

OUR NEWS

DECEMBER 2019

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DIOCESAN SYNOD MEMBERS APPROVE BUDGET FOR 2020

At the diocesan synod held in November, the elected members from both the houses of lay and clergy approved the budget with just four voting against.

The overall call for next year will reduce by 1.6% with the individual parish calls being set through the new deanery led MMF allocation method.

Prior to the full budget presentation and debate, members had heard from diocesan secretary Esther Pollard who gave a presentation on the feedback gathered at the September synod. In September, members considered a number of questions relating to the finances of the diocese and its parishes. Further feedback from in-parish discussions after September's synod were also included.

The session encouraged comments and lead into a presentation by the chairman of the Truro Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd, Mike Sturgess, on the proposed budget for 2020, of which members had been able to review in the weeks before synod.

During the debate that followed the main points centred on ministry, deprivation and poverty.

Many spoke of their concerns in relation to setting any deficit budget without a plan in place to balance the budget going forward. Bishop Philip addressed these concerns saying: "I would share your anxiety if that were the case. There are a number of things going on. We are not solely relying on an MMF receipts increase."

Ending the debate before the vote, Bishop Philip said: "If God is leading us into something new, then let it be."

The budget was approved following a vote, which saw four members vote against it.

[+ READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

PARISH TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN 2020

The full list of training opportunities available to parishes is available via the diocesan [website](#).

The first sessions for 2020 are Parish Administration: Meetings, agendas and records and these sessions take place

on January 18 and January 29. An introduction to employing staff training day will take place on February 8, 2020.

The full brochure is available on the website or by clicking [here](#).

WHERE ARE YEW NOW? TREES SOUGHT

Millennium yew cuttings taken from trees at the time of Christ were blessed and sent to Cornwall in 2000 but where are they today?

A recent article in the Church Times about the Millennium Yew Tree Project, launched by the then Bishop of London towards the close of the century, prompted the question, "What happened to Cornwall's Millennium Yews?"

The project was designed to revitalise the yew to become symbols of community and signs of creation. At the time the population of yews was diminishing, so the plan was to plant a yew in every parish that wanted one.

The yews, considered symbols of regeneration, were cuttings taken from ancient yews from the time of Christ. This created a living link to Jesus and encouraged people that if these yews were to live on for another 2000 years, we would need to care for and cherish our local environment. They were blessed during a distribution service at St Paul's Cathedral and sent out across the UK to plant hope for greater sustainability and care of our planet.

The uptake of the offer took the organisers, Conservation Foundation, by surprise. Everyone wanted one! And that included us down here in Cornwall. There was a limited budget, so the cuttings that came to us were particularly small as they had to fit in the back of a car! Nevertheless, services were held for the revered yews and they were duly planted – but where?

If you know where any of the trees are, please get in touch by email or give us a call: 01872 274351.

[+ READ MORE](#)



CATHEDRAL FULL FOR ENVIRONMENT SERVICE

More than 100 primary children, plus their teachers, parents, carers and grandparents, came from across Cornwall to perform at Songs for Earth, an environmental service at Truro Cathedral.

The children had been all practising in their schools over recent weeks under the direction of Angela Renshaw, who is the singing lead for Cornwall Music Education Hub and the director of Cornwall's county choirs.

The pupils, from Celtic Cross Education schools as well as Marazion School, came together at the cathedral prior to the service for their first rehearsal as a massed choir.

They then made their way to Lemon Quay and processed, all the time singing, over to the cathedral. They were stewarded and kept safe on the way by members of the Cornwall Federation of WIs.

The service at the cathedral was led by the Revd Canon Simon Griffiths, while



Bishop Philip gave the sermon – ably assisted by six of the children.

“The fact that you all care enough to come here today gives me hope for the future,” Bishop Philip told the congregation.

+ READ MORE HERE



THINK GREEN DURING THE ELECTION RUN-UP

Don't forget the importance of raising environmental matters in the run-up to the forthcoming general election.

Pledge 4 of the Climate Vision pledges prompts us to 'contact our MP to ask them to do the pledges' and, of course, during an election campaign the same applies to all our Parliamentary candidates.

Indeed, not only can we ask them to do the ten pledges, but it would be good to see questions about environmental issues being asked at every hustings or wherever people may see their constituency candidates. If churches are involved in arranging hustings, maybe they can make sure environment-themed questions are asked - and if people meet candidates on the doorstep, perhaps they can raise issues to do with protecting the environment as well.

