



DIOCESE OF TRURO  
DISCOVERING GOD'S KINGDOM  
GROWING THE CHURCH

# OUR NEWS

## DECEMBER 2015

### TRURO DIOCESAN SYNOD APPROVES BUDGET FOR 2016

At a meeting of the Diocesan Synod in November, members voted overwhelmingly to approve the budget for next year.

The synod, which took place at County Hall, saw over 100 clergy and laity join together to hear reports on the Mission and Ministry Fund, the Diocesan Board of Education and Safeguarding before Chairman of the Truro Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd, Mike Sturgess took to the floor to give a presentation on the diocese's financial health.

Speaking to members, Mike said: "When we look at the financial statements and budgets for our parishes and for the Diocese as a whole it is important to remember that these are not just a measure of our financial position. They are spiritual documents that tell us as much about our spiritual well-being as they do about our financial well-being."

He went on to explain that while there was only a 3.8% increase in the MMF call between 2008 and 2014, the actually MMF collected in 2014 was only 99.7% of the amount collected in 2008.

"Over a seven year period the MMF collected from parishes hardly changed at



all, whilst our costs went up by 16%. This has meant that we have been eating into our reserves year after year, to the tune of about £2.5 million between 2008 and 2014. Whilst 2015 is a better year, and will hopefully break even or maybe even create a small surplus, there are one-off factors that have allowed this.

"Unfortunately, our ongoing day to day income is still not sufficient to cover our day to day expenditure."

He went on to set out the 2016 budget which included a 3% increase in the MMF call on 2015. This equates to £4.8 million.

**Read more**  
<http://tinyurl.com/pgl39ey>

**Read Mike's full report**  
<http://tinyurl.com/ozfzpk>

### 2015 CORNISH CHRISTMAS GIVING CATALOGUE IS OUT

This Christmas why not give a gift that makes a difference to your community? The Cornish Christmas Giving catalogue provides the opportunity to support up to 20 different local charities. When you donate on behalf of a family member or friend, you will receive a gift certificate to pass on.

The catalogue, now in its third year, is produced by Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum and supported by the Diocese of Truro and Truro Cathedral, among others.

**For your copy** T. 0755 7793 446  
E. [admin.cipf@truro.anglican.org](mailto:admin.cipf@truro.anglican.org)

### 2016 SAFEGUARDING TRAINING DATES

New Safeguarding Training sessions have been planned for January to March 2016 for Leadership Lay & Ordained and Foundation & Leadership. The Leadership Lay & Ordained is essential for all clergy, PTO Clergy, Readers and Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinators. The Foundation & Leadership is a requirement for everyone in decision making roles or supervisors of work involving children or vulnerable adults from Memory Cafe Managers to Church Wardens.

**More information**  
<http://tinyurl.com/ncvj9l6>

# BISHOP'S LETTER

All our minds and thoughts are no doubt taken with the horrendous events taking place around the world at present notably in Paris and Mali but I fear in many other places as well.



## BISHOP TIM

We can so easily forget the Ukraine not to mention what is happening in Syria and Iraq and many other places.

Violence and hatred seem to be almost taking over our every moment. Rightly people ask what can we do and rightly all our answers seem rather pathetic. It is of course extremely poignant as we in this country and culture move towards the festival of Christmas which is all about the Prince of Peace and the Christ Child.

I have been struck, as I know many of you will have been, by the photos and films of children trying to come to terms with the horrific events in Paris. What do you say to young people who ask such perceptive questions and whose fears are both very real and based on vivid imagination?

So what do you say Bishop? I hear you ask. My view is that there are no words that can or should be used to provide quick or trite answers. Now is a time for presence, being with people and standing alongside in solidarity. But of course there is more than that.

I keep thinking about the verse in Matthew (ch.5 v. 9), one of the Beatitudes. Jesus says **blessed are the peace makers**. He does not say blessed are the peaceful nor does he say blessed are you when you are peaceful nor does he say blessed is it when it is peaceful. He says blessed are the peace makers and making is about doing something. It involves activity and involves us in doing something.

We cannot solve the problems of the world. We cannot begin to understand what is happening in the lives and hearts of those who turn to violence in the ways we see on our screens. But we can do something in our own lives about making peace. What about the feelings we harbour to another person? What about that situation in which we are involved that needs some reconciliation? What about a situation, yes in our own church where there is clear tension and unhappiness?

I believe we need to start with us and with me and take the small and difficult steps we know we can take to make peace, not in the whole world but in our own situations. Yes, in our families and whose family doesn't need some peace making? And yes, in our churches and communities.

Let us use this horrendous time to consider what we can do. We can't change the world but we can make peace in our own worlds, our own lives. What can we actually do to make peace in our own lives and the lives of those near and dear to us?

**FOLLOW +TIM**

@BishopTruro on Twitter

BLOG: <http://www.trurodiocese.org.uk/press-office/bishop-tims-blog/>

## CHURCHES GIVEN GIFT AID EXTENSION ON ENVELOPES

HMRC recently announced details of new wording for the Model Gift Aid Declaration, which was due to be in force from April 2016. A number of churches with Gift Aid envelopes in stock raised concerns about wastage and the additional costs that would be incurred. This led to a petition.

