

CTC Review

10 Autumn
2021

GOOD NEWS FROM CORNISH CHURCHES

#CTCAtCreationFest #CreationCare #StJustOrdinalia #CyclingToCOP26
#NourishingTheRoots #ModernSlaveryInCornwallNetwork
#Anti-SlaveryDay #WalkForFreedom #Faith&MentalHealthNetwork
#EnvironmentService #COP26 #1in3DayOfAction
#CornishChristmasGiving



Cornubia : Land of the Saints
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CHURCHES
TOGETHER
CORNWALL

inspiring unity
sharing our gifts

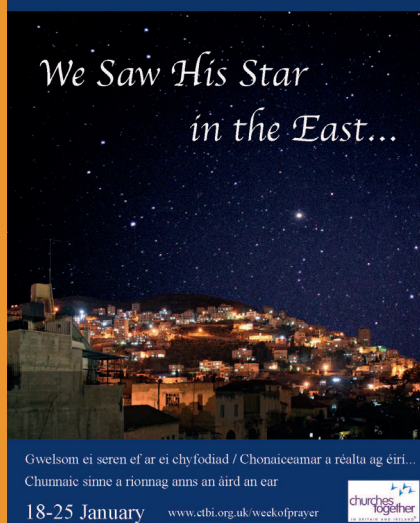
Where did 2021 go?

Roger Mills, CTC Missioner

Recently I read a convincing explanation of why the years seem to pass more quickly as we get older: it's because a single year represents an increasingly smaller proportion of the years we have experienced. But 2020 and 2021, the Covid years, as we may think of them in future, seem to have passed even faster. On the surface, that could be because of all the things we have not been able to do; so our lives have lacked variety. Or perhaps there has been much we wish to block from our memories. But in fact, the churches have been engaged in a huge number of activities in the community, more perhaps than ever before. The purpose of *CTC Review* is to record these, giving them a more permanent place in our annals than our more ephemeral communications using the web and social media. And in this issue, as we look back over the autumn, we find churches expressing concern and 'getting stuck in' on issues ranging from climate justice through modern slavery to gender-based violence, quite apart from dealing with the ongoing challenge of Covid 19. There is no shortage of problems, and many are facing exhaustion. But the Christian message is one of hope, and as we enter the season of Advent the church invites us to take a moment to breathe, to look back and to look forward, and rest in the Lord. This year above all, we need this time of waiting and re-charging, as we prepare in prayer for whatever 2022 may bring.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2022

*We Saw His Star
in the East...*



Gwelsom ei seren ef' ar ei chyfodiad / Chonaiceamar a réalta ag éiri...
Chunnaic sinn a rionnag annis an áird an eir
18-25 January www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18-25 January 2022

Join us for daily reflections at Noon on Zoom and Facebook Live, or catch up later on YouTube. Many local Churches Together groups will be organising united services on Sunday 23 January, but if there are none in your area why not join us online in prayer for the environment with the Cornwall Churches Environment Group.

Check out ctcinfohub.org/WPCU22 for details

Celebrating Churches Together at Creation Fest 30 Jul-1 Aug 2021

Churches Together in Cornwall had an exhibition stand at the Creation Fest festival at Wadebridge this year for the first time – we had planned to do so last year but due to the pandemic the festival could not go ahead. This year a cut-down event was held over a long weekend rather than a week, and although only about half the usual numbers could attend a message of hope rang out loud and clear as we lived out the vision for this year's Big Weekend: “Encountering God in a Time of Change – Refreshing the Church and Re-imagining Mission.”



Our reasons for exhibiting were two-fold – to showcase the work of churches of all denominations in serving communities across Cornwall, and to raise awareness among those visiting from outside our county that alongside beautiful beaches and cream teas we also live with significant poverty and social deprivation, with around 20 neighbourhoods among the 10% most deprived in England. To that end we focussed on our recently-launched SAM project, Social Action Mapping for Cornish Churches, in which we are working with Age UK to add details of

church-led or supported projects to their community platform The Cornwall Link, to make them better known outside the church community, particularly to social prescribers, social workers and health professionals whose clients could benefit from them.

We provided information packs highlighting 14 different actions (from a much larger pool!), colour-coded them and asked visitors to choose an action of interest to them and place a sticker of corresponding colour on a map of Cornwall where they thought it might be needed. Each pack, placed on individual trays, contained a chocolate bearing the appropriate sticker which people were invited to peel off and place on the map, eat the chocolate and take the pack away with them – thus keeping the process as Covid-safe as possible! By the end of the three days we had given out 70+ packs and pretty much covered the map.



