



CHURCHES
TOGETHER
CORNWALL

inspiring unity
sharing our gifts

Cornubia : Land of the Saints

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BECOMING BETTER TOGETHER

Churches Together in Cornwall

Annual Report

2025-26

Churches Together in Cornwall Executive 2025/26

Charity Number – 1053899

PRESIDENTS - TRUSTEES

REVEREND DR DAN HAYLETT (Chair) – Methodist
MAJOR PAUL BILLARD – Salvation Army
REVEREND DAVID DOWNING – United Reformed
RIGHT REVEREND NICHOLAS HUDSON – Roman Catholic *[from 29.11.25]*
REVEREND NIKITAS LANTSBERY – Greek Orthodox
REVEREND BENEDICT RAMSDEN – Russian Orthodox
REVEREND CARL SMETHURST – Baptist
GEOFF WATSON – Quakers *[until 31.1.26]* then *vacant*
RIGHT REVEREND DAVID WILLIAMS – Anglican *[from 17.05.25]*

DENOMINATIONAL ECUMENICAL OFFICERS

REVEREND PAUL ANDREW – Roman Catholic
REVEREND RAY BORRETT – Methodist *[until 31.7.25]* then *vacant*
*REVEREND ELIZABETH FOOT – Anglican (Chair, Landévennec Pilgrimage WP)
REVEREND MATT NOBLE – Baptist *[until 31.1.26]* then *vacant*
MAJOR SUSAN TIDBALL – Salvation Army *[until 31.7.25]* then *vacant*
GEOFF WATSON – Quakers *[until 31.1.26]* then *vacant*

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

*DONNA BIRRELL (Vice-Chair) – Religious Broadcasting
CLINTON SEALY – Transformation Cornwall
REVEREND DEREK COLLINS – Epiphany Network
DAVID HART – Christian Aid South West
RIGHT REVEREND HUGH NELSON – Bishop of St Germans *[until 31.12.25]*
GEMMA TRACEY – Co-ordinating Chaplain, University Multi Faith Chaplaincy
a representative from Cornwall Churches Environment Group, on rota *[until 31.12.25]*

CO-ORDINATOR (COUNTY ECUMENICAL OFFICER)

*KATHY POPE – Association of Interchurch Families, Cornwall Faith Forum

TREASURER

*SHELLEY PORTER – Royal Cornwall Show Working Party

EDITOR

*RICHARD CARD

* = *Steering Group member*

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CTC Co-ordinator Report 2025-26

Dynamic, challenging and developmental seem appropriate adjectives to describe the last year of Churches Together in Cornwall; we have prayed and worked for Christian unity so that in Jesus' words: 'the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me (John 17:23).



This year has been **dynamic** because new opportunities have presented themselves: Invitations to present at the Cornwall Methodist Women in Britain awaydays, national Churches Together in England Ecumenical Officers' Meeting, and to students at Spiritus Theological College. All of these meetings have brought new connections, great joy

and learning from those we met.

More opportunities also presented themselves as:

- Interviews for CHAOS Radio. (Community Helping All Of Society which supports people who are particularly marginalised and vulnerable by offering opportunities to learn new skills, empowerment and value).
- Being invited to share at a local church Women's Fellowship and a warm welcome at the regular Salvation Army coffee mornings.
- Further afield invitations to visit Churches/Christians Together groups and organisations have ranged from Bude to Camborne, and in the coming weeks, will include Newquay and Truro.

The last year has been particularly rewarding in building relationships between CTC and previously underrepresented churches, notably involvement in planning the Devon and Cornwall Unity Summit in February 2026. This was spearheaded by the Gather Movement while including leaders from a number of evangelical and independent churches. The Summit (in Plymouth) invited excellent speakers and was very well received. These links have also enabled inclusion in the Cornwall Church Leaders Prayer Meetings where, once again, there is the opportunity to build relationships and understanding.

