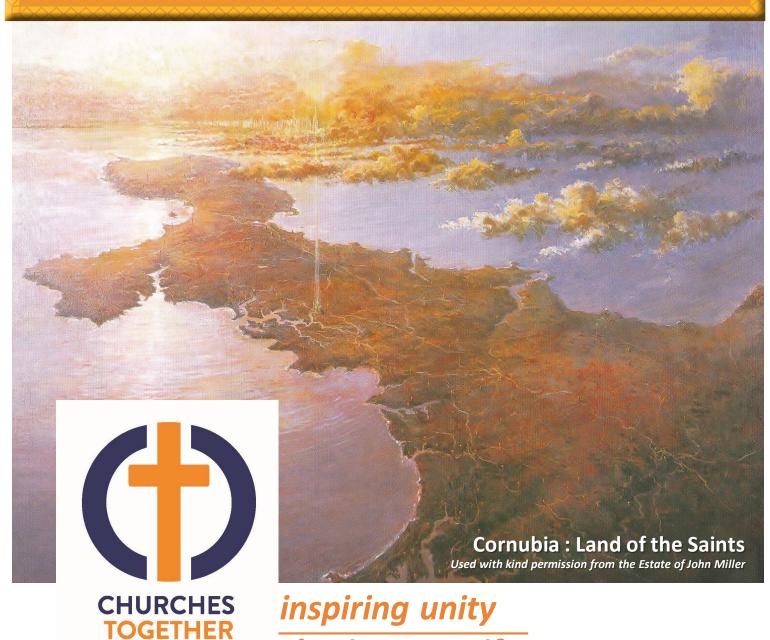
CTC Review 8

8 Lent 2021

GOOD NEWS FROM CORNISH CHURCHES

#Re-imagining #DevelopingNetworks #ComputersForSchools #EnvironmentStrategy #ModernSlavery #RacialJustice #CornwallUnmuted #CornwallLink #WorldDayOfPrayer #CathedralCrawl #ChristiansPraying



sharing our gifts

CORNWALL

Re-imagining Intermediate Ecumenism

'Intermediate ecumenism' is a phrase not often heard in everyday conversation. but it is the official description of what we in Churches Together in Cornwall and our counterparts in other counties across England 'do'. So why 're-imagine' it? Well, county-level ecumenical bodies were first created over thirty years ago, to stand between the national 'ecumenical instrument' Churches Together in England (CTE) and local Churches/Christians Together groups as a place where denominational leaders and their nominated representatives could meet, discuss and pray about ecumenical work across their areas. The landscape has changed significantly over the last three decades and the original structures are less fit for purpose. Many counties now lack a paid County Ecumenical Officer and CTE are keen to examine more flexible ways of working. They have already published A Flexible Framework for Local Unity in Mission detailing various models for local ecumenism, and are now looking at the intermediate field, setting up a working group to examine new initiatives across the country prior to producing recommendations aimed at strengthening support.

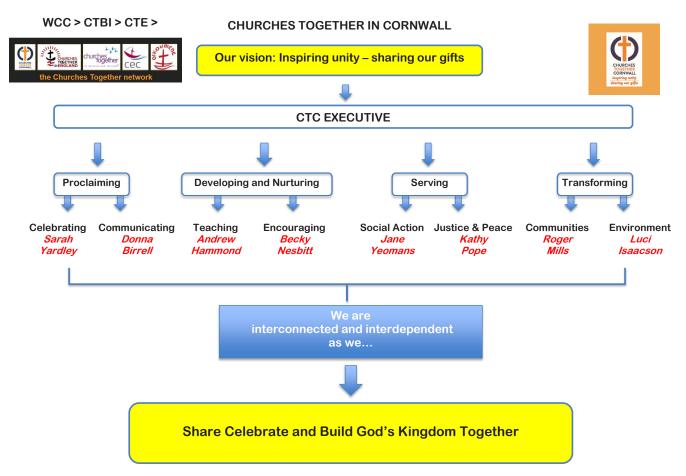
The Working Group, chaired by Rev Paul Goodliff, General Secretary of Churches Together in England, met with CTC's Unity Group in February to talk about developments in Cornwall as we move towards a team management structure. The group showed great interest in our plans and looked forward to hearing how they develop - see the next page for our hopes for the coming year! CTE now plan to meet with church leaders on a regional basis to consider whether some activities could be done on a regional rather than county basis - there are no plans to break up the county structure, but it could make sense to pool resources where that would help.