We also used the stand to publicise our developing work to raise awareness of modern slavery issues in Cornwall – another area people are often surprised to discover is a problem here. The first fruits of this programme are two posters to display in appropriate locations locally.

Modern Slavery in Cornwall

WHO TO CONTACT

If you suspect someone is a victim of modern slavery, please call one of the following numbers:

Modern Slavery Helpline **08000 121 700**

Crimestoppers **0800 555 111**
(Completely anonymous)

Local police **101**
Emergency **999**

Gangmasters Labour Abuse Authority
0800 4320 804

Salvation Army confidential referral helpline
0800 808 3733

Or visit crimestoppers-uk.org to report information about a crime safely and anonymously.

REPORT IT! IF NOT YOU, WHO? IF NOT NOW, WHEN?

Modern Slavery in Cornwall

HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

More than **200 years** after the abolition of slavery there are still an estimated **40.3 million** men, women and children trapped in **modern slavery**, with 136,000 victims in the UK alone.

In 2020, there were 31 Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking cases reported in Cornwall but we are aware of a great many more which go unreported.

If you suspect someone is a victim of modern slavery in Cornwall, please call one of the following numbers:

Gangmasters Labour Abuse Authority 0800 4320 804	Salvation Army confidential referral helpline 0800 808 3733
Modern Slavery Helpline 08000 121 700	Crimestoppers (anonymous) 0800 555 111
Local police 101	Emergency 999

Or visit crimestoppers-uk.org to report information about a crime safely and anonymously.

REPORT IT! IF NOT YOU, WHO? IF NOT NOW, WHEN?

Creation Care: Speaking with One Voice

With environmental issues now becoming the primary priority for many, especially in the younger generation, it's important that churches are able to speak with one voice. Following agreement at the Churches Together in Cornwall Executive in July 2021, churches from all denominations are welcome to use the branding developed by Truro Diocese for their Creation Care initiative, alongside the Churches Together in Cornwall logo, to promote environmental activities as and when appropriate. To obtain the graphics contact ctcmisioner@gmail.com.



Keep up with the latest environmental and climate change news and events on our dedicated page

<https://www.ctcinfohub.org/environment>



With the climate and ecological crisis now so apparent to us all, ‘creation justice’ is very much synonymous with ‘climate justice’, which relates to the inequitable outcomes for different people and places associated with vulnerability to climate impacts and the fairness of policy and practice responses to address climate change and its consequences.

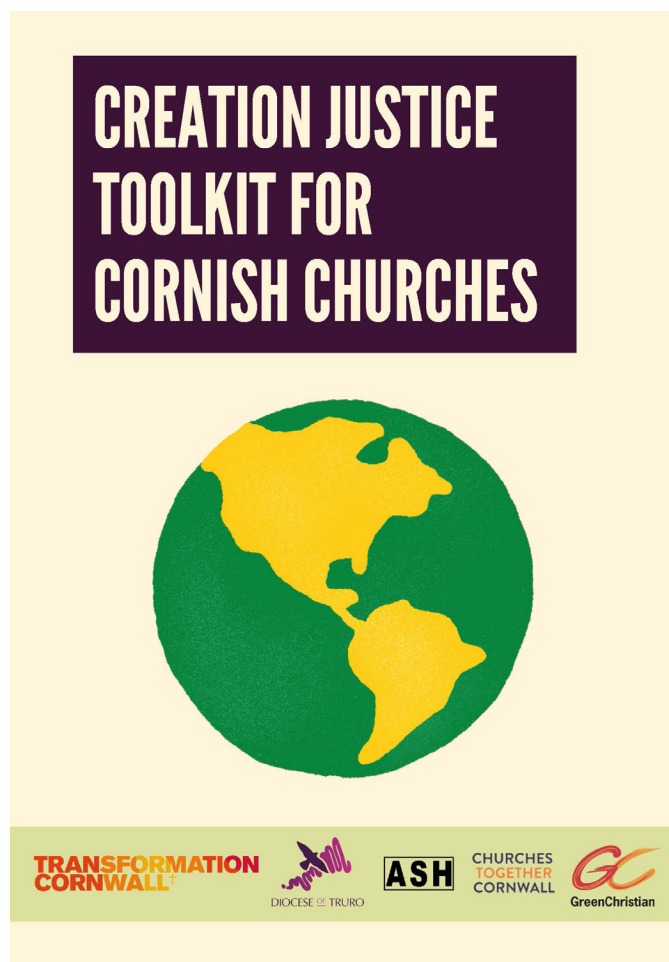
So how can we work together to achieve a degree of creation/climate justice which is accessible in a variety of forms to everyone in Cornwall? That is a question which must be central to Christian thinking and action – and for which our new toolkit will provide resources to help in our journey together. These resources are intended to equip and inspire Cornish faith groups to have a more impactful and informed response to the climate crisis.

