

North Cornwall Cluster of Churches

Newsletter

February 2022



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

Please take this copy home

Looking Ahead

As we say goodbye to Elizabeth, Michael & the girls I am so thankful to God for their time with us, the ministry, service, and gifts they have so generously shared with us, and indeed the blessing they have been as agents of change within our cluster.

As I sit here surrounded by a variety of files and projects which have temporarily been entrusted to me during this time of vacancy, I am probably more aware than most about the amount of work Elizabeth has done for us.

This past year we have also said goodbye to Marcus Jones, our children & family leader and to Rose Jones as she faces the joys and challenges of parenthood during her maternity leave.

So where does that leave us, you might well ask? To be sure, there is no vacuum, no void to fill, we do not need to be anxious but at peace, trusting the Lord with all our hearts & not leaning on our own understanding.

After careful consideration I think it is a time of great opportunity for us. Opportunity to work together in teams, opportunity to seek God's will for our future, opportunity to deepen our faith through discipleship, study, and prayer.

It is also an opportunity to recognise spiritual and practical gifts held by members of our congregations and to teach, train, equip and release others into ministry.

It is of course an opportunity for us to give thanks for the faithfulness of our retired clergy, readers and church wardens, valuable team members and a blessing to us all.

Perhaps the biggest opportunity for us in the months ahead is to look afresh at what is fruitful and sustainable within our cluster as we embrace our deanery 'On the way' process. This will be led in by Rev'd Paul Holley, our rural dean. I would encourage everyone to get involved in this process and prayerfully seek God's guidance for our future vision and mission. For without a vision, we will perish.

My hope is that during this time of vacancy we will draw together, as Christians should, we will work together in love, laying down our preferences and humbly seeking God's will for our future. My hope is also that we will be surprised by God and his mighty power as we are led by the Holy Spirit, and that the opportunities we receive will bring us great joy and blessing in the Lord and unity in our fellowship with each other.

With Every Blessing. Rev'd Geraldine.

Thank you from Revd Elizabeth

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the incredibly generous leaving gift, and for all your cards and other gifts as well. It has been a privilege to travel with you all these last few years. Thank you for all your kindness to me and to the whole family. We will miss you all! With my continuing prayers, Elizabeth

From Covetous Old Sinner to Whole-Life Disciple

‘Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, Scrooge. A squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner!’

If you can read those lines without hearing Gonzo the Great’s voice in your head, you’re more literary than I. Muppet or not, you’ve got to hand it to old Charlie Dickens – he really could write a sentence.



The funny thing, though, is that so could lots of people. In Victorian Britain, morality tales like *A Christmas Carol* were a penny a dozen, sometimes literally. The market was flooded with weepy ne’er-do-wells teaching folk the error of their ways. And how many of these good, Christian stories do you know today? That’s right: none.

There’s no denying *A Christmas Carol* is a particularly good example of the genre. Even after a lifetime of watching and reading it, Dickens’ easy flourishes still dazzle me. But that doesn’t really explain why it’s the only Christian morality tale to resonate with vast swathes of post-Christian Britain. It’s like finding a Gregorian chant in the Top 10. How?

By way of an answer, here’s another Gonzo/Dickens chestnut:

‘Scrooge became as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man, as the good old city knew’.

Scrooge, miser of misers, extortionist and moneylender, is redeemed. He’s transformed and transforms the lives of others. But he keeps his job. He keeps his position. He keeps his connections.

In other words, he makes a difference through his work, friendships, and status, not in spite of them. He doesn’t give it all up and become a preacher. He becomes a good friend, a good master, and a good man, right where he is.

You could read this as a cynical loophole left for Dickens’ affluent readers. But in *Scrooge* we hear echoes of that other transformed financier: Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10). When Jesus moved his heart, he vowed to give away half his possessions and, if he’d cheated anyone, repay them four times over. But he didn’t pack in his job. He recognised he could do God’s work even as a tax collector.

That’s why *Scrooge*’s tale continues to resonate. Because, like him, we were created to join in God’s purposes in the rich variety of life, in work and productivity as well as in quiet prayer. It’s what we yearn for, whether we profess faith or not.

