

# Annual Report

# 2014-15

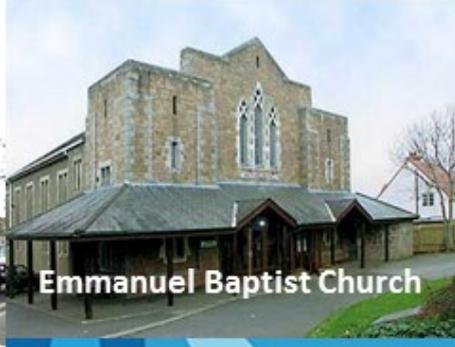
## Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together



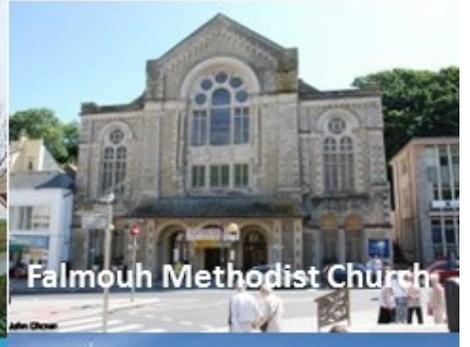
*Working together  
to share  
the love of God*



All Saints Church



Emmanuel Baptist Church



Falmouth Methodist Church



King Charles the Martyr Church



Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together



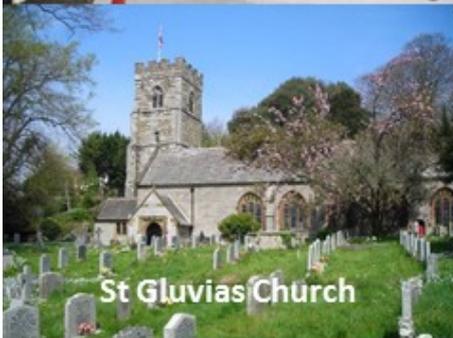
Penryn Methodist Church



Penwerris Church



St Budock Church



St Gluvias Church



St Mary's RC Church



St Mawan Church



Salvation Army



Stirring of the Water Ministries



United Reformed Church with Trinity Baptist Church



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## 1 | OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR & CHAIR'S REPORT – *REVD. COLIN BIGGS*

I feel this has been a year of consolidation – the vast majority of the enormous range of work done for Christ under the banner of Falmouth and Penryn Churches Together has continued without major issues. New areas of work have been developments of existing events or 'one-off' responses to particular situations.

Among the events that have developed from others, mention must be made of Easter Live, the fulfilment, in a sense, of the Live Nativity. As the birth at Bethlehem is irrelevant without Good Friday and Easter Day, so we sought to complete the story for the people of Falmouth. Our thanks to Michelle, Alison and the team for their work.

The major 'one off' was the visit by the Tall Ships last August, where Phil organised outreach in a number of ways, including 'Street Chaplains' who were, apparently, much appreciated (even if some of us felt rather lost in the role!).

The other activities of FPCT each have their own report – I will not presume to speak for them. Thanks are in order, of course – but to name each individual would not be appropriate. The two exceptions I will make to that are our secretaries. Roger and Sue Mills put in an enormous amount of work behind the scenes to enable FPCT and its activities to function as efficiently as possible. We do thank them most sincerely. (And Roger and Sue are part of the consolidation as they mould the role of Secretary to their skills and vision.)

So finally thanks to everyone who has played their part, prayed for and supported the work of FPCT, not so that we might be praised and 'successful', but so that God's name might be praised. May he continue to bless our work in his service.

## 2 | FPCT OFFICERS 2014-15

Chair: Revd Colin Biggs, Falmouth United Reformed Church with Trinity Baptist

Vice-chair: Revd Roger Wyatt, Harbour Church

Treasurer: Revd Charles Blizzard, Emmanuel Baptist Church

Joint Secretaries: Sue & Roger Mills, St Budock Church

**Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together****Statement of Financial Activities****Year Ended 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