Within the toolkit you will find:

- Interviews with three Cornish young Christians.
- Sermon ideas.
- Youth Work ideas.
- Hymns and Worship Songs.
- Prayers.
- Advice on how the Church and individual can respond.
- Further resources and an introductory reading list.

This toolkit was put together as a collaboration between Churches Together in Cornwall, Transformation Cornwall, All Saints Highertown, the Diocese of Truro, and Green Christian.

Download the Toolkit at <https://bit.ly/creation-justice-toolkit>



St Just Ordinalia 2021

medieval mystery plays with a very contemporary message

The cast of the 14th Century Ordinalia trilogy performed at St Just this September delivered with spades the aim of the original performances to impress the Christian bible stories on the local population.

Presented at St Just's Plen an Gwari, the oldest working open air theatre space in Britain, the Ordinalia plays, although similar to the mystery plays of the North of England, are unique to Cornwall and an important part of the heritage of St Just in Penwith, and the far South West. They are the oldest surviving trilogy of theatrical plays in Britain. Last performed in 2004, it is hoped to offer them in future on a 3/4 year cycle.

Each of the three plays – Origo Mundi (the Creation), The Passion and The Resurrection – were performed five times, with audiences of up to 600 at each – so probably reaching at least 7-8000 people. School and college groups attended and special resource packs were developed for educational use – providing much interesting background on the history of the plays, the surviving manuscripts and Cornish language. These are all available online at <https://www.stjustordinalia.com/>.

The plays draw on Biblical material and on apocryphal stories circulating at the time – such as the Harrowing of Hell, the Death of Pilate, and the



Smith and the Nails. They also incorporated the legend of the Holy Rood into the narrative, allowing each day's play to contain a number of interconnected stories. This motif, which is found in some Continental plays, does not play a significant part in other surviving English Mystery plays.



A home for Cornwall's archives

In parallel with the event, Kresen Kernow, the Cornish archives centre in Redruth, mounted a special temporary exhibition Out of the Ordinary uniting

The Cornish Ordinalia and The Creation of the World (on loan from the Bodleian Libraries at the University of Oxford) with The Life of St Meriadoc/Bewnans Meriasek and The Life of St Kea/Bewnans Ke (on loan from the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth) under one roof for the first time in history. The manuscripts form a very significant part of Cornwall's written and language heritage, as well as providing glimpses of a distinct theatrical tradition which took place here centuries ago.



Over 250 volunteers from the local community, led by a small team of professional actors also hailing from the district, were involved in this remarkable and memorable production. A filmed version will be available later in the year. Although not designed as an evangelistic outreach, the plays will undoubtedly have brought the Bible narratives alive to many who had not heard, or thought much about them before; and a very

contemporary message was underlined in the linking material delivered by the 'Ordinary' or narrator/director, who at the end of the final play closed with these words:

And so our trilogy is ended: but our story is not yet over. It is also written that God offered his trust to the heaven and the earth and the mountains but they refused to carry it, and man carried it. Consider this: the heavens bring water, and temperature; the earth receives seed, and bears fruit; the mountains convert

common stone to tin and gold. These tasks bewilder human reason. Man has only one task: look after the very earth itself, and all of the life on it.

So man has only one task: to look after the earth, and all the creatures, plants and people on it. If he does not perform this task, then he has nothing. Everything that God created, he entrusted to you, the children of Adam, who took the knowledge of choice from a tree in paradise. So: are you for paradise? Or are you on the road to hell? Think on!

So now let the minstrels play: for Jesus is in heaven and all is well. Remember though: there's always Judgement Day...

A very clear challenge to us all in the season of COP26!



**ST JUST
ORDINALIA
2021**



photos: Roger Mills

Environment

Cycling to COP26

Euan MacPhee


On the afternoon of Wednesday 1 September, Euan MacPhee and Roger Creagh-Osbourne set off from Truro Cathedral to cycle to Glasgow ahead of the COP26 meeting which took place there in November. They carried messages of hope and pleas for climate justice from Christian groups and others in Cornwall to be delivered to the world leaders when they gathered. En route they gathered similar messages from each Diocese on they passed through, making a firm statement of concern from people of faith. Euan writes:

Previously, I had cycled from Truro to Paris in 2015 for COP21, and then from Paris to Bonn in 2018 for COP23. The main reason was to encourage the participants at each conference to be bold in their ambitions for responding to the crises, and to show solidarity with those people who are in the front line of the effects of Climate Change.

