

# OUR NEWS

## JANUARY 2020



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## NEW BISHOP OF ST GERMANS ANNOUNCED BY DOWNING STREET

Downing Street has announced that the next Bishop of St Germans is to be the Revd Hugh Nelson.

Hugh is currently the parish priest of St Mary's, Goudhurst and Christ Church, Kilndown (known as GK Church), in Canterbury Diocese.

Prior to his ordination in 2009, Hugh was Director of L'Arche London, a Christian community in which people with and without learning disabilities live together and support one another.

As well as overseeing significant growth in his parish churches, Hugh has pioneered new initiatives in Kent, including a school of theology and a ground-breaking partnership between schools, local churches and a Christian charity to provide counselling to children and support to families.

Hugh chaired the team that developed Canterbury Diocese's strategy, and works on the national Church of England initiatives, Setting God's People Free and Growing Faith.

Hugh brings to the Diocese of Truro and the College of Bishops a passionate concern for people with learning disabilities; for children, young people and families, particularly those struggling with mental health issues;



a deep commitment to ecumenism; first-hand knowledge of the joys and challenges of growing the rural church; and a deep passion to see all people, young and old, in every community, know the life-changing impact of knowing the love of God in Jesus.

Hugh said: "I am honoured and delighted to have been appointed as the new Bishop of St Germans.

"The Christian faith has deep roots in Cornwall, and it will be my joy and privilege as bishop to enable those strong roots to continue to bear fruit today and in the future."

Welcoming his appointment, the Bishop of Truro, the Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen said: "I'm just delighted by his appointment and look forward so much to him joining us here in our adventure of Discovering God's Kingdom; Growing the Church."

Hugh and his family will move to live in the Diocese of Truro in April. He will be consecrated as a bishop in June, after which he will be formally welcomed to the diocese.

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## DIOCESAN SECRETARY TO LEAVE POST IN MARCH

Diocesan Secretary, Esther Pollard, will be stepping down in March after almost 12 years in post.

In a message to parishes, clergy and staff, the Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen said: "Esther has been a remarkable and tireless servant of our church and the diocese, and I know you will all join me in saying how very much she will be missed.

"Esther has done a great deal to help modernise the working of the diocese, and taken significant strides to ensure that we have remained in step with the ever-growing and complex demands of life as an employer and service-provider. The diocese would not be the organisation it is today without her enormous efforts, underpinned, as they are, by her strong faith and desire to serve God."

Following Esther's decision to resign, Revd Canon Simon Cade, currently Director of Education and Discipleship, will take on the role of acting diocesan secretary, for the rest of 2020 and possibly for some time into 2021. Katie Fitzsimmons will step up to the role of acting Diocesan Director of Education for this period also.

# DIOCESE REVIEW INTO PAST SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

All Church of England priests in Cornwall have been asked to check their records to ensure that all safeguarding concerns have been reported to the appropriate authorities.

They are required to take part and make a declaration in what is being called the Past Cases Review 2, which has been ordered by the House of Bishops.

The Bishop of Truro, the Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen, has written to all CofE clergy in parish ministry within the Diocese of Truro, asking them to check back through parish records. In parishes currently without a priest, the churchwardens are being asked to complete the review.

The previous past cases review, carried out in 2007, looked at all safeguarding complaints made against clergy in relation to children. The new review has been broadened in scope and will look at all complaints made against not only clergy but all church officials, and will also take in complaints that relate to vulnerable adults as well as children. It

will be carried out in all parishes within the Diocese of Truro, which includes the Isles of Scilly and two parishes in Devon.

Clergy are being asked to go back through their records and complete a declaration that all concerns and allegations have been dealt with appropriately. Any that are found not to have been reported to the relevant authorities will be reported now.

Bishop Philip said: "It is important we do everything we can to make our churches the safest places they can be. This review will help us to ensure that the concerns reported to our churches have been dealt with properly, and the care taken that people deserve."