Challenges have related to promoting the continuation and uptake of ecumenical opportunities which include the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Thy Kingdom Come and South West Awake. All of these are greatly valued and appreciated by

those who engage or attend but can also be neglected and overlooked as well. It is though inspirational when local groups thrive by habitually organising events, services and social action initiatives together with fellow churches in their community. Something that might begin as an effort to involve others can become 'the way we do things around here' so that everyone benefits and unity between Christians grows organically. Differences become gifts to one another, promoting learning and a valuing of diverse traditions. There is however much work to do and sometimes co-operation is impeded by perceptions of doctrinal barriers, imbalances in resources or preferring to stay within a particular tradition or church.

The last year has also certainly been blessed with **developments** and growing engagement, for example:

- Regional County Ecumenical Officers (Devon, Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire)
- Cornwall Lived Experience Partnership (has enabled valuable links with a wide range of charities and CICs, although as we end the year activity is temporarily suspended)
- Welcoming new Bishops: Bishop David Williams as the Anglican Bishop of Truro and Bishop Nicholas Hudson, Roman Catholic Bishop of Plymouth.
- Connecting with one of our Cornwall Members of Parliament
- Continuing to work with Transformation Cornwall, Christian Aid and others
- Attending meetings of Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum, Modern Slavery Forum, Safer Cornwall Partnership, Truro Diocesan Synod (as an observer) and the Holocaust Memorial Day in Truro Cathedral

Looking ahead we are supporting the re-emergence of a Cornwall Chaplaincy Support Network, and remain hopeful that this will become established. Once again, our major, county-wide, events are in an advanced stage of planning:

- Pentecost at the Pit (Gwennap Pit)
- Royal Cornwall Show Churches Tent
- Creation Fest



with other, but equally valued local events definitely in our calendar.

While we were sorry that the Cornwall Creation Care Group no longer meets, we have been able to welcome the newly appointed Truro Diocesan Environmental Officer and look forward to positive engagement. The Pilgrimage Resource Pack and Spiritual Conversations Guide remain available although not well used as yet, so we are considering reviewing, re-designing and re-launching.

Cornwall Faith Covenant deserves a particular mention for the following reasons:

- Cornwall is the first wholly rural county to have signed a Faith Covenant (between Cornwall Council, Cornwall Faith Forum and Churches Together in Cornwall)
- As a result, in 2025, Phase 1 Faith Literacy Training was delivered to Cornwall Council staff as a series of online sessions. Phase 2 has begun and will be a series of podcasts available to a wider audience
- Social Action Mapping of faith-based services available in communities – awareness is being raised and a more formal piece of work proposed. We are hopeful that this will be progressed during 2026
- Bespoke training session at Cornwall Children’s Hospice and current planning to meet the needs of the Cornwall Registration Service
- Development of a Faith Response Group for Emergency Planning
- Engagement with Elected Members, particularly at the signing anniversary market place event
- Further information can be found at:
<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/people-and-communities/equality-and-diversity/faith-covenant-for-cornwall/>
<https://www.faithaction.net/working-with-you/health-and-care/info/faith-covenant/>

Finally, we look forward to 2026/27, to the hope of new opportunities, developing those already begun and welcoming challenges as well. We are certainly better together and know that unity is both a gift and a journey, a pilgrimage which requires effort while bringing great rewards. Unity, it seems, can grow most beautifully in the small places, between individuals and local churches, quietly and powerfully where the rich diversity of traditions and expressions is valued, respected and celebrated. As such the CTC Church Leaders and Members’ Covenant is an appropriate expression of this, so we continue to encourage everyone to reflect and sign (see below).

We have much to be thankful for during the last year and can be confident that we will always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks... and give the reason for the hope that is within us (ref 1 Peter 3:15).

Kathy Pope

CTC Co-ordinator

March 2026

Churches at Work in Cornwall

Selections from our Facebook feed – follow us on

www.facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherInCornwall

Murmuration *an interactive experience*
St Nicholas Church, West Looe
October 19th – November 2nd
11am – 4pm free entry. All ages welcome

Cornish Christmas Giving Catalogue 2025
Give a gift of hope this Christmas
HH Hidden Help
Including Hidden Help.

