

# CTC Review

December  
2019

## GOOD NEWS FROM CORNISH CHURCHES

*#DefiningOurMission #FalmouthLive Nativity #FaithHope&Climate  
#EnvironmentallyFriendlyChristmas #IPackedThisMyself #Meet SAM #ComingUp  
A BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR TO ALL*



**CHURCHES  
TOGETHER  
CORNWALL**

*inspiring unity*  

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*sharing our gifts*

**Cornubia : Land of the Saints**  
*Used with kind permission from the Estate of John Miller*

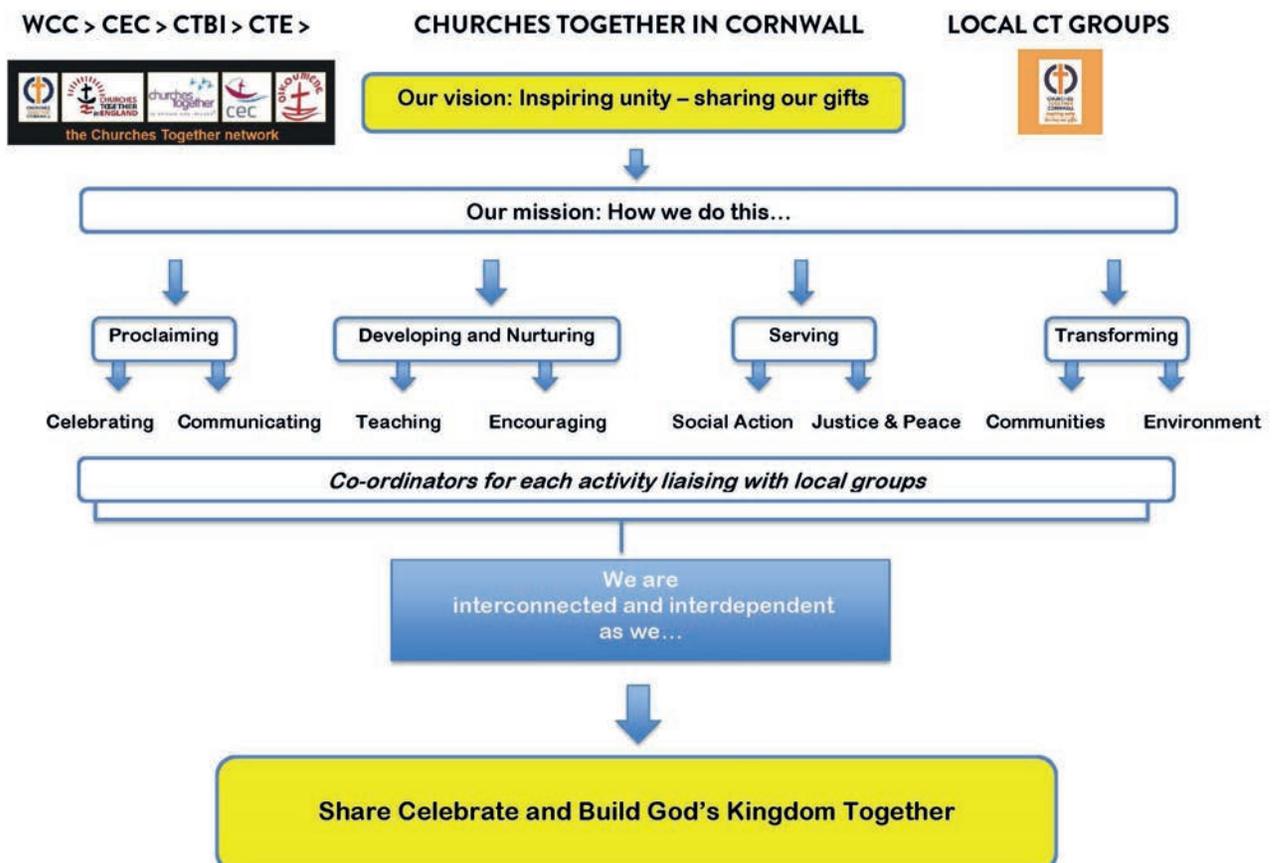
# Welcome



**WELCOME** to the second issue of the **CTC Review: Good News from Cornish Churches**. As our new Mission Statement evolves we will focus on initiatives reflecting the various Missional Areas we have identified to reflect both our existing activities and those we are called to engage with in future. In this issue we focus particularly on environmental issues, and how we can be agents of change for good. Our new correspondent Anna Barrett gives her thoughts on a less consumerist Christmas, and in the New Year we plan to develop a new page of the *CTCinfoHub* exploring environmental resources. We report from Falmouth on this year's Live Nativity, a celebration of the Good News which has become a much-loved feature of the town's Christmas programme, and share the first news of our SAM project to map church-led social action initiatives across the county, working with a variety of partners. And we outline the relaunch of Bridging Arts' project *I packed This Myself*, working with migrant workers to reduce prejudice and build understanding within local communities. As always, the Good News we are called to share as Christians is in the context of much bad news: but it brings courage and hope. May 2020 bring much of both; and meanwhile a very happy and peaceful Christmas to all our readers.

# Defining Our Mission

In November 2019, the CTC Executive agreed to use the chart below as a visualisation of our new vision and mission statement. It remains a work in progress and will no doubt change and evolve as we put it into practice, but essentially allows us to focus our work on four missional areas, each subdivided into two, and within these we want to engage with as many people as possible who are active in those areas. These may be people within local Churches/Christians Together groups, Local Ecumenical Partnerships, individual churches not part of any group, and those outside the churches altogether. Our aim is to start conversations and build relationships, extending and reinforcing existing networks and building new ones as needed, to inspire and to share. We are looking for ambassadors for each of the eight missional areas to help us on this journey; please contact [ctcmisioner@gmail.com](mailto:ctcmisioner@gmail.com) if you would like to help!