<b>1) Safe Space</b>		
Balance B/F 01.05.14		2903
Grants etc.		<u>6775</u>
		9678
Less Payments		<u>4888</u>
Balance C/F 30.04.15		<u>4790</u>
<b>2) Footsteps Coffee Shop</b>		
Balance B/F 1.05.14		198
Proceeds from the Coffee Shop		<u>4997</u>
		5195
Payments: Foodbank	2500	
Street Pastors	1300	
Kidz Klub	<u>800</u>	
		<u>4600</u>
Balance C/F 30.04.15		<u>595</u>
<b>3) B:Beautiful</b>		
Balance B/F .1.05.14		523
Income		<u>1084</u>
		1607
Expenses		<u>1223</u>
Balance C/F 30.04.15		<u>384</u>

**Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together**

**Receipts and Payments Account**

**Year Ended 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

Receipts

Subscriptions from Churches	2215	
Men's Breakfast	<u>665</u>	
		2880

Payments

Chaplaincy	79	
Men's Breakfast	784	
Evangelism	1758	
Insurance	393	
Sundries	<u>324</u>	
		<u>3338</u>

Excess of Payments over Receipts 458

Balance B/F 01-05-14	534	
Excess of Payments over Receipts	<u>458</u>	
Balance C/F 30-04-15		<u>76</u>

### 3 | **FOODBANK – SARAH SIMONS**

Falmouth and Penryn Foodbank provide support and three days emergency food to local people who find themselves in unexpected crisis.



Frontline agencies such as the Citizens Advice Bureau, Children's Centres and Stonham Housing can refer people to the foodbank, clients must have a voucher from one of these agencies or similar in order to obtain food.

As well as receiving a parcel of nutritionally balanced, long life food, foodbank clients are listened to and signposted to services that can provide further support, helping to break the cycle of poverty.

*Connect@thecafe* has now been running for a year, enabling foodbank clients to connect with volunteers and others in similar situations over a cup of tea and cake. At this time they can also take part in *Colouriot CIC*, which provides creative workshops which include canvas painting and sewing to name but a couple of options open to them.

The Foodbank continues to be run by a team of dedicated volunteers from not only the Church community but also the local community with Sarah Simons still in post as the overall Coordinator.

Finally the Foodbank receives money from people within the community and Churches, some who make monthly contributions; others who make one off donations.



This also is the case with donations of food and a special 'Thank you' has to go to all the Churches who faithfully donate in both these areas.

The biggest change for the Foodbank this year has been moving premises to the next door building which has provided more space and storage for the food.

We moved in in April and are still in the process of making it feel like home and deciding how best to utilise our new space and what opportunities that now opens for us.



As we head further into 2015 we prepare once again for the Big Banquet in Dec to finish the year off by blessing Foodbank Clients with a meal and treats!



#### 4 | STREET PASTORS – PAM GRAY

The Street Pastors continue to go out on the Streets of Falmouth each Saturday night and are always delighted by the support they receive from the many people who are out and about between 10pm and 3am.

Over the past year the Police presence has noticeably been reduced, however when called for have always arrived to assist. The Taxi Marshals that were in place on The Moor have been removed due to lack of funding.

Safe Space, providing a safe area for the vulnerable and based with the Prayer Pastors at Falmouth Methodist has become a normal part of Saturday evenings as has Cornwall Resus who provide a First Aider. We each have our own defined roles and together make up a good team to care for those in need.

Over the past year we have picked up and disposed of countless bottles and glasses, we have swept up enormous amounts of broken glass. We have provided dozens of Flip Flops, gallons of bottled water and treats of Fruit Pastille's to the amazement of the recipients. We have provided many a friendly ear, tissues to wipe up tears and offered advice to take care and keep safe. We have phoned taxis and Mums, helped find friends and prayed for many people even though they are unaware that we do.

We have a good solid core of Street and Prayer Pastors and are in the happy position of being able to provide 2 Street Pastors at some functions on Tremough Campus. The most recent events we have covered were alongside the Christian Union who set up a 'Tea and Toast' stand for the students attending. We hope to continue in partnership with the University Chaplain and Christian Union. Then when the students go into Falmouth we are already known to them.

We have been fortunate that funding has come along in many ways and along with the quiet support of various people we are able to continue with our work.

We look forward to the year to come.

## 5 | SAFE SPACE – LINDA COLES

Safe Space is located at The Methodist Church, Falmouth. It operates alongside Street Pastors from 21.45 - 03.00 every Saturday evening, with two volunteers drawn from a team of 16, giving shifts approximately every 6/7 weeks. Since Jan 2014 33 people have received assistance, resulting in an approximate monetary saving to the NHS (based on cost of ambulance and staff etc) @ £3,000 x 13 = £39,000 over this period. All volunteers receive training in basic first aid Cornwall Resus

SafeSpace currently has funding of £5000 and co-ordination and administration is by Tiffany Gale, Emma Roberts and Linda Coles.

