

OUR NEWS

DECEMBER 2023



[SIGN UP TO OUR MAILINGS HERE](#)

SYNOD VOTES TO APPROVE ASSETS PLAN & BUDGET

Members of Diocesan Synod have voted in favour of implementing an Assets Strategy which will see £22 million taken from diocesan reserves over the next ten years to support parish and deanery plans.

Speaking after the meeting, the Rt Revd Hugh Nelson, Bishop of St Germans, said: "I am delighted that, for the first time, we are able to direct our resources towards our clear priorities; ministry in the local church, children and young people and serving communities living with poverty. I am deeply grateful for all the prayer and hard work, right across the diocese, that means we can invest in the life and mission of the church in Cornwall in this way."

Michael Sturgess, Chair of the Truro Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd, presented the proposal to synod. He highlighted that the diocese had experienced a 21-year increase in assets, and that a decision to support the motion would not stop the diocese's funds from continuing to grow.

While the country lives with unprecedented inflation levels, the use of the reserves will enable a more manageable increase of 3% in the MMF call to parishes in 2024.

The motion created a lively debate and the following vote returned a result of 35 in favour, one against and two abstentions.

With the Assets Strategy approved, the synod went on to vote on approving the budget for 2024 which was passed with 35 in favour and one voting against it.

The approved budget honours the vital contribution of parish clergy by providing a 6% cost of living increase.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

JUSTGIVING FUNDRAISER FOR ARCHDEACON PAUL

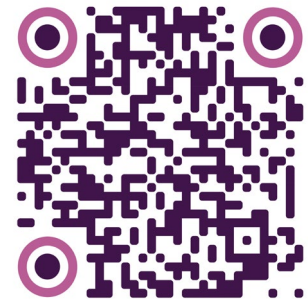


Following Archdeacon Paul's funeral in November, his family have asked us to share a JustGiving page which has been set up by his daughter Naomi in his memory.

The proceeds

will be going to two cancer charities Paul supported following his own battle with cancer.

If you are able, please do consider a donation. Visit <https://www.justgiving.com/team/paulbry>



GIVE THE GIFT OF HOPE THIS CHRISTMAS

With Christmas just over three weeks away, give a gift of hope this Christmas by supporting the most vulnerable in our communities through local charities.

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.

Gifts start from just £1 and you will receive a gift certificate. You can buy online, by post or over the phone.

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





NOMINATIONS FOR CROSS OF ST PIRAN AWARDS

Nominations are now being sought for the 2024 Cross of St Piran awards.

The awards, which are held every March at St Piran's Church, Perranzabuloe, recognise the outstanding service given by lay people across Cornwall.

This year there will be a new category – 'The Bishop's Award for Climate Justice and Creation Care'. As always, it is hoped the award recipients will reflect the range of ages in our churches.

The Cross of St Piran is awarded for life and is not restricted to Anglicans. So, if you feel there is someone in your deanery who is deserving of a Cross of St Piran, please do speak to your Clergy person, Reader, Deanery Lay Chair or Rural Dean, who will have details on how to nominate.

Completed nominations should be submitted to the Rural Deans and/or Lay Chairs. Please provide details about the person you are nominating and the reason you are nominating them in no more than 250 words. The closing date for entries to be received by the Bishop's Office is January 10, 2024.

Awards will be presented at a special service on Sunday, March 3, 2024, at St Piran's Church, Perranzabuloe, at 3.30pm.

**DON'T FORGET TO
ADD YOUR CHURCH'S
CHRISTMAS EVENTS TO
A CHURCH NEAR YOU**

£241,000 FUNDING FOR CHURCH BUILDINGS SUPPORT

The Diocese of Truro will receive £137,000 as part of the Church of England's £11 million Buildings for Mission fund to enable it to make grants to churches for repairs. A further £104,000 has been awarded to provide for a specialist buildings advisor for two years.

The Church Buildings Support Officer, one of 30 across the country, will assist parishes by providing specialist advice on the management, conservation, repair, and development of church buildings, including community use alongside worship.

The Church Buildings Support Officer will work alongside parishes and deaneries, helping them to devise and progress plans to sustain and develop their church buildings. This has a focus on practical advice, fundraising, and project implementation support.

