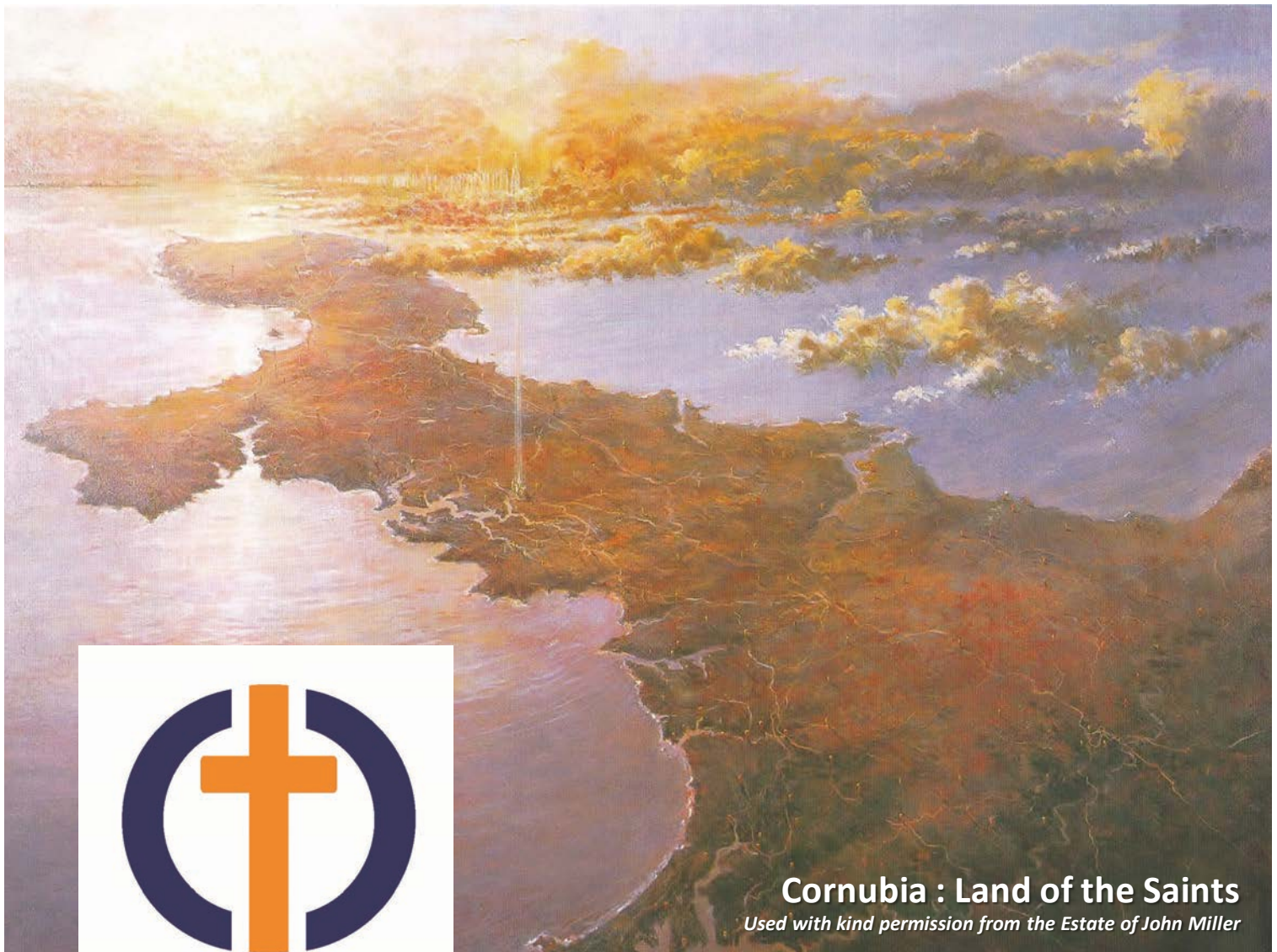


CTC Review

Jun/Jul
2020

GOOD NEWS FROM CORNISH CHURCHES

#ANewNormal #EzraHub #ThyKingdomComeUnlocked
#BlackLivesMatter #CornwallBereavementNetwork
#CathedralCrawl #ChurchOutOfChurch #PrayerWeekend