Wherever you find yourself this year, may you know you’re working with the King.

Josh Hinton, Marketing and Editorial Lead, LICC

New challenges for St Peter's Church

At the end of January the North Cornwall Cluster of Churches will be without a resident Vicar when Rev Elizabeth Wild leaves. We are very fortunate to have three retired Vicars, Judith Pollinger, Corinne Tournay and Andrew Lewis, who with our Curate Geraldine Aston will continue to take all the regular services until a new Vicar is appointed.

December was a busy month at St Peter's. An enjoyable afternoon was held at Port Isaac School when all the children had the opportunity to make Christingles. It was a lovely sight to see over 60 children holding lighted Christingles and there was a sigh of relief from the adults when the candles were blown out.

Members of the congregation and the Heritage Group decorated several trees in the church and once more Pictures of Elvis graced Francis Larkin's tree. It was our privilege again to have the Village Christmas tree in front of church. The Port Isaac Chorale sang at the Candlelit Carol Service and it was a pleasure to be warm due to the new heating system. Wine and refreshments were served after the service.

On Christmas Eve a Christingle Service was held with many of the children being of Nursery age. They certainly enjoyed the sweets that were on the Christingles. Later that night we held our traditional Communion Service.

When Covid restrictions are lifted the Church hopes to run activities during the the day for the benefit of everyone and to finally make full use of our new refurbishment. We continue to work with the Heritage group and their exhibition certainly brings a lot of visitors to our lovely church.

Pat Pearson, Chapel Warden

Book Review

I did some reading on holiday recently & I think this is one of the best testimony books I have read for ages, thought provoking, challenging and such a relief! Enjoy! Rev'd Geraldine.

From New York Times bestselling author Rachel Held Evans: a must-read for anyone on the journey of doubt, deconstruction, and ultimately faith reborn.

Eighty years after the Scopes Monkey Trial made a spectacle of Christian fundamentalism and brought national attention to her hometown, Rachel Held Evans faced a trial of her own when she began to have doubts about her faith.

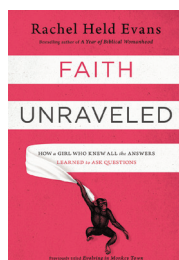
In *Faith Unraveled*, Rachel recounts growing up in a culture obsessed with apologetics, struggling as her own faith unraveled one unexpected question at a time.

In order for her faith to survive, Rachel realizes, it must adapt to change and evolve. Using as an illustration her own spiritual journey from certainty to doubt to faith, Evans challenges you to disentangle your faith from false fundamentals and to trust in a God who is big enough to handle your tough questions.

In a changing cultural environment where new ideas seem to threaten the safety and security of the faith, *Faith Unraveled* is a profoundly moving, fearlessly honest, and relentlessly hopeful story of survival.

It would be great to resume our book review article in the newsletter so please do share any books you have read that encourage, challenge or deepen your faith in any way.

Rev'd Geraldine Ashton



Introduction to the On the Way programme



ON THE WAY

Led by Rev'd Paul Holley

Members of our churches across the deanery gathered in Egloshayle Church on the 22nd November to hear a presentation from Bishop Hugh about the diocesan programme, On the Way. This is designed to address the fruitfulness and sustainability of our churches so that we can plan for the future with confidence.

There is a lot of discussion in the media about the future of parish churches. In this diocese our bishops feel strongly that it is up to the parishes in their clusters to determine their path ahead. There is no central plan for reorganisation. On the Way provides a framework for assessing our situation and some parameters within which decisions should be made. Thus we have a degree of autonomy to make our plans.

We are committed to facilitating a conversation across the deanery that allows for all voices to be heard. We have the benefit of two external facilitators, Revd Canon Anne Brown and Charlotte Irwin from our neighbouring deanery in Pydar. We shall recruit some additional facilitators, both ordained and lay, to carry out an initial project. Through January and February each of the 6 clusters of parishes will review and present their existing activities. We want to uncover what we believe are many productive and fruitful channels of mission and ministry amongst us. We are very much looking forward to sharing this picture within the deanery. We anticipate it will be a great encouragement.