# Falmouth Live Nativity

**ROGER MILLS, CTC Missioner, walks the streets of Falmouth in the company of hundreds following a star**

The Falmouth Live Nativity took place for the eighth time on Sun 8 Dec 2019. First held in 2012, the Live Nativity was the brainchild of Deacon Michelle Legumi of Falmouth Methodist Church, and proved so popular that it has been repeated every year since, growing in size and scope each time. Strongly supported by Falmouth Town Council and local traders, the event takes 10 months to plan, involves dozens of people from across the churches in Falmouth and Penryn, and attracts hundreds of spectators as the procession moves from Events Square to The Moor. This year Rev Steve Wild joined us for the first time to set the scene as Mary began her journey. Setting off on her donkey, accompanied by carols, Mary and Joseph walked through the town centre, stopping at various hostelries along the way where appropriately costumed innkeepers protested they had no room (this year 'because of the election!'). As they proceeded on their way, we paused outside King Charles the Martyr Church with shepherds and their sheep as a choir of heavenly angels, aka KCM Choir, announced the birth of Jesus. Continuing on our way to the stable we were harangued by King Herod flanked

by centurions and asserting he's the only King around. Moving quickly on, we saw a bright star ahead and soon met three wise men. Over the years these have sometimes been women, sometimes on horseback, sometimes with alpacas, but this year splendidly attired men were accompanied by children 'wearing' toy camels who totally stole the scene! The procession then continued to The Moor where Mary and Joseph with their new baby had taken refuge in a stable, conveniently weatherproofed inside a large marquee and surrounded by animals. Careful crowd management ensured that all got safely into the marquee, where Rev Steve Wild gave a final address explaining the meaning and importance of the story and involving the children crowded in front of the manger. Generally Jesus is 'played' by a real baby, but this year he was unwell on the day so a life-like doll stood in. After a final carol, the crowd were invited to look at the animals while the participants in the nativity scene remained in their places for photographs. Afterwards all were invited to Falmouth Methodist Church over the road, to partake of free refreshments and listen to the outstanding St Mary's

primary school choir singing seasonal songs while children enjoyed free craft activities. During the procession postcards were handed out detailing Christmas services across the Falmouth and Penryn area churches, and this year for the first time the Churches Together Prayer Tent team distributed New Testaments which went like hot cakes – this so-called 'pram ministry' (because the bibles are contained in an old pram!) normally takes place on The Moor on the first Saturday of every month. The bibles are funded by Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together and the ministry has been very well received. The Falmouth Live Nativity is now a well-established and much-loved part of Falmouth's Christmas programme and huge thanks are due to all involved, especially Town Manager Richard Gates, Jane Charman, chief organiser for many years and her new successors this year Ali Durkin and Deacon Jane Mills – and their supporting 'cast of thousands'. Plans for next year are already in train!

