

# CTC Review

Summer  
17 2023

## GOOD NEWS FROM CORNISH CHURCHES

*#Change...but not decay #The Coronation #Christian Aid Week #Thy Kingdom Come #South West Awake #Explore Creation #Royal Cornwall Show #Shanty Festival #Pilgrimage for Creation #SAM developments #Armed Forces Day #Faith Poles #Becoming Better Together*



**CHURCHES  
TOGETHER  
CORNWALL**

*inspiring unity*  
*sharing our gifts*

**Cornubia : Land of the Saints**

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# Change... but not decay

*Change and decay in all around I see...* The familiar line from the hymn *Abide with me* may sum up what many are feeling in our post-Covid, post-Brexit Britain. But change is inevitable and decay is inevitably followed by new life. In Churches Together in Cornwall, this year has seen the departure of a number of our denominational leaders and trustees: Revd Ruth Whitehead stepped down as Moderator of the South Western Synod of the United Reformed Church at the end of March, and Majors Steve and Amanda White moved from their roles as Divisional Commanders of the Salvation Army, based in Exeter, to new positions in London on the same date. In July it was announced that our chair, Bishop Philip, is to leave the Diocese of Truro in September, having been appointed as the next Bishop of Winchester. We shall miss them all greatly; all have been strong supporters of CTC and ecumenical matters generally, and they leave with our warmest thanks and very best wishes for the next phases of their leadership.

Ruth's successor is expected to be appointed from October 2023, and Bishop Philip's from early 2025; Bishop Hugh Nelson becomes Acting Bishop of Truro in the meantime. We welcome the new Salvation Army Divisional Commander, Major Paul Billard who is now in post but, while still based in Exeter, is covering a much larger area extending to Gloucester and Swindon. We also welcome our new Quaker representative, Geoff Watson, replacing Lesley Chandler who stood down last year, and the new Chair of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Methodist District, Revd Loraine Mellor, who now takes over as Chair of Churches Together in Cornwall. We still await news of the appointment of a new Bishop to the RC Diocese of Plymouth. Also relatively new to our team are Major Susan Tidball and Revd Ray Borrett, who joined us last year as Salvation Army and Methodist Denominational Ecumenical Officers respectively. A very warm welcome to all!

*Our leadership team continues to change and evolve, but the work we support continues unabated. Acting as a catalyst to inspire unity and share our gifts, we are here primarily to facilitate the work of others, and as the contents of this issue demonstrate, the work of the Spirit is alive and well across our county - praise be!*



# The Coronation

6 May 2023



Girl Choristers from Truro Cathedral Choir were invited to join the choirs of Westminster Abbey and HM Chapel Royal Choir, St James's Palace to sing at the Coronation of Their Majesties The King and The Queen Consort, on Saturday 6 May, alongside young singers from Methodist College, Belfast.

Truro School Community and Truro Cathedral have produced a film that shows the incredible journey of our seven 'Coronation choristers' Millie, Evie, Imogen, Chloe, Lowenna, Bryher and Oriel. The film documents their response to the initial invitation to join the Coronation Choir, their experience of singing at the Coronation and returning to Cornwall to overwhelming support and pride from the Cornish community. Watch the film at <https://youtu.be/JgWM51v3sFk>.

Churches Together in England Presidents and General Secretary Bishop Mike Royal represented our Member Churches at this historic occasion - read more at <https://cte.org.uk/the-coronation-an-ecumenical-delight/>.

In Truro, a Coronation Civic Service and Parade were held on Sunday 7 May. The parade gathered at Lemon Quay before moving off towards High Cross outside the cathedral, including civic dignitaries, standards and local musicians. The cathedral choir sang during the following service, including the girl choristers who sang at the Coronation the day before. The service can still be watched at <https://youtu.be/a8lf4XXUIh8>.

And on Monday 8 May, as part of The Big Help Out, Truro's Volunteer Thank-you Party and Celebration was also held in the cathedral, including a cream tea and local creatives delivering activities throughout the day to inspire visitors. Around the county, many other churches held similar activities to celebrate our local communities.