## 6 | FOOTSTEPS COFFEE SHOP – PENNY WILLIAMS

Footsteps occupies the premises on Church Corner, Falmouth, known as King Charles the Martyr Coffee Shop and is open every Friday of the year with the exception of Good Friday and in January, perhaps the quietest month of the year, when the premises are closed for cleaning. The opening hours are very approximately 10.30am-2.30pm.



Five years ago we had a vision that individuals from any church, under the umbrella of Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together, would come together to run a Churches Together Coffee Shop in Falmouth. There were two aims: to raise much-needed funds for Foodbank, After School Kidz Klubs, Street Pastors and St. Petroc's; and a place for outreach both into the community and to visitors to the town. We have succeeded on both fronts.

The year starting May 2014 and ending May 2015 showed an overall profit of £4,798.27. A rental of £30 is paid each Friday to King Charles the Martyr Parish Church.

Since 2011 Falmouth has seen a noticeable increase in the amount of tea / coffee shops; now in the region of 20 plus throughout the town's streets. Obviously, to some extent this has affected our business but we do have a sound base of local and regular customers who enjoy our home-made produce although the summer months are a real bonus for us. Our prices are far lower than our commercial competition, thereby giving true value for money.

We have a strong and loyal base of volunteers who help on a rota basis throughout the month, and roughly the same number of folk who regularly cook or bake. More willing volunteers on both fronts are always welcome.

The Footsteps Committee believe that our work in promoting the Gospel message is vital for our community and to drive Footsteps to, who knows, even greater things. We are following in Christ's footsteps and seeking and doing his will is the most important step for us.

We do have a vision; please help us to attain it.

Regular monthly visits are made to the Abbeyfield Home (Stracey Road), Chy Nampara (sheltered flats), King Charles Court Nursing Home, Roscarrack Care Home, Sheldon House Nursing Home, Scott House Abbeyfield Home (Mawnan Smith), Trevern Care Home and The White House Residential Home.

The aim is to:

- Provide opportunity for worship and Christian fellowship to residents who may no longer be able to attend church
- To offer spiritual support for residents and staff
- To listen and care, to show and to share the love of Christ with all
- To help people connect or re-connect with God.

An informal service of no more than 30 minutes includes singing of well-known hymns, interspersed with short prayers, a Bible reading, maybe a poem, and a “Thought for the Day”. Teams consisting of a leader/speaker, musician and singers are drawn from 12 local churches. After each service members of the team stay to chat with residents and sometimes visit and pray with those confined to their rooms.

Currently 34 people are involved in the care home ministry, which include 16 leaders/speakers, 5 pianists and 13 singers/befrienders. Some who lead services also serve as singers/befrienders on other occasions. Some are committed to one particular home and endeavour to visit outside of the monthly service. This helps to build relationships and provide continuity with residents and staff. The size of the team for each service varies from 3 to 6, and the number of residents ranges from 5 to 12.

The care home ministry is led by Peter Richards, who maintains a set of guidelines and code of conduct, prepares the rota on a 6 monthly basis, liaises with pianists, speakers and care home staff and provides a folder of hymns for each service. Every two months a core group of about 14 people involved in the care home ministry meet together to discuss any issues that have arisen, plan for future services (particularly around Easter, Harvest and Christmas) and pray for residents and staff in each home.

In the past year (July 2014 – June 2015) the two major encouragements have been the Salvation Army becoming actively involved again in the care home ministry and the commencement of monthly services at Roscarrack Care Home, supported by members of Budock Church. During the year it was sad to report that the service at Earle's Retreat was discontinued due to the very small number attending.

For the future, we shall look to strengthen the teams, to encourage the involvement of younger people, to actively promote visiting of the homes between monthly services and to remain prayerful if further opportunities arise to share the care home ministry in the community.

Kidz Klubs, supported by FPCT, are exciting after school clubs for junior age children. It is our belief that children deserve to hear moral and spiritual truths that will shape the foundations of their lives – with this aim in mind, we have developed a fun programme with multimedia, songs, competitions, games, drama and stories all presented from a Christian point of view. We are in Falmouth Primary Academy, St Francis Primary School and run a Kidz Klub for King Charles and Marlborough Primary Schools providing a walking bus from the schools to Emmanuel Baptist Church where we have the use of the meeting area.