**CHURCHES
TOGETHER
CORNWALL**

Cornubia : Land of the Saints
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inspiring unity
sharing our gifts

A New Normal



Download at <https://bit.ly/3fZZZb8>

OUR ANNUAL REPORT NORMALLY COVERS OUR FINANCIAL YEAR, JAN-DEC. HOWEVER, AS THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WAS DELAYED DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND THIS REPORT WAS PRESENTED IN JULY 2020, ITS REVIEW OF THE YEAR INCLUDES THE – DRAMATIC – FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 2020.

The focus of the year was on defining ‘Future Paths’ for CTC, articulating new vision and mission statements and planning a new team-based structure. What we had not envisaged was the impact of Covid-19, the closure of church buildings and the resulting new expressions of church, the large numbers exploring faith afresh and a renewed willingness of churches to work together across denominations. But our work on devising a new structure fits well with the new challenges that are now emerging, as we face calls not to return unthinkingly to our ‘old ways’ but to take the opportunity to create a ‘new normal’, building a fairer and more just society in the light of the insights the pandemic has brought us. Churches Together in Cornwall is committed to supporting all Christians across the county in prayer and action as we feel our way in this new landscape.

Mental Health

Ezra *The helpful Mental Health Well-being App that makes the call when you can't*

Mental Health looks set to be an increasing challenge in the 'new normal. EzraHub is a new preventative web-based wellbeing app, that makes the call when you can't; because you are not alone.

The owners of CBT Cornwall Psychological Services and Kerdh Ltd are married to each other. So you have a psychologist and a priest wondering how to best help the communities they serve. In the mix you put in the President of Newquay Rotary Club who says, "How can we help the mental health and wellbeing of the members of our community?" and 3 weeks later thanks to Grizzlyware, Ezra the free web-based mental wellbeing app is launched.

The app allows you to reflect for 60 seconds on your day and ensure you are looking after the basics. It is based on the 5 ways to a healthy wellbeing - Connect, Be active, Keep learning, Give and take notice. It's free, it's yours, and if you share with the HUB an algorithm detects if you are struggling and we make contact to see how we can help you support yourself, by focusing on doing the simple things in life. We reach out just at the point you can't.



A diary element helps you look back and see your successes, your journey and how you can continue to look forward.

Please use it and share it.

