

OUR NEWS

FEBRUARY 2016

BISHOP PRAISES PARISHES FOR RESPONSE TO MMF CALL

The New Year brought good news for the diocese's finances which received a 20 per cent boost in 2015.

In 2014 the diocese, facing a shortfall of £1.2 million, asked parishes to increase their Mission and Ministry Fund (MMF) contributions by 28 per cent, a move that many thought impossible.

While the 20 per cent increase realised in 2015 falls below that target, it is a move in the right direction and is largely down to the responses of people in the parishes who have gone above and beyond in their efforts.

Bishop Tim said: "I am incredibly humbled by the responses from the parishes. We still face a shortfall but given the 28% increase that was asked, this increase is nevertheless very encouraging and I want to thank everyone in our parishes that work so hard to maintain the mission and ministry in this diocese."

At Synod in November 2015, members were told that between 2008 and 2014, the MMF call had only increased by 3.8 per cent despite costs increasing during that period by 16 per cent. The shortfall was



filled by the diocese eating into its reserves year after year, a situation that could not continue.

In 2016, the diocese expenditure is likely to be just over £7 million, the bulk of that being the cost of ministry (£5.51 million). Other costs include Governance and support (£0.62 million) and Mission (£0.42 million).

Bishop Tim added: "There is still much hard work for all of us but I do see this response to the MMF Call as a first step in moving forward and responding appropriately in our discipleship. Generosity is part of our discipleship, our response to the call of Jesus. It is not just about giving of our money, it is about how we spend our time, our talents and our possessions."

DEANERY DAYS SURVEY

The Church House team is on hand to offer support, guidance and encouragement as it continues to work alongside the parishes to enable you to grow. Therefore, we need to better understand how best to help.

This year the Church House team want to come to your deanery. In order to ensure we provide the best assistance we have created a short survey to find out what is most needed and when would be best to visit. Anyone involved in a parish or deanery can complete the survey.

TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY:

<http://tinyurl.com/z59hu24>

CCF GRANT SCHEME ENDS

The Church and Community Fund (CCF) grants scheme, which has been supporting parish projects for almost a third of a century, will no longer be receiving grant applications.

Instead from 2017, the Archbishops' Council will distribute over £20 million a year to dioceses from monies made available by the Church Commissioners.

Existing grant holders will be able to draw down their grants in the usual manner and will not be affected by this decision.

READ MORE

<http://www.ccfund.org.uk/>

BISHOP'S LETTER

“ Today I am sending a letter to all parishes highlighting the issues related to the environment. You all know how important this subject is for a number of reasons and will all be aware of our essential duty as Christians to be stewards of God's creation. ”



BISHOP TIM

I encourage you to read this letter carefully. I look forward to your response on the wide range initiatives set out in the letter (detailed below) and especially to being able to agree a new environmental policy in May.

Carbon Fast Lent 2016: Reconnecting with the Earth

The 2016 Carbon Fast, which begins on February 10, will focus on the theme of Reconnecting with the Earth. Each day we will highlight a different church based project from the South West. There will also be the regular daily reflection on an environmental theme. Sign up [here](#)

Diocesan Synod Policy review

It is five years since the diocese and the Methodist District in Cornwall agreed a policy on the environment (read it [here](#)). We will now review our policy and make changes to ensure we are still being challenged to take this gospel imperative

seriously. We aim to bring a new revised policy to the May Diocesan Synod and I hope and pray it will once again be an ecumenical initiative. If you have suggestions or ideas please send them in to [Andrew Yates](#) or [Richard Hopper](#).

Cornwall Churches Environmental Award Scheme

At a more local level you might use this opportunity to look at the Cornwall Churches Environmental Award **Scheme** with its Bronze, Silver and Gold levels. Contact Rosey Sanders 01872 274351 to ask for a hard copy.

Training Days

Andrew Yates, the Diocesan Social Responsibility Officer, will be running two CMED workshops on the theme of the Environment (April 15, Liskeard and May 13th, Illogan). To find out more click [here](#)

For more information on any of these initiatives or others contact Andrew Yates andrew.yates@truro.anglican.org or Richard Hopper richardhopper@btinternet.com Both are members of the Diocesan Environment Core Group.

To read the full letter letter click [here](#)

GOT A 'GREEN' STORY TO SHARE?

GET IN TOUCH:

comms@truro.anglican.org
01872 360037

FRAUD WARNING

Parishes and PCCs are being urged to be vigilant after one PCC was subjected to an incidence of fraud.

It appears bank details may have been obtained from a donation page on the church's own website.

If you become aware of fraudulent use on an account, you are urged to report this to Action Fraud, a branch of the City of London Police, the national policing lead for fraud in the UK.

