

WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

The spring of 2020 has turned out to be, shall we say, interesting. Perilous might be a better word. It seems a bit odd then, just when the way forward is uncertain and we are all worrying about the here and now and what next, to suddenly talk about last year.

2019 may well seem like ancient history; indeed some people are talking about the “years BC” – Before Covid – but there are some important reasons to give those days some thought.

First of all we have to write an Annual Report to go along with statutory accounts, and the “headlines” (as well as some of the detail) are still as important now as they were last year.

Second, and more important, most of the things that we thought were priorities last year are still priorities this year. Faithfulness has not suddenly gone out of fashion, and God’s truth endures, even in times of plague.

Third, and most important, the “BC – Before Covid” quip is a good one, but there is a profound truth that last year

and this year are both “the year of our Lord” – AD. This is important; God has not abandoned us. Giving thanks for the faithfulness of God in all things, including in 2019, is a good place to start reminding ourselves that God is with us in these perilous times.

The headlines then: The main headline over the whole report is that “with God, all things are possible.” These words spoken by Jesus to his disciples in St Matthew’s Gospel are about blessing, wealth, responsibility and hope. They are the words used by Bishop Philip as he began his ministry among us at the beginning of 2019. Everything last year and this year is only possible by God’s grace.

God is with us, and as we tell our story, we set it alongside the story of our salvation. Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, our story has uncertainty, perhaps for some of us it is a story of disappointment, a story this year of hopes dashed. But do our hearts not burn within us as we hear the Good News, and when we see Christ among us in the breaking of bread then surely our story is united with his Resurrection story.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simon Cade".

SIMON CADE DIOCESAN SECRETARY

GROWING

VOCATIONS

A vocations day held in Truro Cathedral in 2019 to help people explore their vocation.

COMMUNICATIONS

Over 150 inspiring stories were shared in 2019 with national coverage achieved for our parishes and individuals within the diocese.

2019 saw the diocesan website being used by an extra 3,000 people (11,467) in just the first 3 months of the year compared with the first 3 months of 2018 (8,469). This is a continued trend of increase since the new site launched in 2016.

We shared our stories and messages on social media achieving 93,364 impressions on Twitter and a reach of 194,794 on Facebook.

Our newsletter subscribers grew to over 2,400 people in 2019 with over 55 newsletters produced.

EDUCATION

We worked with the 44 church schools across the Diocese of Truro, from Five Islands Academy on the Isles of Scilly to St Mark's C of E Primary in Morwenstow, including the 14 academy trusts and the local authority in our role as a significant partner in raising standards for children.

WELCOME

There were 12 churches involved in Come Rain or Shine in 2019.

We undertook 17 welcome audits to help churches improve their welcome to visitors.

We created 12 bespoke family trails for churches around diocese. There were also bespoke children's resources and schools' pack created.

TRANSFORMING MISSION

The first two years focused around Falmouth where we saw success in church planting (New Street Church) and community engagement (via Huddle café). The second phase in Liskeard, St Austell, Camborne and Truro is progressing well with staff teams mostly in place.

In 2019, Huddle welcomed an average of 1000 visitors a week with 3,500 people attending 186 special events. It also saw 40 people regularly attending the weekly worship.

STEWARDSHIP

In 2019, we worked with 7 deaneries running workshops or giving presentations at their deanery synods with the aim of encouraging or equipping them in their giving and stewardship.

The PGS wider community form launched in 2019 and three churches are already using it with many more interested.

Contactless readers are in at least 20 churches with a lot of interest from many others.

We also spent a lot of time helping churches find funding including the use of the Church Grant website and Meet the Funders workshops.

FINANCE

We are investing together in the future of the Church, mostly through Transforming Mission. We are joined in this investment by the national church and our local TM churches.



SUPPORTING

ACCOMPANIED MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT

In 2019, Accompanied Ministry Development worked with deaneries, parishes and clergy as they continue to develop their ministry and mission and to plan for growth and for parishes to sustain themselves in the long term. This involves listening to their stories, helping them discern what God is calling them to be and to do, and identifying what support will enable them to respond fully to God's call.

During 2019 there were 3 cohorts running, 36 parishes involved equating to 150 people.

SAFEGUARDING

We provided 61 in-house safeguarding courses and trained 725 people.

We supported 5 parishes and PCCs in safer recruitment implementation.

We supported our parishes in embedding the Parish Safeguarding Handbook. We did this through quarterly networking/ learning events with 25 people attending.

EDUCATION

Support and training was provided to schools and school leaders. This included our Head Teachers' Reflection Day; bespoke training and governance reviews, and preparing schools, trusts and governors for their SIAMS inspections with all schools inspected so far this year achieve a 'Good' outcome.

