



Diocese of Truro

archdeacons' visitation news

Churchwardens – at the heart of the Church

'On the Way' has been very much the 'heartbeat' of our diocese over the past two years and it has been hugely encouraging to see how many of our deaneries and parishes have taken the opportunity to engage with the significant opportunity for change that this has presented.

Inspired by the Creator Himself, the call to fruitfulness and sustainability has birthed so many creative responses across the diocese; a Deanery Missioner in Carnmarth South, a Bishop's Mission Order in Pydar, School of Ministry in St Austell and investment in local mission initiatives in Trigg Minor and Bodmin to name just a few!

It has also been heartening to see how deaneries have embraced the opportunity to share resources across parishes. Many deaneries have been actively involved with the call to reimagine church by encouraging the birth of new lay ministry with Social Justice Ministers, Children and Family Workers, a CAP Worker, School Chaplains and Pioneer Ministers called to minister across parish boundaries.

Deanery Plans have creatively embraced every aspect of church life and growth in our parishes, from discipleship to improving church buildings, from increasing believers to cultivating community partnerships. With this call to fresh missional energy

and vision, what may not be immediately recognised is that at the heart of all the plans are you, our Churchwardens!

Alongside the practical ministry of care for our churches that comes with being a Churchwarden is the responsibility of being a local leader and 'agent for mission and ministry'. With your ministry as Churchwarden, deanery plans for leading our church into fruitfulness and growth have the opportunity to take root and flourish in the towns and villages of our diocese.

One of the joys of being Archdeacons is that we are in a different parish every week, leading worship on Sundays and meeting church members. On such occasions, it is always a privilege to witness the commitment to the life of our parishes and faithful ministry of service that you as Churchwardens give so generously to enable our churches to be 'open for business'. As a result, we are hugely encouraged for the future health and life of God's Church in Cornwall. We thank God for you and for your ministry at the heart of His Church and look forward to working with you this coming year for the growth of His Kingdom.

Every Blessing,



The Ven Kelly Betteridge
Archdeacon of Bodmin



The Ven Paul Bryer
Archdeacon of Cornwall

Produced and printed by

Good news!

There is much to rejoice and be thankful for in the Camelside Benefice at this moment in time.

New initiatives have been popping up and old ones continue to grow. Moorland Church, our monthly Celtic Service, which takes place outside on the moors in various locations from the stone circle to the bridge over the river, continues to be a well-attended service. It is providing a space outside in creation for people to see God in their surroundings and to discover different ways to worship. Our congregation here is made up of people from all seven



churches as well as those who don't attend our regular church services. We gather together regardless of the weather (although, it has to be said we have been incredibly fortunate in that regard) and give thanks for the beauty that surrounds us.

For new initiatives, we have a wonderful project starting up called the 'Support Squad', this came into being after recognising within rural/farming villages mental health support was a big, but hidden, problem. After speaking with the Farming Community Network and Rethink.org, we have created a support network, helping to promote well-being and build valuable friendships as well as offering support to those living with mental illness, whether it be personally, or as caregivers, friends or family.

Finally (although I could go on), we have a wonderful relationship with our two church schools with them coming into church every week for Collective Worship, but recently relationships have flourished with a non-church school within one of our villages. What started off as inviting them into the church for Harvest, and then Christingle, ended up in them booking the next year's services and inviting us into their school to explain to the Key Stage 2 children 'The Trinity, The Messiah, and The Incarnation', so just the easy ones then!

As I said, life in the Camelside Benefice continues to be a source of blessing and joy, and I look forward to seeing what is next for these five parishes and seven churches!

Rev'd Robin Thwaites

The Finance team



The Finance team at Church House comprises: Sophie Eddy, Director of Finance and Assets; Anne Bone, Finance Manager and Suzi Dyke, Finance Assistant. The team are there to help and support the parishes with anything finance related and if you ever have any queries relating to finance, please don't hesitate to contact them at **finance@truro.anglican.org**

One of the topics they are contacted about regularly is MMF, the contributions made by the parishes to finance the mission and ministry of the diocese. With the Deanery Plans now in the process of being implemented, these contributions are vital in order that the Lowest Income Communities Funding (LICF) and mission funding can be released to aid the delivery of the deanery plans.

