Bishop's Forum, the charity was initiated by his predecessor Bishop Peter Mumford in 1989 with the aim of engaging disadvantaged young people in the local area and unlocking their potential.

BF Adventure works with 4,000 children and young people each year, of whom 500 live with multiple disadvantages including poverty and social isolation. Over 200 of this group receive specialist long term support with learning and/or physical disabilities, behavioural challenges, mental ill health, trauma and other issues associated with Adverse Childhood Experiences.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



CHALLENGE POVERTY WEEK TAKES PLACE THIS MONTH: JOIN IN

End Hunger Cornwall and Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum are lead partners in this year's national Challenge Poverty Week campaign, which runs from October 17 – 23.

In 2021 Cornwall did an amazing job of highlighting the real stories of those suffering the indignity of poverty.

This year, you are invited to make a really simple but effective contribution to Challenge Poverty Week. So how do you get involved?

1. Invite a local MP and Councillor to come and visit a local project.
2. Take a pic with them, and hold a Challenge Poverty poster or two prominently.
3. Send the pic and a paragraph about the visit to endhungercornwall@gmail.com and we'll do the rest.

Then, on October 21, we will be holding a conference in Truro, 'You Still Can't Eat The View' and we will be inviting everyone who contributed to come along to sharing our stories and have positive, solution focussed conversations.

We will be joined on the day by Niall Cooper, director of Church Action on Poverty – the team behind Challenge Poverty Week England & Wales.

If you would like to attend 'You Still Can't Eat The View' register via email here: endhungercornwall@gmail.com subject YSCETV).

RING OUT FOR COP 27

Bell ringers are being asked to ring out for COP 27.

Over 1,000 church bells rang out their warning on the eve of COP 26 last year. It is hoped the same impact can be made again this year.

Tower teams are asked to ring on Saturday, November 5 at 5pm for 15 – 30 minutes.

BISHOP HUGH TALKS CHANGE

We're all aware of the consequences of changes in patterns of belief in this country. We see it in our church pews, in the numbers of children in our churches and in our PCC bank balances.

But I think those are the symptoms, not the cause. The real change isn't that people still believe the same things they used to believe but have stopped going to church because shopping is more fun. The real change is that people believe different things now.

And it's not fundamentally that people's rational beliefs have changed – that people have worked their way through the Creed and decided they don't believe it after all – it's much deeper than that. The way people understand the world we live in, how we decide what makes for a good life, the values that guide our decisions, what we think happens after death, the people, stories and institutions we

look to as role models or for wisdom, these are all very significantly different than they were in 1970s or 80s – let alone in 1940 or 50.

And this change is bigger than any individual. This is about culture. It's about the structures of belief, the shared stories that surround us and the way we think the world works. It's what's going on around us without most of us noticing, most of the time. It's the air that we breathe – and it's therefore very powerful.

For many, many centuries the culture in this country – the air everyone breathed – was imbued with God, the Bible and the life of the church. The seasons of the year, the people who made decisions and the institutions who shaped our values were Christian. And so the culture around us made believing in God and being part of Church very significantly more rather than less likely.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

WHAT'S ON OCTOBER

- 1 **Celebrate Reader Ministry**, Truro Cathedral, 11am - 12 noon..
- 2 **Creation Care Service**, Truro Cathedral, 2pm - 3pm (see poster).
- 2 **Return to the Hiding Place**, St John in the Fields, St Ives, 7pm, £7.
- 5 **Setting up an international link in your parish webinar**, more info [here](#).

PARISH TRAINING

The 2022 Parish Training Programme is now available. The FREE sessions coming up in October are:

- Oct 15: **New Secretaries**
 Oct 29: **Refresher & what's new for churchwardens, secretaries & treasurers who are not new.**
 Oct 29 **Communication Drop-in session**

[FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)

OTHER NEWS

[THE LATEST ON THE WAY UPDATE](#)

[THE LATEST SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY BRIEFING](#)

[CREATION CARE NETWORK](#)

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.



Welcome to Pilgrim Explorers!

Looking for something to do with the family?

New **FREE** micro pilgrimages are now available.

All the guides and maps are available **FREE** here:

pilgrimexplorers.co.uk

and on Instagram:

[instagram.com/pilgrim_explorers](https://www.instagram.com/pilgrim_explorers)

CREATION CARE NETWORK USEFUL LINKS

The next Creation Care Network gathering is on Thursday, October 6 (10am - 12 noon). All are via the Zoom [link](#).

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

CREATION CARE

CREATION CARE SERVICE

TRURO CATHEDRAL

2PM

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2022

ALL WELCOME

A service of celebration & commitment
 Presentations of Kernow Green Church Awards
 Inspiring stories