# Christian Aid Week

14-20 May 2023

Following last year's successful first effort at hosting a Book Sale to raise money for Christian Aid Week, Falmouth and Penryn Churches Together decided to repeat the venture this year! Having appealed for donations from all the churches across Falmouth and Penryn, The Salvation Army acted as a central drop-off point for donations and the Parish Church of King Charles the Martyr served as the venue for the sale once again. Books were sorted and set out on Monday 15 May, and the sale ran from Tuesday 16 to Saturday 20 May from 10.00am to 4.00pm each day.

Volunteers from across the member churches in Falmouth, Penryn and as far afield as Mawnan Smith helped to sell the books. One of the incidental benefits of the sale was that more people visited the church than might otherwise have done and were able to appreciate the peace and beauty of this fine church building.

By the end of the week, £651.50 had been raised for Christian Aid. There was still a considerable stock of unsold books which, hopefully, will be stored and form the core of the Book Sale next year. Our thanks to all the churches for their

donations, to the church members who volunteered to sell the books and of course to the Church Council of King Charles Church for allowing Churches Together to use the church building. Hopefully, same time, same place next year!

*Euan McPhee, Chair,  
Falmouth & Penryn  
Churches Together*



Pop-up  
Book Sale



# Thy Kingdom Come

18-28 May 2023



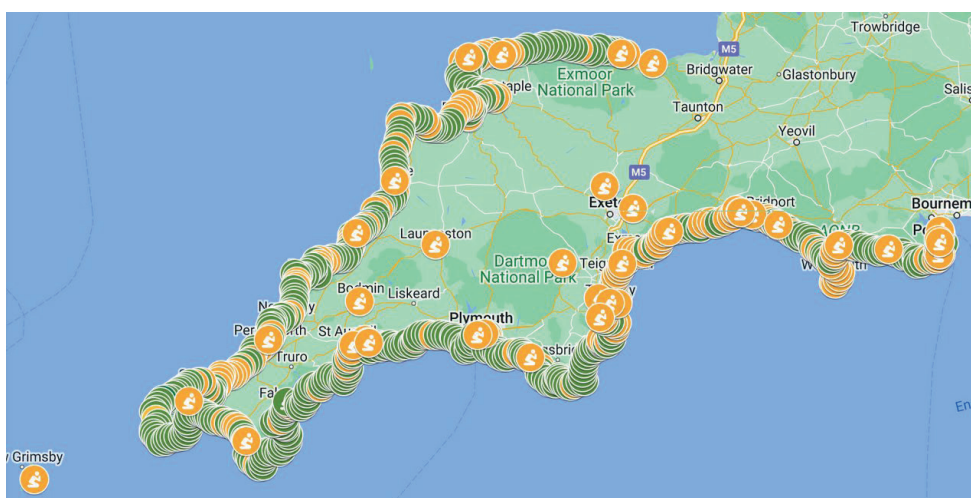
Thy Kingdom Come (Ascension Day-Pentecost, 18-28 May) was celebrated for the eighth time in 2023. It has become a world-wide event, and the supporting resources including the Novena and Prayer

Diary are widely available both in print and online. This year Churches Together in Cornwall once again provided a daily series of online reflections from local church leaders on social media, which reached over 1000 people. For the first time since before the pandemic we were able to gather ecumenically at Gwennap Pit on Pentecost Sunday, where about 100 people joined in worship in warm sunshine.

## South West Awake

20 May 2023

The coastal path prayer event South West Awake was held on Sat 20 May and members of many Cornish churches participated, turning out to sea to give thanks for the Gospel coming to our shores and then turning to face the land and praying for our communities.



Held for the third time this year, this looks set to become a regular fixture on our prayer calendar. More details at <https://www.southwestawake.com/>.

# Explore Creation

4 June 2023

Originally planned for Creationtide 2022 by Cornwall Churches Environment Group, the Explore Creation event on Portreath Beach was cancelled due to the death of the Queen. However, it was agreed to resurrect the idea as a way of celebrating World Environment Sunday, 4 June 2023.



