

MINISTRY MATTERS FROM OUR DIOCESE



Welcome to Ministry Matters from the Diocese of Truro ministry team

Updating you on Ministry news within the diocese, together with information and links to learning opportunities

SUPPORT FOR MINISTRY

The new **Dean of Self-Supporting Clergy**, **Father Jeff Risbridger**, is currently building a small team of volunteer chaplains to support the work of self-supporting clergy in the diocese, the numbers of which are likely to increase given the financial constraints under which the Church of England is operating. Currently **The Revd Sacha Pearce** has been appointed to work with Bodmin Archdeaconry, and **Father Doug Robins** with Cornwall Archdeaconry, but interviews are still taking place so that a diverse range of chaplains can be made available.

Regarding his own role, Father Jeff says, "Self-supporting clergy have a breadth of skills and experience, but the power imbalance that inevitably exists between incumbents and other clergy can prevent ministry from flourishing, so my role is to try to resolve any issues that arise - or help prevent them arising in the first place. On occasion, I might introduce a self-supporting priest to one of the chaplains, who can offer spiritual, pastoral and practical support and advice, or I might assist an incumbent and a self-supporting priest to devise a fair and equitable Working Agreement. Ultimately, I hope that my role will help to honour, support and encourage the rich diversity of ministry - both lay and ordained - with which the Church is blessed, so that God's people can be well led and spiritually nourished for the furtherance of the Gospel."

Father Jeff can be contacted via [email here](#).

The diocese has also recently appointed the **Revd John Eatock** as **Dean of Retired Clergy**.

John writes... "How we approach retirement as priests in the Church of God varies tremendously and we all have a different slant on what that might mean for us, as our identity is often closely aligned to our sense of vocation which doesn't automatically end when we formally retire. To help I am already facilitating an open group for those who are contemplating their retirement and those whose retirement is just beginning. The 'Prepare to Retire Well and Beyond Group' meets roughly every six weeks, usually at Epiphany House. The next meeting will take place on November 1, 10am, at Epiphany House.

Although in retirement there are many things to consider the emphasis is on the spirituality and ministry of us as retired clergy. Currently this is also being linked to a research project on the spirituality of retired clergy by Marjon University, Plymouth. Surprisingly there is virtually no research in this area yet! Come along and contribute to this unknown area!

Two Chaplains to help with pastoral matters that may arise for the retired have also been appointed. Currently these chaplains are **Revd Olive Stevens** and **Revd Josie Lobb**.

We will facilitate two-way communication between retired clergy and Episcopal College and we will do our best to represent retired clergy, satisfy queries and keep you up-to-date."

As well as these new roles the diocese also provides the following support for ministry.

Jim Seth is **Chaplain to the Readers**. He provides support and helps Readers feel connected to each other. He writes a Chaplain's blog and also organises a monthly online get-together.

Pastoral Supervision for Clergy
Clergy in active ministry now have the opportunity to access **Pastoral Supervision**, with an experienced and qualified supervisor. Pastoral Supervision is a structured process of reflective learning in which a supervisor meets with an individual, or small group (no more than three or four) of clergy to develop and support learning skills, understanding, and good practice. It takes place within a context of spiritual understanding and prayer, care, trust, and openness. You can contact **Jane Vaughan-Wilson** or **Sally Piper** for further information.



CMD PROGRAMME 2023 For Clergy and Readers

SEPTEMBER

The Gospel of Mark for Year B: the message, the context, the theology
Thursday, September 21,
2pm-4.30pm, Epiphany House
Led by the Revd Robert Evans

This session is an opportunity to be refreshed and challenged by Mark's message, relating the parts to the whole, and to engage with other methods and resources that help us understand it; and then move 'from text to sermon'.

BOOK HERE

OCTOBER

Seeing the Bible and Seeing Beyond the Bible: Insights from the Visual Commentary on Scripture
Thursday, October 5
2pm-3.30pm, online
With Revd Canon Dr Joanna Collicutt

This session will explore visual approaches to the Bible, drawing on the Visual Commentary on Scripture (www.thevcs.org). It will begin by looking at different ways of understanding the Bible and its reception before moving on to a consideration of the way the Bible connects both with visual art and the natural world, in particular the world of human psychology and relationships. The aim of the session (apart from enjoyment) is to offer a fresh perspective on the Bible, deepen engagement with certain aspects, and offer a resource for preaching.

BOOK HERE

Understanding Christianity Resource for Schools

Wednesday, October 11
1pm-3pm, online
Led by Nicki Bonell and Felicity Henchley

This session is designed for anyone who wants to gain an understanding of how RE is taught in schools. Understanding Christianity is a whole school approach to the teaching and learning of Christianity in Religious Education.

BOOK HERE

NOVEMBER

A Day with John's Gospel
Thursday, November 16
9.30am-3.30pm, Epiphany House
Led by the Revd Howard Peskett

The primary purpose of this one-day workshop/retreat with John's gospel is to read the text and to listen to the voice of God. John's gospel is not well-served by the Revised Common Lectionary (for reasons I will explain).

We will observe the way in which John has carefully structured his story to complement the earlier narratives of Jesus' life and work. We will enjoy the stories of Jesus' meetings with individuals and we shall pay attention to his long speeches, so different from the other gospels.

Lunch will be provided.