Revd Elly Sheard blessing the Cyclists at Truro Cathedral

photo: Truro Cathedral





On my latest ride, I visited each Anglican Diocese on the route and collected their climate or environmental declarations. The Dioceses I visited were: Truro; Exeter; Bath & Wells; Bristol; Gloucester; Worcester; Birmingham; Lichfield; Chester; Liverpool; Manchester; Blackburn; Carlisle. After two weeks of cycling and 700 miles covered, I arrived in Glasgow on 17 September.

My purpose in submitting this portfolio of commitments by the various Diocese is to make this point: the Church is committed to radical action to address the Climate and Ecological Crises. Most church members understand the urgency of the crises and are willing to make the sacrifices required to reach Net Zero sooner rather than later.

I returned to Glasgow on 31 October, this time by train, to hand over these documents. Bishop Graham Usher, the Anglican Bishop for the Environment, received them during the first week of the COP26 conference and has shared them with our representatives there. My hope, therefore, is that our elected representatives will take note of this willingness to act and will in turn commit to bold action required to reduce our carbon footprint in line with the Paris climate ambitions. The Churches are willing to act - now we need strong action on the part of government and of industry and business

At the age of 75, I appreciate that I may not live to witness the worst of the consequences of Climate Change on the world and its people. However, like any parent, I am concerned for all children and grandchildren. What sort of world are we leaving them?

Likewise, I am deeply concerned for those people living in the global south - people least responsible for the Climate Crisis, and yet who are suffering most from the consequences.

As an ecologist, I also lament the massive loss of wildlife. Nature is essential for the health of planetary ecosystems, for our wellbeing and enjoyment. Wildlife has a right to exist just as much as we humans do.

Please hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the people!

Thank you in anticipation of your commitment to the radical change that is needed.

Source: Independent Catholic News. Read more at <https://bit.ly/COP26cycling>

Nourishing the Roots

a chance to refresh our ecumenical vision

At the end of September 2021, Roger Mills, Cornwall's County Ecumenical Missioner, met with County, Denominational and National Ecumenical Officers (EOs) from across England at Swanwick, Derbyshire for the first time since 2019.

Ecumenical Officer of the Lancashire Methodist District, Rev Stuart Wild, writes:

There was a muted buzz as we gathered at Swanwick for the Conference for all EOs. There was excitement at actually seeing people in the flesh and really being with them but an uncertainty about the rules of masks and social distancing.

The theme of the Conference was *Nourishing the roots – a chance to refresh our ecumenical vision* or to put it another way Ecumenism - then, now and in the future. In a way each of the three days focused on a time frame (past, present and future) but one could not but be aware of the interrelationship between them all – a sort of time continuum.

A series of different speakers outlined the past hundred years plus of ecumenism, beginning with the World Missionary Conference of 1910 in Edinburgh which has been described as the formal beginning of the Ecumenical movement. For Protestant and Anglican Churches it was thought to be of paramount importance and the foundation of a truly worldwide Christian Church. We proceeded via amongst other places Lund (churches should act together in all matters except those in which deep differences of conviction compel them to act separately), through the second Vatican Council culminating in the amazing image of Pope Paul VI putting an episcopal ring on the finger of Dr Michael Ramsay; pausing to remember the Swanwick Declaration and recalling that we are not strangers but pilgrims right up to the present day. It was exhausting but fascinating.

The scene was set on Tuesday with prayers on the theme Lost in Wonder led by Rev Michaela Youngson. I was slightly nervous of the session on synodality led by Father Jan Nowotnik, although I had read Let us Dream by Pope Francis. However it became much clearer when we were reminded of the root of the meaning of

synodality (walking together). It is important that the church should not try to lead but rather should let God be the protagonist.

Rev Callan Slipper helped us to look to the future as he led us in an exploration of Christ with particular focus on his prayer ‘Father, may they all be one as you and I are one’, which is at the heart of ecumenism and which will shape and empower our mission. The conference closed with a love feast focussing us all on what unites us – worship and mission and sending us out nourished by the Spirit to refresh the ecumenical vision in our own contexts.

Stuart Wild is Superintendent Minister of the South Fylde Methodist Circuit and Ecumenical Officer of the Lancashire Methodist District

Source: Churches Together in England. <https://cte.org.uk/eosconference2021/>

Re-imagining Churches Together groups

A new short resource to help local groups to re-focus and find new life, including practical examples.

