



Diocese of Truro

archdeacons' visitation news

Dear Churchwardens



The last 12 months have brought significant changes at diocesan, deanery, and parish level; some of them welcome, joyful and good, others less so, perhaps even painful or challenging. Often church life is both beautiful and messy with the full range of human experience and emotion. As I write to you this year, I am acutely aware that I face the forthcoming Visitations without

Archdeacon Paul. So many of us continue to feel his loss keenly and we are profoundly grateful for his legacy among us.

I've been wondering what Archdeacon Paul would be saying to Churchwardens and other key leaders in 2024. I imagine he would be pleased to see the progress so many deaneries are making with the implementation of their plans, heartened by the new appointments that have been made in recent months, and keen to offer encouragement to all those who, week in, week out, continue to play their part in the life of the local church and be 'agents for mission and ministry'. Paul was always so good at reminding me and others to focus on Christ and on growing the Kingdom!

My experience as a parish priest, and from visiting parishes in my role as Archdeacon, is that our lot as clergy and lay leaders

can make it difficult to focus on the main thing. It can often feel as though we are actually spinning plates, trying to meet multiple demands in increasingly complex contexts. Sometimes disagreements within the local church make the task even more daunting and there are times when we can all know the temptation to throw in the towel.

If that resonates with you at the moment I want you to hear a couple of things. The first is a very big 'thank you' for stepping up to leadership in the first place. Your willingness to roll up your sleeves and get involved is precious and generous. So much of what we offer in leadership can seem like a distraction from the things we would rather do to serve God yet sometimes we may need to re-frame it as our offering to God. Please don't grow weary of doing good, but be intentional in offering it to God even when it is not something that makes your heart sing.

The second encouragement is to focus on Jesus and God's Kingdom. There will never be a shortage of things to occupy our time and energy. I imagine Jesus knew those demands only too well. Yet in his teaching Jesus sought to counter the myriad worries of the crowd by telling them to "desire first and foremost God's kingdom and God's righteousness..." (Matthew 6:33).

I interpret that in my own life as focusing on the things that are of important and lasting consequence. Inevitably, I will need to respond to emails, make calls to clergy, prepare a sermon, follow up a complaint, pursue a building issue, answer a technical governance query, etc. all of which matter. Yet sometimes I need to pause and remind myself what this is really all about and check whether what I am doing will enable me and others to connect more fully with God and Kingdom lest I've prioritised the wrong thing.

Thank you for all you have done in recent months that is truly Kingdom business and to the glory of God. I look forward to meeting with many of you at the Visitations in June.

The Ven Kelly Betteridge
Archdeacon of Bodmin

Church Buildings

Assistance with church buildings is now available to parishes with the arrival of Ben Wood and Faye Edwardes. They have joined the diocese with the aim of helping parishes to care for their buildings and develop their usage as part of their deanery plan aims.



Ben Wood



Faye Edwardes

Faye is Church Buildings Support Officer and Ben is Cut Carbon Support Officer for Churches. Both roles work closely with the DAC and provide support to churches to ensure that they consider faculty requirements from the outset with regard to proposed works, upgrades or repairs.

Funding for the roles have come from national grants.

Faye will assist parishes by providing specialist advice on the management, conservation, repair, and development of church buildings, including community use alongside worship. Part of her work will also include advising on creative uses of spaces; visitor experience; community usage; outreach and revenue generation. She will also be on hand to support deanery and parish teams to access funding to repair and develop their buildings, including support to complete applications and working in partnership with the Generous Giving Team.

Faye said: "I am a strong believer in community to support worship and mission and I am very much looking forward to being out and about across the diocese, meeting clergy, PCCs and congregations."

Ben's role is to enable parishes to make their churches more comfortable, healthy, and welcoming environments while also reducing their energy bills. Ben said: "I'm the 'go to' person for support in understanding your church's carbon output, and I work collaboratively with churches to create solutions to reduce this in order for us to achieve our Net Zero 2030 strategy."

Ben added: "You understand and love these places deeply, you appreciate the issues your congregation faces and you know far better than I their comfort, financial, and environmental needs.

"Together, we can review your church's bespoke requirements and needs. I can help you navigate paths to achieve the most positive results for your place of worship. I can help you decide the correct technical solutions, provide fundraising support, and assist you to manage the project from conception to completion."

Kate Cortez, Head of Operations for the diocese, said: "We are delighted that our successful funding applications mean we can offer parishes and deaneries support with their buildings. These two roles and the small grants are a step we really hope will help."

