

North Cornwall
Cluster of Churches
Newsletter
January 2021



For the parishes of St Kew, St Endellion with St Peter's, Port Isaac
and St Minver with St Enodoc (Trebetherick) and St Michael (Porthilly)

www.northcornwallclusterofchurches.org.uk

Seeds of Hope

As we enter a New Year, many of us will be simply relieved that we can put 2020 behind us – a year which has brought so much suffering and changed our lives in all sorts of ways. But I hope as we look ahead we will also remember the amazing ways that we have seen people care for one another. I hope that we will remember the incredible hard work of all our key workers, who will still be working relentlessly for the good of others well into 2021. And I hope that we will remember those moments when we were able to pause, to focus on what really matters, to allow ourselves to be filled with love and gratitude. These things that we can recall from the wreckage of last year are the seeds of hope for us as we look ahead. These hard won lessons are what we will need to nurture if we are to grow hopefully into all that lies ahead. These are our seeds of hope:



The seed of love

One of the most important things that so many of us have been able to share in these difficult times is the importance of love. Our love for our families and friends has been challenged by not being able to meet, and yet for some, this has been a time when technology has brought us closer together. Our love for neighbours in our communities who are in need has been evident in the way that we have seen people reaching out to vulnerable people and doing all sorts of kind things to help. Our love for others that we do not know has even enabled us to make sacrifices for their good and not our own. This seed of love has the potential to enable us to grow so much hope in the year ahead if we allow it to fill us up with the knowledge of how deeply we are loved by the God of love.

The seed of thankfulness

So many of us have been full of gratitude for the hard work and kindness of others this year. I have been praying for all Emergency, Health and Social Care workers, Teachers, all those working to bring us food and essential services like water, electricity and communications, and of course the tireless researchers and government leaders seeking solutions in the face of the pandemic. But I have also been really grateful to people in the hard hit leisure and entertainment industry who have brought joy and fun to us in these difficult times. It would be wonderful to see this seed of thankfulness grow as we seek to value and appreciate the people who we have so often taken for granted.

The seed of time to reflect

I wonder how many of us have found that we have taken time to reflect on our lives and how we are living them and what really matters to us this year? Maybe this has led us to make different decisions, maybe it will be a seed that will grow as we move into a new year. Time simply to be, to be loved and to love, to be thankful and hopeful as Jesus teaches us to be.

HOLY HABIT- BIBLICAL TEACHING

“They devoted themselves to the apostle’s teaching”

A new year and some of you will have made resolutions but others will not, based on previous year’s failures to act on them! However, let’s try something at the start of 2021. For the next two months our Holy Habit comes from the very opening of that passage in Acts 2. 42-47. Those early disciples keen and eager to learn more and more about their faith sat at the feet of the apostles and listened as they recounted stories of the life of Jesus. The only writings they had back then were what we call the Old Testament, the Gospels yet to be written, and no letters to the early church.

How best do you learn? Are you a reader, a listener, a writer, a discussor, debater? Back then, those early disciples were brought up in an oral, listening tradition, stories, history recounted over and over again and handed down through the generations. Nowadays we have so many resources to hand we can be overwhelmed.

Over the next two months we will be focussing our Holy Habit on the bible, looking at different ways in which we can learn more and become better disciples. The bible - God’s story - a library of books, 66 in all, 39 in the OT and 27 in the NT, about 40 different authors, covering 1500 years in time. God’s story, the story of the world, the story of a nation, a story of Jesus and how he is the fulfilment of all those stories. But it is also our story and how we fit into that big story.

We will explore different ways of reading, of understanding what type of literature we are reading, be it story (true stories or stories which reveal truth), history, poetry, prose, essays, speeches, songs and more. There will be weekly suggestions to think about, and do if you wish. There will be a chance to join a group (probably still on Zoom) to look at the bible based on a 8 session course from the Bible Society.

As we study the bible the bible will study us. We will look at the ‘What’ the original writing and move it into the ‘So what’ how we apply it to our lives, our part of the story. And all in 2 months? Sorry no! The more you learn, the more you realise there is to learn. *David Elliott*

The Bible Course

An eight-session course helping you explore the world’s bestseller.

The Bible is a big and complicated book to read and for many it can be difficult to know where to start. Maybe you’ve been part of a Bible study group and want to build your confidence so you can study the Bible on your own, or maybe you need help connecting together the bits you’ve been reading. The Bible Course is a great resource, whether you are familiar with the Bible or just starting out.