The diocese will use the £137,000, on grants to churches for small-scale, urgent works and 'stitch in time' projects that could save larger sums

in the long term. The fund will also be able to help cover the cost of essential improvements for the mission and ministry of a church.

Kate Cortez, Head of Operations for the diocese, said: "Through the deanery planning process and in our ongoing conversations with people in parishes, we have heard how the much-loved churches in our dioceses also cause anxiety. The time taken up in caring for them and in finding the funding to do so is significant.

"We are delighted that our successful funding application means that we can offer a Church Buildings Support Officer, for the next two years, and targeted small grants to help parishes with this. It's a small step but we also hope we will learn from it to work out how best we can tailor support for as many churches as possible. Once the programme is up and running, we will contact all parishes to let them know more."

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

VACANCY IN SEE UPDATE: NOVEMBER 2023

During November there were two meetings of the Vacancy in See Committee (ViSC).

A subgroup will be convened and led by the Deputy Chair of the ViSC to produce the Statement of Needs. This group is not yet established, although expressions of interest for membership have been received. It is important that this group is representative of the diocese.

KEY DATES FOR THE ViSC

31 JANUARY 2023 Deadline for content of the Statement of Need

5 AND 6 FEBRUARY 2024 Online individual, group and public consultations

17 FEBRUARY 2024 Deadline for finalised Statement of Need and final ViSC

19 FEBRUARY 2024 Group and individual consultations

22 FEBRUARY 2024 'In diocese' day with Archbishops' Appointments Secretary and Crown Ecclesiastical Secretary.

We have three opportunities:

- To prayerfully and practically contribute to the discernment of Gods' will and hopes for the Kingdom here, now and in the future.
- To be curious about each others' hopes and fears.
- Join in with what God is already up to here in the Diocese of Truro.



TWO-YEAR STRATEGY FOR EDUCATION APPROVED

A two-year strategy for education in the Diocese of Truro has been approved by members of the Diocesan Board of Education after also receiving backing from the Bishop's Diocesan Council and the Diocesan Synod.

Lee Moscato, Diocesan Director of Education, said: "I am thrilled that after input from so many people in so many different roles and places we have shaped this plan outlining some big, exciting, and important commitments for children, young people and their schools and communities."

The strategic plan has five main aims:

- **Powerful partnerships:** a focus on partnerships and how, through these, the diocese can improve educational, societal and life affecting outcomes for all children in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.
- **Joining the DoTS** (Diocese of Truro Schools): To ensure meaningful connections of, and for, Church schools across and beyond our diocese and ensuring that schools

are integral in all of the work of our diocese.

- **Community, Care, Connectedness:** To provide to the most vulnerable in the diocese through providing the right people, in the right place with the right purpose to support the well-being, pastoral and spiritual needs of children, young people and their families.
- **Worshipping life of schools and communities:** To ensure flourishing school communities that are committed and equipped to develop the spiritual life of the school and the communities they serve.
- **Creation Care:** To support schools as we make a concerted effort to do more to care for God's creation and enable others to cherish creation, cut carbon and speak up.

To achieve these aims, work will include the delivery of the 'Programme for Church School Flourishing' which

will provide high-quality professional development and network events for school leaders and staff to meet and share best practice and training. The programme will see Truro collaborate with other dioceses in the South West as it partners in the work of schools and trusts. There will be support for schools to develop projects and resources with a particular focus on mental health to provide the support that our young people and communities need. Chaplaincy will be developed to support the spiritual needs of young people and families. Two new roles, Creation Care and Cut Carbon Support Officers for Schools, will also be appointed to support schools and trusts in their work around the environment and sustainability.

Lee added: "A core part of this DBE strategic plan is to ensure that our deeply rooted Christian foundation is further strengthened in our Church schools and that a light is shone on and from them to all schools."

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

School governors required for Church of England schools.
More information here.

A NEW PARISH NURSE FOR REDRUTH

Anya Dolling has been the new parish nurse in Redruth since July.

A couple of years ago, Anya decided to quit her position at the Royal Cornwall Hospital in Truro but had found herself feeling lost and purposeless.

Then one day she'd been sitting in St Andrew's Church in the centre of Redruth when she experienced something of an epiphany.