# Proclaiming



photos: Roger Mills

# Faith, Hope & Climate

Every year, Falmouth and Penryn Churches Together runs a study day looking at aspects of what it means to 'be the Body of Christ' in our world today. This year the focus was on the climate emergency, and what our response should be as Christians. Organised and introduced by Dr Euan MacPhee, ecologist and Methodist Lay Preacher, the half-day workshop on 12 October was held at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Falmouth. Around 40 people from a wide range of churches gathered to hear four excellent speakers leave us in little doubt that we must take action, we must do it now, we must work together and we must go forward in hope, however daunting the prospect.

Revd Dr Lucy Larkin opened with a theological perspective, encouraging us to 'hit the ground praying'; we need to be confident in our Christian values, traditions and skills, supporting those in need, especially the young. Head teachers and university chaplains are increasingly finding young people with 'climate anxiety'; and many are out on the streets protesting, their placards proclaiming 'there is no planet B', 'System change not climate change', 'don't be a fossil fool'... Greta Thunberg's address to the United Nations Climate Action summit made headlines around the world: "People are suffering, people are dying, entire ecosystems are collapsing. We're in the beginning of a mass extinction. And all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth. How dare you!"

Rowan Williams, writing in the Extinction Rebellion handbook 'This is not a drill' said "the climate crisis is not some unfortunate accident, but a reality that has been at the very least accelerated and measurably worsened by a set of habits and assumptions that have poisoned us as a human race. We may or we may not escape the breakdown. But we can escape the toxicity of the mindset that has brought us here. And in so doing, we can recover a humanity that is capable of real resilience." So Lucy urged us to hold our nerve, come together in lament for what is happening, to listen to the despairing, and bring hope; to identify our talents and use them; and embody deep humility, childlike wonder and awe, wisdom, generosity, compassion, and tenderness; to practise restraint, prudence, creativity and inspiration; and be endowed with playfulness, optimism, and joy.

Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together  
'Being the Body of Christ'  
2019 Study Day

## FAITH, HOPE & CLIMATE

### Responding Positively to the Climate Emergency

*How should we as people of faith be responding to the crisis of climate change and species extinction which is confronting all life on earth? Is there a Biblical basis for concern about these issues and how should our lives and our worship be shaped by these events?*

Come and share your concerns and your ideas as to how we, as a Christian Community, can respond positively – and share that positivity with others!

Speakers include Rev Dr Lucy Larkin

Katrine Musgrave, Luci Isaacson & Dr Euan McPhee

EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH  
Western Terrace, Falmouth TR11 4QJ  
Saturday 12 October 2019

9.30am-1pm

no charge – no booking

Falmouth  
& Penryn  
Churches  
Together



SEASON OF  
CREATION



# Transforming Environment

Luci Isaacson, Diocesan Environmental Officer, offered a pathway to practical action through the '10 Pledges' which have been widely taken up across the county; those who have done them are asked to talk about them and encourage others to follow suit. We need to become 'trusted messengers'; this is particularly powerful when leaders do it. Cutting carbon emissions is the number one priority at the moment. Courses for 'environmental champions' for local areas are being held up and down the county (Luci had to leave after her talk to run one in Penzance).

Martin James from Cornwall Council then identified key areas for council involvement in delivering their pledge to make Cornwall carbon-neutral by 2030, as defined in their *Climate Change Plan* published and adopted in July 2019: encouraging biodiversity: developing green corridors along highways, planting wild flowers in verges etc; planting 8000 hectares of trees to form a Forest for Cornwall; supporting local environmental plans; encouraging developers to build environmentally neutral houses; and improving public transport.