[+ READ MORE](#)

## TRURO DIOCESAN BOARD OF FINANCE LTD MAKES LIVING WAGE COMMITMENT TO EMPLOYEES

The Truro Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd (TDBF) has been accredited as a Living Wage Employer. Our Living Wage commitment will see everyone working as employees of the Truro Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd receive a minimum hourly wage of £9.30. This rate is significantly higher than the government minimum for over 25s, which currently stands at £8.21 per hour.

In the South West over a fifth of all jobs (20%) pay less than the real Living Wage - around 456,000 jobs.

The real Living Wage is the only rate calculated according to the costs of living. It provides a voluntary benchmark for employers that wish to ensure their



staff earn a wage they can live on, not just the government minimum.

Bishop Philip said: "By adopting the Living Wage we, the trustees of the Truro Diocesan Board

of Finance, have signalled how much we value every person we employ. As a church we have a duty of care to our own staff to accord them the dignity that God gives us all. As such, the people who care for our elderly, our children, our churches, and our offices should be paid a real Living Wage.

"In an area such as Cornwall which has a high proportion of seasonal, low paid employment, we feel it is our duty to set an example to others."

## DIOCESAN DIRECTORY CHANGES & UPDATES

### LICENSED CLERGY

**Revd Emma Durose\*** has been licensed as Priest in Charge of St Just in Roseland and St Mawes. She is no longer Priest in Charge of Tregony with St Cuby and Cornelly.

**Revd Annabel King\*** has been licensed as House for Duty Associate Priest of Maker w Rame, Millbrook, St John and Torpoint. She is no longer an Assistant Curate of the Benefice of the Callington Cluster.

**Revd Dr Stephen Holmes** has now moved out of the diocese and is no longer Rector of Padstow, St Merryn & St Issey with St Petroc Minor.

**Revd Tony Stephens** has retired as Rector of the Benefice of the Callington Cluster.

\* Contact details can be found in the online directory at [trurodiocese.org.uk/directory-live/](http://trurodiocese.org.uk/directory-live/)



## DISABILITY CONFIDENT

The Truro Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd (TDBF) has achieved the first level of criteria to become Disability Confident Committed.

Disability Confident is a government initiative which works with employers to ensure that disabled people and those with long term health conditions have the opportunities to fulfil their potential and realise their aspirations.

To achieve the Committed level, the TDBF has agreed to the five Disability Confident core commitments:

- inclusive and accessible recruitment;
- communicating vacancies;
- offering an interview to disabled applicants who meet the essential minimum requirements of the role;
- providing reasonable adjustments
- supporting existing employees

The TDBF will now work towards the next level accreditation of Disability Confident Employer.

# INCLUSION - ISN'T THAT WHAT JESUS DID SO WELL?

Is there a difference between welcoming someone and making someone feel included? And if so, which should come first?

These are questions that Revd Dom Whitting asked himself when putting together the guide, Welcoming All God's People. As chair of the Equality and Diversity Committee for the Diocese of Truro, Dom spends a lot of time thinking about the dynamics of welcome and inclusion and, despite our best intentions, how painful it can be when we get it wrong.

"I think we can either be good at one or the other, and not easily both," says Dom. "We can make someone feel welcome but how can we include them going forward? Do we ask them to join a rota because we have a space to fill? That might make someone feel included, but not necessarily very welcome."

There is no pat answer, as each church is different, and each person walking through the door doing so for different reasons. So what are those reasons? To connect with God and others who share their faith? To connect with someone, anyone – are they perhaps lonely? Curious? Seeking something 'other' or just like the idea of being part of something in a historic building. Whatever the reasons, the welcome should be the same. Warm, generous and open – accepting people for whoever they are and whatever their reasons, with no judgement or barriers to a holy space and precious time with God.



By Charlie Macksey from his wonderful book *The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and the Horse*

With loneliness epidemic, churches, as community cornerstones, are ideally placed to combat the problem. Age UK estimate that over 1.4 million of over 75s are chronically lonely, yet, ironically it is the young in plain sight who are more likely to describe themselves as 'always or often lonely'.