TO REPORT FRAUD

<http://www.actionfraud.police.uk> or call 0300 123 2040

INTERESTED IN EQUALITY?

The Diocese of Truro and the Methodist District of Cornwall are committed to promoting equality and diversity across the county. To assist in this work, there is a joint Equality and Diversity Committee and new members are sought.

The active committee, which meets formally four times a year, is currently chaired by the Archdeacon of Bodmin, The Venerable Audrey Elkington. It is made up of Anglicans and Methodists, with and without disabilities. More members are sought from all denominations in the county.

MORE INFORMATION

<http://www.trurodiocese.org.uk/mission/community/equalitydiversity/>

MEET THE FUNDERS

This year's FREE Meet the Funders event is on February 25. The event is being held in Saltash from 9.30am to 3.30pm. Lloyds Bank Foundation, Cornwall Community Foundation, Heritage Lottery Fund, The Big Lottery Fund, BBC Children in Need and Cory Environmental Trust among attenders.

MORE INFORMATION

Booking deadline 11/2/16.

Register: <http://tinyurl.com/h32yp5x> or email rosey.sanders@truro.anglican.org

MISSION CASE STUDY

VOLUNTEERS 'LIVING THE FAITH' THROUGH STOKE CLIMSLAND'S POPULAR POP-UP CAFE



A pop up café run by members of Stoke Climsland Church has gone from strength to strength since it first opened its doors 18 months ago.

Up to 60 people a week enjoy a selection of homemade cakes, quiches and sausage rolls produced by the volunteers and enjoy a steady supply of teas and coffees, all given free of charge.

The cafe came about when two ladies from a fellowship group within Stoke Climsland Church put forward the idea of a community café to priest in charge, Revd Tony Stephens. The village hall was chosen rather than the church to make it more accessible for people in the wider community.

The aim of the café is to support the community through the Christian faith. Barbara Bennett, one of the organisers of the café, said: "We don't 'pump' Christianity at all; we just live it."

Everything in the café is free of charge with donations welcome. Barbara said: "If people give us a smile or £5 it doesn't matter, people give what they can but in general people want to give."

The café runs from 9am to 12.30pm every Tuesday, all year round, with one week

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comms@truro.anglican.org

attracting 75 people. On arrival people are greeted with a hand shake or hug and a listening ear. Barbara added: "People who come in regularly have said the feeling of friendliness and genuine warmth is very different to elsewhere."

Now the café is running at a profit and the volunteers plan to donate the money to charity. Barbara said: "The emphasis is on the café serving the local community and sometimes it is nice to give back to other areas of the community."

The café has also helped to grow the church with three new people joining the congregation. "Because they know a face when they come into the church it is not such a big step to make", said Barbara.

Barbara's advice to any churches thinking of running a pop up café is to do it. "It is one of the most worthwhile outreaches you can do, you're not preaching Christianity you are just living it but it is jolly hard work and you need volunteers willing to do it."

COMMUNICATION RESOURCES & SOCIAL MEDIA SUPPORT

By the end of 2017 it is hoped all parishes in the Diocese of Truro will be on social media in one form or another. To assist in this, the Communications team are keen to provide practical assistance and advice on getting set up and ongoing support.

For those already online, we are seeking to facilitate a workshop to help you make more of your free social media channels.

To book a Communications Social Media session or to register interest in an advanced social media workshop, contact the Communications team. T. 01872 360037 E. comms@truro.anglican.org

MORE INFORMATION We have also now added links to free resources including image libraries, free logo creation, presentations and more on <http://www.trurodiocese.org.uk/press-office/communication-resources/>

BELLS RINGERS, TOWERS & SAFEGUARDING

A very welcome addition to our safeguarding resources is the NEW General Statement on Safeguarding Children in Towers.

READ IT HERE

<http://tinyurl.com/gmg9xmw>

PARISH BUYING HELP

Each year treasurers, administrators, wardens, and PCCs make buying decisions for their churches which add up to over £147 million.

The Parish Buying team have put together some buying tips from the experts to help you make the most of your budgets.

The aim is to save the church £10 million a year through better procurement decisions; avoiding high costs, misleading contracts, and unnecessary spending

MORE INFORMATION

Online: <http://www.parishbuying.org.uk/>

Call: 0800 368 0887

Email: info@parishbuying.org.uk

FROM THE CANON THEOLOGIAN

I have been asked to share my faith story. It begins in my early teens in the 1960s. Sex, drugs and rock-n-roll had passed me by. What didn't pass me by were the big questions that teenagers ask.

What's the meaning of it all? What's it all about?