PRAY FOR REVIVAL IN WEST CORNWALL
3 NIGHTS OF PRAYER | 3 LOCATIONS | 7PM STARTS
MONDAY 22nd SEPT | MEET AT ST THOMAS CHURCH, HEAMOOD, TR18 3JD TO PRAYER WALK AROUND HEAMOOD.
THURSDAY 25th SEPT | MEET AT ST PIRANS HALL, GOLDBURNES, TR10 5LF TO PRAYER WALK AROUND THE AREA.
FRIDAY 26th SEPT | MEET AT HELSTON LIGHT & LIFE CHURCH, HELSTON, TR13 0LW FOR AN EVENING OF WORSHIP AND PRAYER.

DWELL CAFE
Delicious, freshly made food available, with free parking, & discounts for OAPs, Students and Blue Light holders.

LIGHT FEST
5:00pm - 6:30pm
No booking necessary
Hosted by white river community church & ST AUSTELL
Crafts, Games, Neon Silent Disco, Refreshments, Toddler Playzone & more!
FRIDAY 31st OCTOBER at WHITE RIVER COMMUNITY CHURCH
All ages welcome! FREE!

Prayers For Peace
Come and pray for our town and our world
Friday 19th September 10.30am
The Parade, Liskeard
CHURCHES TOGETHER CORNWALL Inspiring unity sharing our gifts

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Prayer for COP30

Grief is hard.
Death can impact all of life.

The Bereavement Journey
a place to talk

7 Sessions of films and discussion
for anyone bereaved anytime

Topics include:

- Attachment, separation and loss
- The pain and responses of grief
- Anger and guilt
- Coping with others' reactions
- Delayed and suppressed grief
- Adjusting to change
- Moving forward healthily
- Faith questions – a Christian perspective (optional)

Running soon:
STARTING ON:
Tuesday 23rd September,
1pm - 3pm

Venue: Mount Charles Methodist Church, Victoria Road St Austell PL25 4QF (free parking at the rear)

BOOKINGS/ ENQUIRIES... please call or text Jan on 07595165082 OR email: pertbloom@hotmail.co.uk

To find out more visit:
thebereavementjourney.org

IT'S FREE. TO ATTEND BUT PLACES NEED TO BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE

CHRISTMAS DAY

Christmas Dinner

25th December 2025
11am - 2:30pm eating at 12:30pm

St. Petroc's Parish Centre

Everyone is welcome

Donations are welcome

Book your place by scanning the QR code or by sending a message to Revd Elaine

Christmas Day Community Care (No Attendance Registration - 2025)

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

JOY

EVENT

The South West Gather Summit

Connect Inspire Dream Encourage

4th FEB (12PM) TO 5th FEB (2PM) 2026

METHODIST CENTRAL HALL, PLYMOUTH

LC Launceston Community Church

HALF TERM FAMILY

Tuesday, 28th October
10am - 11.30am

Fun!

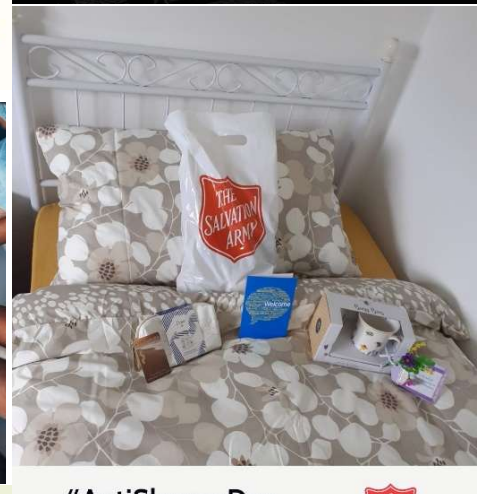
Crafts, Games, Snacks, Story time
Free for Everyone