Churches Together in Cornwall is a small organisation lacking any infrastructure - we have no office or staff and not much money, but we do have a lot of contacts and a great deal of good will and enthusiam! When asked what CTC 'does' I often describe it as a dating agency - we aim to bring together people with common interests who might not otherwise meet and let them get on with it - inspiring unity and sharing our gifts, as we seek to build God's Kingdom together.

Roger Mills, CTC Missioner

Communities

Developing Networks



Last year, the CTC Executive agreed the structure plan above. Now we plan to build on the 'interconnected and interdependent' block by developing liaison groups to link with other networks, faith-based and secular, with interests that match our own. These groups will provide a conversational pathway allowing those organisations to raise with church leaders any issues of concern where church support could be valuable. To keep the process as straightforward and unbureaucratic as possible, no set pattern has been defined as to how the groups will operate, and different methods may be adopted in different subject areas. The concept follows a pattern operating very successfully in Bristol.

The first liaison groups being set up are for Environment and Chaplaincy, with existing groups - the Cornwall Churches Environment Group and the Workplace Chaplaincy Group - taking on the liaison role. Each will have a representative on CTC. The groups remain independent of CTC which will not influence their operation in any way, but new association will, we hope, lead to better communication and fruitful interaction. The proposals will be considered at CTC's AGM in April - look out for further news in our next issue!

Christians Against Poverty work with Local Churches to provide Laptops for Falmouth Schools

In January, Falmouth & Penryn Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre Manager, Jacqui Bennett, offered an unwanted laptop to a local school, St Francis, to see if they could make use of it. Welcoming the offer with open arms, the head teacher admitted they had need of 8 laptops to ensure all children could access online learning. So Jacqui launched an appeal to the local community to see what might be done. She writes:

'Amazingly, within a week we had managed to find 7 of the 8 laptops, by 1 unwanted laptop being given, and raising the funds to purchase another 6. The final laptop was donated by Sainsbury's who are giving a laptop to each school making 8 altogether.

Meanwhile, I thought that if this is a problem for one school in our area, it is likely to be a problem in other schools too. So I began contacting other local schools. The first to reply was Falmouth Primary Academy. They are in need of 40 laptops and commented 'we have a long waiting list for families who are using mobile devices and this is before we even look at the families who are sharing one laptop between several siblings.'

Taking a deep breath, Jacqui decided to widen the appeal. With two weeks, do-

nations had topped £4000, enabling the purchase of 10 laptops. And money and unwanted machies continued to flow in. Jacqui takes up the story:

'On Monday 22nd February, the day the school returned after the half term break, we delivered an additional 22 new laptops to Falmouth Primary Academy School plus 2 used ones. We piled them up outside the door before we let the school know we were there.

The Administrator opened the door and was totally astounded by what she saw. She said she was amazed and didn't know what to say.



Social Action

About CAP

The Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre is here to help those who are feeling weighed down by debt, by offering free debt counselling from an award winning charity. Our friendly team will give a listening ear in confidential appointments and provide practical solutions to debt. Please help us to spread the word that we are here to help those in need.

If you would like to find out more please contact me,

Jacqui Bennett, email: jacquibennett@capuk.org tel: 0737 66 55 711

https://www.budockchurch.org/christians-against-poverty/

CAP also offer the Job Club, Money Course and the Kick Start program which are based at Emmanuel Baptist Church. If you would like to find out more about these courses please contact

Glyn Lumley, email: glynlumley@capjobclubs.org tel: 07544 858 232 https://emmanuelbaptist.co.uk/christians-against-poverty/

Or you can find more information about CAP in general including client stories online at https://capuk.org/

When I returned home, I received a message from the head teacher thanking us for our generous support, whichwould enable them to support many families. She also said that is was reassuring to them to know that the families are well supported by the community. She asked me to pass on their thanks to everyone for the kind support.