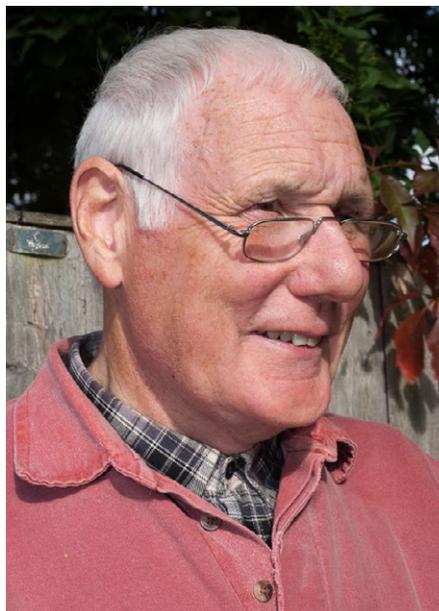
STEPHEN DAWES CANON THEOLOGIAN

My grandparents went to chapel, but there had been no religion in my childhood. I began to wonder if Christianity might have any answers to our questions. My church-going friends were concluding that it hadn't and were leaving the church. I decided to give it a try.

I met a group of young people who were encouraged to ask questions and think things through. I joined in enthusiastically. Jesus began to intrigue me and challenge me.

Eventually I committed myself. I signed the 'Disciples' Roll' at a Methodist Sixth-Formers' Conference in a very bleak Whitby in February 1965. I thought that was enough to be going on with, but God didn't, and finally I gave in to the idea of being a Methodist minister.

Fifty years later I am still on the journey. I am still learning that God is love, and that love is the way to live. I am still being challenged to walk the way of that Galilean Rabbi. There are still ups and downs, not least because the church is not the easiest place in which to follow Jesus. There is still new thinking to be done, and the call to live and act in demanding and sometimes sacrificial ways hasn't stopped with retirement.



So, for me, maybe the key word in my Faith Story is "discipleship" - learning, following, walking in the way of God's love taught and demonstrated by Jesus. That still gives me the answers to my questions about the "meaning of life".

SPEAKOUT2016
SHARE YOUR FAITH STORY:
speakout2016@truro.anglican.org
#speakout2016

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY

- 2 Blessing of the Church Candles**, St Elwyn's, Hayle, 7pm with Archdeacon Bill
- 6 Saturday Sessions** at Kea Church <http://saturdaysessions.weebly.com/>
- 6 'Faith in fiction: British and American writers'** (Rowan Williams), St Endellion Church, 10am - 3pm, £10, rev.judith@btinternet.com
- 10 Reconnecting with the Earth**, Carbon Fast Lent 2016
- 10 Ash Wednesday Quiet Day**, Epiphany House, 10-4, £18, www.epiphanyhouse.co.uk
- 11 Baptism Matters**, Pavilion Centre, Royal Cornwall Showground, Wadebridge, 9.30-4.30pm
- 13 Go Next Jazz Band** £10, St Endellion Church, 07787944935 www.endellion.org.uk
- 15 The Filling Station**, Penmorvah Manor Hotel, Budock, 7.30pm
- 17 Senior Citizens Tea Party**, St Saviour Church, Polruan, 3pm
- 17 Windows Into..the Christian Faith**, Hayle Methodist Church, 7pm
- 20 Taize service**, Epiphany House, 7-8pm
- 23 Feast Day Service**, St Elwyn's, Hayle, 7pm with Bishop Tim
- 25 Meet the Funders**, Saltash, 9.30am-3.30pm, rosej.sanders@truro.anglican.org
- 27 Celebrating Cornwall's Stained Glass Heritage** Michael Swift, County Hall, £20, cornwalloffice@wea.org.uk T 01872 320036
- 27 To Live the Gospel Iona Community SW**, The Mint Methodist Church, 11am-4pm

MARCH

- 4 Women's Day of Prayer** <http://tinyurl.com/jlecoed>
- 6 Singing St Mark's Gospel**, Truro Cathedral, 6pm
- 11 Cornwall: A Million stories of Sanctuary**, All Saints Church, Hightertown, 10-3pm
- 14 The Filling Station**, Penmorvah Manor Hotel, Budock, 7.30pm
- 16 Godspell**, St Petroc's Church, Padstow, 7.30pm

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 before the 17th of each month.

OTHER LINKS

- DOTCandy** <http://tinyurl.com/gps34nz>
- In Review** <http://tinyurl.com/zgdmhvw>
- In Focus** <http://tinyurl.com/gthodtl>
- CMED Booklet** <http://tinyurl.com/ok4gu34>
- SRO Newsletter** <http://tinyurl.com/hxn4j6g>
- SM blog:** <http://tinyurl.com/hgcr9um>
- Parish Resources** <http://tinyurl.com/j7ykhw5>
- CLAS** <http://tinyurl.com/j7vopay>
- Student survey** <http://tinyurl.com/jq4otfx>
- Freelance organist** <http://tinyurl.com/zflave8>

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