In response, HMRC has agreed churches can use up their current stock (ordered up to October 21) of pre-printed Gift Aid collection envelopes beyond April 2016. Only church Gift Aid envelopes are covered by this concession and other Declarations will need to be updated.

### More information

<http://tinyurl.com/q727q3z>

## GRANTS AVAILABLE

The All Churches Trust (ATL) makes grants to churches and charities to benefit the people in their local communities across the UK. In 2014, ATL distributed grants totalling £9.7m, the most they have ever given in a year, which went to a wide range of churches, cathedrals, and charities throughout the British Isles.

ATL are currently seeking applications, particularly from less well-off parishes and for projects which benefit mission and help local communities.

**More information** Iain Hearn, Grants Administrator, All Churches Trust Ltd, Beaufort House, Brunswick Road, Gloucester, GL1 1JZ or E. [atl@allchurches.co.uk](mailto:atl@allchurches.co.uk). T. 01452 873189

## VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

Volunteers are sought to assist St Petroc's with their plans to run their Winter Night Shelter during December and January. In addition to a shelter in Truro, there will also be a temporary shelter in Camborne.

There will be full training for all volunteers and travel expenses will be covered.

**More information** 01872 274351 or email [andrew.yates@truro.anglican.org](mailto:andrew.yates@truro.anglican.org)

## JOURNEYING OUT 2016

# SPEAKOUT2016: CHALLENGE TO SHARE FAITH DURING LENT

### During 2016 we will focus as a diocese on "Journeying Out."

The Way of Life "OUT" direction reflects what we believe about God in the world. God is revealed in creation and involved in every part of what we see around us. Jesus reminds us that as well as looking for what is holy in the world we should also proclaim the Good News of love in the world.

From this emerge three core themes for OUT2016:

- ♦ Sharing our faith
- ♦ Serving others
- ♦ Caring for creation

**SPEAKOUT2016** is all about sharing our faith. The bishops are challenging the diocese for 2,016 faith stories to be told during Lent 2016.

This might be members of congregations telling their faith stories together, it might be public acts of witness in the town square, it could be using facebook or other social media, or any of many other ways.

The important thing is for us to deliberately use Lent as a time to share our faith out in the world in new ways.

You can tell us about your plans or the stories themselves by sending an email to [speakout2016@truro.anglican.org](mailto:speakout2016@truro.anglican.org)

We have produced a Simple Guide to Sharing Faith which is great for the reluctant sharer and has tips useful for anyone. 2,016 stories is not many for a whole diocese, but it will need 168 per deanery, or about 10 per church, but don't stop there! This is a starting point not a destination!

Serving Others and Care for Creation



will be themes that we pick up as we JOURNEY OUT in 2016.

The bishops will lead OUT OUTDOORS events across the diocese early next year which will be pilgrimages beyond church buildings and focussing on service and creation.

These will be in the west of the diocese during February (12th/13th/14th), and February 28 and May 1 in the east and north of the diocese.

We encourage local churches and deaneries to organise their own "out outdoors" events alongside these.

Simple Guides for "Caring for Creation" and "Serving Others" are also available.

For "Simple Guides" and much more material to help you plan for OUT2016 please see the website or call Shelley Porter on 01208 892811.



## CHRISTENING PROJECT COMING TO CORNWALL

The Church of England's flagship "Christening Project" is coming to Cornwall.

The bishops' CME day on Thursday, February 11, 9.30am to 4.30pm at the Royal Cornwall Showground will welcome the national team. The event is **FREE** of charge for clergy and one lay person from each church. The project will present new research to inform this vital work as well as free resources. Lunch and refreshments provided.

Booking essential by February 1.

E.shelley.porter@truro.anglican.org

## QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

The Church Buildings Council is encouraging every parish church in England to organise a festival on the weekend of 10-12 June 2016 to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday and her role as head of the Church of England.

The variety of potential forms for the celebrations is huge, from flower festivals to organ, bell-ringing or choir festivals, food or even beer festivals! – and it is hoped that, wherever possible, every church will take part.

**More information** [www.churchcare.co.uk](http://www.churchcare.co.uk)

## ART PILGRIMAGE TO ASSISI

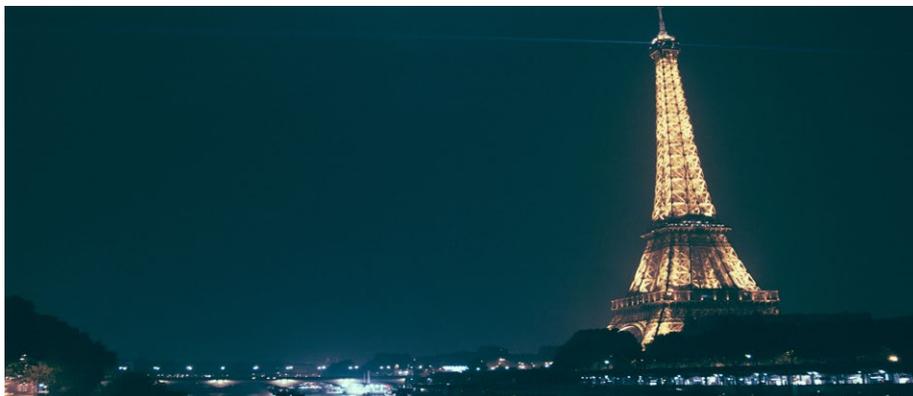
Join an Art workshop pilgrimage to Assisi, led by the Revd John and Mrs Rita Bennett, along with invited guest artists and speakers from July 4 -12, 2016. No previous expertise is needed.