Altogether we raised £7,575 which is totally amazing and for which we give thanks to our Father in heaven for such a great blessing to the schools, children and families. We were able to purchase 38 laptops for our schools and were given 7 used devices making a total of 44 which have been shared out between four schools. As schools have now returned, I think our work is done, although any further donations will of course be passed on. I have been assured that the laptops, as well as being used in school, will also still be used for the children when working at home so that they can begin to catch up with their schoolwork. A huge thank you to everyone who has helped with this by either donating funds or devices and for all your prayers, without which I'm sure we wouldn't have reached the amount we raised.'

Environment

Diocese of Truro launches new environment vision and strategy



CHERISH CREATION CUT CARBON SPEAK UP

A DIOCESAN VISION AND STRATEGY FOR CREATION CARE



Cherish Creation, Cut Carbon and Speak Up: a diocesan vision and strategy for creation care sets out three specific priorities for the future.

Cherish Creation: We will encourage the diocese at every level to care for those parts of God's good creation for which we have responsibility, stewarding them for the benefit of plants, animals and biodiversity.

Cut Carbon: We will cut our carbon footprint year on year and to net zero by 2030.

Speak Up: At every level of the diocese, we will speak and act boldly to promote the enjoyment, cherishing and sharing of God's good creation and, where possible and resources allow, we will work in partnership with others who share the same aims.

Developing leaders and local champions

The new strategy will seek to develop leaders by growing their knowledge and understanding, empower local champions to be vision carriers and local change leaders, develop resources for church communities, develop the theological thinking around environment and provide routes for personal, community and organisational change. An environment board chaired by the Rt Revd Hugh Nelson, Bishop of St Germans will oversee the work. Other members will come from key parts of the diocese including the parishes, Truro Cathedral and the board of education. A Net Zero group will lead on the detailed work of cutting carbon, a Creation Care group will share the vision at local level with support from the diocesan environment officer and a School of Creation Theology set up at Truro Cathedral with a new Environment Canon soon to be installed. All will report to the board.

New diocesan environment officer appointed

To support this vision and strategy, the diocese has appointed a new diocesan environment officer. Ben Lillie started work on February 22.

As well as being the new environment officer, Ben is also a husband, father and surfer and a local leader for Christian Surfers around his home near Bude.

Ben says it is his surfing that has brought him closest to the impact of climate change. "I've spent every free moment possible in the ocean. Between surfing in the sea and living near the farming communities who are struggling to get on their land because of flooding, we can really see the impact."



"A real sense of the spirit moving"

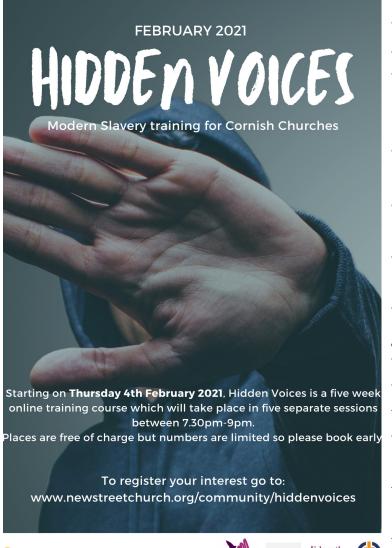
Ben, who is ordained, says he was drawn to the role because it was clear the diocese had put significant effort into a new diocesan environment strategy. "It's obvious the environment is top of the agenda. It is not a by-product. When I read the strategy and saw the depth of thought that had gone into it, it completely bowled me over. This is not just some institutional remit – there is a real sense of the spirit moving." Ben is keen to emphasis the working together aspect of the climate work. "We all have responsibility. I can't do this on my own but together as a diocese, we can do it. Everyone has a role to play."

Ben's appointment is very much an investment in the diocese's churches and it is hoped churches will draw on his expertise.

If you would like to Ben to come and speak at your Sunday service or to your church community, email ben.lillie@truro.anglican.org.