Churches from FPCT donate what funding they can to support the work of Kidz Klub. We are also very grateful to receive regular giving from individuals throughout the churches. Other sources of funding have been the FPCT 'Footsteps' café, Seedbed, Archbishops Council Mission Fund, and other local Christian trusts. Alan and Sue

Offord oversee the teams of helpers from several different churches in the Falmouth and Penryn area. Alan and Sue do not receive any income from the Kidz Klub finances, but several of our younger volunteers with much higher living costs than 'us older ones' who are already giving their time voluntarily, in our churches, are paid for some of the hours they work. These hours are our biggest expense but our time, to listen, play with, etc. is the biggest gift we can give to the children. Our income April 2014-15 has been £6554.



Our expenses have been £9331. We are still solvent but only just!

At the beginning of this school year, we advertised across the Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together for 2 administration posts and our admin girls: Lynda, Tabitha and Mo (who has been an amazing volunteer for 10+ years!) have been great in each Kidz Klub.



We started our first Kidz Klub in Jan 2004 – it is hard to measure the impact on the community, but Alan regularly meets the children as they grow up when taking lessons in the senior school and they always make a beeline for him and other team members when out and about. They seem to appreciate the worth that we see in them and encourage them to see in themselves, and the belief that there is a great big God who wants to be involved in their lives

should they choose to accept Him.

Future plans – Alan has reached official retirement age, not that he is thinking of it, but we do need to be handing on batons to the younger generation and would love to see others taking up the leadership at each of the Kidz Klubs. Sue is now not able to help

at the Klubs because of her hearing problem, but is very happy babysitting and administrating in the background.

## 9 | FALMOUTH SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY – SARAH GRAY

On Team: Father Jon Bielawski, Mark & Alison Godwin, Michelle Thomson & Sarah Gray.

It has been a very productive year launching out and having the conference room area every Tuesday lunch time to provide a haven for young people, so they can come in and relax, chat, eat home made cakes, hot choc when cold, icy pops when sunny. We have also used the theme of the week and brought the spiritual edge in. From this we have had some very positive conversations about God, Jesus, and the Bible.

We have all had some one to one times with the youth; these have built good relationships that will be there for years to come.

Michelle introduced a prayer book which has been used regularly every week and we have often prayed for the situations after the lunch time has ended.

We all bring a unity and diversity to the group which is really healthy.

Also Mark Godwin has been liaising with the teacher Ben Lumbers who organises the assemblies and they have asked him to do more next term so possibly doing an assembly every term which will be brilliant.

Alison, Michelle and Sarah have been supporting other people who have served the school well for years like AFC worker David Gee and OAC Alan Offord. They have taken lessons and all of us have helped in these lessons.

Pat Edwards from Stirring of the Water Ministries became interested in what we did at the school in the year; so as not to frighten her off we brought her alongside us on the Tuesday lunch times. We as a team found this invaluable; her support, giving, total support of the youth with a listening ear has been an encouragement to us all.

We also had the opportunity of doing some RE lessons this year with Heather Wright, when we could not attend them we called on Charles Blizzard. This has been a blessing to be part of a team and a wider team that we can call on.

I know the school has been through several changes this year and is still changing every week.

We have also been running prayer meetings in Falmouth School, these have been led by Roger Wyatt from Harbour Church. We average about a dozen people when we do these meetings on either a Monday or Tuesday evening for an hour, we thank Roger for heading this up and believe that the positive changes we see are an answer to our prayers.

We are blessed to have Pip Iles on the team as she supports us all wholeheartedly.

We would like to thank all the years of faithful support and dedication Father Jon has put into the school as he will be transitioning in September to Plymouth. He will be

greatly missed but we desire for him to be abundantly blessed as he serves God who is faithful.

We look forward to the new term in September when we have the opportunity to bring LED (Let Everyone Decide) band into the school,

Pip Isles met this wonderful team before when she taught in Helston School and they are a great blessing to have in the school.

Out of this group we have run a Youth Alpha amongst our churches, next year it may be possible to do this with some of the youth from the Tuesday lunch time group.

