

# OUR NEWS

## DECEMBER 2016

### EQUIPPING THE CHURCH TO MEET THE STUDENT GENERATION

Project to engage 'missing' generation launched

A new project to engage part of the 'missing' generation in Cornish churches, specifically in the university town of Falmouth, has been launched.

'Transforming Mission: Equipping the church to meet the student generation' is a new project which has stemmed from one of the mission priorities in Confidence in the Gospel. Most churches have low numbers of students, people in their late teens and those in their early 20s, attending and the new project



hopes to address this. Following a consultation meeting between Bishop Tim, the local churches in Falmouth and the university chaplaincy, additional funds have been applied for from the Church Commissioners Strategic Development Fund, the result of which should be known before the end of the year.

The project will be led by Archdeacon Bill Stuart-White. He says: "We hope to engage one or two Pioneer Ministers as well as student workers to help grow the project. Together, this would equip the current church to not only be more effective in its whole mission but to engage with the student generation."

It is hoped that the project be in place by the end of 2017 and will run initially for five years but with the aim that it becomes the 'norm' for the future.

### INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

As you may well have heard by now, November's Diocesan Synod decided to increase next year's MMF call by 1.5%. And while finance may not be the most popular subject of communication from us, we would be grateful if you would keep reading as there is some very important context we would like to share with you.

When synod voted for this increase, it did so in the knowledge that it was voting for a budgeted operating deficit of £82,000 at the end of next year, which will have to come from our reserves. This is on top of the planned use of £547,000 from diocesan reserves for special projects that form part of the budget.

So why did Synod do this? We believe the members – who are your elected representatives from across the diocese – were trying to be pragmatic. In 2014, Synod took the brave decision to increase MMF by 28% as a sign of confidence that we can make the diocese financially sustainable. We recognised that was a long-term aim. Although we did not quite reach 28% we had a fantastic response.

**READ MORE** <http://tinyurl.com/z4fasb5>

### CORNISH CHRISTMAS GIVING CATALOGUE LAUNCHED

With Christmas just a month away, towns are packed with shoppers all looking for that perfect gift. Why not give a gift locally this Christmas and do something good for the community at the same time?

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 to pass on to your family member or friend. Gifts start from just £2 up to £70 for a backpack bed.

The catalogue will be available on the Truro Diocese website [www.trurodiocese.org.uk](http://www.trurodiocese.org.uk) or a hard copy can be ordered from Church House, 01872 274351.

### 2017 LENT CHALLENGE

We hear the Bible read in church, maybe in Bible study groups or read Scripture regularly on our own. The Bishops' 2017 Lent challenge 'IN2 the Bible' is for us to read the Bible with another person, and to let this start a conversation. The bishop is asking us to make the Bible part of our everyday journey as disciples of Jesus, and for this to be a journey that we share with someone else. Watch this space for more details on how you can get involved.

# ARCHDEACON'S LETTER

“ The Church is good at inventing long, complicated words to describe things that Christians believe in. ‘Incarnation’ is how we have sought to encapsulate the mystery of God becoming human flesh, and coming to live on this earth amongst ordinary people. ”



**ARCHDEACON AUDREY**

This is the mystery we celebrate at Christmas, this is the mystery we seek to honour and live out as Christians.

But do we sing, or say, or read this word without thinking what it really means? Maybe something as ordinary as a pair of hands can help us get our heads around the depth of its meaning?

#### **A single pair of hands**

tiny  
perfectly formed yet incapable of dexterity  
curled motionless in sleep  
waving without coordination  
the determined grip of total dependence and trust  
- here in the hands of a new-born  
here we see God.

A single pair of hands  
never still  
always fiddling, discovering, playing  
bitten nails and scraped knuckles  
scarred from the unskilled use of sharp tools  
- here in the hands of a growing adolescent  
here we see God.

