

OUR NEWS

JANUARY 2016

2016: YEAR OF JOURNEYING OUT

This year as we journey OUT, our bishops are encouraging us to reflect on our Christian journey.



In particular to think about **Sharing our faith with others**; **Our care for creation** and **Serving others**.

Bishop Tim will be challenging the diocese for Lent, to tell 2,016 faith stories across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

We hope parishes and deaneries will organise events and activities along these themes.

This is SPEAKOUT 2016: how will your church take part?

The bishop wants to encourage us to tell our Christian stories in different ways. This could be through a Lent course, Mothering Sunday or Palm Sunday. Some churches will use social media to encourage people to name their faith on their own pages during Lent.

We have prepared a Simple Guide to Sharing Faith and an accompanying Leading the Way to support parishes. Bishop Tim has also written the introduction to a published Lent course "The joy of the Gospel" by Paula Gooder aimed at sharing faith; published by CHP.

The bishop's challenge will come to you as a letter in January which will be suitable for reading in church on Sundays' January 31 or February 7.

Also on our journey OUT we will be caring for creation and serving others. We hope churches and deaneries will organise events picking up these themes: let us know!

The bishops will be OUT walking during the year in a series of pilgrim events across the diocese loosely linked to the themes. Anyone is welcome to join the bishops on these events, and we will produce material so journeys can be shared by others from their own homes.

We have prepared Simple Guides to Creation and Service, as well as companion "Leading the Way" material for each theme.

CONTACT US

For Simple Guides or Leading the Way: shelley.porter@truro.anglican.org
To share your faith stories, ideas for OUT events or news about your plans: speakout2016@truro.anglican.org

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Church House will be closed from 12 noon on Christmas Eve until January 4, 2016.

We wish you a peaceful Christmas and happy New Year.

DOMESTIC ABUSE SESSIONS

The Diocese of Truro in conjunction with the Methodist Circuit in Cornwall have joined forces to provide domestic abuse awareness workshops.

Beginning in the New Year, hour-long awareness raising workshops will be available on request at venues across the county. Sarah Acraman, Diocese of Truro's Safeguarding Officer, said: "It is vitally important to know how domestic abuse might manifest itself within a church setting, and what you should do if you are concerned."

READ MORE

<http://tinyurl.com/zua4kkv>

CALAIS CAMP RETURN FOR ALL SAINTS CHURCH

A three strong team from All Saints Church Highertown have made a second visit to the Calais refugee camp in France to provide aid to refugees facing a difficult and cold winter.

READ MORE <http://tinyurl.com/ht836br>

BISHOP'S LETTER

“ Happy Christmas to you all. There, I have said it and it wasn't so bad after all was it? But what do the words actually mean? ”



BISHOP TIM

I don't know all of you and I will probably never meet you all. So why am I wishing you all a Happy Christmas? Do I really want you all to be happy and, given all that is happening in the world, is happy the right sentiment anyway?

Christmas is, of course, a complicated concept in itself. Clearly it will not and does not have the same meaning to everyone who will read this. Many of you may know or remember that a key reading used at Christmas time in churches is the first part of John's gospel, which says: "in the beginning was the Word ... and the Word was made flesh". They are very familiar words, but what do they mean? How can a word be made flesh?

One of the most ridiculous sayings in my estimation is that "Stick and stones may break my bones but words can never hurt me." This is clearly wrong. We have all been hurt by words and we have all, I suspect, used words which have hurt others. Words do take on a real power and do become real. Again, many of us will know the strength of feelings that can

be aroused when we say "I love you", or someone says it to us.

Christmas is about the word becoming real. God took on flesh and so we as people have the possibility of engaging with each other at a deep level, and in a way that would not have been possible had this not happened.

Words are important and, of course, words can also be throwaway and trivial. When you say "Happy Christmas" to someone this year what will it mean? Are you simply doing what is expected of you or are you using words with a real meaning and a sense of power?

For me Christmas is vital in that it is life-giving because it is the day we remember that the Word became flesh. Christmas is important because it means that who we are and what we say, matters.

I pray that this Christmas, given the situation of the world and the fear that is around for understandable reasons, we may all consider the words we use and the reasons we use them. Words are powerful and do take on a life of their own.

Please take this season with the importance it deserves and begin by choosing and using carefully the words to say what you want. So on that note:

A happy Christmas to you all!

FOLLOW +TIM

@BishopTruro on Twitter

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

LISTED PLACES OF WORSHIP GRANT SCHEME CONTINUES

All listed places of worship will still be eligible to apply for a grant from a pot of £42 million. The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme (LPWGS) fund has been secured for the life time of this Parliament Chancellor George Osborne announced in his November budget.

In addition the Government reaffirmed its commitment to a second round of the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund for churches requiring roof repairs to ensure church buildings can be watertight preventing further deterioration in their condition.