We will endeavour to go for a meal together before Father Jon leaves in September and celebrate our unity at working together. We pray Thy Kingdom come Thy will be done in the years to come.

## 10 | UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY – BECKY BARBER

### **Multifaith Chaplaincy (Falmouth University & Exeter University's Penryn Campus)**



*[left]* some members of the team: Richard (St Gluvias Penryn), Becky (Multifaith Chaplain), Jan (Quaker Community) & Fr Nikitas (Orthodox Church Of Archangel Michael and Holy Piran) *[right]* New Chaplains Michele & Fr Anthony from St Mary's Falmouth.

Our chaplaincy team provides pastoral and spiritual care for people of all faiths and none. We have responsibility for the provision of people's religious needs and we are keen to engage in interfaith dialogue and conversation about faith. We like to get involved in debate about values and the place of faith in higher education and we have a passion for social justice. We are involved in community building and provide leadership, advice and guidance.

The Chaplaincy's staffing costs are funded by a partnership: University of Exeter, Falmouth University, Truro Diocese and the Cornwall Methodist District. A spendable budget is allocated by FX Plus (service delivery partner of both universities).

The Multifaith Chaplaincy has one full-time “multifaith chaplain” who co-ordinates a team of friendly volunteers who are ambassadors for various churches and faith communities. The volunteers are recruited by the Multifaith Chaplain and approved by the Chaplaincy Advisory Group. Interest from volunteers is always welcome.

The chaplaincy works primarily with the students (now 6184 in total) and staff of the University of Exeter in Penryn, Falmouth University and the staff of FX Plus and our student union FXU. A recent study into the broader impact of the university community can be read here: [http://www.exeter.ac.uk/news/university/title\\_366228\\_en.html](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/news/university/title_366228_en.html).

Highlights this year include welcoming two new chaplaincy team members and some joint social justice projects with the Islamic Society and Christian Union. We have been challenged by a remote location on campus which has advantages for pastoral care but can make us difficult to access for some.

Next year we hope to launch a prayer cycle for all our staff and students and we will be experimenting with a prayer sofa appearing in different locations across the campuses!

## 11 | FALMOUTH CHRISTIAN UNION – NANCY CREWE



Falmouth Christian Union is a collection of students from both Falmouth University and Exeter University, Cornwall campus. These students are dedicated to living and speaking for Jesus on their university campuses (Penryn Campus and Woodlane Campus). The aim of Falmouth Christian Union is to give every student the opportunity to hear and respond to the Gospel. The Christian Union or “CU” is a student led organization and is run by a group of students with

varying committee roles. The current co presidents of the CU are Abby Mitchell, a 2<sup>nd</sup> year geography student and Jacob Armstrong, a 1<sup>st</sup> year Geology student. The students also receive external help, support and advice from local churches and UCCF (University and Colleges Christian Fellowship) staff worker, Nancy Crewe.

Funding for the Christian Union comes mainly from local churches and CU members; the CU also receive subsidies for being part of the university’s Student Union.

Falmouth Christian Union run weekly meetings with different focuses:

- Prayer meetings: a chance for students to gather together and pray for the university and their course mates and flat mates.
- Mission small groups: an opportunity for students to gather together to study God’s word in an open and relaxed environment with an intention to bring interested friends. As well as dedicated bible studies each small group arranges group outings and socials in order to encourage new faces along.



- **Main CU meetings:** these meetings are on the university campus and focus around gathering the students together for teaching (usually delivered by a local church leader) to spur them on in mission.

The CU also run monthly and yearly events to serve the student community and to proclaim the gospel:

- **Free meals:** Every month a free evening meal is organised by the CU. The free meal caters for around 80-100 students (approx. 50:50 Christian to non Christian ratio in attendance). They are given a sit down meal in a friendly relaxed environment and after dinner a speaker will give a 20 minute gospel message around a theme.
- **Text a toastie/pancake:** To coincide with the 'free meal' the CU also put on a smaller event called 'text a toastie/pancake'. Students who live in halls at are encouraged to text a question about God and their order (toastie/ pancake filling) to the FCU phone number. The CU members will make up the toastie/ pancake and deliver it with an answer to the question they have texted in!
- **Tea and toast:** Through out the year Falmouth and Exeter University hold big parties on campus for the students. During these parties the CU will set up a stand outside serving free hot drinks and toast to party goers as they leave. During this event the CU will have contact with up to 300 students. Showing these often lost, lonely or drunk students love can sometimes be the first step to real friendship with the CU members, as they encounter Christian students simply serving them out of love.
- **Events week and fresher's weeks:** The CU also organise 2 weeks to serve and evangelise to new students as they arrive in September. As well as this the CU put on a week of events in February in order to focus their mission. Events include free meals, lunch discussions and talks, art exhibitions, text a toastie evenings. This year the CU saw three non Christian students profess faith at events week! They are now all part of a local church.