Please be reminded that finance training sessions and monthly online drop-in sessions are held during the year. More information can be found here: **<https://trurodiocese.org.uk/parish-training-2023>**

Safeguarding

Parish officers and volunteers are at the heart of how we keep people safe. Our experiences over this last 12 months with parishes shows how many people are safer, and that simply could not happen without your dedicated commitment, so thank you. With your understanding and acceptance of the fundamental importance of safeguarding best practice, our communities are supported, cared for, and risks are reduced.

Check your PCC understand their responsibilities as Trustees. The Parish Dashboards are a great tool for this.

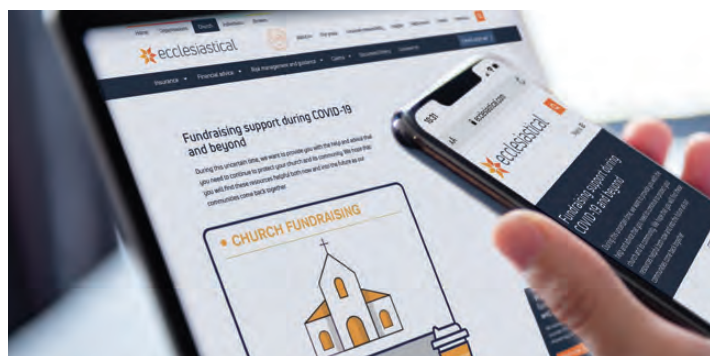
Safe recruitment of our officers and volunteers is crucial. Safer Recruitment and People Management training **MUST** be completed by at least one member of the PCC, and that person **MUST** be involved in any recruitment the PCC engage with. Put simply, failure here leaves you out of compliance.

Domestic abuse is a major issue across the country, and sadly this is reflected in our diocese too. Domestic Abuse Awareness training is important because domestic abuse is hard to spot, and very challenging to work with. The impact of domestic abuse can be far reaching and (although under recorded) experienced by older people in particular.

Safeguarding Training Portal (cofeportal.org)

The link above takes you to all the safeguarding training we offer.

Any queries regarding the Parish Dashboards, accessing the training, ideas to encourage uptake, please get in touch at **safeguardingqueries@truro.anglican.org**. We love hearing from you, and remember to look out for the Safeguarding Briefings.



Fundraising hub to support your church

Fundraising has always been vital for churches, from the traditional, well-loved flower festivals and cake sales to the world of digital fundraising opportunities that the internet has opened up. But it can be daunting to know where to start, so Ecclesiastical's easy-to-use online fundraising hub is here to help with great ideas and simple advice.

Drawing on the advice of experts and our own 135 years' experience in working with churches, we've pulled together a range of top tips to help you boost existing income streams and develop new ones. There's help with researching sources of funding and writing professional grant applications that can make all the difference to the answer you receive. There are great video webinars with fundraising specialists offering their insights into key fundraising issues.

Other guidance includes fundraising in less affluent areas, fundraising in rural parishes, how to build a fundraising team and more to keep your congregation and the wider community informed and engaged.

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

Nominate your church for a chance to win



The Movement for Good giving programme is back with awards of £1,000 to give to charities helping those in need. Ecclesiastical is proudly part of the Benefact Group, and together they are giving away over **£1 million** to charities in the 2023 Movement for Good Awards.

£1,000 draws are now open for nominations

- You can nominate your favourite charity or church at any time for the £1,000 draw.
- It's one nomination per charity, per person, so if you have more than one favourite, get them in the running today!
- There are three £1,000 draws this year giving away between £120,000 and £150,000 in each.
- Once you've nominated, share your nomination and get your network to support too.

Get nominating and find out more at www.movementforgood.com/ecclesiastical

Did you know?

In 2022, 15 churches each won a £1,000 grant.

There were thousands of nominations for these churches. The more nominations received, the greater their chance of winning.



Contains promotional material

Rebuilding the historic Church of the Ascension in Salford

In February 2017, a fire broke out at the Grade-II listed Church of the Ascension in Lower Broughton, Salford, Greater Manchester. Six crews from Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service battled for hours to contain the blaze, which ultimately devastated the building.



Many members of the local community gathered outside the church building to survey the damage, some reduced to tears. Much used and loved by young and old, the building plays an important role in both spiritual and social terms as an inclusive community space accessible to all. The church had recently undergone a £250,000 restoration project which people in the community had helped to fund.

Immediately following the fire, Ecclesiastical carefully assembled the right team of experts to attend the site as soon as the fire service authorised it.

Repair work began in October 2018 with teams of carefully selected experts appointed to complete the works. Phase one included reinstatement of the structural elements of the building,



such as columns, roof structures and slate coverings; stone and brick repairs; stained glass window and window guard replacements; and ceiling finishes.

