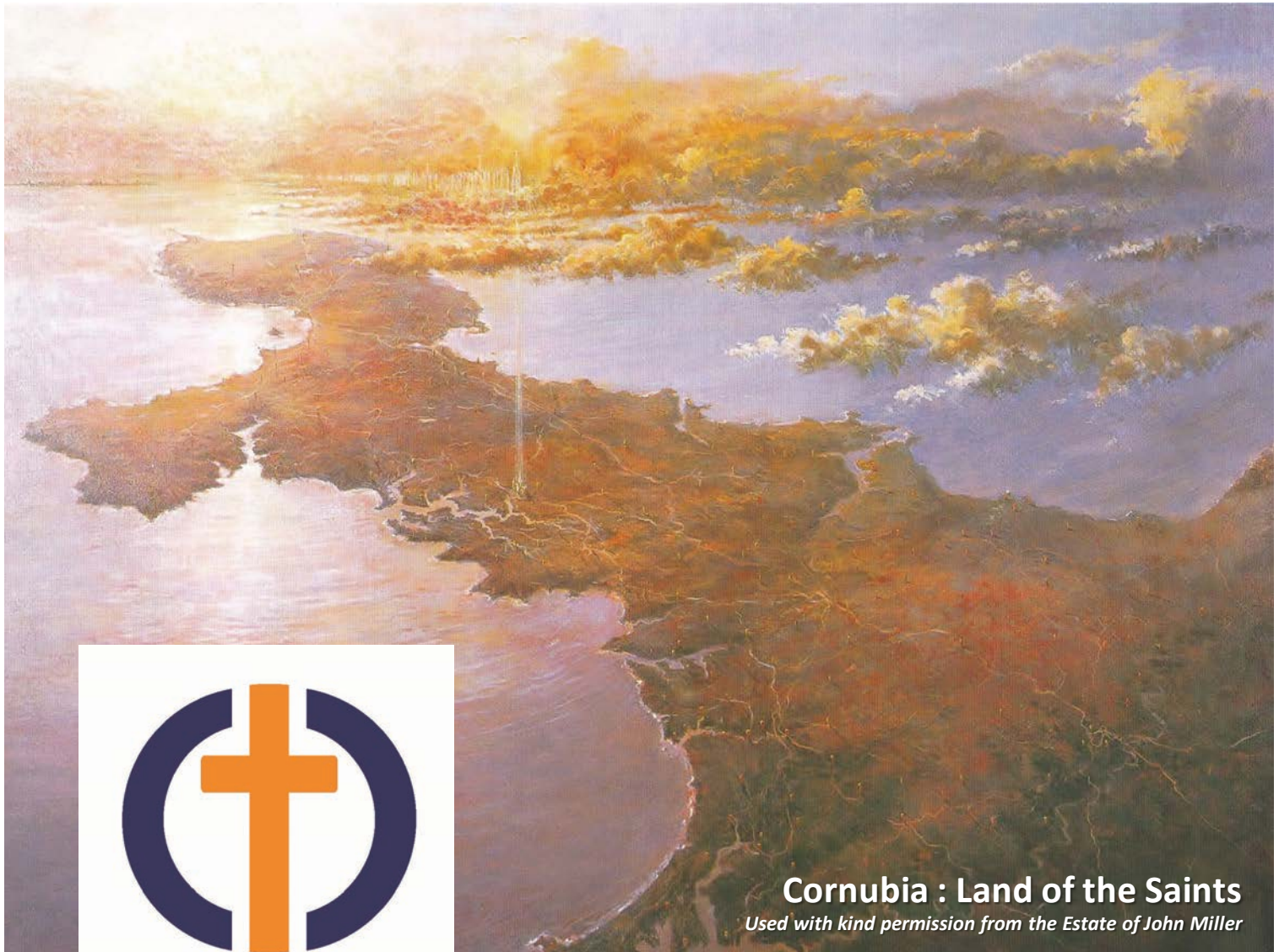


CTC Review

Apr/May
2020

GOOD NEWS FROM CORNISH CHURCHES

#StopTheWorld #ClimateChangeAndChristianity
#DoesClimateChangeMatter #WorldDayOfPrayer
#VirtualGoodFriday #CathedralCrawl #FairtradeFortnight



**CHURCHES
TOGETHER
CORNWALL**

Cornubia : Land of the Saints

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inspiring unity
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Stop the World!



CTCinfoHub during the emergency

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we'll index important stuff so it's there when you need it

STOP!

Those of a certain age may remember the magazine programme *In Town Tonight* which began on radio in the 1930's and was also broadcast on television after the war - it ran in the slot now occupied by *The One Show* on BBC TV until 1960 (a couple of archived editions can now be seen on the BBC iPlayer).