Falmouth Christian Union hopes to continue on its mission to make disciples in the student world. In the coming year the CU aim to think of more creative and effective ways to reach out to the university as well as giving more thought to international students. This year the CU have begun to use a the 'Uncover:John' seeker bible studies as a way to open the bible with unbelieving friends - the CU hopes to use this resource more in the coming academic year and to see students all over campus looking into the book of John.

## 12 | B:BEAUTIFUL – *CARRIE HOLMES*

B:Beautiful is a safe place for women to have fun, be real and be inspired. Our name was inspired by our desire that each woman we encounter will know that they are special, unique and valued member of God's Kingdom. We hold three events a year on a Saturday morning and usually host in the region of 60-80 women as our guests. Our programme is attended by women who come to church and those who do not, so we

usually meet in a hotel function room and have been very grateful for the support of The Membly Hall Hotel who have hosted us since 2014.

Each event has a theme relevant to women and we consider various topics, covered from a Christian standpoint. B:Beautiful is hosted by local women who aim to engage our attendees in an encouraging and thought provoking way. We really want the women who attend to feel refreshed and valued so we offer high quality refreshments and give each lady a small gift.

B:Beautiful is an event for women of all ages and backgrounds and for some it is a life changing experience. Widows have told us that our speakers have inspired them to make some positive changes in their lives, which they had previously been unsure they could do since their husbands passed away. Some of the ladies who come to B:Beautiful have had or are currently battling life threatening illnesses and they have gained courage and knowledge that there are others very close that have empathy as the speakers are so open and honest about their often tough journey through life

The feedback we receive after the events is very positive and includes the following: "Each time I attend B:Beautiful I feel uplifted, enlightened, calm and content with God" "What an inspirational morning! Wonderful speakers who really evoked an emotional response in me" "when is the next event - not soon enough".

B:Beautiful is planned by representatives from a range of local churches. We would like all of the local churches to be represented on the team but appreciate that this is not always possible. We recruit volunteers from the events; if someone is interested in becoming part of the organising team, we will meet with them to discuss the aims and purpose of B:Beautiful and invite them to attend one of our planning meetings so that they can see what goes on behind the scenes. Our planning meetings are always positive and usually involve laughter, food and prayer in addition to the hard work that goes on!

B:Beautiful was launched in 2007 with a small grant from Falmouth and Penryn Churches Together; we have been self-funding through ticket sales ever since. We always work within a tight budget to provide a beautiful venue, delicious food and a small gift. Our challenge is to keep the ticket price as low as possible so the event is accessible to as many women as possible. The current ticket price is £7 and the team are working hard to keep this the same next year. We appreciate the wide network of support from the local churches and business community who volunteer their time and resources to us for free or at minimal cost. We would love the opportunity to offer more women sponsored or supported tickets.

The Team are currently selecting venues, themes and speakers for our 2016 programme.

**B:Beautiful; Because every woman counts!**

## 13 | MEN'S BREAKFASTS – PHIL MISSELBROOK

We have held four Men's Breakfasts/Brunch over the past twelve months; the speakers have been Father Jon Bielawski, Rev Colin Biggs, Rev Malcolm Ward and Colin Green for CVM. For each meeting we have used the Membly Hall Hotel which has been a warm and welcoming venue with a really good breakfast laid on for us. Anything from 40 to over 60 guys have attended each time; I feel that it's been a real blessing for the gentlemen as it enables them to have fellowship outside of their building.



There are always those who have been invited that are on the edge of Christianity, who have experienced the warmth of Christian men and have heard the Gospel spoken of in different ways. But we don't seem to be reaching the next generation down with our average age being 60 ish? As to the future of this, please feel free to give me some fresh ideas as to what, when and how this could be improved.

