

OUR NEWS

DECEMBER 2024



[SIGN UP TO OUR MAILINGS HERE](#)

SYNOD SUPPORTS BUDGET

At a meeting of Diocesan Synod members voted in support of the 2025 **budget**.

The Truro Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd has planned for a deficit of £3.973 million for 2025. While it is recognised that a deficit budget may raise concerns, this is a clear choice made by the diocese, through Synod, as part of our ongoing **work** on changing patterns of ministry, engaging with children and young people and being with and for those in need.

Bishop Hugh Nelson, Acting Bishop of Truro, said: "We want to reassure people that this has been a conscious decision to enable us to support locally developed deanery plans, from our decisions to use reserves to support parishes rather than grow our balance sheet and from a rebalancing of our

shared **resources** towards communities that are experiencing deprivation."

These decisions were supported by the Diocesan Synod, made up of clergy and lay people from across all 12 deaneries, who voted to accept the Asset Strategy in 2023 and have voted in support of this budget as well with 40 in favour (77%), nine (17%) voting to refer back to the Bishop's Diocesan Council for further work and three members abstaining.

The 2025 budget reconfirms our commitment to maintaining and where possible, increasing clergy numbers in line with the deanery plans. This budget also sees the use of reserves to keep the Ministry and Mission Fund call to parishes down.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

CATHEDRAL HOSTING LOUD FENCE & PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS THANKSGIVING

Truro Cathedral is hosting the Loud Fence display for the third time.

Loud Fence is a visible display of support and solidarity with those affected by abuse. The ribbons tied to each fence represent the voices of those who wish to speak out in support and defence of those affected by abuse.

We want all survivors and victims of abuse to know that we believe you, we will hear and support you and we will do all we can to prevent this happening again.

Everyone is invited to join in by tying a ribbon, pausing to reflect, offering a prayer and making a resolution to [#smashthesilence](#) and [#endabusenow](#).

The Loud Fence will remain at the cathedral until December 18.

Parish Safeguarding Officers from across the diocese have also been invited to a service of celebration and thanksgiving at the cathedral on December 5 from 10am to 1pm.

Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSOs) are volunteers who give their time and energy to creating a safer church for all. The service is intended to thank them for their service but also raise awareness of the vital part they play in their communities.

If you have a safeguarding concern or need support, please visit our [Safeguarding pages](#).



SALLY PIPER TO RETIRE

'A remarkable gift to the church in Cornwall' is how Sally Piper has been described as the diocese prepares to bid her farewell.

Sally, who has been employed by the Truro Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd for almost 14 years, will be retiring on December 6.

Bishop Hugh said: 'Sally has been a remarkable gift to the church in Cornwall over many years. She has led complex projects, taught and trained hundreds of people, shared her faith in and beyond the church, introduced new and innovative ways of working, led her team with wisdom and been a bright light for Christ across the diocese. She will be hugely missed and will remain in our hearts and our prayers.'

When Sally joined the diocese, she brought a considerable wealth of experience and knowledge with her. When asked previously what she'd learned from all her experiences, Sally had said: "I'd like to think I've learnt how to hold a group of people, create safe places for people to open up and be vulnerable with each other, to support each other and be available when people are ready to talk. But really, I think I've learnt how to listen."

[READ MORE HERE](#)

COOKING UP SOME PIONEERING IN PADSTOW

Janine Ogborne from Padstow began her Christian life in 1986 but it was a course in 2021 which set Janine off on her pioneering journey.

Janine signed on for the Lay Pioneer Mission course and now describes it as 'probably the most rewarding experience I have ever had through my Christian life'.

Janine, who is pictured right with her 'right hand woman' Andrea celebrating their 5-star rating from the Food Standards Agency, said: "That first weekend was a challenging one as I prayed for direction. All I knew was that I wanted to be a voice within my community and to be a link to the church to help the church discern its particular call and priorities around pioneering and mission."

As the course developed, Janine became aware that she was being called to 'step outside of the box' and meet her community where they were, rather than expecting them to come into the church.

Janine began to recognise her love of cooking, serving and organising dinner parties and her love of watching the many food programmes on television might be important. "In my previous life in a Baptist Church, there were endless invitations to meals and events, but where I am now, there is very little, so my husband and I opened up our home and invited people to come and share Sunday lunch with us a couple of times a month. My husband, who's a chef, and I even discussed using our garden to offer



afternoon tea on a Saturday afternoon to the locals."

This enthusiasm was turned into action when someone sent Janine a link to a café that had been set up in a church in Bristol. Janine said: "The penny dropped! This was my calling. I distinctly heard the Lord telling me this was what my Mission was for this community.

"I nervously asked for an agenda item at our next PCC meeting and was in total awe when it was welcomed with such enthusiasm. And that is how Croust Community Kitchen was born."

