

OUR NEWS

NOVEMBER 2023



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NEW DEANS TO SUPPORT PARISH CLERGY

Following calls for change from Rural Deans across the Diocese of Truro, the Bishop's Diocesan Council has approved plans to recruit three new Deans.

These new posts are aimed at supporting parish clergy and will be funded from diocesan reserves and national funds; ensuring parishes do not face further financial burden.

The new Deans will be known locally and will be crucial in providing clergy support, working with parishes in transition, leading the process of recruiting to vacant clergy posts and in implementing deanery plans.

This new approach follows a wide consultation process with the clergy in the diocese, current and former Rural Deans, other dioceses, and the national church.

Ben Morgan Lundie, Priest-in-Charge for the Parishes of Looe, Morval, Duloe and Herodsfoot and Rural Dean for West Wivelshire Deanery, said: "As the Rural Dean for West Wivelshire, I really welcome the diocese's bold vision to resource and restructure the role of Rural Dean and to recruit the three new Deans for the Eastern, Western and Central Areas.

"I took on the role in March this year and was licensed in May. It is a privilege and pleasure to serve the deanery and the diocese in this way, but it is a significant addition to my workload."

It is hoped the new Deans will in post by March 2024.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)



ARCHDEACON PAUL'S FUNERAL

A Service of Thanksgiving will take place on Thursday, November 16 at 12 noon at St Paul's Church, Dorking, for the Ven Paul Bryer, Archdeacon of Cornwall, who died on October 14, 2023.

St Paul's Church was where Archdeacon Paul was Vicar from 2001 to 2014. This will be followed by a committal for the close family.

Everyone is welcome to the service and the family have asked that clergy wear clerical collars.

It is hoped that the service will be live streamed on the church's YouTube page, which you can access via <https://www.youtube.com/@StPaulsChurchDorking>

The Communion service at Truro Cathedral that day, which takes places at 9am, will include prayers of thanksgiving for Paul. The cathedral will also hold a simple time of thanksgiving, silence and prayer at 12:10 on the same day. Everyone is welcome to attend either of those services.

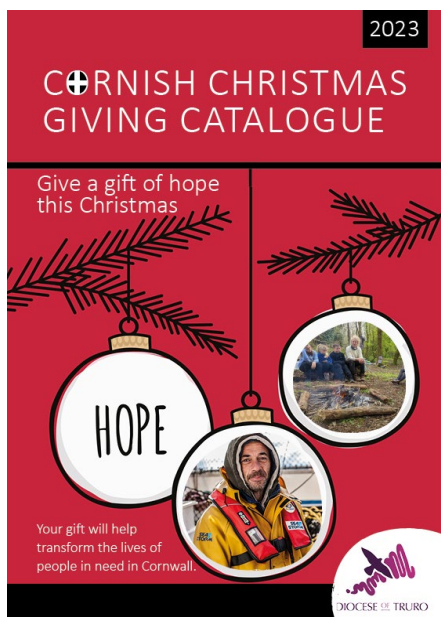
Bishop Hugh Nelson, acting Bishop of

Truro, said: "Paul's confidence and faith in Christ shone through everything he did and everything he said. Whether it was cycling, preaching, doing the work of an Archdeacon, walking with his beloved dog, Molly, or praying quietly, he did it for God. It has been a great privilege to serve alongside him in this wonderful diocese, and he will be much missed."

Whether it be surfing with his three children at Harlyn Bay or exploring the South West Coastal path with his treasured wife Fiona, Paul loved nothing more than being outside in God's creation. A lifelong supporter of 'the Saints' (Southampton FC), Paul often said he had three great loves – faith, family and football.

Paul will be deeply missed by his wife, Fiona, their three children Daniel (and his wife, Nisha), Naomi and Jonathan, as well as his brother John and his wife Sue.

Please continue to pray for Fiona and the family as they prepare for the funeral, and for everyone grieving Paul's death.