## 14 | PRAYER TENT – JENNI CROZIER

The Churches Together Prayer Tent is set up on the Moor on the first Saturday of each month, weather permitting. It is used to offer prayer to the general public and to remind people that the church is alive and kicking in Falmouth. People access prayer by filling in a prayer request form or by coming in and praying with the people in the tent. Over the past year more than 30 people have come in, sat down and received prayer and we have received over 250 written prayer requests. Those prayer requests are circulated monthly to the churches in FPCT and prayed over.



Alongside the prayer team are a small team of evangelists who use the time to engage in conversations with passers-by. It is amazing to see how many people want to stop and talk about their faith, whatever shape it takes, and to listen to the truth about Christianity, though there are a few who are hard against the gospel and resent us. The team in the tent are Jenni (EBC), Phil (EBC), Malcolm (Harbour), Phil (Harbour), Bridget (Harbour), Roy (St Mary's), Angie (EBC), Jennie (EBC), Giles (EBC) and David (EBC). To be a member of the team please speak to Jenni Crozier or Phil Misselbrook. In addition there is a team of prayer warriors who take half hour slots and pray for us whilst we are down on the Moor, an essential and valuable ministry of support. To join this prayer team contact Jenni or Phil. Our main challenge is stormy weather. We can put the tent up in rain but not in high winds. Over the past year weather has stopped us twice. We are on the Moor with permission from the Town Council and plan to continue this public ministry to the people of Falmouth. Please pray that we continue to get permission every 6 months. Thank you for the support from



FPCT and for buying us a new fold up table when the old one collapsed after 10 years' service!

#### 15 | UNITED SERVICES & UNITED PRAYER GROUP – *REVD. COLIN BIGGS*

Once again this year, we have been looking at the way in which we celebrate our 'togetherness in diversity' in worship and prayer: there needs to be a spiritual dimension to the 'togetherness' of FPCT member churches, with prayer underpinning both meetings and social action.

We have initiated a trial system whereby a united service is held on a Sunday evening every other month, with a united prayer group meeting on the alternate months, on a weekday evening to suit the host church. Both of these events will move around the various churches of FPCT.

The first prayer group and the first united service have taken place as this report is written: the prayer group remains a 'work in progress' while the service showed how a celebration of a particular style of worship can be conducted in an ecumenical environment.

We look forward to exploring how the prayer group might develop and how the united services may continue to help us grow together in worship as well as in witness.

#### 16 | WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY – *REVD. COLIN BIGGS*

The final Sunday of the Week of Prayer (January 25<sup>th</sup>) was chosen for the Exchange of Preachers this year – unfortunately this meant that some churches were unable to take part. However, 9 of our congregations were able to receive a preacher from another tradition and I believe both preachers and congregations found the exercise profitable.

We were then able to share a united act of worship in the evening, using the materials prepared by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

The exchange of preachers is now reasonably well established, but there remain some of our congregations who feel unable to take part. The more churches that participate, the wider the spread of experience we can share and the broader the range of worship styles we can experience together. I would urge all our congregations to consider whether they could take part, receiving a visitor and, where possible, offering their insights to others.

#### 17 | FILLING STATION – *CHARLES NEATE*

Falmouth Filling Station is now into its second year. It is designed to be a way of worshipping the Lord, out of the usual Sunday slot, out of church buildings and in an informal manner.

So we meet on a Monday evening in the Penmorvah Manor Hotel, from 7:30 to 9:30. The meeting is completely interdenominational and the intention is threefold; to fill those at the meeting with the Spirit, reintroduce those who have lapsed in their desire for our Lord, and to introduce those who don't know Jesus.

We start at about 7:30 and once people are filled with the coffee and buns, we start with worship. The musicians, The Budock Group and Joff from Falmouth Light & Life Church, play the sort of songs that are easily sung but also are very meaningful. In the midst of the worship, someone gives a life changing story. These stories, are a significant part of the evening as they come straight from the heart, and people relate very closely to what is said in these very personal tales.

Our speakers have come from the Filling Station list of speakers and from local preachers. From the Filling Station list we have had Richard Fothergill, the Filling Station Leader and his South-west area co-ordinator, Nick Crawley. The most noteworthy local preacher has been Bishop Chris, but Phil Misselbrook and Howard Peskett are well known. All have given messages from the heart and we all have been uplifted spiritually and hopefully prepared to carry on with God's work.