Book online: www.launcestoncommunitychurch.co.uk

SOUTH WEST AGAINST SLAVERY DAY

Wed 15 Oct 25
10am - 4pm
Fairwinds Community Hub, Falmouth

Sparrows TRANSFORMATION CORNWALL



#AntiSlaveryDay
18th October 2025

THE SALVATION ARMY

Inter Faith Week 2025

Community: Together we serve

Serving others, sharing values, building belonging

9-16 November

SEASON OF CREATION

CELEBRATION GUIDE 2025

PEACE WITH CREATION

WEDNESDAY 24th DECEMBER 4:00 PM
@ HOLY TRINITY CHURCH ST AUSTELL

CHRISTINGLE

SCRATCH NATIVITY

COME DRESSED AS A CHARACTER FROM THE NATIVITY!

ANNOUNCEMENT

NightChurch

Wednesday 7th January
6pm to 9pm

From Monday 12th January
NightChurch will be every Monday and
Wednesday 6pm to 9pm.

All are welcome!

CTC Strategy Infographic 2026-27

Where we are now

Key Stakeholders:

- Christians in Cornwall
- Churches in Cornwall
- Local CT Groups
- Church/Christian Leaders

Key Relationships

- Local groups, Regional CEOs, CTE
- Voluntary organisations (eg Transformation Cornwall, Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum, Cornwall Faith Forum
- Relevant public bodies - Cornwall Council, Universities
- Diocese of Truro (Anglican), South West Methodist District, Diocese of Plymouth (RC), Gather Movement

Supporting Social Action

- Environment – Diocese of Truro, Caritas, Methodist District, Quakers
- Cornwall Chaplaincy Support Network
- Partnership with - Transformation Cornwall, Christian Aid, Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum, Caritas and more...

County Activities

- Royal Cornwall Show
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- Creation Fest
- Thy Kingdom Come
- Pentecost at the Pit and more...

CTC Strategy Infographic 2026-27

Inspiring unity, sharing our gifts for the people of Cornwall

- Proclaiming
- Developing and Nurturing
- Serving
- Transforming

Where do we want to be?

Becoming Better Together - priorities

- Information sharing
- Connecting – meeting, praying and worshipping
- Shared social action for justice and peace
- Exploring together – using principles of receptive ecumenism
- Reaching out to underrepresented churches and groups
- Promoting CTC Leaders and Members' Covenant

Growing a strategy – Proclaiming, Developing, Nurturing, Serving and Transforming

- Inclusion – hearing and reaching everyone
- Growing – diversity and links: local/regional/national/international through county and regional structures/pilgrimages/sharing expertise
- Investing – capacity building and partnerships

How are we getting there?

Achievements 2025-6

- Every CTC Exec. Meeting – open and welcoming to all
- Cornwall Faith Covenant – Phase 2 training programme begun; faith-based social action mapping progressed
- Successful contribution to Gather South West Unity Summit 2026
- Further outreach to CT groups and regional networks
- CTC Editorial Group and Guidelines implemented
- Spiritual Conversations and Pilgrimage Resource Pack – launched

Looking ahead 2026-27

- Cornwall Faith Covenant – Phase 2 Faith Literacy Training complete; bespoke training developed. Faith-based Social Action Mapping available and promoted
- Further outreach to local CT groups and regional networks
- Raise profile of CTC through active engagement with:
 - CC – Cornwall Faith Covenant
 - Outreach and contributing to events
 - Exploration of county-wide event to promote learning and sharing for peace and justice
 - And more..



CTC Church Leaders and Members' Covenant

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CORNWALL

CHURCH LEADERS AND MEMBERS' COVENANT

27TH JANUARY 2024

As Leaders and Members of Christian Churches, Groups and Communities in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly:

We give thanks to God for the way in which Christians from different traditions have grown together - through worshipping and serving, fellowship and learning, sharing both gifts and differences in love.

We give thanks for the role of Churches Together in Cornwall, and all of the Churches and Christians Together groups, as we grow positive relationships where unity can increase.

We lament that there are still issues which divide us and we repent that we damage the Body of Christ, weakening our witness to communities in Cornwall.