The famous theme tune *Knightsbridge March* by Eric Coates was accompanied by the sound and images of noisy planes, boats, trains and traffic homing in on London until suddenly silenced by a peremptory voice calling *Stop!* and a comforting BBC announcer saying 'Once again we stop the mighty roar of London's traffic, and from the great crowds we bring to you some of the interesting people who come by land, sea and air to be *In Town Tonight*'.

Coronavirus

Light in the darkest times

Loving, ever-living and compassionate God,
You understand the pain of loss, the heartache of bereavement,
May we hold in our hearts all those whose families or friends have died.
You are a light that shines in the darkest times,
Guide us and heal us in our sickness and sorrow.
You comfort us in times of fear,
May we comfort each other, even as we keep apart.
You console and lead us in times of doubt and confusion,
May we follow the light of your love and spread hope.
You move our hearts to acts of generosity,
May we be led to share what we have with those in need.
God of life,
We thank you for the signs of your light in the midst of our darkness,
May we be signs of your compassion in the heart of your world.
Amen.

Linda Jones/CAFOD

On 23 March 2020 this was acted out for real. For the first time ever the whole country was stopped dead in its tracks, and we have had many weeks to meet interesting people in our homes through the wonders of Zoom (other videoconferencing tools are available...)

When we look back on this time, who are the people, what are the ideas that we will remember? What will we have learned from this unprecedented event? Will our faith have been deepened or damaged? Will our desire and ability to work more closely together be stronger or weaker? Time will tell, but the signs are encouraging. Online services and prayer events are attracting large numbers. Churches and church members are involved in countless local initiatives in their communities, building new relationships that will last long after the emergency is passed. The environment has benefitted greatly, demonstrating that our actions matter. *Most of the content in this issue was gathered before coronavirus. But next time we would like to focus on your lockdown stories. Amidst all the suffering, there is much good news - please send yours as ever to ctcmisioner@gmail.com - many thanks!*

Climate Change and Christianity

An investigation into individual Christians' engagement with climate change in the Falmouth region **Nok Yin (Marky) Ma**

Local churches are proposed as being in the most powerful and influential position in facilitating individuals' engagement with the climate issue. Given that the local churches are the religious hub where individual Christians interact with each other, receive theological knowledge, and where materials are circulated and distributed to them, they are paramount to ensure the elements are well-established and delivered in regard to the conceptual model (Figure 1). Therefore, a localised climate change policy is fundamental to help individuals to overcome all the barriers.

Policy initiatives to engage more members with climate change should be rooted in the understanding of the formation of the practice as well as the functions of the individual elements/ Based on the findings, three general recommendations for policy-making in local churches are generated. These policy recommendations are all aiming at overcoming the barriers identified and facilitating the production and interconnections of those three elements (messages, materials and competence):

1. Messages: the church should universalise the theology on climate change through developing ecotheology as well as frequently communicate the messages through different religious practices. These actions can stimulate in individual Christians a sense of commitment that they need to protect God's creation and love their neighbour through actively engaging with climate change. This could increase individuals' motivations to act and also prevent the conflict between the various theological teachings
2. Materials: the church is recommended to prioritise the use of donations and funding to support climate change projects. Living sustainably requires higher costs, therefore more financial resources are needed to aid individuals to change their lifestyles. Establishing more climate change projects can also increase their accessibility to engage with the issue.
3. Competences: the church has a special role in connecting eco-organisations, hierarchy constitutions and other churches together for the common goal of mobilising individuals to engage with the issues. Through cooperation and networking, the church could fully utilise the existing resources from other congregations that could increase members' knowledge of methods for combating climate change.