A single pair of hands  
strong and muscular, calloused and worn  
yet capable of such tenderness  
reaching out to touch  
the mis-shapen face of the leper  
to hold the hand of the unclean woman  
to bless the scruffy kids  
- here in the strength and the tenderness  
here we see God.  
A single pair of hands  
now moving in haste, now revealing their  
strength

gold coins scatter loudly on the tiles  
doves released from captivity and certain death  
tables upturned, owners running scared  
- here in the anger, the frustration, the  
desire for holiness  
here we see God.

A single pair of hands  
upturned slowly before our eyes  
revealing wounds we shrink from  
bruised, torn, bloodied and scarred  
and yet ..... triumphantly undefeated  
- the hands of  
our Lord and our God.

A million, million pairs of hands  
open to receive bread and wine  
open to be blessed and anointed  
open to be used in His service  
open to care, to toil, to mend and to hold  
- here in the hands of His people here we  
see God.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN LIVING ADVENT

The community of St Dominick have been invited to get involved in a Community Living Advent Calendar.  
<http://tinyurl.com/j99jgwj>

## DIOCESAN DIRECTORY CHANGES & UPDATES

### **Licensed Clergy**

**The Revd Caspar Bush** has moved house \*. He continues as Team Rector of Redruth, Lanner and Treleigh.

**Peter Skellern** has been ordained as deacon and priest. He has been licensed as Assistant Curate of Lanteglos by Fowey, Lansallos and Talland, Lanreath and Pelynt.

The **Revd Ruth Murfitt** is no longer Priest in Charge of Roche. She has taken up a post in the Diocese of Rochester.

The **Revd Penny Prince** is no longer Associate Priest of the Isles of Scilly.

The **Revd Becca Bell** has been licensed as Priest in Charge of St Cleer, Rector Designate (pending pastoral re-organisation) of St Neot and Warleggan, and Assistant Curate of St Ive and Pensilva with Quethiock. \*

### **Clergy with PTO**

The **Revd B Thompson** has rescinded his PTO in this Diocese

The **Revd Marion Bond** has been given PTO status Category A\*

The **Revd Richard Ward-Smith** has been given PTO, category A\*

### **Church House**

**Jo Olds** has joined as Education Support Officer. Jo will mainly work alongside the education team, term-time only.

\*Contact details can be found in the online directory [www.trurodiocese.org.uk/directory-live](http://www.trurodiocese.org.uk/directory-live)

**Correction: Revd Dom Whitting is Chapter Clerk to the Carnmarth North Deanery and not Acting Rural Dean as stated.**

## ‘LIGHT THE WAY’ CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Christian Aid is urging people in the UK to support their Christmas Appeal and help ‘Light the Way’ for millions of people fleeing conflict and violence this Christmas.

The charity is urging people to support its Christmas Appeal this festive season, so that it can continue to provide critical support to some of the millions of people worldwide who have been forced to leave their homes through fear and uncertainty in the worst global displacement crisis of our time.

**READ MORE** <http://tinyurl.com/z9m698j>

## MISSION CASE STUDY

# ALL SAINTS CHURCH HELP 49 PEOPLE WITH ACTS 435 SCHEME

It was just one out of 100 emails in Revd Jeremy Putnam's inbox that week but it caught his eye and was the starting point for the All Saints Church Highertown and Baldhu to get involved in the Acts 435 charity.

Acts 435 is a church charity run from the Archbishop of York's house which allows people to give money directly to others. It is managed through a network of churches and local charities.

Revd Jeremy Putnam explains his enthusiasm for the charity as it encourages people 'to club together to redistribute to the most needy.' "It's a Gospel imperative," he says, "and has been a characteristic of the church since the first apostles."

Since it started in March, the All Saints Church arm of the charity has raised over £4,100 and have fulfilled 49 requests.

Although individuals can self-refer, the main bulk of referrals come through Christians Against Poverty, Cornwall Works Hub, Winter Wellness, Truro Foodbank or direct to the church. Requests range from household goods, in particular beds and washing machines, to rent deposits, moving and travel costs and car repairs. Whilst the focus is on basic necessities in some senses anything goes, Acts 435 is donor-led and if donors do not think it is an appropriate request, they simply will not donate to it! The current cap is £120 and a family can apply up to three times a year. Applicant details are kept confidential – just town, age and a description of the need are displayed on the website. Once the money has been raised, the client is given the cash to buy or pay for their needed item.