The Bible Course helps you see how the books of the Bible are part of one big story.

Using a unique storyline, The Bible Course will show you how key events, books and characters fit together. The video teaching, course guide and daily readings will help you grow in confidence as you read the Bible for yourself. Acts as a great follow-on resource for those who have done introductory courses like Alpha and Christianity Explored.

This is an online course via zoom, which is very easy to use and you will be sent a link each week to join the group from the comfort of your own home.

We will start on Tuesday evenings from 26th January

Find more details at: www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/the-bible-course/

Contact Geraldine if you are interested in joining a group: gezzalou@aol.com 07957609085

Reverend Geraldine Ashton

January Newsletter: Alpha Course

At the beginning of the first lockdown Rose & I started an online Alpha Course, 16 weeks of zoom meetings, one pub meal out, one beach walk later we have had a wonderful time of discussion, friendship and growth in faith and life. God is good and has worked powerfully in the lives of all who took part in alpha. Here are some of their experiences in their own words:

"The first couple of meetings were technically challenging for all of us but this helped us gel as a group as we embraced the on-line technology! The Alpha course covers multiple sessions and takes us on a journey exploring our faith. The films were easy to watch. At the same time they also got us asking questions about our lives and for me, helped me to see things in a new light!"
Jan F.

"I was uncertain at first as I have done alpha several times before and been an alpha leader with my husband for an Elim church in Derbyshire. When my husband left me in 2010 I turned my back on the church and on God. As soon as I started the Alpha course I realised I may have turned my back on God but he had remained with me and had always had his hand on my shoulder. I now have a newer stronger relationship with God than before and a deeper understanding. Over the weeks with alpha I found questions being answered and a longing to know God and serve him. I now feel excited for my future and for where my journey with God will take me. It is do wonderful to be part of a church family again with all the new people I have met."
Helen T.

"I loved the Alpha course, it was enlightening, engaging and I came away from each Alpha session feeling on top of the world and feeling so uplifted that the world just seemed a brighter place. The Alpha presenters, Nicky Gumbel, Toby & Gemma were fantastic and delivered each session with passion and enthusiasm. My parents were atheists and religion was frowned upon by my family but I'm so glad I gave Alpha a go. I looked forward to our weekly Alpha sessions, it strengthened my faith and I felt such a sense of belonging that it really felt like I was "coming home". Despite our Alpha sessions being on zoom there was a wonderful rapport within our group, I have made some wonderful friends and I take away so many happy memories of our Alpha sessions."
Helen W.

I was reminded of important truths about God and faith, which re-kindled by closeness to Him. I also met new friends, having the opportunity to listen and know them more. These relationships will last over time. And may faith is stronger. o, Alpha? The best! CT.

God is at work! Praise God! Let us be encouraged and continue to pray for our participants as they move into their discipleship groups.

With every blessing. Geraldine and Rose.



WORSHIP & PRAYER FROM HOME

DOWNLOAD RESOURCES

www.northcornwallclusterofchurches.org.uk

ONLINE SERVICES

www.northcornwallclusterofchurches.org.uk



Contact information

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01208 862550

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01208 862665

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Next issue

The deadline for text and or pictures* for the February issue is:

18th January 2021

* Please note that permission is required for people in photographs and written parental consent for children.

Cluster services and Events - January 2021

Date	St Kew	St Peter's	St Endellion	St Minver	St Enodoc	St Michael
Sunday 3 Epiphany	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Worship	11am Eucharist	11am Holy Communion	3pm Evensong	6pm Evensong
Online Service: Tuesday 5th January - Evensong						
Sunday 10 Baptism of Christ	9.30am Morning Worship	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Eucharist	11am Morning Worship	3pm Evensong	6pm Evensong
Online Service: Tuesday 12th January – Morning Worship						
Sunday 17	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Worship	11am Eucharist	11am Holy Communion	3pm Evensong	6pm Evensong
Online Service: Tuesday 19th January – Morning Worship						
Sunday 24	9.30am Morning Worship	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Eucharist	11am Morning Worship	3pm Holy Communion	6pm Evensong
Online Service: Tuesday 26th January – Morning Worship						
Sunday 31 Candlemas	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Eucharist	11am Holy Communion	3pm Evensong	6pm Evensong
Online Service: Tuesday 2nd February – Evensong						

Correct at time of printing. Please check weekly pew sheets for more information



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