We rejoice in the diversity of our traditions that enrich us all, as we journey together.

We celebrate the heritage of Cornwall which we share in our holy places, our welcome to one and all, and renewed tradition of pilgrimage.

We commit to share our gifts freely, and value each other's treasures, as we learn and grow in Christ. Together we will proclaim the Good News through evangelisation and mission as we seek to deepen local relationships.

We commit to working for God's kingdom through better understanding and closer co-operation.

Together we will serve the people of Cornwall through positive social action and work for climate justice, caring equally for our common home and those who experience disadvantage.

We re-dedicate ourselves and our churches to working towards the fullness of unity for which Christ prayed, through the power of the Holy Spirit and to the praise and glory of God.

A Prayer for Unity

*For the unity we share in the body of Christ,
For the riches of our diverse traditions and expressions,
For the gifts of difference that we offer to one another,
We are thankful.*

*When we forget that we all grow on one vine,
When we allow our diversity to become a source of conflict,
When we let our differences divide us,
We lament.*

*As we care for this one Earth together,
As we offer the love of God to our neighbour, together
We rejoice and give thanks together to the One who is
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of us all.*

Amen

Kathy Pope, CTC Co-ordinator



**ALL CHRISTIANS IN CORNWALL
ARE INVITED TO SIGN THE
COVENANT OVERLEAF**

**Add your signature online:
scan QR code or visit:
bit.ly/CTCovenant**



or complete this form:

First Name	
Surname	
Postcode	
Church / Denomination / Christian Group	
Role or Position (optional)	
Contact Email (optional)	
Contact Phone (optional)	

then scan and email to ctclead@gmail.com

or post to CTC Co-ordinator, 10 The Green, ST AUSTELL, PL25 4TB

**Contact details will be used only to inform you of the progress of this covenant and will not be published
please check this box if you would prefer to remain anonymous**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

© Churches Together in Cornwall 2024

Reports from some of the groups we work with:

Transformation Cornwall

**TRANSFORMATION
CORNWALL⁺**

Strengthening Faith Based Social Action in Cornwall

This year has been one of deep listening, practical action, and standing alongside the churches and community groups who continue to hold so many people through incredibly tough times. Transformation Cornwall's work remains rooted in the simple belief that when communities are supported, connected, and equipped, they can change lives in ways that are both profound and quietly powerful.

Across 2025–26, we have:

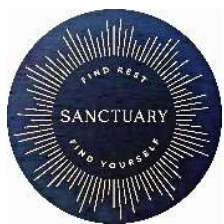
- Walked with churches and community groups as they respond daily to poverty, isolation, food insecurity, and the emotional strain many families are carrying.
- Provided hands-on support with funding, governance, safeguarding, and project development — the unglamorous but essential work that helps keep doors open and people safe.
- Strengthened relationships across Cornwall's VCSE sector, helping build closer connections between churches, charities, community organisations, health partners, and statutory services.
- Worked collaboratively through the Cornwall Faith Forum, including co-hosting the Cornwall Poverty Forum, creating space for honest conversation, shared learning, and coordinated responses to the challenges communities are facing.
- Hosted our annual Meet the Funders event, bringing churches and community groups together with funding organisations to build relationships, demystify funding processes, and support local initiatives to grow and sustain their work.
- Amplified lived experience, ensuring that the voices of people facing hardship are not an afterthought but a guiding influence in shaping local responses.
- Created spaces for learning and encouragement where groups can share what's working, be honest about what's difficult, and feel less alone in the work they carry.

What has stood out most this year is the resilience and compassion of Cornwall's faith and community organisations. Despite rising need and stretched resources, they continue to show up for people with dignity, creativity, and hope. Our role has simply been to stand beside them — offering encouragement, strengthening capacity, and helping navigate the challenges that come with serving their communities.

We remain deeply grateful for our partnership with Churches Together in Cornwall. It is a relationship built on shared purpose, trust, and a commitment to ensuring that no one in Cornwall faces hardship without someone in their corner.