Julia and Revd Chris McQuillen-Wright

find out more at <https://ezrahub.org/>

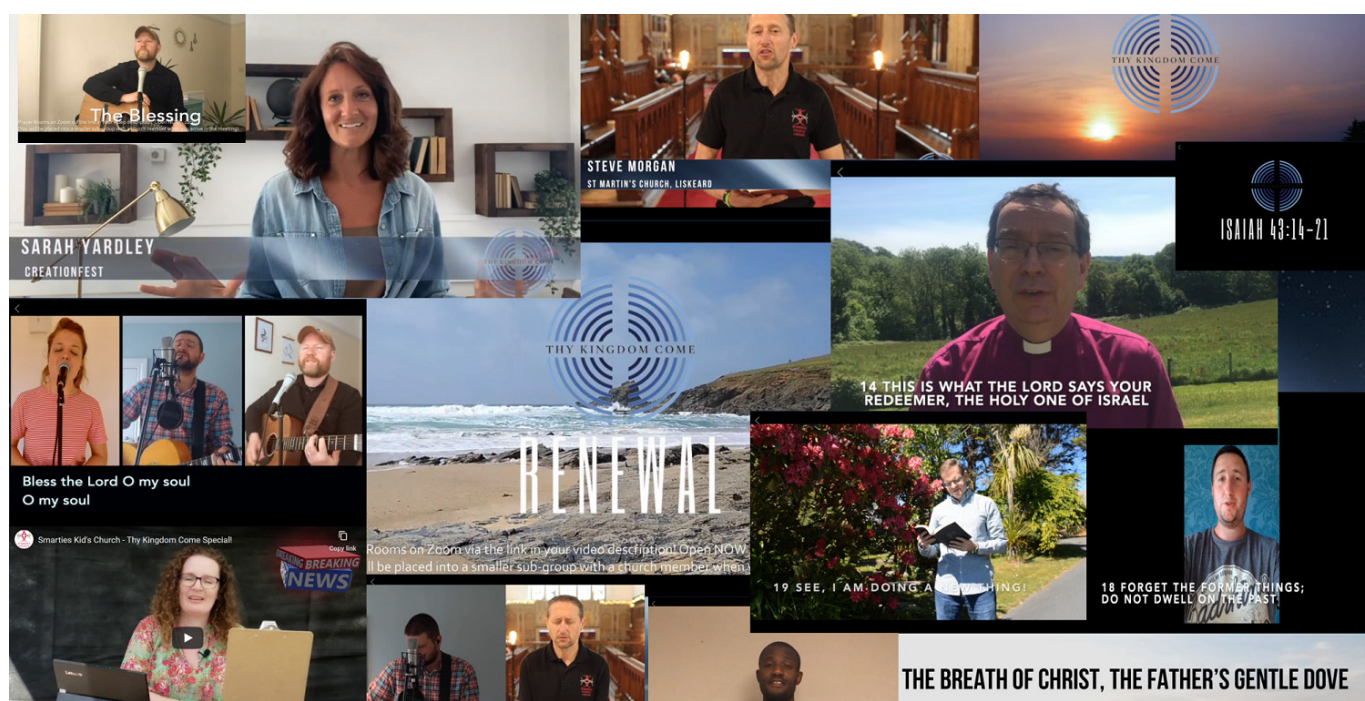
*Created by CBT Cornwall Psychological Services Ltd, Kerdh Ltd, St Columb Minor/
St Colan Churches with support from Newquay Rotary Club*

Thy Kingdom Come unlocked in Cornwall: the South West Prays

Isaiah 43:18-19: Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

It was all going so well. Renewal would be the theme. On the eve of Pentecost, Christians would be stationed at one-mile intervals across the entire 630 miles of the South West Coast Path (www.southwestawake.com), praying simultaneously at 2 pm for the coming of the Kingdom. In Cornwall, an additional web of inland prayer walks would link churches of different denominations across the county. On Pentecost Sunday, two Beacon Events would unite us in praise, at Liskeard for those in East Cornwall, and at Gwennap Pit (the open-air amphitheatre near Redruth, where John Wesley preached to thousands) for those in the West. By February, a web site was set up with 630 green dots on a map of the coast path and they were beginning to turn first orange and then red as people signed up for that spot until it reached capacity. Speakers and musicians across the country were being invited to the Beacon Events. What could possibly go wrong – other than the weather?

Then came lockdown and it was soon apparent that none of the plans could go ahead. What to do? Well, Thy Kingdom Come is about prayer, so pray we would. St Martin's Church, Liskeard would prepare a virtual Beacon Event for the morning of Pentecost Sunday, repurposed for the whole of Cornwall; and church leaders across the five counties of the South West would join in the region's biggest prayer group that evening to pray online for unity, frontline workers, missional effectiveness, leaders, and renewal.



Celebration



It all worked better than we could have dreamt. Videoconferencing gremlins left us (almost) alone, thanks to the highly professional teams behind the scenes. The morning service (viewed 1200 times) was accompanied by online prayer rooms where individuals could pray live with members of St Martin's, and a parallel kids' session was introduced by a video in the main service. Powerful worship from the Transforming Mission Worship Group, performing at their homes across Cornwall, accompanied a message of joy and hope from Sarah Yardley of Cornwall's Christian festival Creation Fest.

Sarah also offered the first prayers in South West Prays that evening, in which prayers from each county on each of the five themes were offered by 28 different leaders, embracing a wide diversity of traditions and styles. At the conclusion of each section the topics covered were displayed (now available to download) as we paused for our own reflections. A link allowed individuals to request personal prayer, and worship leaders across the region, including some involved in the morning, provided inspirational music. Those watching live (over a thousand) added their own prayers via chat.

