

CTC Review

12

Spring
2022

GOOD NEWS FROM CORNISH CHURCHES

#NextPhaseForCTC #WarInUkraine #ChristianResourcesExhibition
#ChurchesTogetherInEnglandForum #CornwallBereavementDay
#TheBereavementJourney #FalmouthSchoolsExploreEaster
#TreeOfLifeAndOpenHeaven #CornwallChurchesEnvironmentGroup
#CTCAnnualReport #ForestChurch #WorldDayOfPrayer



CHURCHES
TOGETHER
CORNWALL

Cornubia : Land of the Saints
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inspiring unity
sharing our gifts



Churches Together in Cornwall - the next phase

Roger Mills was appointed to the position of County Ecumenical Missioner in 2019 for a period of three years, with a brief to develop a system of 'team management' allowing for better continuity and sustainability when personnel change in future. In 2022, this has been put in place, and in changes agreed at the CTC AGM on 4 May, the post of Missioner has now been replaced with two new positions of Team Coordinator and Editor. Roger will continue in the latter role, overseeing our comms work, and we hope to fill the Coordinator position shortly. In the meantime, Donna Birrell, Vice-Chair of CTC, will keep the wheels turning.

Our team comprises the CTC Steering Group, made up of the leads of each of our 8 missional themes, together with the Treasurer and Editor. Membership is open to all members of the CTC Executive, renewable annually at the CTC AGM. The Steering Group works with our growing number of Liaison Groups, which run independently of CTC but with a CTC representative, normally a member of the Steering Group, providing a direct two-way route for communication between the Liaison Group and church leaders. Five of these groups are now up and running, and more are at the planning stage. Eventually, we hope to cover all areas of community life in this way, building on new relationships which have developed during the pandemic.

Our theme for the coming year is 'Better Together', introduced with a discussion with representatives of local groups at the CTC AGM. Our plans, formed in 2019, for an extensive programme of visits and discussions with local groups were put on hold by the pandemic, but we hope to begin this in the coming year, with a view to identifying new ways of supporting each other in ecumenical work across the county. This will run alongside, and be supported by, development of our Social Action Mapping project (SAM), which will pick up speed as those initiatives which have been unable to operate during the pandemic gradually resume. Watch this space!

War in Ukraine

The Russian invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022 was met by an immediate response both from churches officially and from individuals, in Cornwall and nationally. An impromptu gathering on 27 February, arranged at 24hrs notice on social media at a little-known Ukrainian war memorial deep in the countryside near Mylor, drew over 200 people in a show of solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

The memorial was erected in 1948 by Ukrainians who had fled Russian communists and who were offered refuge and sanctuary in Cornwall. The peaceful, countryside location is in stark contrast to the lives of the men who had faced persecution by the regime which had been installed in Ukraine by the Soviet Army. Hundreds of Ukrainians managed to escape and those who came to Cornwall were housed at a former prisoner of war camp until they were able to find jobs and accommodation of their own.

Speakers at the event included local Ukrainian residents and the Bishop of Truro who closed with prayer. *Read more at* <https://www.ctcinfohub.org/ukrainian-cross>



In March, Truro Cathedral Choir recorded a fundraising anthem for Ukrainian children. Ave Maria, by Ukrainian contemporary composer Valentin Silvestrov, was performed at the cathedral and released as a recording on YouTube on Mothering Sunday.

View at https://youtu.be/s5uWUHN-m_4

On Sun 20 March, Christians across the South West joined online in prayer for Ukraine.

Watch at https://youtu.be/P_j6jEw531s

Find more prayers and resources for Ukraine at

<https://www.ctcinfohub.org/crisis-in-ukraine/>



Churches Together in the South West at the Christian Resources Exhibition, Exeter

Churches Together in Cornwall shared a stand at the Christian Resources Exhibition on 23/24 February 2022 at Westpoint, Exeter, with Churches Together in Devon and Churches Together in Somerset. This was a new initiative for all three counties and proved well worth while, with a steady flow of visitors learning what it is we all get up to! Our presence was much appreciated by friends old and new, and while a majority of visitors were, naturally enough, from Devon, there was good representation from Cornwall and Somerset too.