MORE INFORMATION

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

SCHOOLS FOCUS MEETING

Cornwall's small schools face some sharp challenges. More than 100 could face closure from proposed funding arrangements. The diocese is organising an event on January 22 for leaders and governors of small schools or academies (church or community, self-identifying as "small") to meet representatives from the DfE and Cornwall Council as well as local MPs. Our aim is for small schools "to be heard" and then to work together towards a strong policy for small schools in Cornwall. This event is free to schools.

TO BOOK

Schools book direct through Cornwall Learning, E. bex.couch@truro.anglican.org

@CHURCHLIVE

We're looking for churches to broadcast their Sunday service for @ChurchLive, a Church of England partnership with TwitterUK to broadcast church services across the world using the app Periscope. It's really easy for churches to get involved, all you need is a smartphone with Periscope installed and wifi/signal (guidance and equipment are available).

MORE INFORMATION

Follow ChurchLive on twitter @ChurchLive or go to <http://tinyurl.com/ok8lv7m>

MISSION CASE STUDY

DOING CHURCH DIFFERENTLY: BELLS BRING NEW LIFE TO BRADOC CHURCH

Bradoc Church near Lostwithiel is looking to the future with renewed optimism after an innovative idea involving bell ringing brought life back to the building.

The church had faced an uncertain future with dwindling numbers eventually only used for two hours a month by 2012. But fast forward three years and it is now in use most days, boasts a growing attendance and it's all thanks to bells.

Robert Pearce, Tower Captain at Bradoc, said: "In 2012 we only had around ten to 12 people in our congregation and we were all in our 60s. We were missing more than one generation so we decided to look at how we could make the church part of the community again."

The PCC realised bells could be the answer. "The church has five bells which are small so easy to teach people on. The first thing was for volunteers to get the bells safe to ring again. The bells had been hung in 1846 and they have never been re-hung," said Robert.

In 2012, two of the congregation began to learn. They were soon joined by others from nearby St Winnow Church and quickly there were 11 new regulars from St Winnow attending for bell ringing lessons and a friendship was formed. Robert said: "We noticed we were starting to get people from St Winnow coming for our Eucharist service and once that happened we finally had enough people to start doing things. We knew we didn't have children so we thought if we got some tone chimes and linked up with the school we might get something going with the local kids."

Soon members of both churches were going into Lerryn School and teaching the children tone chime ringing. During the



summer holidays a summer bell ringing club was organised and not only did they have Lerryn pupils attending but they also attracted local children from other schools and it grew until eventually there were even parents learning. The church also went hi-tech with a computer simulator to help teach learners on the tower bells.

With the project proving so popular, the congregation decided to investigate the idea of getting a portable eight bell mini ring and that's when the Doing Church Differently fund was suggested. Robert said: "We were awarded £6,400 towards the £10,400 cost. Our congregation and the people at St Winnow raised the rest."

Today the church reaches out to 33 youngsters. Robert said: "The Tone Chimes workshops have laid great foundations. Our next aim is to fund raise by providing our bells and bell ringing abilities where there aren't any. We also want to start workshops in more schools.

"The aim was to demonstrate that families and young people can worship and have fun, friendship and fellowship together. As a result our congregation is now double the size, spans all ages, half of them are bell ringers and they are actively involved in our services. It's good that one of the smallest churches in Cornwall can help others including the cathedral to recruit new ringers and grow our church."

PARTNERSHIP IS A FIRST

A joint project between St Wenn Church and the village school is the first of its kind in England. The church and school have gone into partnership funding a biomass boiler which heats both buildings but using separate systems.

Not only is the new boiler good for the environment but it will also help reduce costs. The boiler, which is sited between the church and school, is fed two to three times a year with pellets which are paid for through renewable energy payments from the government.

READ MORE <http://tinyurl.com/gmxro84>

JOIN IN #WASHDAY16

Washday is all about taking part in practical social action during Lent and Holy Week. Washday is a new take on Maundy Thursday. You can do your washing on Maundy Thursday itself, during Holy Week, or at some other point during Lent if that is easier. Use your imagination and think how you could make a real difference in your community.

Washday is a great opportunity to tell the Easter story in a fun and creative way, but it's not a one day wonder. Loving your neighbour is one way of loving God. And that's something that lasts all year.

MORE INFORMATION
<http://www.washday.org/>

WINDOWS INTO....

Developed by the Diocese of Truro and the Methodist District of Cornwall, a new Windows Into course will be running for people in West Penwith from February. Revd Samuel Marsden will be running a series of courses over the next two years. Each course runs for six weeks. The first series on the Old Testament will begin on Wednesday, February 17, in collaboration with Churches Together at Hayle Methodist Church from 7pm to 9pm

MORE INFORMATION
Revd Samuel Marsden T 01736 756669
E samuelmarsden@hotmail.com

FROM THE CANON THEOLOGIAN

I've sung a lot of carols lately and I've kept a list of their titles for Jesus. Top of the list is 'Saviour'. That's probably because in Luke's Christmas parable, the angel tells the shepherds that their 'saviour' has been born, and in Matthew's parable Joseph is told to call the baby Jesus because 'he will save', which is what the name means.