Not what we had planned then: but in many ways better, and certainly reaching larger numbers – huge thanks to all involved. The Coastal Path prayer chain will still go ahead, when safe to do so; and we will meet again to pray Thy Kingdom Come next year. But renewal is in progress now, across our county and our region. New relationships are developing, and denominational boundaries losing importance. *See, I am doing a new thing!*

Intersectional environmentalism:

Why the Black Lives Matter movement is important in our understanding of the climate crisis **Anna Barrett**

On the 25th of May 2020, a Black American man named George Floyd was murdered by a white police officer called Derek Chauvin, who knelt on Floyd's neck for around eight minutes. Floyd's murder, recorded by a seventeen-year-old onlooker, sparked worldwide protests against police brutality, and ignited the Black Lives Matter movement, which encourages people to dismantle both overt and covert racism within their own countries.

It would be difficult for anyone to argue that George Floyd's murder was justified, and most of us would like to say that if we were one of the three other police officers present, we would have pushed Chauvin off and saved Floyd's life. Murder is an obvious crime that should be avoided in all cases and its prevention is a clear-cut upholding of Christian values. It is however, highly unlikely that we will ever be put into a situation where such clear moral pathways are available to us, and the truth is that racism is manifested in more insidious ways than the blatant murder of a Black man by a white police officer.

Ever since the Black Lives Matter protests, I have been grappling with the idea that despite me not believing

white people to be superior, I am a white woman living in a society built upon systematic racism that I have not challenged, and my inaction is no longer acceptable.

It is easy to condemn America for their obvious racism, and say that there is no way that a murder like George Floyd's would happen here in the UK, but the UK is also deeply racist, and if you are a white person living in the UK, you directly benefit from this racism. The UK was built upon slavery and despite its abolition, grim remnants of slavery linger in the framework of UK law, legislation and custom. BAME communities in the UK are disadvantaged in almost every facet of their lives, including, but not limited to: education, the criminal justice system and healthcare.

People of colour are also disproportionately affected by the impacts of the climate crisis. Poor air quality due to high levels of air pollution in Black neighbourhoods is a leading explanation for BAME Britons being up to twice as likely as white Britons to die if they contract coronavirus. It is for this reason that intersectional environmentalism, which advocates for both the protection of people and the planet, is so vital in understanding

Serving—

Cornwall Bereavement Network

the climate crisis. It argues that environmental injustice shapes and is shaped by racism, sexism, and poverty; social justice and climate justice are inextricably linked. In light of this, it is important for those who care about the climate crisis to understand racism in all forms.

A popular phrase that has emerged from the Black Lives Matter movement is that it is no longer enough to be a non-racist, that we must be anti-racist. Loving your neighbour as yourself is a core belief of Christian teaching, and racism, whether covert or overt is a clear violation of this principle. Christianity is an active faith, one where we are all called to speak out against injustices, and as a white person (if you are one), it is vital to be anti-racist, to learn about your own privilege, and to take an active role in dismantling the racist systems that you benefit from.

The Cornwall Bereavement Network was set up in January 2020 following a meeting of over 50 people involved in organisations dealing with bereavement, end of life care, funerals etc, convened by Penhaligon's Friends in Redruth. CTC was invited to join this meeting. It was apparent that a large number of charities and official bodies are involved in the field across Cornwall, including faith groups, and many did not know each other. The value of creating a network was obvious, and further meetings were planned to take this forward; lockdown occurred before these could take place, so they transferred to Zoom. To meet the demands now arising it was agreed as a first priority to develop a joint 'signposting' website (<https://www.cornwallbereavementnetwork.org/>) detailing the services of all network members, to help people affected by bereavement find support and services in one central resource. This is supplemented by a helpline for those who prefer to speak to someone to help find the right emotional support (offering referral but not counselling). CTC has provided contact details for Christian churches and Cornwall Faith Forum for other faiths, and Revd Paul Beynon (CofE Lostwithiel) represents the churches on the Network's advisory group. A new page Exploring Faith on the CTC infoHub gives links to further information for those exploring or re-visiting Christianity at a time of bereavement.