CHURCHES TOGETHER
One in Christ Jesus
Engaged in God's mission
Empowered by the Spirit

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DEVON

Making connections in Christian partnership

Rev Paul Snell
County Ecumenical Officer for Devon

Email: ceo@ctcdevon.org.uk
Web: www.ctcdevon.org.uk
Mob: 07305 807735

Mailing Address:
Churches Together in Devon
9 Townlands, Willand, Cullompton, EX15 2BR

CHURCHES TOGETHER CORNWALL

inspiring unity sharing our gifts

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CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SOMERSET

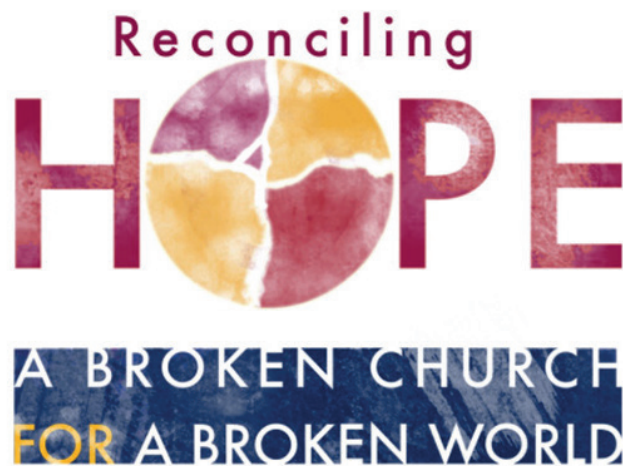
Celebrating Somerset as a place of joy, beauty and diversity

Canon Jonathan Lloyd
County Ecumenical Officer for Somerset

Email: ctctogthersomerset@gmail.com
Web: www.ctcsomerset.org
Tel 01749 705103

Mailing Address:
Churches Together in Somerset
Flourish House, Cathedral Park, Wells, BA5 1FD

Churches Together in England Forum 2022



The Churches Together in England Forum, the broadest ecumenical gathering in the country, was held at Swanwick in March 2022, concluding with a renewed commitment that the church is ready to serve a ‘broken world’.

More than 300 delegates from CTE’s 52 national Member Churches, Bodies in Association and partner organisations, including representatives from Cornwall,

met to discuss the theme ‘Reconciling Hope: A broken church for a broken world’ viewed through the lenses of racial justice and the climate emergency.

CTE President, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, spoke on reconciliation in a post-Covid world. He urged the church to embrace its diversity and, “where we disagree, we must learn to disagree well...look outwards and respond to the crises that surround us, with the love of God that is within us, and with the unity that can be reached between us.”

Tearfund Global Advocacy and Influencing Director, Canon Dr Ruth Valerio, addressed the question of reconciliation with the earth. She said facing the climate emergency is an integral part of the Christian faith. She said: “We need to get hold of God’s love for the world. In Genesis 1:31 ‘God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.’”

Professor Anthony Reddie and Rev Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson spoke on reconciling communities. Professor Reddie demanded that the church confront its collusion with the horrors of the transatlantic slave trade. Dr Henry-Robinson challenged individuals to think where they found themselves – as oppressors or following Jesus’s way of justice, hope and peace.

Orthodox theologian Dr Ralph Lee reminded delegates that, “as we seek to understand one another better, deep listening helps us overcome the difference in our language and traditions.”

During the gathering the Forum attendees made two statements on Ukraine. The first, calling for the immediate cessation of hostilities and for churches everywhere to campaign for an end to the war in Ukraine. The second, appealing to the UK government to support the churches offering welcome and sanctuary to Ukrainian refugees.

As Forum drew to a close the new General Secretary of Churches Together in England, Bishop Mike Royal, was commissioned into his role. He addressed Forum with his vision for the church across England:

“We’ve got to build a bigger table to gather around and listen to the voices which are often not heard. We need to raise a new generation of ecumenists. And to be ready to respond practically and relevantly to the needs in the world that God has called us as church to serve.”

Read more at <https://cte.org.uk/forum2022-start-here/>

The Forum included a busy Marketplace area at which Churches Together in Cornwall, Devon and Somerset again provided a joint display, following the success of that at the Christian Resources Exhibition (p4).



left: Cornwall delegates Daniel Roberts (Transformation Cornwall) and Roger Mills (CTC)



Cornwall Bereavement Day



Cornwall Bereavement Network hosted its first Cornwall Bereavement Day at Truro Cathedral on Sat 26 March 2022. The drop-in event ran from 1.30-4pm and Penhaligon's Friends, Suicide Liaison Service, Widowed and Young, The Good Grief Trust, and The Samaritans were just a

few of the organisations that were on hand to provide advice and support on the day. Churches Together in Cornwall was represented by Transformation Cornwall.