"It was a lightbulb moment," she says "I realised I was put on this planet to care for people, and that the reason I was unhappy was that this was what I really ought to be doing. It was almost as if God was telling me I should

still work as a nurse and do it here. I thought that was perhaps why I'd left the hospital – to free up my time to be a parish nurse. It all fell into place."

So far, Anya has run a health fair at St Andrew's, offering a broad range of stalls where visitors could find out about everything from reflexology to Alzheimer's.

"It can be a bit difficult and a bit lonely pioneering a new service," she says. "I've been taking my time to find my niche – and that niche is going to be based around families – which lends itself to my nursing background."

[READ MORE HERE](#)

Becoming Better Together

Saturday 27 January 2024

10am-3.30pm

St Petroc's Church, Bodmin

BOOK NOW on ctcinfohub.org/bbt

AN ACT OF REDEDICATION

Following the tenth Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Intent & Letter of Companionship 2013 by leaders of Churches Together in Cornwall

We invite all Christians in Cornwall to sign a new Covenant

as we commit to share our gifts freely and value each other's treasures as we learn and grow in Christ working for God's kingdom

Guest Speaker: Revd Dr Ben Aldous
Churches Together in England

WORSHIP - EXHIBITION - DISCUSSION - LUNCH & TEA

For details see ctcinfohub.org/bbt

No charge but bookings essential for catering purposes



ENVIRONMENT ACTION PLAN APPROVED BY SYNOD

The Diocese of Truro has reaffirmed its commitment to the environment with support for a plan of action for work over the next five years.

At a meeting of diocesan synod members, a Motion on the plan to deliver the diocesan strategy to Cherish Creation, Cut Carbon and Speak Up was overwhelmingly supported. A vote of members saw a return of 40 in favour, one against and one abstention.

Ben Lillie, Diocesan Environment Officer, said: "I am overjoyed by the Synod's support of this strategic motion. It is in effect deep affirmation of these last two years of work, so much of which has been done by our incredible community of Creation Care Champions and their churches. This is recognition of something we refer to in the Creation Care Network as 'the power of little steps'.

Prior to voting members heard a presentation by Dr Annabelle South before Julia, a Creation Care Champion from St Paul's Church in Ludgvan, spoke to give a local view to the work being done across the diocese.

Julia, who is one of three Creation Care Champions in her church, said: "Working to make our church more sustainable is hard work but the network really supports us. We are making little changes. Every little bit really does help. We can all make a difference if we try. We are getting more and more people interested. Things like making bird boxes, its easy and lots of people are interested.



We speak up but its cutting carbon that's the hardest because that means behaviour change."

There was an international flavour to the session with a video from Rosario Lobo in Honduras. Rosario spoke of the effects her local community is seeing from climate change. Hurricanes, floods, droughts, water shortages, crop, and vegetation death and what she is doing to try and live more sustainably and less intrusively on her patch of the Earth.

Speaking after the meeting, the Rt Revd Hugh Nelson, Bishop of St Germans, said: "I am proud of the way the church in Cornwall is committed to caring for the beautiful world we have been entrusted with. This detailed plan to cherish creation, cut carbon and speak up is the result of hard work, wide consultation, and huge creativity. I am delighted that Synod has approved it."

If your church would like to trial the Heat the People resources, please contact Church House on 01872 274351.

WHAT'S ON DECEMBER

2 & 3 Festival of Christmas trees, St Denys Church, St Dennis, 10am - 4pm .
12 Christmas Concert, St Column Church, 7.30pm - 10pm..
14 Penmount Crematorium Carol Service, Penmount Crematorium, Truro, 7pm. - 9pm.

MORE EVENTS HERE



FOLLOW THE STAR

Churches and their choirs as well as school and community choirs/music groups are invited to perform the new Bob Chilcott setting of 'The First Nowell' which has been commissioned as the centrepiece of this year's Advent and Christmas theme: Follow The Star – Join the Song.

FIND OUT MORE HERE

CREATION CARE NETWORK USEFUL LINKS

The next Creation Care Network gathering is on Thursday, October 12 evening in Truro Cathedral.

- + [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 FACEBOOK GROUP](#)

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.



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