[READ MORE HERE](#)



GIVE THE GIFT OF HOPE THIS CHRISTMAS

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+.

Projects this year include Hidden Help, iSight Cornwall, Young People Cornwall, the Cornish foodbanks, the Wave Project, Backpack Beds, Kernow Positive Support, Home Start Kernow, Go Beyond, Food Troops, Cornwall Refugee Trust, Citizens Advice Cornwall and Baby Basics Cornwall.

Last year over £12,000 was raised for the charities and we are hoping you can help us to beat that total this year.

Scan the code to find out more, [download the catalogue](#) or [donate online](#).



FROM POT TO PTO - A PERSONAL JOURNEY OF FAITH - BY REVD JOHN HEReward

Revd John Hereward shares his story. "I recently attended the service of consecration as bishop of a friend of ours. She had been part of a group I had nurtured some 30 years ago in my role as a Post Ordination Training (POT) tutor. It made me realise that I had gone from being a receiver and provider of POT to now being a minister with PTO (permission to officiate). In between I had led a pioneering church graft and combined parish ministry with a part-time job as an A&E specialist in the local hospital in London. During this time, I also completed an MA in Celtic Christianity and became a Voyager with the community of Aidan and Hilda.

When I turned 60, I took my NHS pension with gratitude, walked the Camino then moved to become Rector of St Broeke and Egloshayle in Wadebridge. We have quite a lot of family living in Cornwall not to mention many ancestors buried here. There was a strong sense of home coming. For a variety of reasons, I retired from stipendiary ministry six years ago and we moved to a delightful cottage just outside Bodmin.

"During my six months of a (strongly advised) break from ministry we started attending the local village church in Cardinham. After a while, and with due process, I was appointed the "focal

minister" there as part of the Bodmin team. In effect this means taking the twice a month communion services and the not too numerous baptisms, weddings and funerals. I also exercise pastoral oversight and have become a governor at the local village school. This is the bedrock of my current ministry.

"In summary find my current ministry very rewarding. There is a lot of continuity with what has gone before and a real sense of building on what has been a varied and fruitful journey – long may it last!"

[YOU CAN READ JOHN'S FULL STORY HERE](#)

EXPLORING CHAPLAINCY

Exploring Chaplaincy was the theme of the Bishop's Study Day held in Wadebridge this month.

Led by Bishop Hugh and Revd Dom Whitting, the event gave clergy and others space to reflect on the types of chaplaincy available and what is already being provided locally.

With input from Revd Mike Haslam, Chaplaincy Development Adviser for the Diocese of Bath and Wells, the day saw presentations from several local chaplains discussing their work in areas such as police chaplaincy, Air Cadets, Rural Chaplaincy, school and hospital chaplaincy.

Chaplaincy is one of the areas of development identified in many of the deanery plans and in the Diocesan Plan for Change and Renewal.

Speaking after the event, Dom, who is senior chaplain at the Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust, said: "It was great to have a day focussed on chaplaincy, a



ministry which can often be forgotten about as it happens on the edge, engaging with those whose experience of church may be non-existent, damaged or very little. Chaplaincy is not necessarily about 'doing' but more about 'being'. For me personally, it is a real privilege to walk alongside people and to "be" with them in whatever they might be facing."

The day also included time for worship, prayer, space and silence, and of course opportunities for conversation with one another.

MAKIN STATEMENT BY BISHOP HUGH AND DEAN SIMON

This last few weeks has brought great shame on the church that we love and serve. The Makin report lays bare the truth of the horrific abuse perpetrated by John Smyth, and the subsequent cover up.

Our first priority is to the survivors and victims of Smyth's abuse, and all those who find themselves powerless while powerful people choose to protect themselves rather than speaking the truth. We also know that whenever this kind of abuse is in the media, many others who have been abused and hurt by people in the church are re-traumatised.

Survivors – and we are aware that you may be a survivor – need our clear commitment that we will stand with them, that we will do everything we can to build safe churches and that, whenever necessary, we will act to protect them rather than the church or any individual within the church, acting without fear or favour for the sake of truth and justice. Please hold all survivors of abuse in your prayers, and please make sure your prayers become action, as we work together for a safer church.

Those who carry high office carry a high responsibility. Archbishop Justin has taken his responsibility for



making the church safe seriously and has now chosen to take institutional responsibility.

His decision does not, in itself, make the church safer, and we must now all recommit ourselves to the responsibility that we each carry for making the church safe for everyone.

If you have been affected by this **report**, need support or wish to make a disclosure, we are here and we are listening. You can speak to us directly **here** or through **First Light**.

We can't promise there won't be more disclosures of abuse from the past. We can promise that if there are, they will be investigated fully and without fear or favour. We, your diocesan safeguarding team and diocesan leaders, also promise that we are doing all we can today to prevent abuse and the covering up of abuse now and in the future.