A Good Grief Café was also provided as well as children's activities, crafts, and stalls from bereavement services across Cornwall.

Julie Parker, Chair of Cornwall Bereavement Network, says: "Our first meeting to connect bereavement organisations was just before the Covid epidemic hit. Since then, the network has been very active developing a website and raising awareness about the organisations that support people through bereavement. However, this is the first time we have been able to plan an event to reach out to the general public.

"Sadly, too many people have been affected by loss over the last couple of years and many have found it difficult to connect with friends and loved ones due to restrictions or health concerns. Without doubt, Covid has created an added layer of complexity to those experiencing grief and made it more complicated to access support."

There are currently more than 80 organisations in Cornwall Bereavement Network, which was set up to help cross-referrals and to make it easier to find and access organisations that support those bereaved.

Read more at <https://www.cornwallbereavementnetwork.org/>

The Bereavement Journey

Bereavement can impact hugely and affect all areas of life. Developed at Holy Trinity Brompton and appreciated by thousands of people over 20 years, **The Bereavement Journey** is a course for anyone who has been bereaved at any time and in any way. By means of a series of films and discussion



groups it gently guides bereaved people through the most common aspects of grief, enabling them to process the implications for themselves and discern next steps. Usually run by churches The Bereavement Journey uniquely offers a final session on faith questions in bereavement provided from a Christian perspective. This is optional, thus making The Bereavement Journey suitable for people of any faith or none.

Read more at <https://thebereavementjourney.org/>



Remembering Our Child

Losing a child is an experience shared by many more people in our society than is sometimes acknowledged. This poignant service, normally held annually at Truro Cathedral, resumed after two-year break on 8 May 2022. All were welcomed at the service, especially those who wished to remember a child, no

matter how long ago they died or at what age. Every child was remembered by name. There was also the opportunity for a child's name to be read out during the service, even if the mourners were not able to be there.

Falmouth Schools Explore Easter

There was a sense of awe, wonder and calm learning when eight classes of primary aged children came to All Saints Church to "Explore Easter". Two hundred and forty Year 5 and 6 children from Primary Schools across Falmouth and the surrounding area came to learn about what Christians believe happened at Easter.

CLASSES
8
OVER
4
DAYS
240
PUPILS
YEARS
FIVE
AND
SIX

The Schools and Families lead for New Street Church, Jane Wheeler, together with an army of volunteers, led eight sessions throughout the week of 28th Mar – 1st Apr 2022. The aims were to help children experience the meaning of Easter, to help teachers to meet the objectives of the RE syllabus, and to have fun.

At each session, the children started by watching parts of a film called "The Miracle Maker" to learn about the story of the Passion of Jesus. Lots of questions helped the children to put themselves inside the story: why did Pilate wash his hands, why was Jesus silent and why do you think Peter denied knowing Jesus 3 times?



After this introduction, the children worked in smaller groups doing some art and craft activities, taking part in a drama and having time and space to reflect on the Easter story.

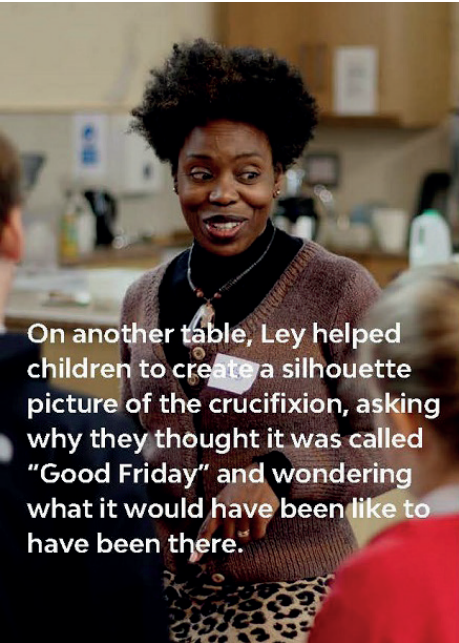
On the chancel steps, Rev Hannah Baylor, Curate, gently guided the children towards the idea that Jesus was a servant king as she encouraged them to wash and dry each other's hands. She then helped the children to take some bread and blackcurrant squash, remembering the exact words of Jesus at the Last Supper.