GIVE THE GIFT OF HOPE THIS CHRISTMAS

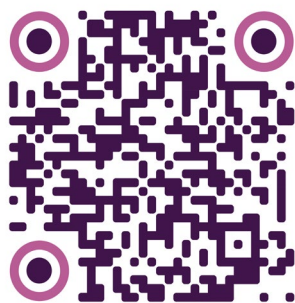
With Christmas just around the corner, give a gift of hope this Christmas by supporting local organisations.

The Cornish Christmas Giving Catalogue features many worthy local groups and charities who are all working in Cornwall to provide assistance, support, activities, beds and more to people in our own community.

This year you can choose from 20 Cornish charities to donate to and in return you will receive a gift certificate (printed or digital) to pass on to your family member or friend. Gifts start from just £1 up to £100, which would pay for meals for a family of four for one month from a foodbank.

Last year over £13,000 was raised for the charities and we are hoping you can help us to beat that total this year.

For more information or to request a printed catalogue email cornish.christmasgiving@truro.anglican.org or call 01872 274351 or scan the QR code below.



MORATORIUM CALL REJECTED

The Bishop's Diocesan Council (BDC) has issued a robust response to a demand for a halt to deanery plans.

At a meeting this month, BDC members strongly backed parish leaders and unanimously rejected a demand for a moratorium on the deanery plans.

In response to an agenda item introducing a dossier from local campaigners, members proposed, and unanimously passed, a motion to 'strongly support the approach taken by the diocesan leadership with groups concerned with the policy and direction of the diocese.'

Speaking after the meeting, Bishop Hugh Nelson, said: "Episcopal College and the Bishop's Diocesan Council carefully considered the request from Susan Roberts, Neil Wallis, Martin Saunders, and Patrick Newberry, to pause the implementation of the deaneries' shared plans.

"The clear and unanimous view was that such a moratorium would harm the mission of parishes across Cornwall and prevent us from doing the work, investing the money, and making the changes that churches have chosen to make. Work on implementing plans will therefore continue, as we work for the fruitful and sustainable future that we all long to see in every parish."

Jeffrey Terry, BDC member and Priest-in-Charge of the Camel Allen Benefice, said: "A minority group are seeking to ride roughshod over the structures and procedures of the Church of England. I fully approve of the way in which Bishop Hugh and the diocesan officers have responded to this undemocratic challenge.

"The demand to place an immediate

moratorium on the implementation of the deanery plans is, frankly, staggering. This was not imposed by some sort of top-down diktat: it was a democratic, bottom-up process where each deanery produced its own plan after wide consultation. The plans were formulated within each deanery and approved by both the deanery and diocesan synods. Dissenting voices were heard and taken into account but did not prevail. That is democracy at work.

"This was not some sort of hatchet job on clergy posts. I was personally involved in the formulation of the Deanery Plan in one deanery and was an adviser to another. In neither case did the emerging plan result in cutting the number of clergy posts. Indeed, funding from the diocese was granted in order to maintain clergy numbers. The 10-year Diocesan Plan is to spend £22M from reserves largely to maintain and, if possible, increase stipendiary clergy posts. The demand to immediately fill vacant clergy posts merely indicates an ignorance of the difficulties being experienced nationwide, and especially in Cornwall, in filling such posts."

The diocesan plan, which is built on these deanery plans, makes a clear commitment to stop the 30-year decline in the number of stipendiary clergy and, wherever possible, to increase those numbers. At the same time, it commits the diocese to connecting with children and young people, who have become increasingly disconnected, and to focussing more fully on poorer and more deprived communities. This plan, which was also carefully consulted on, was supported by an overwhelming majority at Diocesan Synod in May.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

ARCHDEACON NICK LENDS A HELPING HAND

The Ven Nick Shutt LLM has been appointed as Interim Archdeacon of Cornwall (part-time) for a period of six months.

Nick was Archdeacon of Plymouth until his retirement earlier this year.