With support from people from Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together as well as CCEG and Churches Together in Cornwall, around twenty or so people gathered on a warm sunny beach for an act of creation-centred worship. Before that, a number of people mucked in to help Andrew Nicholson mark out a labyrinth with the shape of a heart at the centre, symbolic of God's love for all of creation. George Dow of Green Christian led the act of worship and the songs were ably led by the St Aubyn Singers, who went on to perform a selection of sea-related songs. People were invited to walk the labyrinth and deposit a piece of marine waste at the centre to reflect our impact upon the oceans, and then pick up a stone to carry away to represent

our determination to be more caring of God's creation. Several children enjoyed rockpooling.

The event was concluded with worship as the tide washed away the labyrinth and all evidence of our presence on the beach – a most symbolic ending! *Euan McPhee*

**CORNWALL CHURCHES ENVIRONMENT GROUP**  
*invites you to*  
**EXPLORE CREATION**  
**on Portreath Beach TR16 4NR**  
**SUNDAY 4 JUNE 2023 3-5pm**  
*if wet in St Mary's Church, Portreath*

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

**SEA SHANTIES - BEACH LABYRINTH - ROCK POOLING - BEACH ART**  
**SAND CASTLE COMPETITION - PICNIC**  
**ALL AGES WELCOME - FIND US BY THE FLAGS**  
**Helpers needed from 2pm to dig the Labyrinth!**



# Royal Cornwall Show

8-10 June 2023



Developing the 'Sanctuary' theme introduced last year, activities in the Churches Together tent on Stand 1 at the Royal Cornwall Show included a prayer corner, children's activities, Fairtrade and book stalls, and, as ever, free tea/coffee and biscuits, with a team of 18 show chaplains working in the tent and around the show.



Churches Together in Cornwall once again had a stall showcasing work across the county and many fruitful conversations took place.

Chris Batt, Chair of the CTC Royal Cornwall Show Tent Committee, spoke about this year's Show on Radio Cornwall on Sunday 11 June. Costs of providing the Tent have risen astronomically since the pandemic, and are no longer sustainable; however, both CTC and the Royal Cornwall Show are determined to maintain our presence on Stand 1 and to provide the much-valued chaplaincy team service, and alternative options are being actively explored. Next year's show takes place from 6-8 June 2024 and CTC will be there!



# Shanty Festival

16-18 June 2023

Although not a religious festival, The Falmouth International Sea Shanty Festival fills the streets of Falmouth with some 60,000 people, visiting some 27 venues to hear 78 groups from home and abroad - a great opportunity to show the church playing a full part in the community. Falmouth Parish Church of King Charles the Martyr, being located bang in the centre of town, plays a full part in the proceedings, hosting a number of performances over the weekend and also a special Festival service (including shanties!) on the Sunday.

This year back to full strength after having to retreat online during the pandemic and returning on a smaller scale last year, the Festival was also blessed with excellent weather, making for a happy and relaxed atmosphere and judged by many to have been the best ever. The Festival is in aid of the RNLI and this year raised some £20,000, bringing the total raised since the festival began to over



*The River Notes Choir (including members from several local churches) perform at Falmouth Parish Church of King Charles the Martyr.*



# A Pilgrimage for Creation Care

24 June 2023

Cornwall's Creation Care Network organised a Pilgrimage around St Neot and Berry Down from St Neot Church. Beginning with a short service of reflection and commitment, the group departed on a ramble through local countryside and onto Berry Down.

Stops were made along the way for prayer and reflection on humanity's interaction with God's creation, and a picnic lunch included Holy Communion.

Notes and reflections for the route are still available at <https://trurodiocese.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/notes-and-reflections-St-Neot-walk.pdf>

Join us for  
**A pilgrimage for Creation Care**  
Around St Neot and Berry Down  
Saturday 24th June 2023  
All welcome  
(including dogs)

Meet at St Neot Church PL14 6NG at 10.30 am for a short service of reflection and commitment before we depart on a ramble through local countryside and onto Berry Down, returning to St Neot Church at approx 3.00pm.



Bring a picnic lunch to eat on the way.

Stops along the way for prayer and reflection on humanity's interaction with God's creation. Lunchtime Holy Communion. All welcome for the whole walk or to join in at any place along the way.