In a society literally buzzing with ways to connect, too many are disconnected. Revd Liz Adekunle, Archdeacon of Hackney, said recently on Radio 4's Thought for the Day, "Over a third of young people feel they don't have anyone who believes in them."

How can the church respond? If we don't believe in them, how can we expect them to believe in a God who loves them?

**+ READ MORE**

## ADVICE TO USE 2020 IN FULL WHEN WRITING DATES

While many of us normally abbreviate years, for example by writing 2019 as "19", it is not advised to do so in 2020.

Writing just "20" allows people to modify the date backwards or forwards with a great deal of ease. When it comes to cheques and other important documents, it could lead to fraud.

So the advice is that if you are adding a date or signing a document with a date, ensure the full 2020 is used.

## DIOCESAN BOOK OF PRAYER SOCIETY WELCOMES YOU

Reports of the death of the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) have been greatly exaggerated. It is alive and well and growing in stature once more.

One simple book, one ageless liturgy whose words can be at one and the same time both humbling and inspirational; and whose poetry and seasonal rhythm alone provide order and a unique sense of peace that we all seek in an otherwise senseless world.

There are over [60 churches in Cornwall](#) that offer services that use the Book of Common Prayer and these are listed on the [Prayer Book Society's national website](#).

The Truro Diocesan Prayer Book Society is very active with events organised throughout the year. If you are interested in joining the Prayer Book Society, contact Canon Revd Hilary Spong, [hilaryspong@sent.com](mailto:hilaryspong@sent.com) or John St Brioc Hooper, [j.stbrioc@btinternet.com](mailto:j.stbrioc@btinternet.com) to find out more.

## PARISH TRAINING

There are a number of parish training courses coming up this year including:

- An Introduction to Employing Staff;
- Parish Administration: Meetings, Agendas & Records and;
- Mission-shaped Parochial Church Councils.

For more information click [here](#).



Pictured above: Lay Pastoral Ministers following their commissioning at St Thomas of Canterbury Church, Camelford in January. Also pictured, Archdeacon of Bodmin, the Ven Audrey Elkington and Revd David Seymour, the LPMs' trainer

# ENVIRONMENT

## THE GOOD NEWS? YOU CAN HELP COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

Despite the often depressing coverage of environmental issues around the world, here in the Diocese of Truro there is also lots of good news to celebrate.

In particular we can give thanks for the Ten Pledges, which enable us all to do something to combat climate change. Contrary to what many people think, doing the pledges can save you money rather than being expensive. Folk from St Cubert Church found that if you do Pledge 1 (buy home electricity generated from solar or wind) you can raise £50-£100 per household while also doing Mission! Watch a film [here](#) to find out more.

The appallingly destructive Australian bush-fires have worried many of us, but, again, the ten pledges allow us to release our frustration and fear, by engaging with actions that really make a difference. Each pledge will STOP emissions from going UP into the atmosphere and exacerbating this problem, as described [here](#). This would be a really helpful video to show both at home and at meetings to encourage everyone to realise that we can make a difference. Lent 2020 will be a particularly good time for each of us to engage with a pledge we haven't done and then to talk about it with friends and family.

Action is being stepped up across the whole Church of England. On February 12 the Environmental Working Group's climate motion at General Synod will call upon all parts of the Church of England to work to achieve year-on-year reductions in emissions to reach net zero by 2045. Please pray for the success of this initiative.


## ENVIRONMENT CHAMPION EVENTS TO TAKE PLACE IN MAY

Two Environment Champion events will take place in Torpoint and Mylor Bridge in May. These are for people interested in being enablers for their own and other churches to

### Make a difference, make a pledge, or two...

If you would like to take some practical steps towards making a difference then do as many of the top ten pledges below as you think you can achieve.