Revd Jeremy is particularly pleased with

## THE ADVENT SLEEPOUT CHALLENGE: JOIN IN

Church Urban Fund are challenging students, youth organisations, community groups, churches and individuals to 'sleep out' this Advent.

The Advent Sleepout Challenge is a



this part of the charity scheme. "I believe that by giving them the chance to buy new instead of second hand, it ensures the dignity of the client throughout the whole process."

Although Act 435 has been going for less than a year at All Saints Church it is quickly gaining momentum, with the next step being a weekly Act 435 hub where advocates can arrange to meet with clients.

The next nearest church involved in Act 435 is in Plymouth and advocate Ruth Putnam is keen to get the service set up elsewhere in Cornwall, in particular in the areas they struggle to reach such as Penzance, Newquay, St Austell, Padstow, Wadebridge and Launceston.

### MORE INFORMATION

E jeremyjputnam@gmail.com  
E ruthvputnam@gmail.com

national, sponsored campaign to fund local projects for homeless people in England. Could your church host a 'sleep out' for this good cause?

**MORE INFORMATION** <http://tinyurl.com/z6m3k6g>

## CLUSTER WELCOMES REVD ANNE BROWN

Revd Canon Anne Brown has been officiated into the Atlantic Coast Cluster and has spent her first few weeks getting to know the parish.

Made up of St Agnes, Mithian, Mount Hawke, Cubert, Crantock and Perranzabuloe, the large cluster is home to seven churches as well as one fresh expression church: Soul Church in Porthtowan.

**READ MORE** <http://tinyurl.com/zsxgdmq>

## INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY PROJECT COMPETITION

The National Churches Trust and the Marsh Christian Trust are inviting entries for the "Marsh Awards for Innovative Church Projects", a competition to find the Christian congregations running the most innovative community activities in a church building which have been made possible by the installation of new facilities in the last five years such as meeting spaces, kitchens, toilets or improved access.

Run with the support of the Marsh Christian Trust for the second year, the Awards are designed to show the positive impact that installing new facilities has on churches and local communities and on harnessing the energy and enthusiasm of volunteers.

**READ MORE** <http://tinyurl.com/zfat2uj>

## CHURCH LIGHTS UP WITH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

St Columb Major will be staging a magical Christmas Tree Festival for the festive season this year. Supported by local organisations, businesses and families, the festival sees the Church fill up with trees, each decorated by an individual sponsor as a major fundraising event. This year, the parish are hoping to raise money to get their latest project off the ground – upgrading the lighting in the Church to improve both access and safety and to highlight the features and architecture in the church.

The Church will be open from 10.30am – 5pm every day between December 19 – 24 and between 11am – 2pm on Boxing Day. The festive fayre will take place on December 20.

# LISTENING OUT FOR GOD

“ The ministry of healing has been a core task of the church ever since Jesus himself reached out to the sick and suffering. ”



**REVD PAUL HOLLEY**  
ST PETROC'S CHURCH, BODMIN

In the 3rd and 4th centuries, Christian compassion drove church members to care for those suffering from plague. In due course, hospitals were established, utilising Greek techniques of medicine combined with the healing effect of prayer. Throughout Christian history, this ministry has been at the forefront of our mission.

**The classic formula of hospitals, schools and churches led the nineteenth century expansion of Christian faith across the world. Sickness has always been our constant companion; healing, our most valued role.**

More recently our aspirations for long and healthy lives have heightened. Medical science has provided tools to conquer many diseases. In response, churches continue to pray for the sick, but have handed over responsibility for healing to the medics.

Even so, our vocation to healing is not over. It is evolving. What matters more than anything else to people's health now is the way they live.

