

OUR NEWS

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2025



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LEAVING SERVICE FOR ARCHDEACON KELLY

Following the news that The Ven Kelly Betteridge, Archdeacon of Bodmin, will become the new suffragan Bishop of Basingstoke, a leaving service was held at St Petroc's Church, Bodmin in September.

Around 80 people joined Kelly's colleagues, family and friends to wish her farewell and good luck as she leaves the diocese.

The service was led by the Bishop of Truro, The Rt Revd David Williams, with Bishop Hugh Nelson and Archdeacon of Cornwall, Clive Hogger also taking part alongside clergy colleagues.

Kelly was presented with leaving gifts including a framed picture of a shoal of glass fish.

Kelly will be consecrated as a bishop on October 15 at Southwark Cathedral

by the Bishop of London, The Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE, before she is welcomed to the Diocese of Winchester.

The consecration service is open to guests and free to attend. If you would like to be there, please book [here](#).



2-PAGE COMMISSIONING OF SCHOOL LEADERS ON CENTRE PAGES

PARISH TRAINING OFFERS

During September and October there are a number of **FREE** parish training offers available.

AT A GLANCE

Sept 11: Creation Care Network Gathering
Sept 13: PCC Treasurer training
Sept 23: PCC Treasurer Cashbook training
Sept 27: Churchwarden training
Oct 1: Data Protection training
Oct 4: PCC Secretary training
Oct 9: Using a smartphone for listening & studying the Bible
Oct 9: Creation Care Network Gathering
Oct 20: Communications Drop-in

If you are interested in any or all of the above, you can find out more and book by visiting the diocesan website [here](#).

If there is particular training you require and it is not currently available, do let us know [here](#).

DIOCESAN FUNDED REPORT REVEALS RURAL POVERTY OVERLOOKED BY GOVERNMENT

MPs, council and health service leaders as well as representatives from charities and other organisations working in Cornwall have met in St Dennis to discuss the findings of a major report from the Diocese of Truro and Plymouth Marjon University in Cornwall into the government's use of the IMD.

The deprivation in Cornwall's picturesque rural villages and coastal towns is being overlooked in the government's use of the IMD which misrepresents rural experiences, leading to poor service provision and inappropriate policy making.

This is the key finding of the report - The Pretty Poverty Report: Cornwall Rurality Matters - which is the result of an 18-month long research project led by Professor Tanya Ovenden-Hope, with researchers Victoria Brown and Elpida Achtaridou, and predominantly funded by the Diocese of Truro.

The report has thrown into question the government's official measure for deprivation in England and found it doesn't reflect the harsh reality of life in disadvantaged areas of rural Cornwall.

Researchers explored the lived experience of people in six rural areas of Cornwall: St Blazey West, St Day, St Buryan, and Sennen, Bodmin St Mary's Ward, St Dennis South, Looe North and St Mary, while considering how the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) reflects these experiences as the governments measure for disadvantage.

These communities rank in the bottom 20 to 30% of disadvantaged communities of the latest Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) published in 2019. This is the government standard measure, which the researchers examined to see if it correctly reflects the experiences of people living in these rural areas.

The report raises concerns that existing tools for measuring deprivation - especially the IMD - are failing rural communities. Researchers point to key technical flaws, including the use of large areas that mask pockets of hardship, and a system that gives too

little weight to issues that hit rural areas hardest, such as poor transport links.

Transport barriers account for just 9.3% of one part of the IMD, even though access to transport is a major factor shaping quality of life in rural areas.

According to the report, rural hardship is frequently hidden behind a façade of scenic views, tourism economies, and a cultural narrative that equates countryside living with prosperity. This "pretty poverty" is misunderstood, under-measured, and chronically underfunded — and the tools used to allocate public investment and support are simply not built to capture the complexity of rural deprivation.

"Cornwall has a hidden rural tax," says lead author Professor Tanya Ovenden-Hope who designed the research, led the project, undertook the full analysis and wrote the report. "What we've uncovered is a systemic failure by government measures to recognise the distinct context of rural living. These communities are resilient, but this strength masks just how precarious life can be in remote rural locations, where without a car to access health care, education, employment and even supermarkets, just living becomes a struggle. The report also begs the questions as to whether rural deprivation is being mis-measured throughout the whole of the UK."