He will also be working ecumenically as a member of the Churches Together in Cornwall Executive.

Modern Slavery in Cornwall







TRANSFORMATION CORNWALL[†]
Strengthening Faith Based Social Action in Comwell











In February and March, Churches Together in Cornwall partnered with The Clewer Foundation, Transformation Cornwall, Street Church Falmouth and Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together to present a five-week course Hidden Voices, dealing with modern slavery in Cornwall. 24 people completed the course from across the county, Bude to Penzance, including a core of 9 from the Falmouth area. Another group of eight people attended a five-week Lent Course devised by the Clewer Foundation, Women in the Shadows, dealing specifically with the exploitation of women. Both courses offered much food for thought and participants continue intend to meeting to develop initiatives aimed at raising awareness of the issues in church congregations and the general public. If you would like to be involved, please contact ctcmissioner@gmail.org.

For more details of the courses and the work of the Clewer Foundadtion, visit https://www.theclewerinitiative.org/.

Social Action

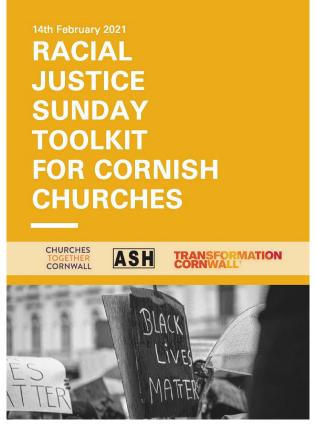
Racial Justice Sunday



"It's the stares and the looks...": what it's like living with racism in Cornwall today.

For #RacialJusticeSunday on 14 February, Donna Birrell produced a new podcast based on resources from a new Toolkit prepared by Churches Together in Cornwall, Transformation Cornwall and All Saints Highertown, with contributions from Marcus Alleyne from Black Voices Cornwall, Revd Patrick Gilbert from Truro Diocese and nurse, Grace Penn-Timity.

Listen to the podcast on http://bit.ly/2Qh3kL1 and download the toolkit from https://bit.ly/2OzMc2M.



Cornwall Unmuted to #PrayForCornwall in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021

'You're on mute' is one of the most memorable phrases of the pandemic. But in Cornwall the churches have definitely not been 'on mute' and going online in 2021 has led to an at least ten-fold increase in the numbers we were able to reach during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. An integrated programme of daily services at *Noon on Zoom* (and also Facebook Live), daily podcasts from local church and community leaders, a 24/7 Prayer Chain and accompanying Prayer Board, coupled with daily social media posts on themes and actions of the day together with Sunday services from local Churches Together groups resulted in well over 1000 engagements.

Reviewing the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2020, before Covid-19 struck, we had agreed to 'go digital' in 2021 in an attempt to reach all corners of our far-flung county, where travel to a service in the county town of Truro is often



impractical. We were thinking of pre-recorded videos on YouTube but then Zoom and live-streaming burst into our lives, offering a whole new range of opportunities. By October the likelihood of 'inperson' services in January was waning and we decided then to go entirely online. An ecumenical and county-wide team of

presenters was assembled, and we agreed to do a daily live service at 12noon on Zoom, also live-streamed on Facebook so those who wished to watch later could see the recording. Quite a steep learning curve but in the event all ran (fairly) smoothly and 152 people joined on Zoom and a further 427 on Facebook, at total of 579 so both were well worth doing. It was great to see people from the far north of the county and from the Isles of Scilly who could never make it to Truro. The services are also available on our YouTube channel. Downloadable pdf's were also produced for churches to give out to those not online. Complementing the daily services was an entirely new initiative, CTC Podcasts,

with daily reflections from local church and community leaders on the theme of the service for that day. Published at 6am, these were widely distributed on Twitter (5,500 impressions), Facebook and (after some technical difficulties!) Spotify. Over 500 people listened on the Acast host site. The podcasts were compiled and presented by CTC's vice-chair Donna Birrell, until recently presenter of BBC Radio Cornwall's faith programme – we are extremely fortunate to have her expertise! 46 people committed to 71 hours of prayer in our prayer chain, which achieved good coverage in the mornings from 6am to noon but was pretty 'holey' at other times but nevertheless still holy! And many would have been praying without signing up throughout the week. Many found the accompanying Prayer Board very helpful and a snapshot is available on our infoHub for ongoing consultation. Alongside CTC's activities, several local Churches Together groups organised online services on Sunday, including Launceston, Par, St Austell and Falmouth & Penryn.