The logo for the Cornwall Bereavement Network is enclosed in a thin grey rectangular border. It features the word 'Cornwall' in a large, elegant, blue cursive script. To its right, the words 'Bereavement Network' are written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

A Cornish Quaker's Cathedral Crawl

***Lesley Chandler's
pre-lockdown odyssey
around English cathedrals
reaches Peterborough***



*'None get to God but through Trouble'
Katherine of Aragon*

The Dean of Peterborough Cathedral insists on a no-charge policy upon entry and this was echoed by the cathedral's meeter and greeter one Friday morning in early October on my tour of neverpersonallyvisited cathedrals.

'We make enough money on corporate dos..' he said as a small army of workers cleared up from the night before. He apologised for the empty nave which hours earlier had been the candlelit setting for a prestigious corporate banquet. No apology needed. It was a treat to see that vast empty space as it had originally been conceived.

Carefully dodging the fast traffic on Bishop's Way is instantly rewarded as you walk past delightful, ruined, monastic almshouses. The entrance is impressive and my welcomer was eager to point out

the painted ceiling. He informed me that it was constructed and decorated of German oak in the late 12th century, was unique in Britain and was only one of four remaining in Europe. I bought the book. The close-up photos of restoration were intriguing. The ceiling's main theme was God the Creator and Ruler but I was delighted to see pagan themes and the Roman god Janus portrayed happily alongside St. Peter and St Paul. That it survived Henry's Dissolution of the Monasteries and the vandalisms of the Civil War is nothing short of miraculous.

The monastery relics fared less well and the crowd-pulling Thomas à Beckett relics disappeared completely. Such high status 'bits' assured monasteries a decent income. This former monastery/abbey was to me, worthy of a visit because it was the final resting place of Henry VIII's Queen Katherine (of Aragon). He entrusted her funeral arrangements to three bishops and a handful of abbots on the 29th January 1536 - the same day that Anne Boleyn miscarried a son. Katherine had endured six pregnancies

Pilgrimage

in nine years. Only one child survived, Mary. The need to produce a male heir for Henry has been extremely well documented on stage, on screen and in written form marking religious and cultural changes still present today.

Katherine's tomb was attacked by Cromwell's soldiers in 1643. However, in 1895, Katherine Clayton, wife of a cathedral canon, mounted a campaign directed at all K/Catherines to donate a penny for the cause of laying a memorial slab over her tomb. An annual commemorative service takes place every January 29th. Visitors often place a pomegranate (her symbol) on the tomb. I had visited the tombs of her parents Ferdinand and Isabella at the Capilla Real de Granada years ago. The contrast could not be more explicit. Katherine's tomb was starkly different but nonetheless noble in its simplicity. A wooden plaque remembers her as: 'A queen cherished by the English people for her loyalty, piety, courage and compassion'.



Taking guide-book advice, I didn't visit the town preferring to get back on the road to visit further never personally visited cathedrals. The more interestingly named Anglo-Saxon Medeshamstede (Peterborough) may possibly have been more interesting... Anglo-Saxons had a way with words. Sexwulf was the first abbot there. Victorian sensitivities resulted in the change to Saxwulf and there is a Wikipedia reference to Seaxwulf which is charmingly chary.

Excellent cathedral refreshments!

photos: Lesley Chandler

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

Church out of Church



photo: Wave House

Newquay, Camelford, Liskeard, Wadebridge and Hayle are just some of the places organising Drive-In Church this summer. The Newquay event, organised by three churches, was hailed by the media as a first for Great Britain (N Ireland got there first) and the opportunity to see others through a windscreen rather than computer screen was widely welcomed. Ideal for holiday regions, can we expect drive-ins to continue even when 'normal' services resume?

Prayer Weekend in Falmouth

As the country began to ease out of lockdown, Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together organised a weekend of 24/7 prayer from 3-5 July. The 48 one-hour slots were all filled, with over 60 participants from across the churches. An on-line prayer board shared points for prayer for our churches, our area, our country and our world..



Creation Fest On Air



The usual festival may have had to be cancelled, but, undaunted, Creation Fest moved on-line, developing a stunning line-up for six half-hour tv-style programmes airing live on YouTube, Facebook and Instagram every Monday from 20 July - 24 August at 8pm. Catch up at <https://bit.ly/32Yph5P>.



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