We ran a wide range of courses and events supporting over 200 people, as well as cohorts of two national governance programmes - one for clerks and another for chairs.

DISCIPLESHIP

We supported Local Worship Leaders as they played a part in leading hundreds of services across Cornwall, by running two training courses and two network days attended by 17 people.

DIOCESAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In 2019, we formally advised 92 parishes as they went through the faculty process and many more informally. There were 79 site visits made with 72 faculties recommended. There were 51 List B applications processed and approved and 10 amendments to existing faculties approved. The diocese spent £22,032 on faculty fees (£306 a time).

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

We have been supporting the work of our two Messy Church volunteers as they support and advise the 49 Messy Churches across the diocese.

COMMUNICATIONS

In 2019, we continued to develop our wide range of resources to support parishes in their work growing the church. These resources are available via in-parish support and on the diocesan website.

We provided training to 15 parishes in 2019 and support and advice to many more.

In 2019, the diocesan website provided support to over 55,000 users, who accessed pages 525,232 times.

In 2019, we saw the number of parish communicators in our Facebook group grow to 49. The group has enabled us to provide help and support to parishes and for parishes to provide help and advice to other parishes and us!

FINANCE: GRANTS & LOANS

We have been encouraging good stewardship and supporting deaneries to work towards today's church supporting today's church. We provided a toolkit that has enabled parishes to plan and we've supported them with it.

SOCIAL ACTION

In partnership with Cornwall Independent Poverty Forum, we produced the Cornish Christmas Giving Catalogue, which helped 20 local projects and charities to benefit from £10,200.

CHURCH HOUSE OPERATIONS

We supported parishes with Statistics for Mission and Return Of Parish Finances (ROPF). As a result our return rates (93% for Stats for Mission and 80% for ROPF) received a commendation from the national team.

Statistics for Mission and ROPF give a window into a parish's health. Returns are vital for planning for our shared mission and ministry and robust data is essential if the Bishop's Diocesan Council and deaneries are to make good decisions about how the church uses its resources.

LIFE ACROSS THE DIOCESE

ISLES OF SCILLY
 We worked with the 44 church schools across the Diocese of Truro, from Five Islands Academy on the Isles of Scilly to St Mark's C of E Primary in Morwenstow.

SENNEN
 We supported parishes with Statistics for Mission and Return Of Parish Finances (ROPF) and as a result our return rates (93% for Stats for Mission and 80% for ROPF) received a commendation from the national team.

PENZANCE
 We helped to co-ordinate a Citizens Panel on housing issues and recommendations were made to councillors and MPs. We were supported in this with a grant from Funds for Mission.

CAMBORNE
 We made significant progress towards achieving our goals to instigate mission within communities in Cornwall. We are now Transforming Mission in Falmouth, Camborne, Liskeard, St Austell and Truro.

NEWQUAY
 We have trained 24 curates for ministry throughout Cornwall including Newquay.

HELSTON
 The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is used in 82 churches and donations continue to grow. In 2019, there were 11,212 donations processed, £739,290 in funds moved (excluding Gift Aid!) and the weekly average gift was £15.16 (again excluding Gift Aid).

ST AUSTELL
 In 2019, 1,125 people from across the diocese undertook safeguarding training.

PADSTOW
 In 2019, there were 329 Local Worship Leaders with 17 commissioned.

ST WENN
 We encouraged individuals to engage with the environment and climate change and enabled them to take action individually and as a church with 32 signing up to the Green Church Kernow Awards.

FOWEY
 In 2019 there were 305 Local Pastoral Ministers offering a grass-roots ministry that reaches deep into our communities. While the majority of work involves the traditional visiting, teams are now engaged in everything from administering communion in nursing homes to assisting in baptism preparation and helping at memory cafes.

BODMIN
 In 2019, 151 Open the Book teams brought the Bible to children in schools across our diocese.

In 2019 £28,283 in small grants were given to 16 parishes and £114,500 was loaned to 4 parishes to enable them to complete development projects.

LISKEARD
 In 2019, over 600 people joined in with our Thy Kingdom Come beacon events in Liskeard.

STRATTON
 During 2019 we worked with Stratton Deanery using the Leading your Church into Growth resources and been excited to see all that God is doing through his faithful people in North Cornwall.

LEADING

SYNOD

In 2019 there were the usual three synods. Membership attendance rates were:

	Clergy	Lay
Sept	46%	55%
Nov	48%	64%
May	50%	61%

CHURCH HOUSE OPERATIONS

We produced a parish training booklet and ran 9 training courses in 2019 with 130 people attending.