Ecumenical Mission Enabler for Telford & Shropshire, Chris Densham, explains the origins of the document: “it came about from a discussion on one of our regular CEO Zoom calls. We were sharing what we were each hearing on our own patch and realised that many of our local CT groups were expressing similar concerns – how should they pick up again after the pandemic? A small team was formed and together we have captured some ideas which we hope will encourage and inspire our ecumenical colleagues across England.”

Download the leaflet here:

<https://bit.ly/localCTs>

Re-imagining Churches Together groups

Help! What do we do with our local Churches Together group?

The pandemic has inevitably affected every area of our lives, and we're also aware of the impact on many Churches Together groups. Whilst the fruit of our unity has been expressed in so many ways, by supporting local communities through food banks, debt relief and so forth, many of our traditional activities have been put on hold.

If "starting again" or "re-imagining" seems daunting, it also provides opportunities for our working together to be even more fruitful. And remember, you are not alone! This process is happening all over the country.

To help your local Churches Together group, we've included here three brief stories of what some local groups are doing, which we hope you will find encouraging. We've also provided some questions that you might find helpful as your group meets up again, perhaps for the first time.

We are also aware that timing is everything. In your context, now may not be the right time to introduce any changes, but we would encourage groups to begin thinking, talking, praying and preparing for the future.

Minor changes in a rural setting bring a clearer focus

A Churches Together group in a rural setting worried that the structure they had would not enable them, during Covid, to keep going with the work they had been doing. It became apparent that their activities – many of which were about combating loneliness – would have to stop during the pandemic, their traditional Churches Together events could not take place, and the committee would find it difficult to meet in person. Members of the group recognised the importance of keeping connections with people and so adapted how they did things, delivering meals and activities, reaching out for additional volunteers, phoning people and holding meetings and prayers online. There were no radical changes in their structure, but with a few tweaks and by listening to their community, the group has strengthened.

Restructuring around mission, prayer and relationships in a market town

One Churches Together group in a market town was aware that their traditional structure was no longer fit for purpose. Over the years, a base of strong relationships between the churches had been formed and united activities were happening, but the agenda-led Executive and open meetings didn't have much life in them. After much discussion, prayer and consultation, they are looking to move to three open meetings a year, plus a very short AGM. They will gather to hear short reports (less than five minutes each) about a missional activity in the host church, a local ecumenical missional project and a proposed future united activity, all interspersed with prayer. At the heart of the meetings will be a break for quality cake and puddings, with time for folk to mingle and talk. These events will be organised by a much smaller Executive, meeting three times a year with local church leaders.



Modern Slavery

Modern Slavery in Cornwall Network

Jane Yeomans

The Modern Slavery in Cornwall Network is a partnership between The Clewer Initiative, New Street Church, Transformation Cornwall, the Diocese of Truro, Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together, Churches Together in Cornwall and a number of church members from around the county.

The Network meets bi-monthly and exists to raise awareness of modern slavery issues in our county and how we can all help to bring an end to this injustice and support those who have fallen victim to it.

The Network is a mutually supportive group of people and offers a safe space to explore issues, share resources, highlight best practice and plan action relating to modern slavery in Cornwall.

The Network can help to strengthen local church services and community events raising awareness of Modern Slavery in Cornwall. In some instances, the Network may be able to provide updates for your newsletters and media or introduce you to speakers for your local initiatives.

The Network has developed 2 awareness raising posters of modern slavery in Cornwall. Please see the image below and download the: Modern Slavery in Cornwall: Hidden in Plain Sight poster & the Modern Slavery in Cornwall: Who to Contact poster .

If you'd like to help raise awareness, please display the posters in your workplace and communities.

For more information about modern slavery in Cornwall or joining the Network, please see <https://transformation-cornwall.org.uk/resources/modern-slavery-in-cornwall-network> or contact: jane@transformation-cornwall.org.uk. Sign up for the Network at <https://bit.ly/ModernSlaveryNetwork>.

Anti-Slavery Day - 18 Oct

Jane Yeomans

In partnership with Churches Together in Cornwall, Transformation Cornwall produced an updated Anti-Slavery Day Toolkit for Cornish Churches & Faith Groups across Cornwall, containing a wealth of resources to promote and use on Anti-Slavery Day, 18 October 2021, but appropriate to raise awareness of modern slavery throughout the year.