In a different corner, Hattie, a Falmouth University student, quietly read the story of the resurrection, pausing to allow her group to draw their ideas of what the garden, the tomb, Mary and risen Christ looked like. This allowed children to use their imagination and be creative in telling the story.

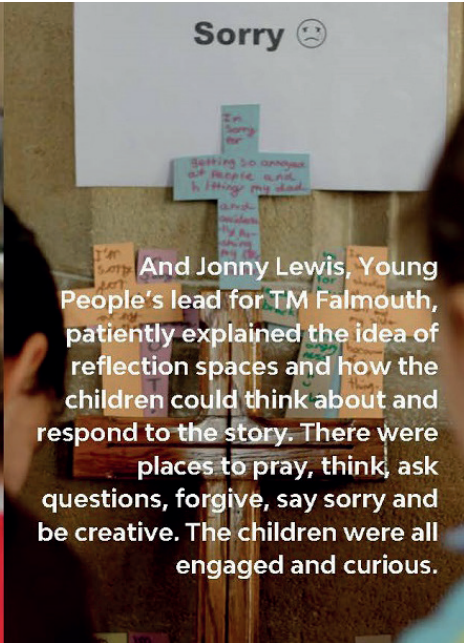
New Street Church in Falmouth welcomed over 240 children from local primary schools to All Saints Church in Falmouth. The aim? To help them learn about what Christians believe happened at Easter.

Tree of Life and Open Heaven

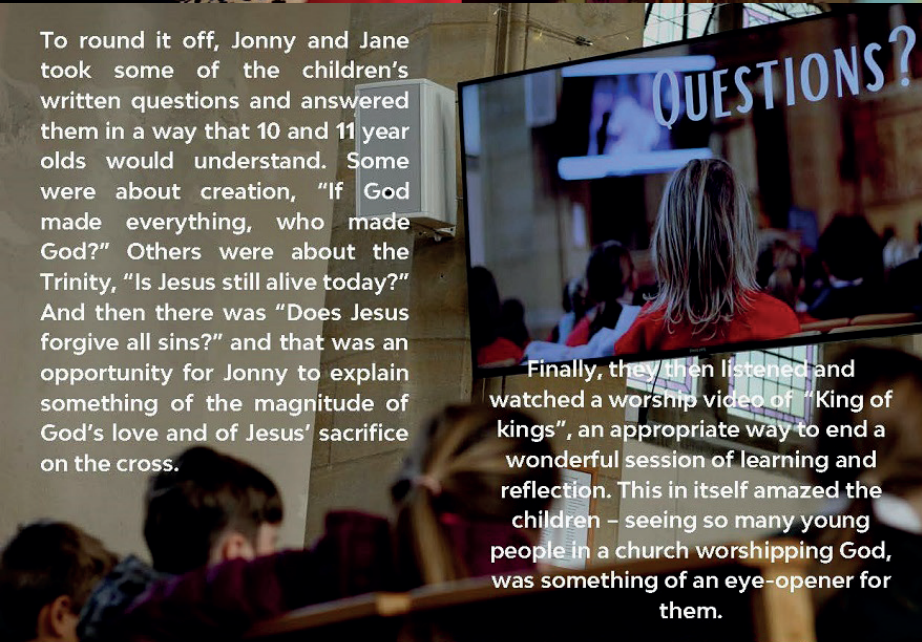
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On another table, Ley helped children to create a silhouette picture of the crucifixion, asking why they thought it was called "Good Friday" and wondering what it would have been like to have been there.