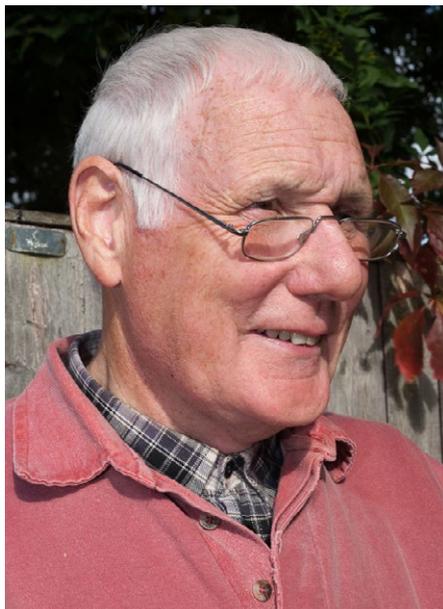
'Salvation' is a central idea in Christianity.

STEPHEN DAWES CANON THEOLOGIAN

The Bible uses many different words and pictures to spell it out. The second in my carol list is 'Redeemer', but King, Lord, Immanuel and Prince of Peace all come under the salvation umbrella. But there's a problem here because 'salvation' and 'saved' are words with baggage attached.

Do you remember the old question - 'Are you saved?' Behind it is the idea that salvation is about personal transformation. It's about sin and forgiveness and about going to heaven when we die. That's okay, as far as it goes.

But in the Bible 'salvation' is a much bigger thing. It's about the fullest flourishing of life: human life, life in society and the life of the cosmos. This 'fullest flourishing' is what God intended 'in the beginning'. This is what God will bring about in the end. Working at this is the Church's mission in between. This is what Jesus taught about and lived for, what he called 'the kingdom of God'. This is why Matthew and Luke call him 'Saviour' in their Christmas parables



This is also why Matthew's story has a dark side, and why Jesus ends up crucified as a terrorist.

When we wish each other a 'Peaceful New Year' and pray for Peace, our wish and prayer - and commitment - is for this 'salvation', the fullest flourishing of people, society and planet.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER

A FULL LIST FESTIVE DATES
<http://tinyurl.com/q9a9wd2>

JANUARY

- 6 Feast of Epiphany**, Eucharist celebration led by Bishop Chris, Epiphany House, Truro, 6pm
- 8 End of Festival Eucharist** with Bishop Chris, St Saviour Church, 11am
- 9 Quiet Day 'Sing a new song'**, Epiphany House, Truro, 10am – 4pm. www.epiphanyhouse.co.uk
- 10 Festival Service** with Bishop Tim, St Saviour Church, Polruan, 3.30pm
- 15 Wildlife on the Towsans** talk by David Chapman, Lelant Village Hall, 7.30pm, £4
- 23 The Camino de Santiago**, a talk by Bishop Chris, Epiphany House, Truro, 7pm.
- 24 Cornwall Chamber Orchestra Concert** in aid of Cornwall Hospice Care, St Elwyn's Hayle, 3pm, £6
- 28 Feast of St Uny**, United Benefice Service, 11am
- 28 Truro Theological Society: Dr Tim Gibson This barren land? In search of the CofE**, Chapter House, 7.30-9, £4/ £2, u18s free.

FEBRUARY

- 6 Saturday Sessions** at Kea Church
<http://saturdaysessions.weebly.com/>
- 11 Baptism Matters**, Pavilion Centre, Royal Cornwall Showground, Wadebridge, 9.30-4.30pm
- 17 Senior Citizens Tea Party**, St Saviour Church, Polruan, 3pm
- 17 Windows Into..the Christian Faith**, Hayle Methodist Church, 7pm
- 27 Celebrating Cornwall's Stained Glass Heritage** (study day) with Michael Swift, County Hall, Truro, 10am – 4pm, £20, Contact cornwalloffice@wea.org.uk T 01872 320036
- 27 To Live the Gospel Iona Community SW**, The Mint Methodist Church, 11am-4pm

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

- Our News Quarterly**
<http://tinyurl.com/o4xhcby>
- In Review** <http://tinyurl.com/ozd3pxz>
- In Focus** <http://tinyurl.com/n9sl9ya>
- CMED Booklet** <http://tinyurl.com/ok4gu34>
- Parish resources**
<http://www.parityresources.org.uk/>
- CVTA Newsletter** <http://tinyurl.com/osfxr8v>

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