The toolkit is organised according to the following headings:

Informational Material

- What is modern slavery?
- Modern Slavery in the UK and Cornwall
- What is Anti-Slavery day?
- How your church can get involved

Resources

- General Resources
- Prayer Resources
- Sermon/Talk Resources
- Video Resources
- Children's Resources
- Social Media Resources/Campaigns

Some of the material connected with modern dayslaverymaybeexplicit and/or traumatising, so please exercise sensitivity when choosing which materials to use for your church/group.

Access the Toolkit at <https://bit.ly/slaverytoolkit>

Find more information on Modern Slavery in Cornwall by visiting our information page at <https://bit.ly/slaverycornwall>

**TRANSFORMATION
CORNWALL⁺**

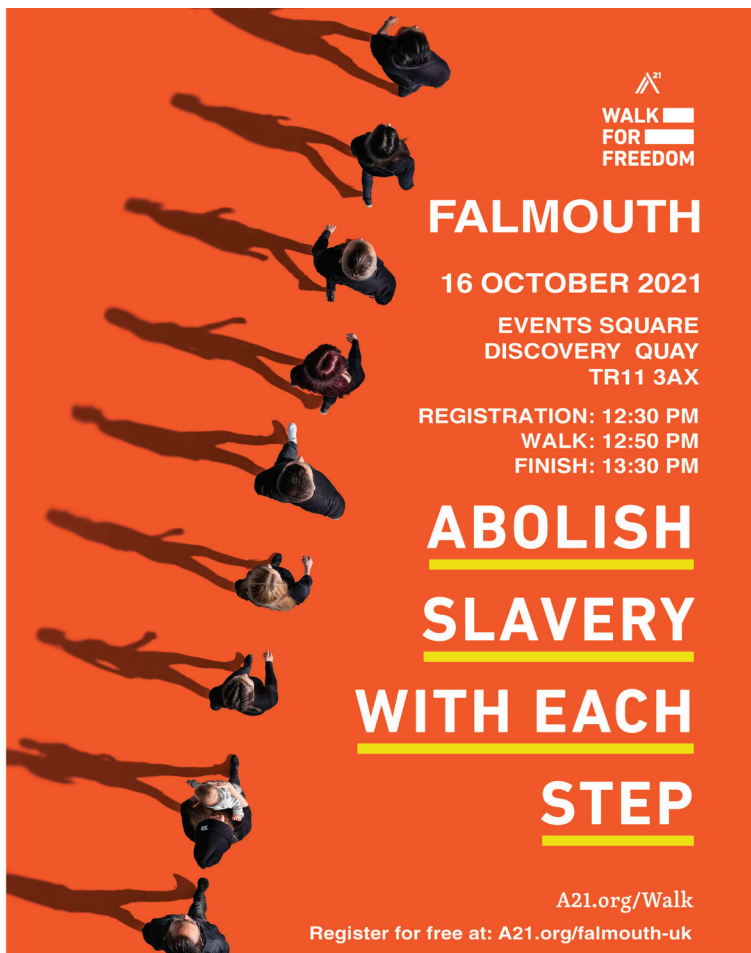
Anti-Slavery Day Toolkit for Cornish
Churches and Faith Groups

A21 Walk for Freedom Falmouth 16 Oct

Naomi Bruce, Founder and Volunteer, Bringing Freedom, led the Falmouth 3rd annual A21 Walk for Freedom on Saturday 16 October 2021.

To quote A21 founder Christine Caine, “We are convinced that if we do this together, if we keep showing up, if we continue to be tenacious if we continue to not bow down to discouragement, but we turn up with strength, and numbers, and with courage, and with faith, then we can see slavery eradicated in our lifetime.”.

Together, on October 16, we

A poster for the A21 Walk for Freedom Falmouth event. The background is orange with silhouettes of people walking in a line. The text on the poster includes: 'WALK FOR FREEDOM' with the A21 logo, 'FALMOUTH', '16 OCTOBER 2021', 'EVENTS SQUARE DISCOVERY QUAY TR11 3AX', 'REGISTRATION: 12:30 PM WALK: 12:50 PM FINISH: 13:30 PM', 'ABOLISH SLAVERY WITH EACH STEP', 'A21.org/Walk', and 'Register for free at: A21.org/falmouth-uk'.

WALK FOR FREEDOM

FALMOUTH

16 OCTOBER 2021

EVENTS SQUARE
DISCOVERY QUAY
TR11 3AX

REGISTRATION: 12:30 PM
WALK: 12:50 PM
FINISH: 13:30 PM

**ABOLISH
SLAVERY
WITH EACH
STEP**

A21.org/Walk
Register for free at: A21.org/falmouth-uk



walked, as did many, thousands across the globe, to bring awareness of human trafficking and promote freedom and justice for all. We believe that every step we take locally leaves footprints globally.