Clinton Cameron Sealy
Operations Director
Transformation Cornwall

Royal Cornwall Show



Due to rising costs, the committee decided to source a different type of marquee for 2024 and used a similar one in 2025. Instead of a rectangular white box we had a stretch tent which was open on two sides and used a gazebo for the kitchen area; this proved to be a successful move as we attracted many young families as it was perceived as more accessible and welcoming and less 'churchy'! We managed to fit in our usual tables – the



Christian book shop, a fairtrade stall, the very well-used and popular children's area as well as a Churches Together in Cornwall stand and the usual refreshments.

The chaplaincy team used the marquee as a base and were very much appreciated throughout the show. We aspire to improve our offering each year and look forward to the show in 2026, although the marquee will be adapted to ensure that the kitchen team do not get so wet when it rains! The financial support from Churches Together in Cornwall is crucial in enabling the marquee committee to continue to have a presence at the Royal Cornwall Show, a major event in the Cornish calendar.

Shelley Porter

Financial Report

All seven denominations contributed to our account in 2025; all denominations paid the increased amount requested towards the rise in costs for which we are very grateful for their support. The admin costs include the increase in IT services to maintain the website and weekly communications. The event costs included attending Creation Fest. We continue to pay an honorarium, through a payroll company, and expenses to our Co-ordinator for her continued work with the Churches Together groups across the county.

The major draw on the account was the annual cost of supporting the Churches Together in Cornwall marquee at the Royal Cornwall Show. Despite the team using a cheaper marquee for 2025, costs of attending the show continue to rise; donations continue to rise slowly and were helped this year by hiring a 'Starlink' system so that the contactless machine was not affected by use by others across the site.

Churches Together in Cornwall expected to run at a deficit for 2025 but actually ended the year with a small surplus; this was due to the Royal Cornwall Show marquee committee drawing down a total of £7000 instead of the budgeted £9000. The aim is to be fully able to cover costs in 2026.

Shelley Porter

Treasurer, Churches Together in Cornwall

April 2026

Account as at 31 December 2025

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CORNWALL

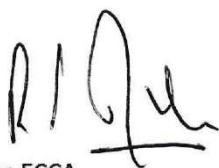
Registered Charity No. 1053899

Receipts and Payments 2025

	2025	2024
	£ p	£ p
Receipts		
Church of England	6853.40	5426.40
Methodist	5144.30	4056.50
Roman Catholic	1764.00	1080.00
Baptist	873.60	691.60
United Reformed	873.60	555.00
Salvation Army	789.60	954.10
Society of Friends	403.20	319.20
Russian Orthodox	0.00	0.00
Greek Orthodox	0.00	0.00
Thy Kingdom Come (Church Commissioners)	0.00	0.00
Donations Local CTs	340.00	260.00
Travel/conference/IT refunds	0.00	101.46
Donations at events/refunds/sundry	318.72	70.00
Total Receipts	17360.42	13514.26
Payments		
Printing	143.84	620.29
Travel exps co-ordinator/conferences	1192.39	812.59
Annual Subscription & CTE Conference	389.20	380.45
Independent Examination	0.00	0.00
Royal Cornwall Show Tent	7000.00	9000.00
County Missioner/Co-ordinator (2022)	3999.96	3999.96
Insurance	1442.02	1381.87
Projects/Events	920.90	1616.97
Conferences	0.00	0.00
Sundry	1471.41	1554.75
Total Payments	16559.72	19346.83
Surplus/(Deficit)	800.70	-5832.57
Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account		
Opening balance 1 Jan	8918.39	14750.96
Less: surplus / (deficit) for the year	800.70	5832.57
Closing balance 31 December	9719.09	8918.39

Certified as a true statement of the accounts for 2025

Signed:
Roger Leslie Jones FCCA



Dated:
26th February 2026



**CHURCHES
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CORNWALL**
*inspiring unity
sharing our gifts*

BECOMING BETTER TOGETHER

*Join our Mailing List for CTC Weekly News
and other publications from CTC and groups
bit.ly/CTCMailingList*



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