She is silent, no, silenced, by Mills Folkes

A woman strolls gracefully through the park,
her head bowed.
She is silent, no. Silenced.
A swan glides across the still, still pond,
she makes waves with her strong white wings.
'Beautiful', the woman doesn't say.
The swan can make waves,
the woman can not.

A woman reads quietly on a bench.
She is silent, no. Silenced.
A songbird sits in a nearby tree,
She sings a sweet melody,
hopping from branch to branch.
The woman peers at the little bird,
'Lucky bird' she can't say.
The bird can sing,
the woman can not.

WHITE RIBBON DAY & 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

Following White Ribbon Day – the international day for the elimination of violence against women and girls – and in the 16 Days of Activism, we have been sharing a powerful poem written by Mills Folkes, 14, daughter of Revd Arwen Folkes, former priest of this diocese. While this poem was written about women in Afghanistan, it is relevant to many countries across the world today.

White Ribbon Day encourages men to hold themselves accountable to women, and to each other, so we can affect positive behaviour change to transform harmful cultures. Gender equality is key to making this culture change happen. Gender equality is achievable if men and boys understand and assume their responsibility as allies.

To mark the start of the 16 days of Activism, St Mary's Church in Penzance hosted a vigil run by West Cornwall Women's Aid, together with other community organisations. There were speeches, poems, songs, a dance performance by the Big Dance Company and names read out of women who have lost their lives this year at the hands of a partner, former partner or family member. Free soup was served by Whole Again Communities. The church was full, with around 150 people including the Mayor and councillors.

Victoria Howard from St Mary's said: "It proved to be a wonderful chance for us to connect with a wider, largely non-church going community and to show that we cared deeply about this subject too."

Activities are going on until December 10. Information can be found **here**.

If you have a safeguarding concern or need support visit our safeguarding pages **here**.

READ THE LATEST CREATION CARE NEWSLETTER HERE



Encouraging links between churches & their local schools

SCHOOL CREATION CARE WORKSHOPS

Are you passionate about Creation Care? Would you like to forge links with your local school? Would you like to work with children in your church?

The Creation Care Resources are a set of resources designed for churches that wish to engage with their local schools. Many churches and churchyards provide an amazing resource for young people to experience the wonder of nature and learn about the world around them.

Download the free pack from our website [Creation Care Workshops](https://www.creationcare.org.uk/resources/education/creation-care-for-schools/creation-care-workshops/)

All you need to organise and run Creation Care Workshops for Schools in your church

MORE INFO OR HELP - CALL 01972 301398 EMAIL CLARE.GREEN@TRURO.ANGLICAN.ORG




STRATEGIC RURAL DEANS

The Diocese of Truro will be appointing Strategic Rural Deans for each deanery in the coming months to support with the embedding of Deanery Plans.

In 2023, Rural Deans raised concerns about their capacity for their deanery roles while also operating well as incumbents. The diocese initially looked at developing an entirely new role, known as Deans of Area, who would operate across three or four deaneries, without holding responsibility for a parish or benefice. In recent months, the current Rural Deans, who have largely been appointed in the last year, have said that the role is manageable with support, and that there are important benefits to having local incumbents leading their deaneries.

With that in mind, the role of Strategic Rural Dean was devised, and it has now been approved by the Bishop's Diocesan Council.

Most of the new Strategic Rural Deans will also be incumbents, although some will hold other kinds of roles. There is a clear job description and while built on the foundation of the existing Rural Dean role, it will be significantly different. As well as fulfilling the traditional responsibilities of a Rural Dean, they will be responsible for leading and enabling the changes described in deanery plans, practically and culturally. They

will also be responsible for leading and enabling, at deanery level, the objectives of the Diocesan Plan for Change and Renewal.

Given the importance of this role to implementing deanery plans, Strategic Rural Deans will have three new layers of support:

Each Rural Dean will have seven hours of administrative support each week, deployable by the Strategic Rural Dean and employed locally.

Six additional House for Duty colleagues (each shared by two 'buddy' deaneries) will be recruited to offer ministry support. These priests will also be deployable by the Strategic Rural Dean.

A rolling Training and Development programme will give Strategic Rural Deans professional development, mutual learning and peer support.

This plan puts local ministry at its heart. It honours the deanery as the key to mission and ministry and is a clear investment in the development of the diocese's own clergy. The administrative and House for Duty roles will ensure the parishes whose incumbent is the Strategic Rural Dean do not lose out and will support every benefice by providing the leadership needed to put their plan for fruitfulness and sustainability into practice.

READ MORE HERE

CREATION CARE NETWORK USEFUL LINKS

The next Creation Care Network gathering is on Thursday, December 12, 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

PARISH TRAINING 2025

The 2025 Parish Training Programme is now available. You can see what is available throughout the year [here](#) or download the brochure [here](#).

LISTEN HERE



PODCASTS