Katrine Musgrave, Christian Aid's new rep for Cornwall, then gave a global perspective on the effects of climate change internationally and locally. Cornwall was identified as one of the areas of the UK most prone to flooding. Christian Aid supports global disasters around the world, where flooding removes the basics for human survival; in the UK we have systems and structures to assist those affected by flooding, but others are less fortunate. Around the world the most vulnerable are most affected. At the current rate of carbon emissions, billions will suffer food and water shortages by 2050 and 250 million will become environmental refugees. Using volunteers, Katrine gave a visual demonstration of how the countries with lowest emissions are suffering the greatest from climate change - we need to walk lighter in the world. Christian Aid's current focus is on moving to a low carbon economy and the financial investments of our banks, challenging them to shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

The remainder of the morning was spent in discussion and a resume of the points made can be found on the CTC infoHub at <https://www.ctcinfohub.org/faith-hope-and-climate-workshop-outcomes/> together with links to the 10 Pledges and other documents.



photos: Roger Mills

# Environmentally-friendly Christmas

*Christmas is a great time to take small actions to help protect God's earth.*

*Anna Barrett offers some suggestions to get us thinking.*

**1 Try not to throw food away.** Cook with numbers in mind, and if there is a surplus, save it and be creative about cooking with leftovers.

**2 Have a crack at reusable Christmas crackers.** They can be made with fabric or card, but even making sure that there are fewer single-use items in your cracker is a step in the right direction.

**3 Wrap presents with reusable materials.** Make sure to use up the wrapping paper that you already have, because otherwise there is double wastage going on, but after it's gone, get creative with things that you can wrap with. The Japanese use *Furoshiki*, or just a cloth to wrap presents up in, and they can look really beautiful. The idea is that you give a part of yourself with the present and that the cloth can be used again and again.

**4 Gift ethically.** With every item that you purchase you make a vote with your wallet, so this year, try to vote for ethical and environmentally friendly causes. Support a local business or buy all of your gifts from charity shops, give people home-made gifts or experiences instead of tangible items that won't be used. Charities like Oxfam, CAFOD, Practical Action and Choose Love also offer the opportunity to give the gift of a goat (for instance) to someone in need, and are all worthwhile causes!

**5 Eat less meat.** Whatever your thoughts on the strangely polarising topic of vege-

*tarianism, the meat industry is one of the biggest polluters in the world, contributing to nearly 15% of global greenhouse gas emissions, so reducing your meat intake even by one meal a week greatly reduces your carbon footprint too. This Christmas, try to have more potatoes or a Yorkshire pudding for instance, and, when buying meat for your Christmas meal ask yourself whether you need so much, and whether the meat is organic.*

**6 Don't fly.** There's a reason why Greta Thunberg refuses to fly! The two single biggest things that an individual can do to minimise their impact on the environment are eating less meat and giving up air travel completely. To be plain, air travel is absurdly polluting, with one return flight from London to San Francisco producing enough pollution to melt five square metres of Arctic sea ice. If you absolutely must fly, try purchasing carbon offset credits, or donating money to a charity fighting for environmental justice, like ClientEarth.

**7 Prayer is powerful!**

**8 Take some time to read about environmentalism and climate change.** The importance of educating yourself on this subject cannot be overstated. If you are aware of what is going on, you are more able to tackle it. It is so easy to get overwhelmed, but you are not alone, people are fighting for climate justice every day, and progress is being made

# I packed this myself



photo:  
Julian Barford/University College Falmouth/  
Bridging Arts

## <<<Anna Barrett writes:

*I am a member of the Justice and Peace group in the parish of St Augustine of Hippo in St Austell. I am studying a Plant Science degree at the Eden Project and have been passionate about the environment for many years now.*

*I also believe that in the face of the climate crisis we must all work together; collective action is incredibly powerful and we can do it!*



Japanese cloth wrapping: Furoshiki

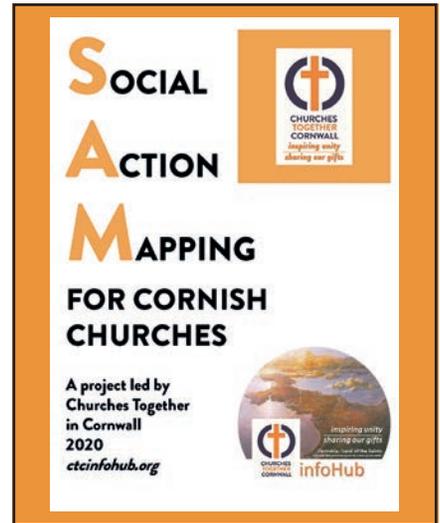
photo: Wikimedia



In November, **Susan Roberts** from Bridging Arts spoke to Churches Together in Cornwall about the next phase of their work in support of migrant workers in Cornwall. Bridging Arts engages with social justice issues in Cornwall and ten years ago worked with Cornwall Council on migrant workers on the land and in meat processing factories. *Let's Talk* sessions were organised with Rev Andrew Yates, Social Responsibility Officer for Truro Diocese, local churches and community police. As a result of these discussions, sets of postcards in different languages giving survival phrases were distributed to migrants workers (see <http://bridging-arts.org/let-s-talk/>).