It was the urgency to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS that first confronted us with our contemporary challenge. And it is the spread of diabetes, heart disease, mental health conditions and cancers that is driving us to strengthen this role. We are now not so much concerned to heal as to prompt people to live healthy lives. In so doing they may more likely enjoy life in all its abundance.

As a relatively recent trend, few people in churches realise the profound significance of this work. The recent diocesan roadshow prompted church members to think afresh this age-old vocation of healing in this new age of health.

The Church should not abandon the sick, but should now also be ready to encourage people to live in ways that will bring health.

## DEMENTIA TRAINING COURSES AVAILABLE

Staff at Church House have just completed a Dementia training course, provided by the Churches Together Dementia Project and is in the process of joining the Dementia Alliance.

A booklet on Pastoral Care for people living with Dementia is now available on the diocesan [website](#) and training can be booked by contacting Christine Todd via [christine@mjcmtdod.plus.com](mailto:christine@mjcmtdod.plus.com)



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### DECEMBER 2016

- 2 Penzance Choral Society** 7.30pm - 9pm
- 3 Christmas Fair** 11am - 4pm with Live Nativity at 12pm, St John in the Fields Church, St Ives
- 4 St Endellion Church** 'The Zoltan Ensemble' concert, tickets £10 [tickets@endellionta.org.uk](mailto:tickets@endellionta.org.uk)
- 5 Advent Quiet Day**, Epiphany House, 10am - 4pm <http://tinyurl.com/glfh3ul>
- 5 Christingle Service**, St Wenna Morval, Looe, 6pm
- 7 Lewannick School Christmas Performance**, St Martins Church, Lewannick, 6pm
- 8 Family Service** (to start the town's Dickensian evening), St Bartholomew's, Lostwithiel, 5.30pm
- 9 Truro's Big Christmas Sing**, Truro Cathedral, 7.30pm <http://tinyurl.com/h6xehdo>
- 10 Festive Cake Sale and Coffee Morning** (inc. gift stall), Lezant Church Room, 10am
- 13 Christmas Carol Service**, Epiphany House, 2.30pm
- 15 Candlelit Christingle** with pupils, families and staff from Mabe Primary School, St Laudus Church, Mabe, 6.30pm <http://tinyurl.com/j4w5x8n>
- 17 Taizé Service**, Epiphany House, 7pm
- 17 Duchy Singers sing Handel's Messiah**, St Mary's Church Penzance, 7.30pm
- 18 - 24 St Columb Christmas Trees Festival**, 10.30am - 5pm daily <http://tinyurl.com/zo66xfm>
- 18 Carol Service followed by community lunch**, Cury Methodist Chapel, 11am
- 20 Roving Nativity**, Lanreath Church (Millenium Green & Village Hall), 6pm
- 21 Village Carol Service** with Church Choir, Trengilly Singers, Guides and Brownies, Constantine Parish Church, 7pm
- 22 Christmas Carol Service**, St Michael's Church, Ponsanooth, 6.30pm
- 24 Midnight Mass**, St Laudus Church, Mabe, 11pm <http://tinyurl.com/zqmdj9g>
- 25 Christmas Morning Communion service**, St John the Baptist Church, Mount Hawke, 11am

**Full list of Christmas events:**  
<http://tinyurl.com/h62ghv2>

## GET IN TOUCH

If you have a news story or a diary date to share, please get in touch: 01872 360037 [comms@truro.anglican.org](mailto:comms@truro.anglican.org) before the 17th of each month.

## OTHER LINKS

- IN FOCUS** <http://tinyurl.com/zf5q3tr>
- IN REVIEW** <http://tinyurl.com/zkvv2f6>
- SRO NEWSLETTER** <http://tinyurl.com/jh4tfgn>
- DOT CANDY** <http://tinyurl.com/htr42a2>

## CHURCHWARDENS' YEARBOOK

The Churchwardens' Yearbook 2017 is now available to order through Churchwarden Publications. [READ MORE](#)  
<http://tinyurl.com/zastyhk>

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