The Rt Revd Hugh Nelson, Bishop of St Germans, said: "Nick is an experienced and highly regarded Archdeacon, and I am enormously grateful to him for

offering us this support at short notice. We look forward to welcoming him as he steps over the Tamar and brings us his experience, faith, and wisdom."

Nick spent 25 years working in private practice as a solicitor in and around Plymouth, retiring in 2008. Nick recently joined Exeter Cathedral Chapter as a non-executive member and will be appointed a non-residentiary canon in due course.

HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY

Based primarily out of Truliske in Truro – but also serving hospitals across west Cornwall – Revd Mark Richards leads the chaplaincy team for the Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust.

The team is made up of Mark, a Methodist, and three Anglican chaplains, Revd Dom Whitting, Revd Angela Brown and Revd Keiren Marwood.

“Traditionally we’ve been seen as specialist religious providers, but of course chaplaincy is much wider than that aspect of spiritual provision,” Keiren says.

Mark explains: “We share the gift of time with our patients, their families and our colleagues, meeting them at their moments of deepest need, providing a listening ear, care, kindness and support in ways which are appropriate to their circumstances. They may be religious or not. We come alongside people, are present with them, being there in the deepest and fullest sense of what that phrase really means.

“Chaplaincy is having the courage to be fully present in the moment, knowing that at some point you may have no words to say, but remaining there still.”

This is a point with which Keiren agrees.

“Listening is an important part of what we do,” he says. “The difference between counselling and chaplaincy is that we’re not trying to solve a problem but are actively listening to the person talking through their concerns.”

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

NOVEMBER’S SYNOD

The third and last Diocesan Synod of 2023 will take place at Heartlands, Pool, on November 18.

The meeting’s theme will be around the Diocesan Environmental Strategy.

Members will hear a presentation on the diocesan strategy and plan to Cherish Creation, Cut Carbon and Speak Up and will be asked to vote on a motion to approve the action plan for the environment.

The afternoon will see a presentation on the proposals for the use of diocesan assets and a presentation on the 2024 diocesan budget.

The full agenda for the meeting is available on the diocesan website [here](#) along with papers.

NATIONAL SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS LAUNCHED

The Church of England has published a set of National Safeguarding Standards, an essential benchmark to understand the quality and the impact of its safeguarding activity at a local and national level. The Standards will enable Church bodies to identify both their strengths and areas for development, which will in turn inform their strategic planning in respect of safeguarding.

Along with an accompanying Quality Assurance Framework these Standards have been developed over a three-year period in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders including victims and survivors. They build on existing policies and procedures including the previous Promoting a Safer Church statement.

The five standards aim to cover the breadth of safeguarding activity in the Church.

Standard One: Culture, Leadership and Capacity

Standard Two: Prevention

Standard Three: Recognising, Assessing and Managing Risk

Standard Four: Victims and Survivors

Standard Five: Learning, Supervision and Support

Each Standard contains:

- A statement of the Standard itself.
- An explanation of why it is important.
- A series of ‘What Good Looks Like’ Indicators – these are detailed criteria that show how well a Standard is being achieved.

The National Safeguarding Team is also entering a partnership with the parish Safeguarding Dashboard. This will enable the dashboard to become fully integrated with the new standards, thus making it easier for thousands of parishes to explore the standards.

Andy Earl, Head of Safeguarding and Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, said: “We are delighted to see the National Standards released. The Diocesan Safeguarding Team has been working with Truro Cathedral, our parishes, and the National Safeguarding Team to develop and pilot these National Standards. The standards begin to inform what good should look like. These standards are relevant to all parishes in our diocese.”

THE FIVE STANDARDS

STANDARD ONE Culture, Leadership and Capacity

Church bodies have safe and healthy cultures, effective leadership, resourcing and scrutiny arrangements necessary to deliver high quality safeguarding practices and outcomes.

STANDARD TWO Prevention

Church bodies have in place a planned range of measures which together are effective in preventing abuse in their context.