The Government's Independent Committee on Climate Change has some excellent information, very concisely expressed in some infographics and short videos here: <https://www.theccc.org.uk/>

GOD'S CREATION IN LENT

Archbishop Justin Welby has encouraged churches across England to engage with our responsibilities towards God's creation for Lent 2020 (and beyond).

In the Diocese of Truro a four week course on caring for God's creation is available for download from the diocesan [website](#).

The course will lead groups to explore the nature of the challenges that face us, the biblical and theological resources available to sustain us and, most importantly for Cornish churches, what we might do specifically in this, our Cornish context. The course will introduce participants to the **ten climate change pledges** and to the **Green Church Kernow Award scheme** and enable participants to decide what actions they, as individuals and as churches, can take to care better for God's creation.



SERVICE OF CELEBRATION FOR SAFEGUARDING TRAINERS & CO-ORDINATORS

Safeguarding trainers and co-ordinators from across the diocese were celebrated at a special service in St Petroc's Church in Bodmin in November.

The service, the first time such an event had been held, included safeguarding co-ordinators and trainers sharing their experiences. Bishop Philip lead the service and presented the tokens of thanks to

those attending. Sarah Acraman, diocesan safeguarding advisor, welcomed everyone who attended before handing over to Bishop Philip who gave the sermon. The service also included two hymns, *Here I am, Lord* and *Let me be your servant*.

Following presentations, there was the opportunity for refreshments and conversation.

CHURCH SCHOOL RECOGNISED AS BEST PRACTICE REPRESENTATIVE

Bishop Cornish Primary School in Saltash has been recognised as a Best Practice Representative in the latest edition of The Parliamentary Review.

The three-page article recognises the work done in the school to promote Christian values in education along with celebrating the successful work it does in creating a nurturing, spiritual, creative and exciting cross-curricular approach to school life for the children, giving them a strong foundation on which they can build.

Teresa Lindeyer, chair of the school's governors, said: "Being nationally acknowledged as a 'best practice representative' in our field is a well-deserved accolade for our dedicated, hard working and creative staff.

"Bishop Cornish works hard to provide exciting experiences to enrich understanding, develop spiritual reflection and invoke a sense of wonder and awe at the world around us, encouraging the children to live out



these values both in their Christian community at school as well as the wider community.

"It is no coincidence that our Christian distinctiveness goes hand in hand with seeing the children 'as a whole', going beyond the purely academic and allowing the children to develop their own personal spiritual journey which, in turn, has an impact on their relationships, behaviour and attitudes."

+ READ MORE HERE

DIOCESAN DIRECTORY CHANGES & UPDATES

LICENSED CLERGY

Revd Canon David Miller* has been licensed as Priest in Charge of the United Benefice of West Kerrier. He continues as Team Rector of Helston and Wendron and Rural Dean of Kerrier.

Revd Brian McQuillen* has been licensed as Priest in Charge of St Goran with St Michael Caerhays.

Revd Canon Simon Cade* has been installed as an Honorary Canon of Truro Cathedral. His title is now 'The Revd Canon'. He continues as a Public Preacher.

Sarah Yardley, the Creation Fest Co-ordinator, has been installed as Honorary Lay Canon.

Revd Heather Aston* has been licensed as Priest in Charge of the parishes of St Gennys, and Jacobstow, Warbstow & Trenglos (Heather was formerly associate priest of these parishes).

CLERGY WITH PTO

Revd Mary Williamson* has been given Permission to Officiate in this diocese. Her contact details can be found on the database and in the online directory.

* Contact details can be found in the online directory at trurodiocese.org.uk/directory-live/

BROADBAND OFFER

Would you like to provide internet access at your church but are having difficulty as a fixed-line internet connection is too complicated to install, or can only provide you with poor speeds?

Parish Buying have teamed up with telecoms company Gamma, who offer a mobile-signal broadband enabling service. This is done by fixing a roof-mounted antenna instead of a landline. The antenna will use the existing 4G mobile coverage in your area to provide your building with broadband.

+ MORE INFORMATION HERE

Sign up or login for full details.

FOLLOW +PHILIP

Bishop Philip's blog
trurodiocese.org.uk/bishops-blog/
 Twitter:
 @pmounstephen

FOOD POVERTY: WHERE IS FAITH?