Phase two began in September 2021, focusing on preserving the historical features of the church. As part of the restoration, Ecclesiastical worked with customers to build in modernisations to enable them to make the space better serve the requirements of today's use.

Restoration of the building was completed by the end of September 2022.

In November 2022, the church and community came together to mark the completion of the £5m restoration project with a rededication ceremony.

Read the story in full and see more pictures at
www.ecclesiastical.com/church-of-the-ascension

// It has been a long five and a half years since the fire... we can now look forward to the future with a beautifully restored church which is fit for the 21st century. //

Shirley Kehoe, PCC Secretary at the Church of the Ascension



Take our advice – for a brighter future

Ecclesiastical is well-known as a leading insurer of churches and other heritage buildings. But many people aren't aware that we also have a stand-alone financial advice arm here to help you make the most of your money.

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



You don't have to be an insurance customer to use the service – we're happy to help anyone – but we obviously have specialist knowledge of the church sector, as IFA Kieran Harper explains.

'I've been in the industry for seventeen years and with Ecclesiastical for all but two of those,' said Kieran, who's based in our Gloucester office. 'When it comes to

providing regulated financial advice to the clergy and the wider church community, that experience helps.

'Many of our customers are clergy – we understand their pension scheme, we know about the issues with living in tied accommodation such as vicarages – so when it comes to retirement planning, we're already ahead of the game. We also have a deep understanding of ethical and sustainable investing – as you would expect of a company with such strong links to the church – and this area is getting ever more popular with a lot of our customers.'

Please get in touch to find out how Kieran and his colleagues could help you.



0800 107 0190



getadvice@ecclesiastical.com



www.ecclesiastical.com/financial-advice

Have you signed up for Ecclesiastical's monthly e-news?



This monthly email is full of tips and information for all Ecclesiastical's church customers and anyone in your church community. Signing up is easy 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 the sign-up link to anyone you think would like it.

Sign up at www.ecclesiastical.com/signup

Support for your 2024 sabbatical

Are you planning on taking a sabbatical in 2024?

Did you know that there may be support available for you through Ministry Bursary Awards? Ecclesiastical's Ministry Bursary Awards provide financial support for members of the clergy taking extended study leave, and we are now accepting applications for sabbaticals taking place in 2024.

The experience of a sabbatical can be life-changing and have a long-lasting impact on your church and community.

Established in 1987, the Ecclesiastical Ministry Bursary Awards have supported over 1,400 members of the clergy to finance a wide range of extended leave projects and plans. The application window runs between April and September. Judging will take place in November 2023, with the awards made in December 2023.

If you would like to find out more about the Awards, including eligibility criteria and application details, please visit www.ecclesiastical.com/mba



Have you visited the Ecclesiastical website recently?

It's full of information to help you run your church, such as the **Made Simple Guides**, which cover these key topics:

- Church insurance made simple
- Administering your church insurance
- Building works
- Church events
- Church property
- Community outreach
- Legal expenses
- People on church premises

You will also find information about church, home, commercial and legal insurance and how to make a claim. **Explore the website at www.ecclesiastical.com/church**

Protect your home and support your church with £130 donation



As part of a financial services group that exists to give its available profits to good causes, one of the ways in which Ecclesiastical do this is through the 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 the 130th anniversary, Ecclesiastical has since donated more than £460,000, helping to support over 2,500 churches. A donation of £130 may not sound like much, but churches and congregations have used the donations in many creative ways to fund all sorts of things.

In the **Parish of Harpenden**, the donation will be used to support Cornelia's Coffee Shop, which is a community resource that enables them to engage with local people, offering fellowship and raising funds for charity.

It needs some new equipment – not least, a new freezer – and the donation will help in this general regard. It does great work to benefit the community and other great causes. One of our recent events at Cornelia's was to help our local Ukrainian arrivals.

Kevin Featherstone, Parish Warden

St Mary's Church, Wythall, used their donations to offer a weekly hot meal to families struggling with the increase in the cost of living.

This happens directly after school and includes activities for children and a Bible story or video. £130 will pay for meals for about 20 families, funding the food for about two weeks, which is a great boost financially, but also to the step of faith which this venture is.

Pam Miller, Treasurer

Award-winning home insurance



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.