ENVIRONMENT

In partnership with the Diocese of London, we sponsored a motion calling on every diocese to create an environment programme and introduce a national carbon emissions measuring tool for churches.

SOCIAL ACTION

Our Mission Forum in partnership with Transforming Mission and Cornwall Foundation Trust chaplains held a Faith and Mental Health Day enabling interested parties to discuss the topics. Over 100 people attended. 91% said the day was good or excellent with 87% saying they would do more work in the areas of faith and mental health as a result.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Since 2019, we have been a Trailblazer Diocese for the delivery of the national Growing Faith Initiative. This initiative is a partnership between churches, schools and households looking to work together to enable children and young people to live out a life-long faith.

FINANCE

Good stewardship of diocesan assets such as Glebe, MMF income, parsonages and investments to sustain ministry and all the other activities of the diocese.

ARCHDEACONS

There were 389 churchwardens charged in 2019.

READERS

In 2019 we had 118 Readers in the diocese.

The number of Readers taking Communion services to the housebound and sick increased in 2019.

There was an increase in the number of Readers involved in funeral ministry.

37 Readers preached 695 sermons in 2019. 722 services were Reader led.



PRAYING

DISCIPLESHIP

The quarterly diocesan prayer diary draws together hundreds of churches and every school in Cornwall, uniting our prayer before God, committing us to serve and give thanks. In 2019, the prayer diary was downloaded 1,170 times.

In 2019, many churches signed up to take part in Thy Kingdom Come. Our diocesan beacon events were held at St Martin's Church in Liskeard and in the Callington Cluster. Over 600 people joined in the events in Liskeard.

We organised 5 quiet days attracting over 50 people.

We also established a new Prayer & Spirituality team with a strong ecumenical emphasis with the aim of connecting, encouraging and promoting prayer across the diocese.

We introduced a list of Spiritual Directors to assist others in their journeys.

ENVIRONMENT

We held our first Diocesan Environment Service at Truro Cathedral in 2019 and over 100 children joined in along with their families. It was a powerful witness to Christian response to God's call to care for creation and work with others as we do so.

SAFEGUARDING

In 2019, we held our first service of thanksgiving for our Safeguarding Co-ordinators. Over 28 attended the service, which enabled us to give thanks for the work of our parish teams in this important area.

READERS

We held a service to celebrate Reader Ministry in 2019, which saw 8 Readers admitted and licensed, 3 Readers welcomed to the diocese, 4 Readers given their first permission to officiate certificate and 4 Readers recognised for giving a combined 175 years in Ministry.

ACCOMPANIED MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT

In our AMD sessions with parishes we focused on the importance of prayer as the expression of ultimate dependence on God and we encouraged hope and trust in our generous God.



600

305

175

50

100+

28



A FINAL WORD LOOKING FORWARD

I am writing these final words at a strange time. This report deals with the period before the 2020 coronavirus crisis – but we can hardly face the future and ignore it.

For all that this crisis has been quite devastating in its effect it's been a time of great compassion too. It's also been a time of great creativity and innovation. And I'm very proud indeed of the way our people and our churches have risen to the challenge that's presented itself to them.

So how then, in its light, do we look to the future? I hope we will do so with no less care and compassion; creativity and innovation. I hope above all we will face the future with faith, confident in the God who always calls us forward.

And we will look forward with a focussed faith. 2020 will, I hope, be the year when we see a new diocesan strategy accepted and begin to be embedded.

At the heart of that strategy is a story: the story of what God has been doing in Cornwall, a story which he is still telling and in which he calls us to play our part.

And more specifically still, I hope that in 2020 we will take ever more seriously the five priorities I've outlined for us. They are where 'the rubber hits the road' for the change we seek.

Thus it's my prayer that in 2020 we will increasingly be:

A church that conspicuously celebrates children and young people at its heart, learning some of the lessons from the crisis about joining across the generations;

A church that unashamedly embraces an innovative pioneering culture, putting into continued practice the inventiveness we learnt in lockdown;

A church that is increasingly confident in its calling, knowing just how best we can reach out in loving service – again learning enduring lessons from the crisis;

A church that rejoices in strong, warm and mutually encouraging international links, because we know without doubt we're part of a global family;

A church that rejoices in the generosity of God because we believe above all else that our God is good and loving towards us.

My prayer is that we should be just such a church. Please do join me in that prayer.



+PHILIP TRURO MAY 2020

GET IN CONTACT

T 01872 274351 **E** info@truro.anglican.org

Church House, Woodlands Court, Truro Business Park
Threemilestone, Truro, TR4 9NH



DIOCESE OF TRURO
DISCOVERING GOD'S KINGDOM
GROWING THE CHURCH