Although forced on us by the pandemic it's clear that the online Week of Prayer is here to stay and Christian voices raised in unity will continue unmuted for years to come! All the resources mentioned can be accessed at www.ctcinfohub.org/wpcu.

Some comments on the Week:

The Rt Revd Philp Mounstephen, Bishop of Truro: *Really encouraging!*The Rt Revd Hugh Nelson, Bishop of St Germans: ... such a rich, creative and prayerful response to the changed circumstances.

Revd Mark Dunn-Wilson, Acting Chair, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Methodist District: hugely encouraging. Thank you for letting me part of the adventure! Daniel Roberts, Transformation Cornwall: a real blessing and an opportunity to reflect on the richness of Christian tradition and practice. It was so fantastic to see faith leaders from across denominations engaging with each other's work and lifting each other up in their ministries. This was especially visible on social media with church groups of all colours and stripes sharing the resources and podcasts regardless of traditional denominational affiliation. Truly inspiring to see.

Jane Yeomans, Transformation Cornwall: I found the podcasts really inspiring and the differences in contributions was their strength...The opportunity to join others in prayer in this way, I found personally nourishing and sustaining and confirmed that there is no single right way, but that together it is all complete.'

SAM joins Cornwall Link

Age UK Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly
Churches Together Cornwall & Cornwall
Link Collaborate on Mapping Mission



Age UK Cornwall & The Isles of Scilly are delighted to be supporting Churches Together in Cornwall with their Social Action Mapping for Cornish Churches project (SAM) on our community platform, Cornwall Link.

The Churches Together in Cornwall campaign works with all recognised branches of Christian churches. This campaign will map community work run or supported by churches which is open to everyone. This marks a very exciting development for the two organisations - with plans to develop much more under this new partnership.



What is the Social Action Mapping for Cornish Churches Project (SAM)

SAM is an initiative for Cornish churches to make church-led social action programmes better known to the wider community.

When it comes to health, social care and making our communities stronger, happier and more connected there is so much contributed by Cornish churches.

To get a better understanding of what's happening in Cornwall, Churches Together in Cornwall are running the SAM project in two phases.

Phase One

Churches Together will work with groups to identify church-supported projects operating in their area, recording the details on Cornwall Link and other community publications, aiming to reach people in communities through doctors' surgeries, social prescribing agencies, council services and other networks.

Phase Two

Churches Together will seek to identify gaps in provision and explore ways they might be filled, seeking funding and wider partnerships to provide long-term sustainability and continuous updating.

Age UK Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly Churches Together Cornwall & Cornwall Link Collaborate on Mapping Mission



Launching Your Own Community Campaign

Campaigns are a single webpage on the Cornwall Link site that populate listings around a cause. The spaces are completely customisable, allowing the sponsor to write their own description, include imagery and videos, add news, and encourage others to support the campaign.

We want to hear from community groups and organisations on causes they would like to promote via our Campaigns page. Together we will work out a collaboration map to work out the best way to maximise your cause, utilising the platform features and services of the Cornwall Link Team - supported by our partners and network-to encourage community engagement.

Find out more

Find out more about the SAM project on www.ctcinfohub.org
You can also contact us on ctcmissioner@gmail.com

Find out more about Cornwall Link, visit: https://cornwall-link.co.uk/ about

You can also contact us on 01872 266383 or email@ageukcornwall.org.uk

What you say

"In our contact with people we sometimes come across information about what churches are doing to support people in their local community, and are often impressed with the breadth and depth of support that exists across the county. I sometimes think that there is much more support within faith based groups and networks in Cornwall than we are aware of and it would help us enormously if we had more information about such support that we might connect people with"

Joan Lee, Community Coach

"... 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

Age UK Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly Churches Together Cornwall & Cornwall Link Collaborate on Mapping Mission





How you can get Involved

Age UK Cornwall and Churches
Together in Cornwall are looking
for Digital Champions that want
to support the church community
by helping us to deliver this
project. Tasks could include admin,
digital support and community
engagement. We are keen to hear
from people with a passion for the
project who want to connect the
wider community to the wonderful
support from Cornish churches.