Ecclesiastical continued to top the Fairer Finance league table in spring 2023 for home insurance for a record 17th consecutive time, retaining the gold ribbon status.² Ecclesiastical was also voted the best home insurance provider in the Times Money Mentor Awards in 2022.³

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

Call us for a home insurance quote on **0345 777 3322** and mention code **TRUSTPA**.

¹ Terms and conditions apply. ² www.fairerfinance.com/ratings/customer-experience-ratings/home-insurance ³ www.thetimes.co.uk/money-mentor/article/times-money-mentor-awards-2022-winners



Car insurance

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



www.ecclesiastical.com/church/car-insurance

¹ Subject to terms and conditions.



Funeral planning

Ecclesiastical can help you make financial provision for your funeral, reducing the worry for your family and ensuring your wishes are provided for. Terms and conditions apply.



0800 055 6503

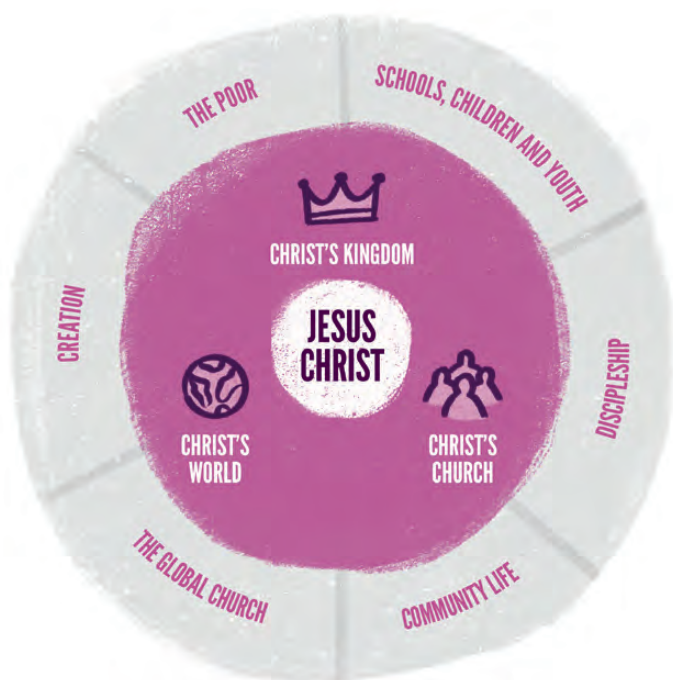


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www.funeralplans.co.uk

A fruitful and sustainable future



OUR CALLING TO FRUITFULNESS...

The world is changing and the place of the church in society is changing too. Since the 1950s and '60s, the assumption that Christianity in general, and the Church of England in particular, shaped the outlook of the majority of people in this country around the big questions of life, has shifted. It's no longer Christianity or the life of the church that gives most people answers to questions like 'How do I live a good life?', 'What happens when I die?' or 'Why is there so much suffering?' Just have a look at the 'Spirituality and wellbeing' section of a bookshop for evidence of that.

There is no one simple reason for this change, and it's affecting all main denominations in every Western country. What is clear are the consequences, which we see in smaller church congregations and fewer young people.

None of this means that people aren't still profoundly interested in God and in the search for meaning, nor that Christianity and the church don't remain the very best way for people to find meaning, hope and purpose in life. People still need God and churches can definitely still grow – but we do need to respond to the changing culture that we belong to.

This is a new situation for us to be in, but it's not new for the church which, in its 2,000 years of life around the world, has often had to ask, 'What does it mean to be faithful to our unchanging God in the middle of a changing world?' And that's now our question.

And in the diocese of Truro, we're answering that through *On the Way*. After 18 months of discussion, prayer and decision-making, all 12 deaneries now have a plan for a fruitful and sustainable future in the midst of a changing world. These plans describe how we plan to be faithful to our unchanging God in the middle of a changing world.

But we know that turning paper plans into reality is demanding, and that plans that never get beyond warm words are worse than useless. As a diocese we are therefore completely focussed on turning these plans into reality. With that in mind, and with funding from the national Church, Ruth Marriott has been appointed as Director of Change and Renewal. She is working with a small team to work alongside parishes and deaneries to turn their plans for



Ruth Marriott, Director of Change and Renewal

engaging with young people, serving the most deprived communities, sharing faith with people who we will never see in church and growing churches, into reality. Every deanery will have someone from her team working with their Deanery Implementation Team on the work needed to bring the plans to life. If you'd like to find out more, or to seek their support, you can contact Ruth and her team at **Ruth.marriott@truro.anglican.org**