Food Poverty is not going away. Since the report five years ago, Feeding Britain, and the faith community's consistent response to food poverty with foodbanks and emergency provisions, there is so much more to do. The Right Revd Tim Thornton, our former bishop, who was involved in the report and took a strong lead to get voices heard, said, "There is so much more to do... mums and dads, children and older people going hungry in our communities is simply not right...our voices (must) gain volume to say this is not right."

Transformation Cornwall, who tackle poverty in Cornwall through faith-based social action, understand that at the root of all faiths is a care for the most vulnerable in society. They work with faith organisations to offer practical support for people experiencing food poverty, hardship and isolation. The issues around food

poverty are complex with so much associated shame and stress, all of which faith-based organisations understand and work hard to alleviate. Jane Yeomans, Project Manager, said, "Despite Foodbanks becoming a regular feature of our communities, it's incredibly hard for people to take that first step to getting help. Faith communities get that. There is no judgement, just love, acceptance and hope."

Food for Change is an initiative that takes people beyond crisis point, working with them, through food, to regain confidence, be inspired, empowered and move on to a better way of living. Often working with foodbanks, Food for Change has proved to be an effective force for good.

[+ READ MORE HERE](#)

WALKING AWAY WITH CHRISTMAS SHOPPING ...

While shops are already crammed full of gifts for Christmas, it isn't always easy to find something for that special person.

This year why not give them a present that is interesting, informative and will also bring real benefits in terms of their physical, spiritual and mental health?

Walking is nothing new but with the recent focus on the importance of good mental health, it is being encouraged more than ever. Pilgrimage is also coming back into fashion and this Christmas you can combine the two in one gift.

The Cornish Celtic Way takes readers and walkers on a journey stretching from St Germans to St Michael's Mount. The 125-mile Cornish Celtic Way incorporates two ancient pilgrimage routes - The Saints Way and St Michael's Way - as well as parts of the South West Coastal Path. Those walking the route also have the option of staying in churches and other venues along the way as they collect stamps in their Cornish Celtic Way passport.



Devised by Revd Canon Nigel Marns based in Ludgvan, the Cornish Celtic Way is a wonderful route, meticulously researched, that can guide you through a spiritual journey of Cornwall. Not just churches (although there are many beautiful ones all along the route) but holy wells, standing stones, meeting places and simple pathways that have been walked and prayed over for centuries. It is designed to be something that can be done in one go or divided into manageable sections.

Nigel says: "The aim of the Cornish Celtic Way is to help anyone, of any age, who is interested in spirituality to explore and develop their faith in a different way. Having faith isn't about just going to a place of worship, it's about getting out and experiencing it in everyday life as well, taking it into your own hands."

For more information on the Cornish Celtic Way or to buy a book visit www.cornishcelticway.co.uk/

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER

- 3 Christingle & pizza**, St Michael's Church, Bude, 4pm.
- 5 Christmas Carols with Amici Voci**, Epiphany House, Truro, 7.30pm, £7.
- 6 Advent quiet day**, Epiphany House, Truro, suggested donation £15 including lunch. info@epiphanyhouse.co.uk, 01872 272249.
- 6 The Lambeth Conference 2020: The Past and Future of the Anglican Communion?** A lecture by the Canon Theologian, Chapter House, Truro Cathedral, 7pm, £5.
- 6 Expect a Miracle (poems)**, 10am - 4pm, £15.
- 7 Straight Paths, Quiet Day**, 10am - 4pm, Truro Baptist Church, Truro. T 01872 241984.
- 10 Visions of New Beginnings, Moments of divine revelation through the icons of Epiphany season**, Epiphany House, Truro, 10am - 4pm, £15.
- 13 - 24 Christmas Tree Festival**, St Columb Major Church, 10am - 4pm.
- 15 Sung Eucharist using the Book of Common Prayer**, St Michael's Church, Newquay, 10.30am.
- 17 Carol Service**, Epiphany House chapel, Truro, 2.30pm.
- 24 Live Nativity**, Egloshayle Church, 4pm.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES & EVENTS LISTINGS

Every year we ask parishes to send in Christmas services and events information.

The full list of what is on this December can be accessed [here](#).

To tell us about your Christmas events

[click here](#)

GET IN TOUCH

News story or a diary date to share? Call 01872 360037 Email comms@truro.anglican.org

OTHER LINKS

Maintenancebooker website & newsletter www.maintenancebooker.org.uk/
Historic England historicengland.org.uk/advice/caring-for-heritage/places-of-worship/maintenance/

GRANT SCHEME EXTENSION

The Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme has been extended to March 2021.

For more information click [here](#).

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