

OUR NEWS

MAY 2024



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DEANERIES' MMF COMMITMENT WELCOMED

For the first time in many years, the Diocese of Truro's Mission and Ministry Fund (MMF) contributions are on track to meet the budget.

The Diocese of Truro had recorded the lowest MMF receipts in the Church of England for a number of years but following the introduction of deanery plans, collection rates in 2023 rose to just over 90%. This latest news is a welcome sign that the diocesan-wide programme of change is having a positive effect.

Bishop Hugh Nelson said: "I know this kind of change only happens because of the generosity of the people in our church communities and the concentrated and sacrificial work of treasurers and church wardens. I know also that getting to this point has included making difficult decisions, and I am enormously grateful to everyone who has played their part. None of this would have been possible if we had not done the demanding work of reshaping and balancing the budget, and I am deeply grateful to everyone in the parishes for the critical part they have played in getting the MMF payment levels to this point."

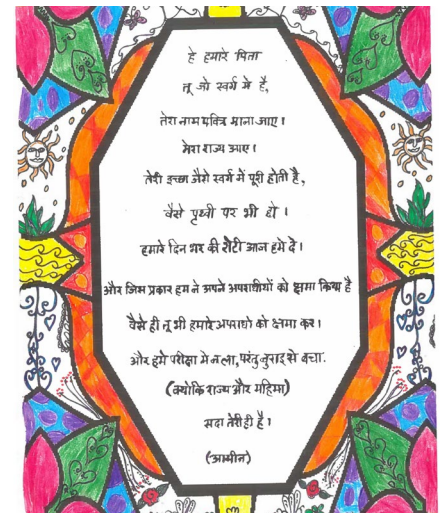
When the diocese set out 'On the Way', it was facing two key challenges; first a long term fall in the size of its worshipping communities, in particular in its connection with children and young people; and second a £2 million deficit. While reserves could cover the deficit it continued to grow meaning the diocese could

not then use its reserves to invest in growth.

The task set through On the Way was to address both of those challenges. That meant re-shaping the budget, with deaneries and parishes setting manageable levels of MMF and then meeting them. That would give confidence to spend the reserves that the diocese has been blessed with on the ministry and mission priorities that the people in deaneries had discerned.

The work of the deaneries in agreeing to meet the MMF target meant a 10-year financial plan for the diocese could be created. This plan invests in the priorities that deaneries have discerned together. That has meant that for the first time in 30 years the diocese can commit to holding the current number of stipendiary clergy steady. It is also able to invest more than £13 million in deanery plans for mission and ministry, £3 million in connecting with children and young people, £2 million on church buildings and £3 million on Creation Care. This is as well as directing in excess of £900,000 each year for the foreseeable future to serve the most deprived communities.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



PUPILS' LORD'S PRAYER EXHIBITION NOW OPEN

The work of children from Cornwall's Church of England primary schools is on display at Truro Cathedral for until May 12.

The exhibition features the creative efforts of primary aged children from six schools who have produced prayers written in their own words or through art.

The bright and colourful pieces include prayers in Cornish, Japanese, Lithuanian, Tagalog, and text speak.

The schools were asked to take part by Lee Moscato, Diocesan Director of Education, and is part of WhoArtful Galleries, an initiative inviting schools to celebrate their own unique cultural diversity by sharing the Lord's Prayer in languages found among pupils, their families, and friends.

Lee said: "Along with different languages, we also invited pupils to write in text language, create a cartoon strip or an art piece linked to the Lord's Prayer. It's a unique home-grown showcase and celebration of our diocesan schools cultural diversity at this point in time."



TRURO CATHEDRAL BUSTLES WITH BIG WORLD FAIR

Truro Cathedral was bustling for the Big World Fair held in April, with those attending accompanied inside by a Samba band.

Organised by the Diocese of Truro's International Links Committee, the event saw over 30 exhibitors sharing space with the Roseland Academy Samba Band, Cornwall Youth Choir, and visitors.

Bishop Hugh Nelson welcomed people to the day before four speakers from Christian Aid, Edukid, Five Talents and Tearfund took to the stage.

There were performances from Cornwall Youth Choir, singer Isaac Salaman and Roseland Academy Samba Band and drumming workshops lead by Andrew Nicholson, which proved a hit with all ages.

The Big World Fair was a day of celebrating the global church family, sharing how different organisations are working across the world and how churches and individuals can get involved, support and learn from our brothers and sisters in different parts of the world.