BOOK HERE

Canon Law

Tuesday, November 28
9.30am-11.30am, online
Led by Canon Paul Arthur

This session on canon law will provide a general overview of what canon law is and its status, followed by some discussion of the employment status of ministers of religion and how that affects our work. We will also discuss marriage preliminaries, legalities and registration.

BOOK HERE

BISHOP'S STUDY DAY

Tuesday 7 November
The Pavilion Centre
Wadebridge, PL27 7JE

This Bishop's Study Day will give us a chance to slow down and spend time with 'The God who walks slowly' led by the author of a book of that title, Revd Dr Ben Aldous.

Reflecting on the rich teaching of Japanese theologian, Kosuke Koyama, Ben will help us think about slowing down to walk at Jesus' pace, and what it means to be curious about people and communities that are on the edge.

The day will include worship, prayer, space and silence and opportunities for conversation with one another.

BOOK HERE

ENCOURAGING GENEROSITY by the Generous Giving Team

The Generous Giving Team encourage churches to create both an environment and culture of generosity, where giving in all its forms becomes second nature. By keeping the focus upward on how much we have received from God, we challenge congregations to respond in like manner – giving back firstly to God, then to others. Watch a video from the national giving team [here](#).

What will happen if we contact a Generous Giving Advisor?

We will listen to what your goals and vision are then set about working with you to make that a reality. That usually starts with getting mechanisms in place, which facilitate giving or making the most of what you already have, such as



A Church Near You and the Parish Giving Scheme.

What then? We may recommend a simple giving review to highlight your past achievements, define your goals for the next year and communicate the message with the whole church.

We've done all that with On The Way – what else? Generosity shouldn't be confined to just a few or the PCC so we

could bring an inspirational Sunday message, run a Generosity Course or a FIKA.

A what? A FIKA is a relaxed time over coffee and cake, exploring Biblical generosity around the world through films, articles, activities and reflection.

What if we just want to get a contactless device? That's fine. We can guide you through the process. But remember, the most success comes where potential donors understand what their money is achieving and can empathise with the cause.

We can help create clear messaging and speak to the whole church about the importance of their giving too, which will get the most out of your device.

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE, SCHOOLS AND CHURCH

The Diocesan Plan and Deanery Plans highlight the priority of significantly increasing the number of children and young people engaged with church, it is the top priority for the Diocese of Truro. We are now setting out to develop a clear plan for achieving this goal.

We are looking for a church representative with a heart for children and young people, to sit on the steering group to help determine the best model the diocese should adopt to engage with and support children and young people in our churches.

From October a steering group of teachers, youth workers, and ministers will be meeting monthly to look at what works best both in this diocese and across the country. If you feel you would

be able to help us with your experience and expertise and can give a couple of hours a month we would love to hear from you.

If you would like to be considered to be part of this steering group, or would like further information, please get in touch with **Ruth Marriott**, Director of Change and Renewal.

Then Jesus called the children over to him and said to the disciples, "Let the children come to me! Never send them away! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who have hearts as trusting as these little children. And anyone who doesn't have their kind of faith will never get within the Kingdom's gates."

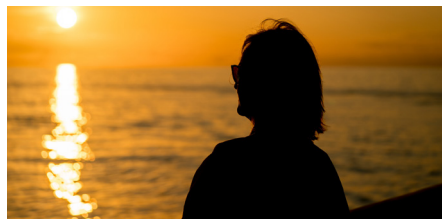
Luke 18:16-17 (The Living Bible)

WORLD MENOPAUSE DAY 2023

Some of you may know that there is a working group of Church House staff who have in the last couple of years produced a staff menopause policy and introduced other initiatives to raise awareness and support staff.

World Menopause Day is held every year on October 18 and we will be marking it in several ways, and this year particularly want to extend our support to clergy. To this end we have secured a 10% discount with **Lotties Eco Wear**. Just use the discount code Menopause2023 when checking out online. The code is live for 24 hours on World Menopause day only.

We would also like to introduce a clergy



menopause policy and need a couple of people to help us to do this. The work will not be onerous, just two to three meetings and some reading or online training outside these.

Please contact Louise Court via **email** or ring her 01872 247217 if you would be interested in getting involved in this important work as part of our clergy wellbeing plan.

CONTACT US

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EXTERNAL OPPORTUNITIES

**Arthur Rank Centre
New harvest resource 2023**

[Download here](#)

**The Clewer Initiative
Breaking County Lines -
Train the Trainer Course**
September 20 & 27, 2.30pm, online
[Book here](#)

**Church of England Webinars
Getting started with children and
young people's ministry**
September 18, 2pm, online
[Book here](#)

Follow the Star 2023
September 19, 11 am, online
[Book here](#)

**Sarum College
Rural Pioneering**
September 27, 10am, Salisbury
[Book here](#)

**Church Times Webinar
AI and the Church**
October 3, 10am-6.30pm
[Book here](#)

**Reconciling Leaders Network
Difference - make your faith count in
a divided and complex world**
A free downloadable five session course
centred around equipping people with
three formational habits of reconciliation
[Download here](#)

[More external courses here](#)

SOUTHWEST PIONEER HUB

In July, 20 students from as far afield as Jersey and North Somerset came together to camp for a weekend in Looe in Cornwall. This was the launch weekend of the 2023-4 one-year Church Mission Society Certificate in Pioneer Mission.

[Read about it here](#)