The Rt Revd David Williams, Bishop of Truro, said: "The church here has always looked beyond the pretty views, and beyond our well-placed pride in Cornwall, and understood what lies deeper. That's why the church is at the forefront of work through foodbanks, debt advice, crisis support, education, and a thousand other ways to be Good News for those most in need. I welcome

DIOCESE OF TRURO

*With
+ For
THOSE IN NEED*

BISHOP DAVID, HANNAH DUNNE, CAP DEBT CENTRE MANAGER FOR SOUTH EAST CORNWALL, AND LIAM CRABTREE, SOAR WORKER FROM ST MARTIN'S CHURCH LISKEARD SHARE THEIR VIEWS.



this report, it will be a support for those who are committed to this work, and a challenge for leaders in every sector to look more deeply and act differently. The Gospels call us to be servants to those who are most in need, these findings help us to heed that call."

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)



CHILDREN LEAD COMMISSIONING SERVICE

A special commissioning service planned and led by children in the diocese has taken place at Truro Cathedral.

It had been meticulously planned by more than 40 young people, between the ages of eight and 11, from church schools across the Diocese of Truro.

Planning for the service took place earlier in the month and was the first time pupils, who are worship leaders in their different schools, met together to accomplish such a task. They discussed their ideas and pieced the service together using the four core elements of school worship – gathering, engaging, responding and sending.

The planning time was framed around a question set to them by Simon Robinson, Dean of Truro Cathedral; 'What is it you need from the adults who work in and around your school?'

During the service, children shared their answers to the question and called on the adults from their schools to pledge to be all that they needed them to be.

Scarlett, speaking from the pulpit, said: "We come here today for our service of commissioning as a family of schools. We are going to give thanks for the talents and gifts you bring to our schools and give time for you to think about your calling to work in our schools."

Martha, another pupil, also took to the pulpit and asked the adults to stand.

She said: "You have heard from us what we need from you as the adults who have been called to work in and around our schools. Are you willing to

be commissioned and commit to being everything we need you to be?"

In response, the grown-ups wrote their pledges on leaves and then hung them on a tree in front of the congregation.

These pledges were blessed by Bishop Hugh Nelson. Bishop of Truro Rt Revd David Williams blessed all those who were gathered.

Bishop David said: "This has been an amazing morning. Thank you to all those who have been involved."

He praised the children for creating the service by turning 'good ideas' into 'wise ideas' and invited them back to lead again in the future.



Lee Moscato, Diocesan Director of Education, said: "I'm so proud of the pupils who put this together so beautifully. For me, this was more than simply commissioning those in our schools, this was more than that. For me, this was us, intentionally and authentically giving our young people a space and time in which to speak – for us to hear their voice. Our task now is to intentionally and authentically listen. That's the task – that's what we've been commissioned by them to do."

The Very Revd Simon Robinson, Dean of Truro and Rector of St Mary's, Truro, said: "It was such a joy to welcome children and school leaders from across the diocese to the cathedral.

"The service of commissioning was fantastic, made more so because it was created and led by the children themselves.

"The children told the assembled adults what they needed and expected from them in their schools to ensure that they feel safe, learn lots and thrive.

"This setting of expectations and the following pledges made were simply beautiful and an example of how important it is to listen to the voices of children as co-creators in their school lives."



CHILDREN CELEBRATED FOR ECO EFFORTS IN ECO SCHOOLS AWARD SCHEME

They say children are the future – and the youngsters in the diocese's schools are definitely taking this responsibility to heart.

This year scores of pupils have taken part in the Eco Schools Award Scheme and achieved their Eco Schools Green flags – an accolade recognising environmental work.

St Winnow Primary School, in Lostwithiel, was given a Green Flag with Merit. This was thanks to the Eco Schools and gardening club children who worked hard making plans to improve the school grounds and cut carbon.

Helen Prisk, St Winnow Year Three teacher and the Eco-Schools lead, said: "At St Winnow we are absolutely thrilled to have been awarded the Green Flag.

"This achievement reflects all the hard work we've put in this year to make our school a greener place and show our care for God's creation.

"We reached out to the PTA for support and even held a bake sale to raise some funds. Our Eco School members and gardening club played a big role, and we also took part in the 'Cut Your Carbon' initiative at school and at home. Image shows pupils in hi-vis tops with bins and litter pickers outside the sign for their school.