Christine Salaman, a member of the International Links Committee and one of the event organisers, said: "There was a real buzz as exhibitors networked, visitors chatted, and the youngsters sang. The drumming even got people up dancing! The talks were inspiring and encouraging and it was good to see people realise they can get involved."

Speaking after the event, Bishop Hugh said: "It was a beautifully organised event, and clearly enabled many, many rich and helpful conversations. I am sure that the church in Cornwall will be more global in its thinking and practice as a result."



SAFEGUARDING REALLY IS FOR EVERYBODY

Senior leaders from the diocese and cathedral met at Church House last Wednesday to undertake Safeguarding training.

Proving that safeguarding is a responsibility for everybody, and so is keeping up with the necessary training, the session was attended by senior staff from both organisations including Bishop Hugh Nelson, Dean of Truro Simon Robinson, and Archdeacon of Cornwall the Ven Kelly Betteridge.

Lead by the diocesan safeguarding trainer Mandy Wells and Wilma King from the national Safeguarding team, the all-day session focused on standards one and five of the new national safeguarding standards. This was achieved through reflection and in group work focusing on culture, leadership and capacity, and learning supervision and support.

Bishop Hugh said: "The day was an important opportunity for leaders from Church House, Episcopal College, the Safeguarding team, and Truro Cathedral to reflect on how we keep safeguarding at the heart of everything we do – because safeguarding is one of the ways that we show that everybody matters to God."

This session is the first of two that will be undertaken this year. Participants have several tasks they must complete before the second session in October.

For more information on safeguarding training and what you might need to do, please visit the diocesan website [here](#).

AI & THE CHURCH

The Revd Mark James is hosting an explorative workshop in Truro on May 15, between 9.30am and 12.30pm designed to delve into the potential harmonies and dissonances between AI applications and the values we are to uphold. The workshop invites participants to engage in a thought-provoking dialogue addressing critical questions such as: The Role of AI: How can artificial intelligence complement the mission of the church while staying true to our core values and beliefs?

BOOK HERE

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83,000 MEMORIALS MAPPED AS BURIAL SURVEY CONTINUES

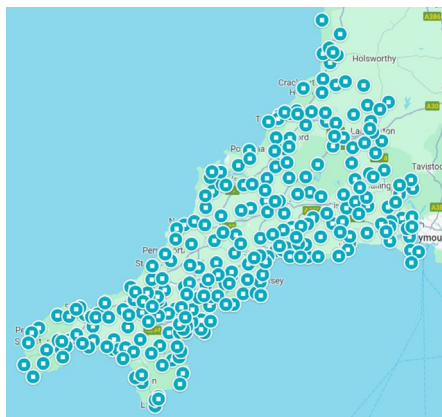
Burial grounds across the Diocese of Truro have been the subject of a survey over the last two years and the field work part of the project is almost complete.

The National Burial Ground Survey Project was announced by the Church of England in September 2021. Truro was one of the first dioceses to sign up and surveyors from AG Intl Ltd have been hard at work ever since surveying every churchyard, photographing all visible memorials, and digitising all current parish registers.

During the field work stage, over 160 hectares were surveyed – that is the equivalent of 299 football pitches. There have been 83,721 mapped memorials and 208,997 photographs taken. By its completion, this work will have involved digitising over 3,600 registers.

While surveying churchyards, the team have worked in all seasons and weather. They have not only discovered amazing living churchyards, but they have also come across fascinating headstone art and memorials to famous, and infamous, people. From Napoleon's nephew in St Pol-de-Leon Church, Paul, who erected a memorial to the last Cornish speaking woman, to the astronomer who discovered Neptune in St Sidwell and St Golvat in Laneast. There were memorials to Titanic victims in Penzance and Helston, and Cholera victims in St Erth. In Ruan Minor on the Lizard there was a memorial to Norman Mervyn Lewis – “not your average Norm” – according to his headstone. There was even an optimistic grave in Whitstone which stated that the occupant had “paid the parish £2 to keep my tomb forever”.

Hannah Rigby, AG Intl Ltd Project Manager, said: “Although we are now close to completing the field



works, the project is continuing. We've completed the current register digitisation visits, and the memorial photography has been completed for most of the diocese with a few left to do in the coming weeks. We want to take this opportunity to thank all the parishes involved for their support so far.”

While there have been some delays in accessing the records held at Kresen Kernow, it is hoped that the work will begin imminently. Once that is done, work will start to create a digital index of all burials, marriages, and baptisms. Once completed, this information will all be available on the Church Heritage Record, which individuals and churches will have access to and provide a valuable resource.