This was followed up by the *I packed this myself* project which aimed to make migrant communities visible and break down prejudice and misunderstanding, supported by various funders (see <http://bridging-arts.org/suitcases-created-by-migrant-workers/>). A series of exhibitions and workshops were held across Cornwall, working with students and schools to encourage children to think differently and relate to workers. The theme of 'suitcases' was chosen to highlight 'what I brought with me': eg dictionaries, socks, icons. Students were involved to tell migrants' stories through artwork, as a visual response to help groups understand. The work was very successful and a photo gallery was featured nationally in the *Guardian*. Now, partners are reporting that things have got much worse, with a huge growth in prejudice against migrants. So Bridging Arts is going to start work again; new workshops and exhibitions are now being planned, calibrated for different audiences, starting in Jan 2020. It is hoped to expand into the social care and hospitality sectors. Two regional brainstorming meetings will be held, and church participation will be warmly welcomed. Dates will be announced in the *CTC Weekly News* when known; keep an eye out for them and support this great initiative!

Working with:  
<http://inclusioncornwall.co.uk/>  
<https://cornwall-link.co.uk/>  
<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/cornwall/>  
<https://transformation-cornwall.org.uk/>  
as recommended by  
<https://www.cinnamonnetwork.co.uk/>  
<https://www.faithaction.net/>



# Meet SAM

## SOCIAL ACTION MAPPING FOR CORNISH CHURCHES:

*A project led by Churches Together in Cornwall 2020*

**SAM is an initiative by Cornish Churches to make church-led social action programmes widely known to the social prescribing community and others.**

*Cornwall is officially the second poorest county in Europe, with some areas taking poll poverty position. It's a county of contrasts where the super-wealthy and the poorest live parallel lives. Our Foodbanks are busy, our homeless shelters are full and our vulnerable are exactly that.*

Cornish churches organise a wide variety of social action projects across the county, some well known, other less so. The Cinnamon Network estimates in its *National Faith Action Audit* that across the UK some 195,000 volunteers provide over 5million beneficiary interactions across the community, valuing their time at over £3billion.

*"We're talking about initiatives that get to the heart of what matters to communities, connect with the messy issues at the centre of people's lives and genuinely make a long-term difference."* Across Cornwall, we want to improve access to such initiatives for all who can benefit from them, working with relevant agencies to provide easy-to-use sources of information linking needs to projects.

### **We begin with a county-wide mapping project to identify existing services: SAM – Social Action Mapping for Cornish Churches**

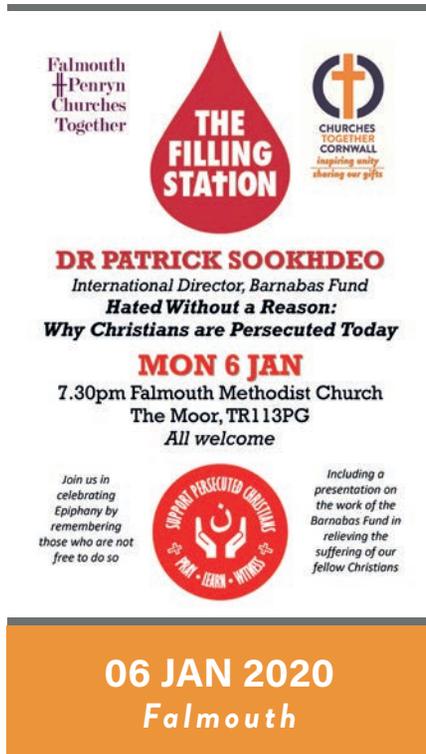
*"...when it comes to health and social care, many outstanding programmes and initiatives are still 'under the radar'. The mapping and resourcing of these hidden gems...must be right at the top of the agenda of those involved in making social prescribing happen."* FaithAction

In the first phase of the project, during the first half of 2020, we plan to work with Churches Together groups to identify projects operating in their area, recording the details in appropriate publicly accessible databases, websites and publications, aiming to reach doctors' surgeries, social prescribers, council services and other agencies.

