



# CHRISTMAS 2019 OUR NEWS

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## BISHOP PHILIP ISSUES PLEA FOR UNITY THIS CHRISTMAS

“ ... in our own small corner of the world, ... be peacemakers and not warmongers ... ”

The Bishop of Truro, the Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen, has issued a plea for unity this Christmas.

He said: “Whatever your views on politics, I’m sure you would agree that a divided society cannot be a happy society; and ours has been sadly divided in recent years.”

His message continues: “Unity is a very fitting theme for Christmas. One of our Anglican prayers often used at Midnight Mass says: ‘On this holy night, Heaven is come down to Earth and Earth is raised to Heaven.’ The birth of Jesus, who is both God and man, creates a touching place where heaven and earth meet, in unity. And in Jesus, God invites us to enter into a relationship, into union, with him.

“But we can’t stop there. God steps towards us in the baby of Bethlehem to draw us into union with him. And that also puts the onus on us to step towards others, and into unity with them.

“That can be a hard call. Jesus’ command to love our neighbour didn’t come with a caveat that we should love them just as long as we approve of them, or as long as they aren’t from a different part of the world, or look somehow different to us, or because they don’t share our faith, or as long as our views on Brexit don’t clash. It’s easy to be united with those you are like, but much harder to be at one with those who are very different.

“And that is the challenge to which we have to respond: in our own small corner of the world, to be peacemakers and not warmongers. In the times in which we live, that’s an urgent challenge. Let’s rise to it – together.”

### READ MORE

To read Bishop Philip’s full Christmas message, click [here](#).  
Or see Bishop Philip deliver his message by watching the [video](#).



## CHRISTMAS SERVICES & LAST MINUTE FESTIVE GIFTS THAT HELP OTHERS

If you are interested in attending a service this Christmas or are looking for a festive event to enjoy, the Diocese of Truro has a long list of what is happening, on our website.

Whether its a Midnight Mass or Christmas morning service or a festive market, you can find it all by clicking [here](#) or visiting [www.trurodiocese.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Christmas-services-2019.pdf](http://www.trurodiocese.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Christmas-services-2019.pdf)

If you are still looking for that last minute Christmas gift, there are plenty of option available from the Christmas Giving catalogue.

To see the full list of what’s available click [here](#) or visit [www.trurodiocese.org.uk/christmas-across-diocese/](http://www.trurodiocese.org.uk/christmas-across-diocese/)



## INSPIRING OTHERS IN EDUCATION

A Church of England primary school in Cornwall, featured in a national education magazine, is now providing support to other schools who are interested in modelling its innovative way of working.

St Mary's CE School in Truro appeared in a recent edition of *Headteacher Update* where head teacher Nicola Bray described how the school had successfully created its own curriculum. The article has now sparked interest from other faith schools across the country.

"The article was really well received and we have been contacted by head teachers of other faith schools for support with curriculum design as far afield as Surrey," says Nicola.

The feature had focused on St Mary's

decision to create a curriculum that matched the needs of its pupils and families as well as the school's location and environment. Nicola said: "The decision to write our own curriculum was not taken lightly. The leadership team spent six months researching different curriculum design before anything changed at the school.

"Our curriculum needed to have a Christian underpinning and be supportive of the Church of England's vision for education as well as reflecting our motto 'Active Children, Active Minds'.

"Allowing the children to steer the direction of their learning through interests and aspirations was key as was engaging staff and capitalising on their interests and skills."

[+ READ MORE HERE](#)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### JANUARY

**6** Filling Station with Patrick Sookhedeo, Central Methodist Church, Falmouth, 7.30pm.

### FEBRUARY

**15** 'The Place of Silence' reflective day, St Endellion Church, 10am - 3pm.

## 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](mailto:comms@truro.anglican.org)

## VACANCIES

All our vacancies are advertised via the website.

Visit

[www.trurodiocese.org.uk/vacancies/](http://www.trurodiocese.org.uk/vacancies/)

## ENVIRONMENT FOCUS: LOOKING FORWARD TO LENT WITH STUDY RESOURCES

There was a tremendous turnout at the Songs For Earth environment service which was held in Truro Cathedral in November. The service was jointly organised by Pippa Stilwell, Climate Ambassador for Cornwall Federation of Women's Institutes, Angela Renshaw from Cornwall Music Education Hub, the Diocese of Truro and Truro Cathedral. See the video [here](#).

During the service, Margaret Johnson from St Uny Church in Redruth and Linda Myles from Maryfield Church in Torpoint received Gold Green Church Kernow Awards on behalf of their churches.

In the **Ten Pledges**, we have the tools both to get ourselves ready and to leave a healthy world for future generations. As you engage with the pledges, please invite your church to join in with the **Green Church Kernow Awards Scheme**. For today's world this is a really golden opportunity for all of us in the church to be signs of Christian Hope.

One of the suggested actions under the scheme is to hold a study course in your church focusing on God's call to care for creation. Nationally, this is a focus for the Church of England during Lent 2020: the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book for 2020 is "Saying Yes to

Life" by Ruth Valerio, who has worked for Christian action over environmental issues for many years.

In the Diocese of Truro there is a new course, written by Revd Elly Sheard of the Diocesan Environment Core Group, now available on the diocesan website [here](#).

The course is bespoke to Cornwall and introduces churches to the issues involved, the biblical and theological resources of our tradition and to the Green Church Kernow Award Scheme, preparing and encouraging all of us to take action.

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