Contact us:

- ✉ faye.edwardes@truro.anglican.org
- ✉ ben.wood@truro.anglican.org

Heat the People



Your churches still have the opportunity to trial packs which are aimed at heating the people rather than the place.

Sample packs which include heated gilets, rechargeable, re-useable hand warmers and heated cushions and pew pads are available for churches to borrow as a short-term loan from Church House.

With the rise in the cost of living including energy costs, the need to achieve Net Zero 2030 and the desire to offer a 'warm welcome', it is hoped these packs will enable churches to reduce their heating costs without sending a chill through visitors.

Heated gilets are powered by portable USB battery packs which can be charged from a socket or computer and there are solar options available. The battery is then connected to the gilet by a USB cable in the jacket. Heated panels in the gilet warm up helping to keep the wearer warm. The batteries can provide 12 – 14 hours of usage. The handwarmers, cushions and pew pads work in much the same way.

To find out more or book your trial, contact:

- ✉ sue.thorold@truro.anglican.org

The Energy Footprint Tool (EFT)

This year the Energy Footprint Tool (EFT) 2023 has opened as part of the Parish Returns in February 2024.

This simple to gather but essential data helps us understand energy usage and find ways to meaningfully respond to our Net Zero mission. Thank you for taking the time to do this. Last year we achieved a 76% return rate, which gives us genuinely usable data. The deadline for the EFT return is 31st July 2024. If you have any problems completing the EFT, please contact Church House:

- ☎ **01872 274351**
- ✉ info@truro.anglican.org

Also, if you'd like to invite Ben Lillie, the Diocesan Environment Officer, to come and preach at your main benefice service, email:

- ✉ ben.lillie@truro.anglican.org



Safeguarding



Thank you to every one of you for all that you do. Leadership is never easy. Ensuring our churches remain safe is part of working out the gospel call to love one another.

As Churchwardens, you often have a key part in safeguarding in your church alongside your Parish Safeguarding Officers, clergy and other lay leaders supported by the diocesan

safeguarding team. We recognise the great work being done and can see the weekly examples of a truly supportive culture. Through training and referrals, we can also see that the Church is still one of the routes that those who have been hurt or abused seek help and support.

The challenge is to ensure that all our churches demonstrate a consistent and caring approach, and we know there is still more to do. We want to support you in taking those steps.

Please do use the Parish Dashboard and hub if you are not already doing so (<https://trurodiocese.org.uk/resources/safeguarding/guidance/parish-safeguarding-dashboard/>). Its aim is to easily enable you to keep up-to-date on compliance by providing a simple online tool which allows a quick assessment of work required to remain compliant. It also does the work for you on adapting to the measures in the new five National Standards. We know technology and systems can be daunting for some and as a team, we are here to assist you. Simply email:

✉ safeguardingqueries@truro.anglican.org

It is vital that Safeguarding is embraced by everyone, and we all ensure we have undertaken training, that we have followed safer recruiting (<https://trurodiocese.org.uk/resources/safeguarding/guidance/safer-recruitment-and-people-management/>) and carried out DBS checks (<https://trurodiocese.org.uk/resources/safeguarding/guidance/disclosure-barring-service/>) where needed.

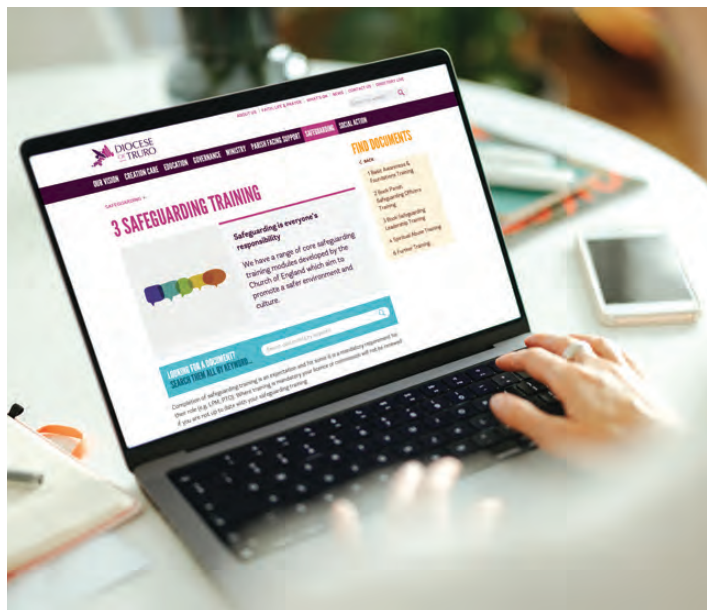


Parish noticeboard poster

While the Church of England (through Synod and the House of Bishops) has authorised policies and procedures designed to create a safe church, the Church isn't the only one requiring action by PCCs.