Environment

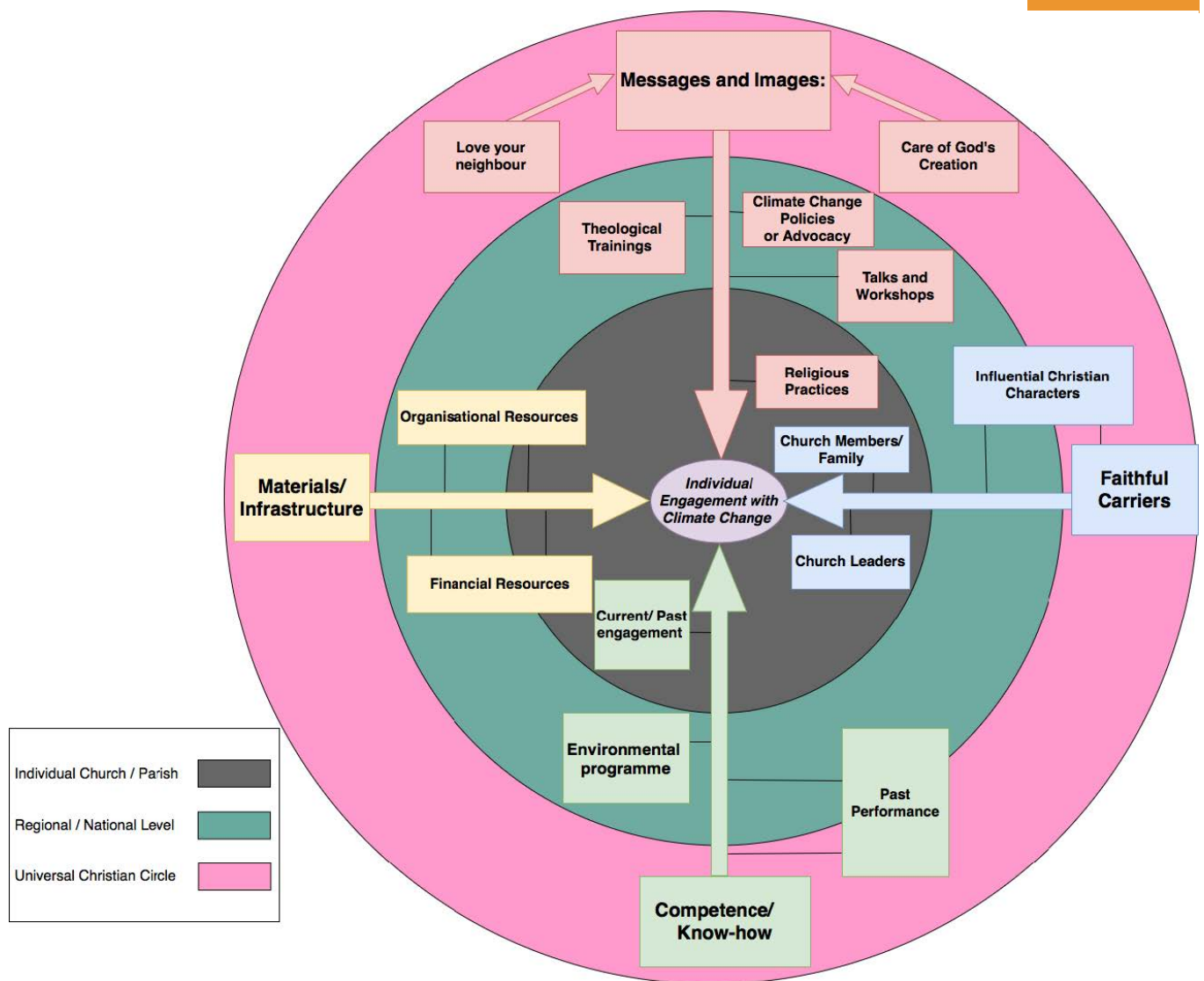


Figure 1. A conceptual model of the formation of individuals' engagement with climate change in the Christian church, with Shove's Social Practice Theory as the framework.

Further research should examine the implementation of climate change policy in the church, in regard to the effectiveness and feasibility of motivating changes among individual believers. Also, more research is needed to investigate whether the existing strategies are able to address Christians' barriers in acting against climate change, especially scrutinising the issue of diverse interpretations of biblical teachings on climate change. Beyond Christianity, there is also a potential to apply the conceptual model in other religions and explore how other faiths could possibly encourage climate mobilisation with their traditions and ethics. Ultimately, engaging with the diversity of faiths and incorporating all the religious influences could become a powerful tool in the resolution to this climate crisis.

Marky Ma is a third year Geography student at the University of Exeter, Penryn
His full dissertation is available at <https://bit.ly/3gkxCFc>

Does climate change matter at the height of a global pandemic?

Anna Barrett reports:

Climate change has come into the conversation surrounding COVID-19 with images of clearer waters and unpolluted horizons, giving us a glimpse into the extent to which we have contaminated the planet, and how polluted our living really is. Studies are showing that poor air quality significantly influences the complications for patients in areas where air pollution is an issue, simply because their bodies and immune systems have already been weakened by accumulated exposure to polluted air. In the future, as the global temperature rises, and extreme weather events increase, it is highly probable that public health will become increasingly and universally threatened. In other words, it means that our seemingly innocuous planet-damaging actions will directly influence our susceptibility to infections and viruses like COVID-19. The healing of the natural world and the effect of poor air quality on public health both show us that the climate crisis is a vitally important issue that we must address.