STANDARD THREE Recognising, Assessing and Managing Risk

Risk assessments, safety plans and associated processes are of a high quality and result in positive outcomes. The assessment and management of risk is underpinned by effective partnership working.

STANDARD FOUR Victims and Survivors

Victims and survivors experience the timeliness and quality of Church bodies’ responses to disclosures, and their subsequent support, as positively meeting their needs, including their search for justice and helping their healing process.

STANDARD FIVE Learning, Supervision and Support

All those engaged in safeguarding related activity in Church bodies receive the type and level of learning, professional development, support and supervision necessary to respond to safeguarding situations, victims and survivors, and respondents, effectively.

ENERGY AUDITS FOR CHURCHES & SCHOOLS

The Diocese of Truro is introducing a new scheme to help churches meet the Church of England's target of net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

The diocese will offer higher-emitting churches the opportunity for energy audits, and has recently secured funding from the Church's national team to appoint a support officer to help churches cut their carbon footprints, in order to reach those net zero targets within the next seven years.

This person's role will be to offer technical advice and fundraising support, and to help with development of action plans and the implementation of projects, as well as to oversee the church energy audit programme and to champion collaborative working between churches to promote savings through economies of scale.

The diocese will also be appointing a church buildings support officer and a further support officer to help church schools reduce their carbon emissions. All these posts are funded centrally by the Church of England from specific and dedicated budgets.

One of the schools which participated in a recent pilot survey found that it could save nearly £3,600 each year just by optimising its energy control system settings for heating, hot water and ventilation.

The Diocese of Truro already advises parishes on energy efficiencies which can help reduce emissions, save money



and even generate power. This new opportunity for energy audits will give high-emitting churches detailed expert solutions to their own specific energy efficiency needs.

"A lot of churches think that getting to net zero is incredibly difficult, especially within a listed historic building," says sustainability expert Matt Fulford. "The audit's there to demonstrate what can be done, and in most cases it's possible to fully decarbonise those buildings.

"One of the things that the audits try to demonstrate is what actions are best to do in the short term and which actions are best to be taken several years down the line," he adds. "One clear example of that is that it's only worth replacing your heating source when your boiler's reaching the end of its life.

"These audits aren't about having to do everything now. They're about giving churches the information they need in order to set out short, medium and long term plans."

[READ THE LATEST CREATION CARE NEWSLETTER HERE](#)

SILVER ECO CHURCH AWARD FOR LISKEARD

St Martin's in Liskeard has earned a prestigious silver award in the national Eco Church scheme which recognizes the environmental efforts made by churches in partnership with their local communities.

The work towards the award was coordinated by Mike Sturgess, treasurer at St Martin's parochial church council.

"I'm delighted," he says. "It shows our church is serious about the diocesan policy to cherish the natural environment."

St Martin's is well-known for its living churchyard. A lot of effort has gone into the managed process of its rewilding – including the installation of birdboxes and hedgehog ramps, and the reintroduction of wildflowers

CREATION CARE NETWORK USEFUL LINKS

The next Creation Care Network gathering is on Thursday, November 9 at 10am.

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

VACANCY IN SEE COMMITTEE VACANCIES

As the process of finding a new Bishop of Truro begins, the process of appointing people to the Vacancy in See Committee can be completed.

As well as the suffragan bishop, dean, archdeacons, General Synod members and other elected members, the Bishop's Diocesan Council nominates four additional members. It is a unique privilege and a responsibility for members of the Vacancy in See Committee to contribute to the process of identifying a new Bishop of Truro.

If you would like to be considered for one of these four additional places, please send a short biography to Simon Cade, Diocesan Secretary at simon.cade@truro.anglican.org

PARISH TRAINING

The 2023 Parish Training Programme is now available. The FREE sessions coming up in November are:

Nov 9 [Creation Care Network Gathering](#)

Nov 11 [Finance Drop-in session](#)

[FIND OUT MORE 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.