PCCs are charitable bodies and as such the Charity Commission sets out trustees' (PCC members') responsibilities in relation to safeguarding:

"All charities have a responsibility to ensure they don't cause harm to anyone



who has contact with them. Charities working with children or adults at risk have extra responsibilities. As a trustee you must make sure your charity fulfils this responsibility. Harm and abuse have a devastating impact. A strong safeguarding culture means:

- you protect people
- you minimise the risks of any harm or abuse
- everyone has confidence their concerns will be dealt with appropriately
- everyone at the charity understands their role.

The Church has an ambition to make a paradigm shift in its relationship with safeguarding. This requires recognition that safeguarding needs to move away from something that is in some parts external/imposed upon the Church, to something that flows from within the soul of the Church."

The House of Bishops' Safeguarding Learning & Development Framework 2021

You can find out more about safeguarding training here:

🌐 www.trurodiocese.org.uk/resources/safeguarding/training-safeguarding



Equality, Diversity and Inclusion



We saw a stranger yesterday.
We put food in the eating place,
drink in the drinking place, music
in the listening place. And, with
the sacred name of the triune
God, They blessed us and our
house, our cattle and our dear
ones. As the lark says in her
song: Often, often, often goes
Christ in the stranger's guise.
(Phill Mellstrom)

This beautiful Celtic prayer was one of the resources for Racial Justice Sunday compiled by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. Perhaps it is because of that Celtic connection that it reflects the nature of our communities throughout the diocese so accurately. As we prepare to welcome many visitors over the summer months, churches will be looking at how to provide hospitality (perhaps through cream teas) and welcome to engage those visitors – even if they are with us for only a while.

It is not just in the summer though that we see hospitality and welcome extended to our wider communities – whether that be through outreach, social action or pastoral care to name but a few, many faithful disciples will be seeking to engage with those around them.

Exploring welcome, inevitably involves diversity and that is wonderful. God created a universe of staggering diversity Jesus Christ died and rose for all people. The Church is therefore called to be a community of and for all, a sign and foretaste of God's Kingdom. As we seek to achieve this, we commend to you this World Council of Churches prayer cycle:

 www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle

The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle takes us through every region of the world over the course of a year. Praying for each place on earth and its people at least once a year, we affirm our solidarity with Christians all over the world, brothers and sisters living in diverse situations, experiencing diverse problems and sharing diverse gifts. In celebrating the ways in which we are welcoming, we should also reflect on who is missing, taking time to reflect on what the barriers might be for them and the ways we can challenge ourselves to see things from the perspective of someone different.

For more information

Call: 0345 777 3322 **Email:** churches@ecclesiastical.com

Facebook: Ecclesiastical  [@churchmatters](https://twitter.com/churchmatters)

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Social Responsibility

The Diocese of Truro has welcomed Joel Dougan-Davies as its new Social Responsibility Officer.

Joel will be working with parishes and deaneries to support and enable them as they respond to God's call to serve the poor and those in need. Joel's particular focus will be on the use of Lowest Income Communities Fund (LICF), and other resources to be Good News for those most in need.

Joel said: "I'm really excited to get going and be one part of the transformative impact the Church of England is having on the most vulnerable in our communities.

"I've lived in Cornwall for almost a year and a half now and have loved it. In this time, I've mostly been working as a Community Outreach Coordinator for the Salvation Army in Falmouth, Newquay, and St Austell, getting to know these communities, and growing a passion for social transformation. I also care deeply for the Church and am part of St Gregory's, a new Anglican church on the North Coast that longs to wholeheartedly serve Jesus in Cornwall and beyond."



As Joel gets to grips with his new role, he will be visiting every deanery, exploring the work that is already underway. Joel added: "Please do get in touch to introduce yourself and let me know about the impact your church is having on your local community. Or if you would like to support some form of social action work and don't know where to begin, I'd love to help."

Email Joel at:

 joel.dougan-davies@truro.anglican.org