- Pledge ONE**  
I pledge to ring my electricity supplier over the next 24 hours and see if I can switch to green energy (if not I will find one).
- Pledge TWO**  
I pledge to buy local seasonal produce as much as possible – starting with at least 2 meals a week.
- Pledge THREE**  
I pledge to educate myself about the science and impacts of climate change.
- Pledge FOUR**  
I pledge to contact my MP and my friends and make these pledges too.
- Pledge FIVE**  
I pledge to walk, cycle, use public transport or register with <https://tftshare.com/0800 18999> to have to work or regular journey at least once a week.
- Pledge SIX**  
I pledge to work out my own carbon footprint using one of the many ways to use carbon calculators eg: <http://footprint.wwf.org.uk>
- Pledge SEVEN**  
I pledge to do a 'home energy check' to find out how I can save energy in my home. [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/resources/tools-calculators/home-energy-check](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/resources/tools-calculators/home-energy-check). If you don't have internet access the Energy Saving Trust on 0800 530 082.
- Pledge EIGHT**  
I pledge to turn my thermostat down or use a thermometer to reach the lowest comfortable temperature, typically between 18-21°C & think about putting on a jumper instead.
- Pledge NINE**  
I pledge to reduce my holiday air miles by 50%.
- Pledge TEN**  
I pledge to research 'Driving in a greener way' by googling research or by ringing up a driving instructor and booking a lesson to learn eco-driving ideas.



Climate  
VISION

As we engage individually with the Ten Pledges, so that means that we are also well-placed to invite others in our churches and the wider community to help achieve the **Green Church Kernow Awards**. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has acknowledged that, although churches all over the country face significant difficulties of various kinds, the importance of the climate change issue to everyone means that local churches are also well-placed to take a lead locally in tackling the problem. In the Ten Pledges and the GCK award scheme, we have the tools to do that – and to engage with the conversations and actions around all our communities that are already taking place.

As Myles Allen, one of the three greatest climate change scientists said recently: "Depressed, bored? It's real, it's serious and it's fixable!"

engage more deeply with the world's environmental challenges. For more information contact Luci Isaacson, Diocesan Environment Officer, on 01872 241239.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### FEBRUARY

**3 The Filling Station: Roy Hendy**, Penmorvah Manor Hotel, Budock Water, 7.30pm.

**5 Families for Children information session**, Epiphany House, Truro, 5pm – 7pm.

**8 The Saffron Quartet in aid of St Uny Church Project**, West Cornwall Golf Club, 7pm, More details [here](#)

**14 - 16 Individually guided retreat with Revd Leslie Attwood & Revd Jane Horton**, Epiphany House, Truro, 01872 272249.

**15 The Place of Silence reflective day led by Revd Jonathan Mosedale**, St Endellion Church, 10am. £10.

**28 All will be Well - an art & spirituality day**, Epiphany House, Truro, 01872 272249.

### SAVE THE DATE

**Beautiful Burial Ground Conferences**, two one day conferences by Caring for God's Acre., March 12 & March 26, Click [here](#) for info.

**March 20: Thomas Cranmer Commemoration Event**, Truro Cathedral, 3.30pm, £7.50.

**Sept 13: Bishop's Annual Environment Service**, St Mary's Church, Penzance, 3pm.

### GET IN TOUCH

News story or a diary date to share? Call 01872 360037 Email [comms@truro.anglican.org](mailto:comms@truro.anglican.org)

## FABRIC GRANT FUNDING EASIER FOR CHURCHES

Changes have been announced making it easier for parishes to apply for funding to support fabric repairs. During 2020 administration of the Wolfson Foundation funds for fabric repairs of churches will move from the Cathedral & Church Buildings Division of the Church of England to the National Churches Trust.

Parishes will be able to submit one application form and be considered for up to two fabric repair grants. The Church of England's conservation grants programmes administered by the Cathedral & Church Buildings Division (ChurchCare) will continue with its focus on conservation of historic interiors.

New applications for fabric repair grants should be sent to the National Churches Trust. More information [here](#). The next grant deadline is for [bells and bell frames](#) on Monday, February 17.

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