We know that change is demanding and difficult, and that it is important to have plenty of opportunities to discuss what's happening. With that in mind, Bishop Philip and I are going to every deanery over the next few months to share our vision for the future and to discuss the hopes and concerns of churches across the diocese. We have also put together answers to some frequently asked questions, which you can read here:

<https://trurodiocese.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Deanery-FAQs-Version-Dec-22.pdf>

We also know from Scripture and church history that prayer is the foundation of everything we do, especially at times of challenge and change. Since the start of *On the Way*, a weekly online time of prayer called 'Abiding at the well' has taken place on Zoom, led by a group of curates. It takes place at 8:30am every Thursday and everyone from across the diocese is welcome. Details, including the login, can be found here: <https://trurodiocese.org.uk/resources/next-steps-on-the-way/fruitful-sustainable> (click and then scroll to the bottom of the page).

In *The Saints Way*, which describes his vision for the church in this diocese, Bishop Philip writes this, 'Our prayer is simply this: that we become an ever more hopeful, confident church that seeks the mind, heart and will of God for Cornwall, for the communities he calls us to serve, and for the wider world beyond these shores.' And we invite you to join us in that prayer, as we seek the fruitful and sustainable future to which we are called.

God bless +Hugh

NEXT STEPS
ON THE
WAY

Pastoral reorganisation – the not so scary reality!



The 12 deaneries of the Diocese of Truro are all at the stage of implementing their Deanery Plans. Whilst there are some common features across the plans, there is also a good deal of variety which is just as it should be with plans locally discerned and shaped to fit a specific context. In some deaneries there is more evolution than revolution; others envisage significant change in terms of the relationship between parishes and the way in which ministry is resourced and enabled. Some elements will be quick and relatively easy to action, others will take longer to bring into being.

In instances where Deanery Plans describe parishes being configured in new ways 'pastoral reorganisation' takes place. For example, if parish A, parish B and parish C were going to become a benefice and share an incumbent, there would be pastoral reorganisation to make that happen. They would usually still be parishes in their own right, with their own PCCs, but they would be part of a benefice under the care of an incumbent.

The term 'pastoral reorganisation' sometimes causes people to feel a little nervous and suspicious that change is to be imposed from 'the centre' or from 'on high'. In reality, pastoral reorganisation is just the formal process of making changes to parishes and benefices; it is highly consultative and governed by a piece of legislation called the *Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011*.

The process has a variety of steps as follows:

- 1) **Informal discussions:** There are conversations that happen at parish, benefice and deanery level so that there is a shared understanding of the direction of travel. Lots of this has happened through the first phase of 'On the Way' to the extent that some plans include details of the way in which a deanery sees its parishes working together in the future. However, there are still further conversations to be had to clarify the 3 Ps – parishes, priests and parsonages (properties) that feature in each new benefice.
- 2) **Draft proposal:** Once there is some clarity on which parishes are involved in the new benefice, which priests will service which benefice, and which house will be the designated parsonage, a draft proposal is created that explains the new configuration and includes the details of the 3 Ps. The draft proposal is considered by the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee before going out for consultation.
- 3) **Consultation:** There is a period of consultation with relevant interested parties – that means that all of the PCCs and patrons affected by the planned changes, plus all incumbent status and any clergy whose office would see changes, and the Rural Dean, Deanery Lay Chair and Archdeacon all get to see the proposal and have their voices heard. Amendments are made to the proposal if needed and the draft proposal becomes 'a proposal'.
- 4) **Draft pastoral scheme:** On the basis of the proposal, the Church Commissioners prepare the draft pastoral scheme.
- 5) **Consultation:** There is a second period of consultation (about 5 weeks) and this time it is a public consultation giving anyone, anywhere an opportunity to have their voice heard.
- 6) **Scheme comes into effect:** If no-one objects to the pastoral scheme, it then comes into effect. If there are objections, the Church Commissioners consider the matters raised and make a ruling; this can extend the process by several months.

Any pastoral reorganisation in process at the moment stems from what is envisaged in Deanery Plans and the process ensures it can only happen after due consultation; it never happens at the whim of a Bishop, Archdeacon, incumbent or Churchwarden!

Ultimately, it is about finding the best way for priests, parishes and people to work collaboratively in mission and ministry, and putting in place the structures that make most sense to enable that. It's really not scary at all!

For more information

Call: 0345 777 3322 **Email:** churches@ecclesiastical.com
Facebook: Ecclesiastical **Twitter:** @churchmatters



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