Having done this we might ask whether we are missing significant opportunities amongst the communities we serve. We might send out surveys. We shall review data about living conditions. Above all we shall ask whether we are doing enough to share light and hope with the most vulnerable amongst us.

In due course we shall discuss the financing of ministry. If we want each community to be well served, how might we resource this?

Those are the broad brush-strokes because we are not committing ourselves to a fixed programme. We want to gather insights from the first stage in order to inform what comes next.

To be frank, this is a very significant programme of review. Our capacities to be church in our communities are under growing strain, both in terms of volunteers and finances. We aren't going to slip quietly under the radar whilst diocesan finance is reaching a critical tipping point. We would value your participation so that we can be confident of our path ahead.

For more information about 'On the Way' please see the diocesan website:
<https://trurodiocese.org.uk/about-us/on-the-way/>

Upcoming meetings and regular updates about 'On the Way' will be advertised on our pew sheets. All are welcome to be involved.

Rev'd Geraldine



ENDELIENTA

Arts and Spirituality in North Cornwall

Jenny Dyson & Freddie Brown

Saturday 19th February, 7.30pm £10

Jenny studied at the Royal Northern College of Music under Richard Davis (Principle flute, BBC Philharmonic) and Joanne Boddington (Hallé). She has received many awards and was a finalist in the prestigious RNCM Gold Medal Soloist Competition in 2013. Cornwall-born Frederick Brown is a pianist, conductor and répétiteur. He trained at the University of Cambridge, the Royal Academy of Music and the National Opera Studio.



Vinland by Jack Dean & Company

Saturday 26th February, 2pm, St Endellion
Pay What You Decide

Set sail with Freydis and her son Snorri on a Viking adventure imaginatively brought to life through storytelling, animation and music. Join them in this strange new land where they come face to face with ghosts, monsters and wild gooseberries. Vinland retells the incredible historical tale of the Vikings last journey to North America inspired by the Viking sagas of Erik the Red.



To book a ticket in advance please book a free ticket online and bring cash on the day. Supported by Arts Council England & Artsdepot.

Make Club Family Workshop – Viking Arts

Saturday 26th February, 10pm-12pm, St Endellion Parish Hall, £5 per family

This month our Make Club is taking its inspiration from the Vikings. Make your own shield, helmet and clay rune pendant, in preparation for the Jack Dean and Company's family theatre show Vinland which we are hosting at St Endellion Church at 2pm. The Make Club is a fun space for all the family to explore, create and get messy.

Knowing Your Herods (Reflective Day)

Saturday 19th February, 10am-3pm Andrew
Lewis – £10

We have all heard of the Massacre of the Innocents by King Herod. But how did he become King of the Jews? Weren't the Romans in charge? And how is he connected with the Herod who married his brother's wife and put John the Baptist to death? And what can we usefully learn about the writing of Scripture and its message from all this?



PERCEVAL INSTITUTE
MONTHLY 1st FRIDAY

JOIN US @

THE CHATTER & NATTER CAFE

10.30 -12 noon

PERCEVAL INSTITUTE
MONTHLY 3rd SATURDAY

JOIN US FOR

THE NOSTALGIA CAFE

2 - 4 pm

Refreshment and
Entertainment

To help loneliness in
a secure setting.

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St Peter's: Pat Pearson
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Ruth Varcoe
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Mick Sumra
01208 862550

St Enodoc

Bill Nimmo
01208 862665

St Michael

Jane Pain
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Next issue

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

12th February 2022

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

Cluster services and Events - February 2022

Date	St Kew	St Peter's	St Endellion	St Minver	St Enodoc	St Michael
Sunday 6	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Worship	11am Eucharist	11am United Service Holy Communion		
Sunday 13	9.30am Morning Worship	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Eucharist	11am Morning Worship	3pm Baptism	6pm Evensong
Sunday 20	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Worship	11am Eucharist	11am Holy Communion	3pm Evensong	6pm Evensong
Sunday 27	9.30am Morning Worship	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Eucharist	11am Morning Worship	3pm Holy Communion	6pm Evensong
Weekly Services: 8.30am Tuesday Holy Communion (BCP) St Endellion						

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



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