More on the Falmouth walk:

<https://bit.ly/A21Falmouth>

More about A21:

<https://www.a21.org/>

Faith & Mental Health Network

Jane Yeomans

This new ecumenical network meets bi-monthly and welcomes pastoral visitors, clergy, chaplains, mental health practitioners, community volunteers, in fact, anyone who is supporting people who are struggling with mental health issues.

The network is a mutually supportive group of people and offers a safe space to explore issues, share information, resources and best practice; relating faith to mental health and offering insights to help us help those we are standing alongside. Network meetings each choose a topic area and often have an invited speaker within that field.

Our May meeting was 'Grief' and our invited speaker was Anne Embury, Suicide Liaison Lead at Outlook South West (Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust).

Our July meeting was 'Bereavement' and our speaker was Reverend Andrew Yates, Social Responsibility Officer at the Diocese of Truro.

Our September meeting was 'Young People' and our invited speakers were Karen Bowley & Carina Miles of Kooth.

Our November meeting looked at 'Restoring Our Communities' with invited speaker journalist/broadcaster/presenter (and CTC Vice Chair), Donna Birrell. We considered how community connections are essential for everyone's wellbeing and how our churches are an essential and willing partner in so many community initiatives in Cornwall.

The network welcomes new members, speakers and guests. It is certainly not an 'experts' talking shop, we like to encourage, connect and celebrate great work supporting positive mental health and wellbeing and promote the message that mental health is everyone's business. To find out more and hear about future plans, please contact Jane Yeomans: jane@transformation-cornwall.org.uk.



FAITH & MENTAL
HEALTH
NETWORK

Environment

Eve of COP26 Environment Service

A service of reflection, lament and hope as we prayed for the delegates and outcomes of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow. Watch the recording on YouTube <https://youtu.be/IgSIHwWio2U>.

CORNWALL CHURCHES ENVIRONMENT GROUP	 CHURCHES TOGETHER CORNWALL <i>inspiring unity sharing our gifts</i>	
	<i>A SERVICE OF REFLECTION LAMENT AND HOPE</i>	<i>praying for the delegates and outcomes of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow</i>

This second service prepared by the Cornwall Churches Environment Group (CCFG) was originally intended to be held in-person at Wadebridge Town Hall, but due to increasing uncertainty around Covid restrictions was switched to online only, gathering a virtual attendance of around 140, probably significantly more than might have attended on-site. The contributions included an interview with Davina Bacon on the Young Christian Climate Network relay from St Ives to Glasgow, Euan McPhee speaking on his cycle ride to Glasgow and George Dow from Green Christian on what we can do to make a difference, together with a Psalm of Lament and an impassioned address by Anthony Hereward from Christian Climate Action on why Christians need to act.

The CCEG meets monthly online and all are welcome: to join the mailing list contact olivestevens@aol.com or Andrew.Yates@truro.anglican.org.

COP26

Euan McPhee

Following his cycle ride to Glasgow in September, Euan returned to Glasgow blogging on Facebook for the duration of COP26.



DAY THREE OF COP26 I am on duty at Govan Church for Green Christian. The morning session included *Conversation with Ellen Teague*, a great supporter of GC and longterm environmental activist within the Catholic Church, including getting Cafod to realize that unless they (and all other aid agencies) recognised

that if you don't look after the environment, you can't look after people - obvious now, but not obvious (to some) in the 1980s!

DAY 4 OF COP26: Green Christian prayer sessions at 09.00, 12.00 & 15.00 as usual. At 11.00 we were *In Conversation With... Melanie Nazareth*, founder of Camino to COP26, where she shared experiences of the 500 mile pilgrimage from London to Glasgow. She also told us about her own "Damascus Road Experience" of encountering the XR event in London over two years ago and just suddenly realising that she needed to cross over that line from ignoring the issue to actively participating in it. It was a most encouraging session.

Then at lunchtime I headed off to Sandyfield Henderson Memorial Church (where Christian Aid were based) to catch up with Bishop Graham Usher and hand over my portfolio of Climate Declarations for him to pass on to the UK delegates at COP26. The message? If the churches can take radical action to address the issues around climate change, then so can you!

In the evening I attended a Prayer Vigil at Glasgow Cathedral led by John Bell of the Iona Community along with around 60 people. An excellent session of good meaningful liturgy and song.