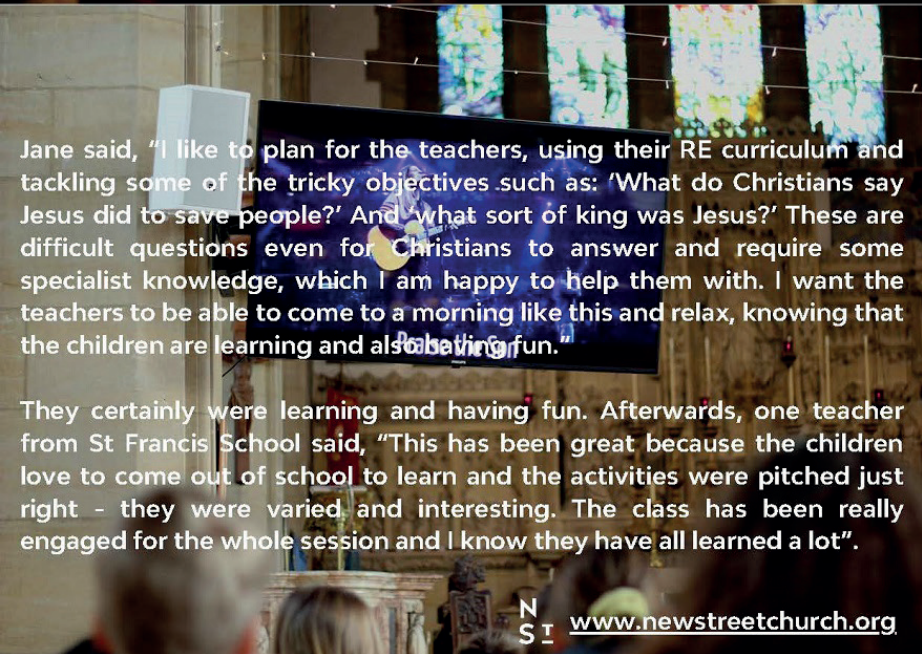


And Jonny Lewis, Young People's lead for TM Falmouth, patiently explained the idea of reflection spaces and how the children could think about and respond to the story. There were places to pray, think, ask questions, forgive, say sorry and be creative. The children were all engaged and curious.



To round it off, Jonny and Jane took some of the children's written questions and answered them in a way that 10 and 11 year olds would understand. Some were about creation, "If God made everything, who made God?" Others were about the Trinity, "Is Jesus still alive today?" And then there was "Does Jesus forgive all sins?" and that was an opportunity for Jonny to explain something of the magnitude of God's love and of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

Finally, they then listened and watched a worship video of "King of kings", an appropriate way to end a wonderful session of learning and reflection. This in itself amazed the children – seeing so many young people in a church worshipping God, was something of an eye-opener for them.



Jane said, "I like to plan for the teachers, using their RE curriculum and tackling some of the tricky objectives such as: 'What do Christians say Jesus did to save people?' And what sort of king was Jesus?' These are difficult questions even for Christians to answer and require some specialist knowledge, which I am happy to help them with. I want the teachers to be able to come to a morning like this and relax, knowing that the children are learning and also having fun."

They certainly were learning and having fun. Afterwards, one teacher from St Francis School said, "This has been great because the children love to come out of school to learn and the activities were pitched just right – they were varied and interesting. The class has been really engaged for the whole session and I know they have all learned a lot".



An amazing exhibition at St.Martin's Church, Liskeard TREE OF LIFE + OPEN HEAVEN

An amazing exhibition of textiles and embroidery – normally only seen in cathedrals due to its size - is on display in St Martin's Church Liskeard. This is its first visit to Cornwall.

The artist, Jacqui Parkinson, has had her work displayed in most of the cathedrals of England. She designed the glass screen and south door in St.Martin's.

Now you can see two spectacular displays by her at St. Martin's on show from 28th April to 7th June. This is a rare opportunity to see her breathtaking work.

A million stitches expressing God's love!

Tree of Life consists of three huge stitched silk panels on a subject that runs through the bible. It took eighteen months and a million stitches!

Visitors find it moving and uplifting - and there's lots to interest children too.

28th April to 7th June

The three panels retell the story of the Garden of Eden and Adam and Eve's fall, in the first pages of the bible; the Crucifixion; and the promise of a new heaven and earth in the last pages of the Bible.



At the start of the bible, the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil stood in the Garden of Eden: Adam and Eve fatally bit into a piece of forbidden fruit. The first panel shows this part of the story. In the Garden was also the Tree of Life. It's described again at the end of the bible in the book of Revelation. The third panel depicts the scene, in a most spectacular image of a restored Garden of Eden, in a New Heaven and New Earth.

For the middle panel, Jacqui created a remarkable image of crucifixion. It uses the idea of the cross as the Tree of Life, because Jesus died to offer life over death. So the Tree of Life is presented in three key scenes, beautifully and dramatically - through astonishing stitching.