"We're so proud to be recognised for our efforts in sustainability."

Anthony Church of England School in Torpoint also received a Green Flag Award after carrying out an audit on how to improve the environment surrounding their school.

Jo Pearton, Trust RE Lead and Flourishing RE & CW Lead at Antony School, said: "I am absolutely thrilled that Antony School received its Green Flag this year. The children really engaged with their Eco roles and I truly feel that now we have started out on this journey, it will continue."

Clare Green, schools' creation care officer and Flourish link officer at the Diocese of Truro, said: "It has been a huge privilege to work with so many schools on the Eco-Schools programme this year.

"We hear so much about the climate crisis and the changing planet, but I have great hope in the future with these young people in charge."

READER PLANS HAVE BEEN 'BUBBLING AWAY' FOR YEARS

As her licensing in October approaches, Claire Thomson explains her experience of training to become a Reader.

Becoming a Reader (also known as a Licensed Lay Minister) is something that has been 'bubbling away' in Claire, 70, for several years – and she's looking forward to leading in her new role, wherever she's needed.

Claire, who grew up in Somerset, moved to Cornwall in her late teens with her parents. She later returned to Cornwall in her mid-30s after working in law in London for over 10 years.

In Cornwall she took on further training and became a Fellow of the Institute of Legal Executives. She specialised in Family Law in Truro before becoming a family practitioner in Helston for 15 years.

Claire has also held an NHS administration role at the Royal Cornwall Hospital in Truro in departments including safeguarding and child protection.

During this time, Claire's been a dedicated member of the St Keverne Church where she's given more than 25 years' service – 10 years as PCC secretary, 10 years as Treasurer and a further six years as a Churchwarden

She's now spent the last few years training to become a Reader/LLM

Claire says: "I think being a Reader was something that has been bubbling away under the surface for quite a few years."

She first took part in the one-year **Foundations in Christian Ministry course** which comprised of listening and talking without the pressure of deadlines and assignments.

"The foundation course is very useful," she says. "It gives you a chance to discern what your future is."

"I remember when I applied to be a Reader, I received a letter invite for an interview – the letter arrived on a Monday and the interview was on the following Saturday. I had to prepare a little sermon and a bible study, and it was in front of three or four people – all Readers – at Church House in Truro.

"It was a very interesting experience



which also included an interview in front of a panel including Bishop Hugh.

"Bishop Hugh telephoned me that night and said I had got through."

Claire believes the course has been very helpful.

She says: "I studied with South West Ministry Training (SWMTC). The course consisted of Biblical Studies, Theology, Vocation and Professional Practice, Elements of Mission and Ministry; Christian Doctrine and along the way gained the knowledge and skills needed to be a Lay Minister in the Church of England."

As part of her training, she had a placement in Budock and Falmouth. She remembers: "I went to see how other parishes do things, it was very interesting, I met some lovely Christians, made new friends and very much enjoyed the experience."

During her time on the course, she has met new people from both Cornwall and Devon, as well as someone she'd known during her previous career.

She adds "It would be brilliant to see more people from Cornwall taking up the course."

When Claire is licensed, she expects to become part of a team and work 'where I am needed'.

"I'm still an apprentice, learning my craft," she says. "You still get support and guidance – it is ongoing experience."

"I shall be part of a Ministry Team and am looking forward to the future."

MEET OUR NEW DIOCESAN ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

Sharon Willoughby has joined the diocese as the new Diocesan Environment Officer.

The Diocesan Environment Officer's mission is to engage the hearts and minds of people across the diocese to Cherish Creation, Cut Carbon and Speak Up. The officer role is there to support, encourage, challenge and inspire.

Caring for Creation has been a lifelong passion for Sharon who has worked in science communications and environmental engagement in botanic gardens for more than 25 years – most recently at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

She is looking forward to bringing this experience to her role.

Sharon says: "I see myself as a supporter – pollinating or sharing Creation Care ideas from one church to another across the diocese."

Ever since school, where she was involved with campaigning about environmental issues, Sharon has cared about the natural world and the importance of speaking out.

WELCOME TO JONNY LEWIS: GROWING YOUNGER LEAD

Jonny Lewis will be joining Diocese of Truro as the Growing Younger Lead from October 1.