DAY 6 AT COP26: The day of the big march! Arrived at Kelvingrove Park in Glasgow at noon with the Green Christian banner (plus my multi-coloured flag from COP21 in Paris in 2015!) and joined the faith groups contingent. After a week of sunshine, it was rain today, but spirits refused to be dampened! March under way at 13.00 and as we left the park, the sun appeared briefly and a full



arch rainbow appeared over the city - a sign of hope? It took us three hours to reach Glasgow Green on the banks of the Clyde; I heard people say over 150,000 people were there. There was a minor fracas with the Communist Party people, and someone glued themselves to a bridge, but otherwise it was all very positive and good-humoured. As

well as Green Christian, there was a good representation by Tearfund, Christian Aid, Cafod, Laudato Si Movement, Iona Community, Buddhist, Ba'Hai, Muslim and various multi-faith organisations. At the end, my back and feet hurt from hours of standing and walking, and my arms and shoulders ached from hours of holding up a banner! But, my goodness, it was worth it!

The boat which accompanied the YCCN Pilgrimage from Carbis Bay completes its journey in Glasgow [see CTC Review 9]



DAY 10 AT COP26: As I travel back home from Glasgow on the train, I am still processing all the myriad experiences of COP26. For me, I see much more energy and commitment coming from faith groups at this COP, and that gives me hope. So, despite the likely lack of adequate progress so far, there is now a more powerful moral and spiritual imperative that governments and business cannot continue to ignore. There is plenty of space on the moral high ground - let's occupy it!

Read Euan's complete blog on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/euan.mcphee.1>

1 in 3 Day of Action

Following a short service at Truro Cathedral, 3 minute silence took place on the cathedral steps as part of the Mother's Union 1 in 3 Day of Action, so named because 1 in 3 women globally have suffered domestic or sexual violence.



In recent months, the reason why the Mothers' Union 1 in 3 campaign is needed has been made clear again. The murders of Sarah Everard and Sabina Nessa, statistics showing that violence against women rose across the world during the pandemic both in frequency and intensity and the horrible outbreak of 'spiking' in pubs and bars all made the front pages recently with one article highlighting that at least 81 women had been murdered by men since Sarah Everard's death. Underneath those front page stories are millions of individual girls and women, each of them made in the image of God, suffering violence because of their gender.

This kind of abuse might involve physical or sexual violence either at home or in public, but it could also involve coercive and manipulative behaviour which limits the opportunities and choices available to a woman or girl.

It can affect any family or any woman, is not restricted to any section or part of society and is as present within church communities as elsewhere.

So what can we do? Bishop Hugh Nelson writes:

The first step is for everyone to find out more and to educate ourselves about gender based violence and domestic abuse. There is very good information available through Restored, <https://www.restored-uk.org/> a Christian charity committed to ending violence against women in society and in the church. Their

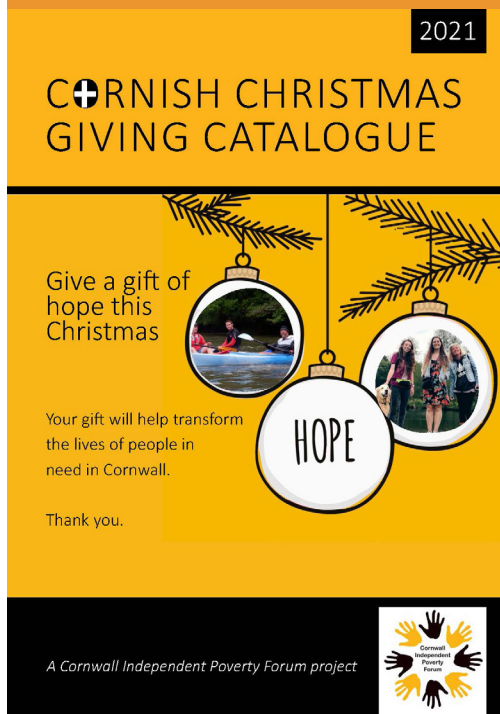
website is worth looking at and includes a very good resource pack for churches.

The second is to engage men. The fact is that it is men who carry out this kind of violence and men must take responsibility. That means educating ourselves about what's going on. It means listening carefully to the experience of women. It means speaking to our sons, grandsons, godsons and nephews and teaching them about the issues. It means being ready to speak up when we see sexism or any hint of aggression or abuse towards a woman.

With that in mind, why not make the promise that the White Ribbon campaign invites all men to take – 'to never commit, excuse or remain silent about male violence towards women' and wear a white ribbon as a public commitment to that promise. .

Read more from Bishop Hugh at <https://bit.ly/1in3Action>

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