For more information, please email us on email@ageukcornwall.org.uk and ctcmissioner@gmail.com with SAM Project - Digital Champion as the subject line.

Add your Listing

If you are running a service, activity, event or volunteering opportunity that fits this project, please head to Cornwall Link to tag it to the campaign.

To add your listing, register to Cornwall Link for free. Once your account is activated via email, you can add a community listing by signing in and clicking Main Menu > Add a Listing or by clicking Add an Activity on the Campaign page. You will be taken to a threestep form to fill in and on the last step, tick the SAM: Social Action Mapping for Cornish Churches Campaign.

If you need help in the process, please reach out to either Age UK Cornwall or Churches Together in Cornwall who are on hand to help you submit your listing and use Cornwall Link.

Share the Campaign

Please support the campaign by sharing it widely with your networks and people you know. Age UK Cornwall and Churches Together in Cornwall appreciate all the support the community can provide us in populating the campaign and helping grow connections between the community and their churches.

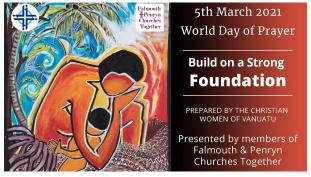
Prayer.

World Day of Prayer 2021



Women of the Republic of Vanuatu (located in the South Pacific Ocean) prepared this year's service which took place on Frfiday 5 March. Women, men and children of all ages are called to 'Build on a strong foundation', like the wise man who built his house on a rock, as encouraged by Jesus, and live in unity, love and peace in the context of ethnic and cultural diversity like Vanuatu and so many other places around the world.

World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughst of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. It is celebrated in over 170 countries. It begins in Samoa, and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world – through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 39 hours later.



A number of services were held across Cornwall, some in person, some on Zoom and some on YouTube - recordings of the latter can be seen at https://www.ctcinfohub.org/wdp21.

In an accompanying podcast, Donna Birrell reflected on this year's World Day of Prayer with Dr Elizabeth Burroughs, President of WDP in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and hears prayers and hymns from across the world. Listen at http://bit.ly/3vAekTR.

A Cornish Quaker's Cathedral Crawl



Lesley Chandler is diverted by he Saint Mary Churches of Gloucestershire on her pre-lockdown odyssey around English cathedrals

Thomas of Hereford aka Bishop of Hereford, Thomas de Cantilupe is referenced in Graham Greene's novel Travels With My Aunt (1969), when the narrator's sharp-tongued aunt opines 'I would have thought he was very lucky to die in Orvieto rather than in Hereford. A small civilised place even today with a far, far better climate and an excellent restaurant in the Via Garibaldi.'

The pertinently named Corona (crown of thorns) designed by silversmith Simon Beer in 1992 was my first memory of the interior of Hereford Cathedral on the last

'neverpreviouslypersonallyvisitedcathedrals' tour of 2019. After leaving King Richard III in Leicester Cathedral that same day, I drove to a wet and windy Hereford for an evening concert of choral music with The Sixteen for the last leg of their 2019 choral pilgrimage.

leg

of

Arriving early I wandered around taking photos and soaking up some of the magnificent medieval majesty which wasn't The Mappa Mundi or the renowned Chained Library. I was struck by the lighting at Hereford which detailed the magnificent geometric carving of those high arches. The cathedral warmed up (a little)