Try your hand at painting, sketching, creative writing and singing. Discover the difference St Francis made to spirituality and art.

More information Christians Aware, T. 0116 254 0770, E. [barbarabutler@christiansaware.co.uk](mailto:barbarabutler@christiansaware.co.uk) or Revd John Bennett E. [brj.linton@virgin.net](mailto:brj.linton@virgin.net)

# FROM THE CANON THEOLOGIAN

'Friday 13th' joins '9/11' and '7/7' in the list of atrocities perpetuated by radicalised jihadist fanatics. In the fortnight before Paris, ISIS had already killed 41 in Beirut, 224 on the Sharm el-Sheikh airliner and 102 in Ankara. There are no statistics for their killings in Iraq and Syria.



## STEPHEN DAWES CANON THEOLOGIAN

ISIS is fighting a war of conquest to create a Caliphate, and a war of terror against anyone who does not share their ideology.

Their tactics are hideous. Their victims are other Muslims, Christians, members of ancient minority faiths and secularists alike.

The Association of British Muslims called the Paris bloodbath an attack on the values and freedoms that we all cherish.

Countless Muslims have used social media to say that these attacks were not done in their name and that they contradict Islam's message of peace. Not only is this a war against the values we take for granted, it is also a battle for the soul of Islam.

ISIS, backed by conservative regimes in the Middle East, is making a bid to be

the true representative of Allah and the Prophet.

It is a frightening prospect, as Yasmin Alibhai-Brown put it in the newspaper, and liberal, democratic and reformist Muslims like herself feel helpless and speechless 'as the skies darken evermore'.

President Hollande said that 'This is War'. That sounds to me like the dangerous voice of panic. Have we already forgotten the damage done after President Bush declared his 'War on Terror' after 9/11?

In the 1940s the British War Cabinet produced that famous 'Keep Calm and Carry On' poster. It was only to be issued if the Germans invaded.

Is not that a wiser word as we strengthen our resolve, increase our vigilance and stand as human beings together to tackle the religion-gone-bad which is ISIS?

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### NOVEMBER

- 28 Christmas Craft Fayre** Budock Village Hall, 2pm - 4pm
- 28 Saturday Sessions** Kea Church, 9.40am-1pm, <http://saturdaysessions.weebly.com/>
- 29 Cornish Advent Service** Budock Church, 3pm
- 29 Advent Carol Service** Perranuthnoe Church, 4pm
- 30 Ecumenical Advent Service** Goldsithney Methodist Chapel, 7.30pm

### DECEMBER

- 1 - 6 Crib Exhibition** St Petroc's Church, Padstow
- 4 Come & sing Handel's Messiah** All Saints Church, Falmouth, 7.30pm
- 4 Carols** Churches Together in Hayle, St Elwyn, 7pm
- 5 St Merryn Christmas Bazaar**, Church Hall, 2.15pm
- 5 Mawgan Church Christmas Bazaar**, Mawgan Recreation Hall, 2pm
- 6 Johnny Cowling Christmas Concert** in memory of Revd Canon Julia Wilkinson, St Merryn Church, 7.30pm
- 6 Carols**, Gwinear, 4.30pm
- 6 Carol Service**, St Petroc's Church, Padstow
- 6 Christingle**, Gwithian, 11am
- 6 Christingle**, St Anta Church, 5pm
- 6 Family Eucharist & Christingle**, St Winnow Church, 11am
- 6 Christmas Tree festival dedication service**, 4pm, St Wenna's Morval
- 6 Christingle**, Ludgvan Church, 4pm
- 7-11 Christmas tree festival**, St Wenna's Morval, 10am - 4pm daily
- 8 Advent Spiral Walk**, St Erth, 4-7pm
- 9 Lerryn School Nativity**, St Veep Church, 2pm

Full Listings <http://tinyurl.com/q244a65>

## 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

- SRO** <http://tinyurl.com/naeyxmj>
- Climate Conference** [www.pedal2paris.uk](http://www.pedal2paris.uk)
- DOTCandy** <http://tinyurl.com/p5bkmfn>
- Safeguarding**: <http://tinyurl.com/nu6jowj>
- Burswood Christian Hospital** <http://tinyurl.com/omyqkaz>
- BRF Free Advent reading notes** <http://eepurl.com/bEB1SH>
- CTC** <http://tinyurl.com/p4s2v6p>

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