In phase 2 we will seek to identify gaps in provision and explore ways they might be filled, and seek funding and partnerships to provide long-term sustainability of the project and continuous updating.

*The opening phase will be carried out by members of Churches Together in Cornwall working with student and other volunteers. If you would like to be involved, contact us on [ctcmisioner@gmail.com](mailto:ctcmisioner@gmail.com) – we'd love to hear from you!*

# Coming Up



Falmouth  
+ Penryn  
Churches  
Together

**THE FILLING STATION**

CHURCHES TOGETHER CORNWALL  
inspiring unity  
sharing our gifts

**DR PATRICK SOOKHDEO**  
International Director, Barnabas Fund  
**Hated Without a Reason:  
Why Christians are Persecuted Today**

**MON 6 JAN**  
7.30pm Falmouth Methodist Church  
The Moor, TR1 13PG  
All welcome

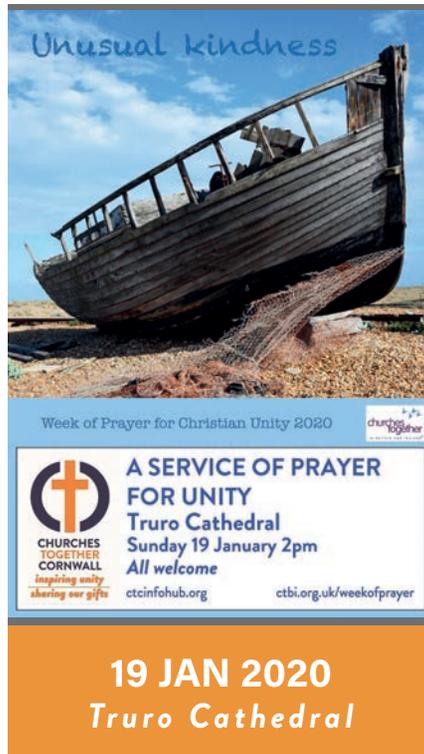
Join us in celebrating Epiphany by remembering those who are not free to do so

SUPPORT PERSECUTED CHRISTIANITY  
\$5 PENN • LEARN • MOTIVATED

Including a presentation on the work of the Barnabas Fund in relieving the suffering of our fellow Christians

**06 JAN 2020**  
Falmouth

**Dr Patrick Sookdheo**, Founder and International Director of the Barnabas Fund, will be speaking at the Falmouth Filling Station on **Mon 6 Jan**, 7.30pm at **Falmouth Methodist Church**, TR11 3PG. His theme is *Hated without a Reason : Why Christians are Persecuted Today*. Everyone welcome.



Unusual kindness

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2020

CHURCHES TOGETHER CORNWALL  
inspiring unity  
sharing our gifts

**A SERVICE OF PRAYER FOR UNITY**  
Truro Cathedral  
Sunday 19 January 2pm  
All welcome

ctcinfohub.org ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer

**19 JAN 2020**  
Truro Cathedral

Celebrate the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** in **Truro Cathedral** on **Sun 19 Jan**, 2pm. Rev Steve Wild, Chair of Churches Together in Cornwall, will speak on *Unusual Kindness*, based on the story of St Paul's shipwreck on the island of Malta as recounted in the Acts of the Apostles.



Unusual kindness

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2020

CHURCHES TOGETHER CORNWALL  
inspiring unity  
sharing our gifts

**DAILY SERVICES OF PRAYER FOR UNITY**  
Truro Methodist Church  
Sat 18-Sat 25 January 11.30am-12noon  
(except Sun) All welcome

ctcinfohub.org ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer

**18-25 JAN 2020**  
Truro Methodist Church

Join with Christians around the globe in **prayer for unity**, daily **Sat 18-Sat 25 Jan** (except Sunday) at **Truro Methodist Church** 11.30am-12noon. Services of prayer and reflection led by members of different traditions across Cornwall. Feel free to come and go as you need.



**CHURCHES  
TOGETHER  
CORNWALL**  
*inspiring unity*  

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*sharing our gifts*

**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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