The advantage of images like this jellyfish swimming through the canals of Venice is that they draw our attention to the ugly truth of what our 'normal' used to be. It is likely that without this standstill, we would have continued as normal. Instead what we can now clearly see is the true damage of our actions through the beauty of what has arisen in our absence. The virus has laid

bare our need to address and regulate the anthropogenic activities that have caused the climate crisis. Terrible and exhausting as it is, COVID-19 has given us a chance to pause and reflect on what is important. As a firm believer in looking for the good in the world, I argue that this time can be looked at as a marvellous gift: the chance to build a better world as we emerge from the ashes of this pandemic.



Discipleship

World Day of Prayer



Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk was the theme for this year's World Day of Prayer on 6 March. Prepared by the women of Zimbabwe, the service featured the words LOVE, PEACE and RECONCILIATION,

important steps in their country's turbulent journey. Commitments to support our own communities with actions of love, peace, and reconciliation were made in the service - sadly many planned prayer meetings to pray through these later could not take place, but individual prayer about their future implementation continues.

A Virtual Good Friday

Prevented by social distancing regulations from gathering as normal for Good Friday Walks of Witness, Churches Together groups turned to the internet. Saltash took to the streets, filming the route that would have been walked and offering prayers along the way. Falmouth used meditations on the 'Footsteps of Christ' designed by the Benedictine Sisters of Turvey Abbey along with photos from previous walks, extending the usual route to 'visit' all 20 member churches - a good day's walk in reality - some are planning to do that next year! Numbers participating in these 'walks' were double those normally attending, so maybe we need to develop the idea...



VIRTUAL WALK OF WITNESS
GOOD FRIDAY 2020

VIRTUAL
WALK OF WITNESS
GOOD FRIDAY 2020

Falmouth + Penryn Churches Together
working together to share the love of God

A Cornish Quaker's Cathedral Crawl

Lesley Chandler
continues her pre-lock-down odyssey around English cathedrals



**‘Pax Quaeritur Bello’ : If you seek Peace, prepare for War.
Oliver Cromwell Coat of Arms**

The drive from the Queen Adelaide in Somerset to the King William IV in Cambridgeshire provides the opportunity to think - a lot. Firstly about William, whose death put Victoria on the throne here in 1837 and about the successes of his 8 surviving illegitimate children with the Irish actress, Dorothea Jordan aka Miss Francis aka Dora Bland. By all accounts a happy union. One of his and Dorothea's direct descendants is David Cameron who despite our current situation, has 'enjoyed' a greater degree of political success than his 5 x great-grandfather, William IV. William saw himself as a would-be politician and described William Wilberforce, the anti-slavery politician as 'one of those fanatics/hypocrites'. Widely travelled, he was quick to adopt the views of the

plantation owners about slavery and found 'the negroes to be in a state of humble happiness...'. Hopefully today's royals and politicians are better advised about modern slavery and human trafficking and would contact the modern slavery helpline on 0800 0121 700 to report their suspicions of people being forced to work in ill-paid and unprotected conditions.

Other thoughts related to the disturbing amount of freight on Fenland roads. Why was all this freight not coming and going by rail? If imports and exports via Felixstowe and Harwich are set to continue, then surely this must be the cleaner/greener way forward. I then thought about our obsession with car ownership and dream-planned a nationwide network of electric hire cars in every town and city. Connected to good public transport it will be the way forward...

Of the seven 'neverbeforepersonallyvisited' cathedrals this month, Ely was the only one with an entrance desk, fully manned by several staff ensuring that you didn't

Pilgrimage

get in without paying £9.00 for basic access/entrance to the cathedral (conc. £6.00) with higher charges for more features. I chose to spend 30 minutes in the shop before a midday eucharist in a side-chapel. The prayers at this service were for our planet and our political leaders so I prayed very hard. Leisurely access to a deserted cathedral was followed by an excellent meal in the refectory (the best of all seven cathedrals for food). My go-to guide for cathedrals and churches, Simon Jenkins, affords Ely 5 stars, like Wells, and considers it 'the great eccentric' rising out of the boggy fens. Architecturally it is eccentric with its octagon and lantern (resulting from a tower collapse in the 1300s) and has truly earned its nickname as the ship of the Fens.