Jonny says he's 'excited and honoured' to be a lead role in the Growing Younger vision and is 'passionate about seeing children, young people and families discover faith, find belonging, and grow as disciples of Jesus'.

Growing up in Holmfirth, West Yorkshire, he trained in Midlands CYM – The Institute for Children, Youth and Mission – where he met his wife Liz.

He's worked across four dioceses as a Youth, Students, and Schools Minister and moved to Cornwall to take on the role of Pioneer Youth and Students minister with Transforming Mission.

Jonny now lives in Falmouth with his two boys and chocolate labrador and since June 2022, worked with Bible Society as a Church Engagement Manager for the Southwest.

He has also been involved with a number of events across the county including Creation Fest and Glow youth gatherings.

BECOME AN ECO CHURCH IN CREATIONTIDE

People are being encouraged to improve their church's carbon footprint this Creationtide by signing up to **A Rocha UK Eco-Church Awards**.

The awards have been designed to celebrate those who are helping improve their churches impact on the environment.

Sarah Newman, Creation Care Champion at St Hugh's, Quethiock, says most people are probably doing lots towards the award without realising it.

St Hugh's received its bronze award in February this year after church members implemented a number of easy changes. Flower displays are now being created from blooms grown in the congregation's own gardens and when catering for church fundraising events, food is locally sourced and Fairtrade items are used as much as possible such as tea, coffee and sugar.

Church members are also trying to cut down on single use plastic, recycle more and buy less.

Sarah said: "We signed up for the bronze award because the environment is on everyone's mind.

"We are trying to reduce our carbon footprint and think more about the sustainability of the things we buy and the things we use within the church. We were looking at our church yard to see how we could make it more biodiverse and wildlife friendly as well as being a place for people to enjoy. We are thinking much more about how everything we use has a consequence."

Becoming a bronze award eco-church has also helped the congregation at Sarah's church to connect with the community. They are using a heritage skill - scything - in the churchyard.

Sarah said: "Because you are out there doing things, people are noticing and asking questions. People want to know more.

"Members of the community are happy to support us with flowers from their own gardens to decorate the church."

Sarah said there's plenty of support for those working towards an eco-church award both online and in person.

She said: "We have Creation Care network meetings via Zoom where I have heard some inspirational talks guest speakers as well as hearing about the wonderful things Creation Care Champions are doing in their own churches. The meetings are really informative and are a reminder that we are not alone in this.

"It's easy to sign up to. As a first step we had to accept the Creation Care policy from the diocese at our PCC meeting and nominate the Creative Care Champion - although it is everyone's responsibility to carry out the requirements. We have also chosen a Carbon Footprint Champion as well."

Sarah said people can also look at the **Kernow Green Church Awards** or see what other churches are doing before making the step to A Rocha UK Eco-Church Awards.

CUT CARBON WITH BEN'S SIMPLE TRICK: CARPETS

Ben Wood, Cut Carbon Support Officer (Churches), is working around the clock to help people make their churches more comfortable, healthy, and welcoming environments while reducing energy bills.

This Creationtide he is offering a carbon cutting tip: Think about increasing the use of carpets in buildings - especially now summer is passing and autumn is setting in. Watch the video [here](#).

Ben said: "Carpets are super effective, economical and a low-tech way to cut foot contact with the cold floor and can make a real difference to thermal perception and comfort. It's an old

technology, it's tried, it's tested, it's cheap, and it's effective.

"Carpets and rugs break the contact between the cold stone floors and our feet, and they hugely improve thermal comfort."

He said: "Carpets are permissible under List A and B rules if not fixed or covering ancient monuments."

For more information email ben.wood@trurodiocese.org.uk

READ THE
LATEST
CREATION CARE
NEWSLETTER
HERE

CREATION CARE NETWORK USEFUL LINKS

The next Creation Care Network gathering is on Thursday, October 9. All are via the Zoom [link](#).

+ **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**

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TO LISTEN

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](http://CreationCareWorkshops.trurodiocese.org.uk/resources/education/creation-care-for-schools/creation-care-workshops/)
trurodiocese.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 01872 301380 EMAIL CLARE.GREEN@TRURO.ANGLICAN.ORG

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