Contact [reverendelly@gmail.com](mailto:reverendelly@gmail.com) or 07713327263 for more information and to confirm plans in case of inclement weather.



## SAM developments

CTC's project *Social Action Mapping for Cornish Churches* has recently undergone some changes. Age UK, which has supported the Cornwall Link platform that hosts our data, withdrew from that platform as of 31 March 2023, and the software supplier Made Open is currently seeking new sponsors. Meanwhile it continues to support Cornwall Link from its own resources, for which we are extremely grateful. Records are currently being updated to ensure currency, so some listings are temporarily hidden, but will return! We hope that sufficient new funding can be found to maintain the existing service, but should that not prove possible we will investigate alternative hosts to ensure that this very useful service continues to develop.

# Armed Forces Day

24 June 2023

This annual event, which was instituted in 2009 to increase support for the armed forces, is marketed as family entertainment but sponsored by BAE, one of the world's largest arms companies. More than one hundred events were held across the country including parades, salutes and fly-pasts, but the main national event this year was held in Falmouth.

In Falmouth, Quakers and others, including Cornwall Resists and Ocean Rebellion, joined the rear of the military parade after a last-minute change of heart by the police. Supported by national organisations including Campaign Against Arms Trade and the Peace Pledge Union, campaigners held peace vigils and set up a peace stall to highlight their opposition to the event.

Falmouth Quaker Lesley Chandler said that Armed Forces Day celebrations revealed only the positive gloss of belonging and adventure associated with the Armed Forces, omitting the risks and realities of military life. "War and conflict can only happen if a country is onside to accept increasing, everyday militarism," she said.

*One hundred people attended a discussion of War School, a film about militarism and British schools, featuring speakers including Ellis Brooks, peace education coordinator at Quakers in Britain.*

**ARE YOU ENROLLED IN WAR SCHOOL?**  
A critical discussion of British militarism for Armed Forces Day 2023  
Featuring the documentary War School

**IN DISCUSSION WITH:**

- Carmen Wilson**  
Director of Operations  
Demilitarise Education  
@dED\_ucation
- Luke Starr**  
Coordinator  
ForcesWatch  
@ForcesWatch
- Ellis Brooks**  
Peace Education  
Coordinator  
Quakers in Britain  
@PeaceEduQuaker

**22 JUNE 2023 | 6PM**

**THE POLY**  
ARTS HISTORY SCIENCE

**ADDRESS:**  
THE POLY, 24 CHURCH STREET,  
FALMOUTH, TR11 2EL

**dED**  
demilitarise  
education

**ForcesWatch**

**QUAKERS**

Watch War School at [https://youtu.be/bl5Zc71KV\\_g](https://youtu.be/bl5Zc71KV_g)

A special service of thanksgiving for the contribution of those serving in the armed forces was held at Falmouth Parish Church on Sun 25 June, at which Bishop Hugh Nelson, Bishop of St Germans and Bishop to the Armed Forces, was the preacher.



# Installation of Faith Poles

2 July 2023

A series of Faith Poles was installed at the Dor Kemmyn site of Cornwall Faith Forum at Penmount at a gathering on 2 July.

The poles, one for each faith group represented in the Forum and some organisations, have text on each face chosen by the group involved.

The wording on the Christian pole includes on one face 'Blessed are the peacemakers' and on the opposite side 'Love your enemies'. The other two sides say 'Churches Together in Cornwall' in English and Cornish.

Do look out for them if visiting Penmount!



## Becoming Better Together

27 January 2024 - save the date!

Nearly ten years ago, in November 2013, the churches in membership of Churches Together in Cornwall signed a *Declaration of Intent & Letter of Companionship* at a packed service held at St Petroc's Church, Bodmin, in the presence of the Archbishop of Canterbury. In January 2024, at the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we plan to return to St Petroc's to mark this 10-year anniversary in an act of re-dedication and planning for the next ten years. More details coming soon - please save the date!



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**SEND US YOUR GOOD NEWS!**

***ctcinfohub@gmail.com***

**CELEBRATE GOD'S WORK IN CORNWALL**

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and Twitter: @CtcMissioner***

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