ELECTIONS: STAND FOR DIOCESAN SYNOD

Diocesan Synod is the main representative body of the clergy and lay people of the diocese. Members meet with the bishops, archdeacons and other senior officers to consider our life together and to discuss our direction as a diocese, to give thanks for God's blessings, and to understand our opportunities and challenges.

“Synod” means “coming together and finding a way” – Diocesan Synod is a vital coming together as leaders from across the diocese to find our way under God. To do this well we need members from different communities and traditions who represent the whole life of the church in Cornwall, the Isles of Scilly, and our parishes in Devon. We work best when we hear voices from different backgrounds, experience and ages. Synod is an opportunity to speak up and be heard, to listen carefully, and to take part in leadership.

You matter in this work, you matter for your church and your community and for the diocese. Your faith, tradition and experience matter.

There is more information below, please take time to pray and consider whether you might be called to serve on Diocesan Synod, how to commend this work to others, and to offer the work of Synod to God.

DOWNLOAD A POSTER FOR YOUR CHURCH HERE

FIND OUT MORE HERE

FOUNDATIONS IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Is God calling you? Do you already serve in some way in your local church, but feel there is more that you would like to be able to do?

The Foundations in Christian Ministry course might be for you. It runs on Saturdays starting on September 28. If you would like to know more you can visit the diocesan website [here](#) or have any questions, please email **Melanie Pomery**.

HELPING PEOPLE BREAK FREE FROM DEBT IN CORNWALL

Many people have felt the squeeze with the recent cost of living crisis, but a local charity has been working to lift families out of debt.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) works with nine churches to run a CAP Debt Centre, based at St Budock Parish Church in Falmouth, which has already helped 25 households to become debt free, with 16 more currently on their way to achieving that goal.

Jacqui Bennet, Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre Manager in Falmouth and Penryn, said: "It is such a privilege to be able to go into people's homes and bring them hope when they are in financial difficulty. You can visibly see the stress lift from them the more we work with them and show God's love through the practical support we offer. Getting out of debt is not always an easy process and often takes time and effort but it's amazing to see people making progress towards that goal and the relief

when they get there is immense. We celebrate every time one of our clients goes debt free."

The Falmouth and Penryn centre is busy, regularly filling all their appointment slots. Hearing how this work makes a difference helps to keep the team motivated. Jacqui said: "Just before Easter I was shopping when a client who had become debt free a few months previously, came running up to me. She was very excited to tell me that she was still debt free and now has a new job. She is saving up for a holiday for herself and her son for the very first time and is also about to begin driving lessons and was so appreciative of the help she had been given to have a new start in life."

Jacqui said: "We want to thank everyone, individuals, and their churches, for the great support we have received. You will never know how grateful our clients are."

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)



MORE SUPPORT FOR DEANERIES

The Diocese of Truro has appointed three part-time Project Support Officers (PSOs) to assist deaneries as they implement their deanery plans.

Jo Dean, Jane Yeoman and Steve Robinson joined in early March following the departures of Ginette Kenny and Alan Wallace. These roles are funded by the national church.

The PSOs will work with the implementation teams and much of their work will be around taking the aspirations of the plans and focusing on what is needed to be successful.

Jo Dean will be covering St Austell, Carnmarth North, Bodmin and Trigg Minor. Jane Yeoman will work with the deaneries of East Wivelshire, Pydar and West Wivelshire. Steve Robinson will be helping to support Stratton, Trigg Major and Kerrier deaneries.

Ruth Marriott, Director of Change and Renewal, said: "I am delighted to welcome Jo, Jane, and Steve to the team. Their combined expertise will greatly add to the implementation of local deanery plans and support people on the ground in this next phase."

WHAT'S ON

MAY

3 Day of Taize, Epiphany House, Truro, 10am - 4pm. Click on title for more info.

10 Quiet Day - The Sacrament of Place, Epiphany House, Truro, 10am - 4pm. Click on title for more info.

Until 12th Lord's Prayer Exhibition, Truro Cathedral

15 AI & the Church Old Cathedral School, Truro, 9.30am - 12.30pm. Click on title for more info.

MORE EVENTS HERE

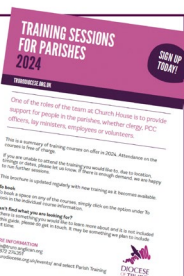
CREATION CARE NETWORK USEFUL LINKS

The next Creation Care Network gathering is on Thursday, April 11 (7pm). 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 FACEBOOK GROUP](#)

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

[SEE THE FULL PARISH TRAINING OFFERS 2024 BROCHURE HERE](#)



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PODCASTS