Oliver Cromwell lived in Ely where as tithe collector for two parishes in the diocese, he acquired a house with the job. I visited his house. When I asked his ghost about Brexit, I experienced silence. I despaired at the signs saying 'He cut off the King's head - was he saint or sinner?' Equating music with enjoyment, in Puritan rage he booted the choir out of the cathedral and closed it for over a decade. In 1653 George Fox was arrested and met with Cromwell whom he advised to listen to God's voice. In his journal he wrote 'With tears in his eyes (Cromwell) said, "Come again to my house; for if thou and I were but an hour of a day together, we should be nearer one to the other" adding that he wished [Fox] no more ill than he did to his own soul.' George Fox was freed from prison. He wrote these words in 1658 to Cromwell's daughter 'Be still and cool in thy own mind and spirit from thy own thoughts...'



photos: Lesley Chandler

Lesley Chandler is Churches Together in Cornwall's DEO (Denominational Ecumenical Officer) for the Quakers (Society of Friends).

Fairtrade Fortnight

24 February - 8 March 2020



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Fair Trade stall

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£3 suggested donation to cover expenses.

Any profits will go to Traidcraft Exchange (charity no 1048752)



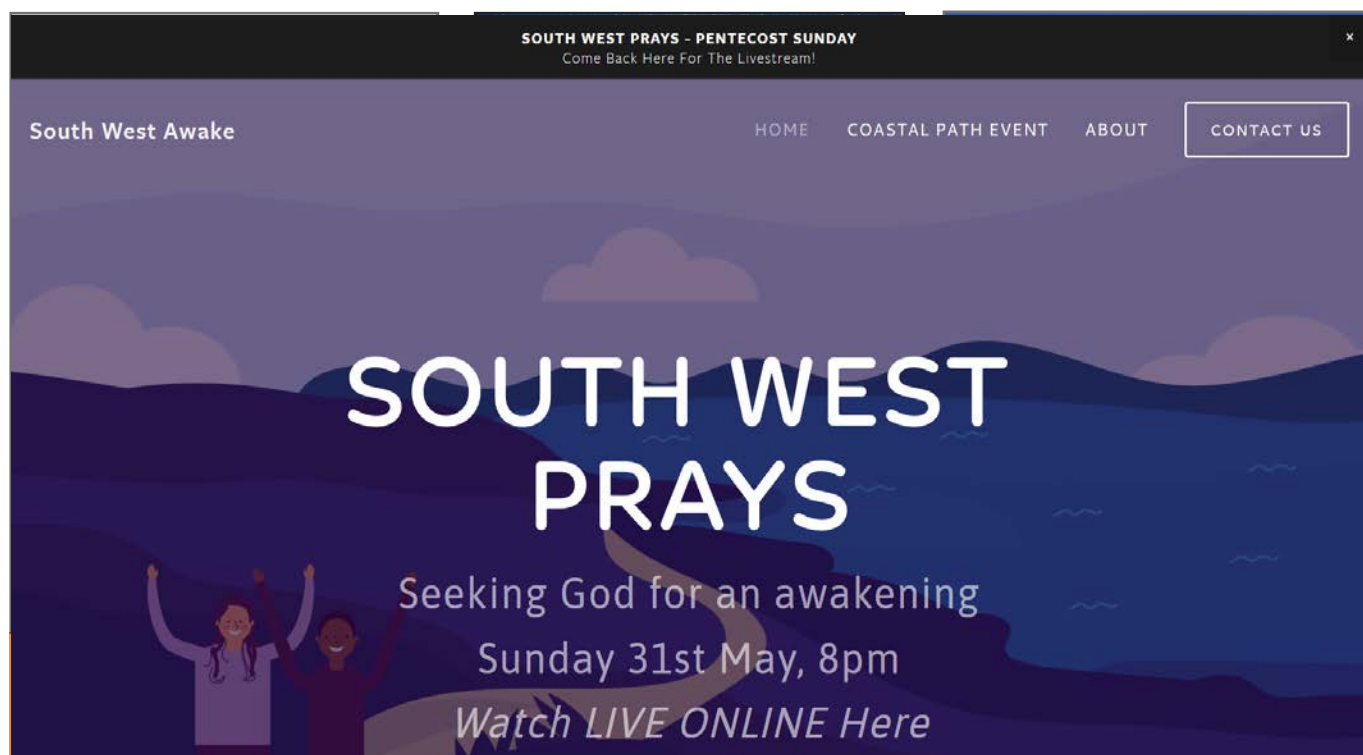
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seeking God for an awakening



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across the South West live at Pentecost -
8pm Sun 31 May www.southwestawake.com***

***We are not people of fear:
we are people of courage.
We are not people who
protect our own safety:
we are people who protect
our neighbours' safety.
We are not people of greed:
we are people of
generosity.***

***We are your people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are,
whatever it costs
For as long as it takes
wherever you call us.***

***Barbara Glasson,
President of the Methodist
Conference***



**CHURCHES
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sharing our gifts

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ctcinfohub@gmail.com

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