Meet a Messiah!

Open Heaven is totally different, and again very dramatic and thought provoking. It's an installation, a kind of sculpture.

It's not often we are face to face with a Messiah! Jacqui Parkinson's installation aims to give you just that feeling. 'Open Heaven' has a life size figure of Christ hanging from a huge rope ladder. The idea here is of Jesus reaching towards us, inviting us to heaven, summing up the Gospel. It's very moving.



St.Martin's Church, Church Street, Liskeard, Cornwall, PL14 3AQ

Tree of Life with **Open Heaven** are on show from 28th April to 7th June, open during the week from 9 to 12 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Special group visits can be arranged through the Church Office - 01579 347411. See more of Jacqui's work at www.jacqui-textile.com

New Project Manager at Transformation Cornwall

Anne Redelinghuys has been appointed as the new project manager for Transformation Cornwall, replacing Jane Yeomans, who completed her 5 years of service on 31 March.

Anne's academic background is in Organisational Development, Marketing, and Human Resources.

Anne is an experienced manager, project developer, and strategist. She is always looking for opportunities to empower, engage, and add value to communities.



She has spent the past six years in the VCSE sector in social action and environmental awareness.

She has witnessed the far-reaching impact and lasting legacies of collaborations and partnerships and is excited about the networking and collaboration opportunities to support and strengthen communities in Cornwall.

Anne says: "I have experienced that there is much to be learned from one another. Simply reaching out, extending a kind caring hand, and offering mutual support, have resulted in the most amazing, unexpected outcomes in some of the most challenging environments.

"It is a privilege to be part of Transformation Cornwall and it is with great excitement that I take on this role where we can build on the foundation of Christian values to impact, develop and support the communities of Cornwall through faith-based social action."

Cornwall Churches Environment Group (CCEG)



WHO WE ARE

An independent ecumenical group of Christians from around Cornwall sharing information about how the different denominations and churches are acting to care better for God's creation, and then (most importantly) passing on this information within our own parishes / congregations and our wider communities.

WHAT WE DO

We encourage individuals and groups to take action, share positive stories and build on what works.

HOW WE MEET

We generally meet monthly on Zoom. Visit our web page at www.ctcinfohub.org/cccg for details of how to join us – everyone welcome!

CORNWALL CHURCHES ENVIRONMENT GROUP

WHO WE WORK WITH

The group works in liaison with Churches Together in Cornwall and includes representatives from many other groups including:



Green Christian
<https://greenchristian.org.uk/>



Ecochurch
<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>



Creation Care
<https://creationcare.org.uk/>



LiveSimply
<https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/LiveSimply-award>



*Diocese of Truro
Creation Care Network*
<https://trurodiocese.org.uk/resources/social-action/creation-care/>

Read more and download flyer at
<https://www.ctcinfohub.org/cornwall-churches-environment-group/>



Latest Churches Together in Cornwall Annual Report

download at www.ctcinfohub.org/ctc-annual-report/

Forest Church

WORSHIPPING IN CREATION



***Join us for Forest Church
in Tregoniggie Woodland!***

SUNDAY 15 MAY at 3.00pm



World Day of Prayer 2022

I know the plans I have for you

*prepared by the churches in
England, Wales & Northern Ireland*

5 March 2022

many services were held across Cornwall

read more at

www.wwdp.org.uk/2022-theme-and-country-ewni/#

CCEG's first-ever Forest Church service was held in Falmouth on 15 May. Led by Dr Euan McPhee, Chair of Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together and also of the Friends of Tregoniggie Woodland, the service attracted some 21 people of all ages and multiple dogs. It explored various parts of the woodland, concluding amidst the carved tree trunks created where a grove of non-native trees, originally planted too close together, had had to be felled for safety reasons.

New native trees have been planted in their place. As the service came to an end the heavens wept so plans for an after-service picnic had to be abandoned, but all left looking forward to the next Forest Church - look out for announcements on

www.ctcinfohub.org/



**CHURCHES
TOGETHER
CORNWALL**
inspiring unity

sharing our gifts

SEND US YOUR GOOD NEWS!

ctcinfohub@gmail.com

CELEBRATE GOD'S WORK IN CORNWALL

***follow us on Facebook: @ChurchesTogetherinCornwall
and Twitter: @CtcMissioner***

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