Pilgrimage

as concert-goers arrived. With illuminated arches and exquisite music, my senses soothed after the driving and at half time I dared to remove gloves and chat with the people beside me. Two sentences in, a connection was made with Truro and Bishop Tim Thornton. At the end of the concert, we said our goodbyes swiftly as they had a train to catch and I was driving on unknown roads to stay with friends in Cheltenham for the night. My second 'day' visit to Hereford took place in early March 2020. 'Auntie' referred to above was correct about the climate and I felt the need to purchase a Herefordshire woollen pullover to ward off cathedral



draughts. I'd discovered that Hereford had once been the site of pilgrimage in the Dark Ages after the murder of King Ethelbert who was to marry the daughter of King Offa (he of Dyke fame). Instead of gaining a wife, he lost his head. Legend blamed this beheading on Offa's wife who'd made Offa do it by poisoning his mind!?! Can't help but think that Ethelbert wasn't the only victim in this family saga...but he clearly didn't see it coming as the sword parted his head from his body. Anyway, as was the way, miracles duly arrived wherever Ethelbert's head had rolled and it brought in the tourists who were soon visiting the prototype cathedral in droves. A few centuries later in the 1200s Hereford boasted an exemplary bishop in Thomas de Cantilupe who has been nicknamed the 'Father of Modern Charity' and cited as an inspiration in the lives of Mother Theresa and Melinda Gates. Prayer to this saint has been known to bring the dead to life and he us buried in the cathedral... Centuries later the cathedral, with the financial support of John Paul Getty Junior was able to use its assets (the remarkable and oft-hidden Mappa Mundi) to continue to attract tourists from all over the world. Blink twice and you miss the British Isles bottom left. The story of the wooden frame that the map was stretched out on is equally remarkable - hidden at the back of the Dean's garage and destined for a bonfire, it was retrieved and is also on show. The Chained Library Exhibition with its 229 medieval manuscripts is well worth a visit. The library custodians delight in sharing their passion for the chained books in their care.

The greatest disaster to befall the cathedral came in 1786 (ominously on Easter Monday) when the west tower fell and created a ruin. After the 19th century restoration, the cathedral was reopened with a solemn service in 1863 at which the Bishop of Hereford preached in the morning and Samuel Wilberforce (son

photos: Lesley Chandler

of William the abolitionist and Bishop of Winchester) preached in the evening. Known as 'Soapy Sam' he was acclaimed as one of the greatest public speakers of his day and was best remembered for his opposition to Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. Of the Bishop's sermon in the morning, Samuel recorded the sermon as 'dull but orthodox'. Of his own in the evening he wrote 'I preached evening: great congregation and much interested...'

Having not had the opportunity to sample the vegetable soup or the toilets at Hereford Cathedral I feel that a third visit may well be on the cards post-lockdown. However whilst the Corona entranced me on my first visit, the working Gurney Stoves at Hereford Cathedral designed by the insufficiently celebrated Camborne surgeon-cum-engineer, Sir Goldsworthy Gurney, left me in no doubt on my second visit that heat matters in large old buildings. I have a personal and warm appreciation for this great Cornish inventor.

Coming soon...

Thy Kingdom Come: 13-23 May (Ascension-Pentecost)

Meet the Funders: 25-26 May

The Big Lunch: 5-6 June

G7 Wave of Prayer: 11-13 June

South West Awake: Coastal Path Prayer: 19 June

Creation Fest: 30 Jul-1 August

Royal Cornwall Show: 9-11 September

Cornwall's churches will be involved in all these events. Look out for more news on ctcinfohub.org as arrangements are firmed up.









Prayer Networks



Christians Praying in Cornwall:

a new place to share prayer needs and encouragement

We believe that our God listens and answers. We have created a prayer board on Facebook for Christians and churches in Cornwall to join in praying together. A few guidelines:-

Please post prayer needs that you are happy to have shared with others and keep any sensitive information confidential

Please mark your post as a prayer need or giving thanks. We want to enter into both together.

Please keep this group focused on prayer and a place of joyful encouragement for the family of God.

Find the prayer board on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/cornwallprayer





SENDUS YOUR GOOD NEWS! ctcinfohub@gmail.com

CELEBRATE GOD'S WORK IN CORNWALL follow us on Facebook: @ChurchesTogetherinCornwall and Twitter: @CtcMissioner

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