Hopefully we are just as 'cutting edge' now as when we started and we pray that we never do leave the 'edge', we try very hard not to become stylized. For the future, we are working out next year's programme and considering ways we may increase the number of unchurched people.

We hope The Filling Station will become more interdenominational as time passes, because with more input it will become easier to find speakers and people prepared to give testimonies. In the meantime anyone who fits either bill, please get in touch! We shall keep up the promotion in the local media, as we have had some success there. We shall also try a more direct approach by going door-to-door. Our attempts last year did not prove too successful even though the door side conversations proved positive. We shall try a concerted effort with the help of Phil Misselbrook of the Emmanuel Baptist Church in the next month or two. We also have a prayer meeting before each event. However the main form of mission we believe, comes from the people who turn up on the evening. We hope they are inspired enough to invite people who are not regular churchgoers or even people who never go to church, to experience the Spirit at the next Filling Station. The ultimate aim is that new people will desire greater knowledge and closer ties to our Lord and will wish to attend one of our churches.

## 18 | DOOR-TO-DOOR VISITING – PHIL MISSELBROOK

We have been blessed by having up to 15 people coming to be part of the door to door team from five different churches. We usually meet twice a month at Falmouth New Life Church and according to who can make it on the dates agreed we split up into pairs but always have a couple praying while the rest of us are on the doors.



We have seen varying degrees of success in praying for folks, answering their questions, sharing with them the truth of who Jesus is and showing them the way to salvation. One of the major witnesses has been that people have seen the churches working together.

All in all I feel that it continues to be a great witness and we pray that the local churches will begin to see some fruit from this but that's in the Lord's hands. Following is a rundown from the last twelve months.

<i>Month</i>	<i>Roads visited</i>	<i>Homes visited</i>	<i>Ins after two visits</i>	<i>Neighbourhood Packs given</i>	<i>Surveys done</i>
Jun-14	Roscarrack Close, Elowen Close, Prislow Close, Queen Anne Gardens, Silverdate Road, Swanpool Gardens.	141	94	69	49
Jul/Aug-14	Swanpool Gardens, Penmere Hill, Penmere Place, Penmere Close, Swanpool Road, Swanpool Court, Tromorvah Park. Davis Close, Elm Villas, Smithwick Place, Smithwick Gardens, Dracaena Avenue, Dracaena Place	265	141	78	46
Oct-14	Grenville Road, Pellew Road, Pellew Close, Robert Hichens Road, Godolphin Road, Grenville Close, Dracaena Gardens	221	162	85	54
Nov-14	Pendarves Road, North Parade, Esperanza Court, Marina View, Homestead Court, Ponsharden Cottages, Tihidy Terrace. Ponsharden Cottages. Marina View, Esperanze Court	304	131	69	49
Jan/Feb-15	Glasney, Bassett Street, Langton terrace, Forbisher Terrace, Penwerris Terrace, Bassett Place, Harriet Place, Stratton Terrace, King Charles Street, Tall Ships Close, Pickle Close	251	140	85	59
Mar-15	Berkeley Hill, Berkeley Cottages, Berkeley Path, Berkeley Mews, Flint Court. Theydon Road	122	82	55	36
May-15	Woodlane Drive. Melville Close. Woodlane Close. Swanpool Street, Arwenack Avenue	111	42	27	21



Over the last twelve months; 1415 homes have been visited with 792 being in after two visits. 468 church packs have been give away with 314 people doing the personal belief survey. Looking at the answers to the surveys questions over 60% say they would like to know God. I don't know what we can do about this but pray that the Lord will open their hearts and show us how to bring them into the kingdom?

## 19 | JUSTICE & PEACE ACTION GROUP – MARY BRADLEY

The first meeting of this FPCT Action Group was held in October 2014, four people attending, when a discussion took place regarding activities, practical actions, and the intimate connection between justice, peace-making and care for the earth. Environment, climate change, Fairtrade, migrant workers and human trafficking were considered. The decision was made to :

- Meet monthly (2pm, second Tuesday of the month, at St. Mary's Hall)
- Bring to each meeting some positive news.
- Have a specific theme and proposal for action each month.
- Work in liaison with other NGOs and Statutory Bodies.
- Disseminate information and proposals for action to our churches and the wider community.



### What has been achieved:

An increase in numbers – 12 at the last meeting.

Attendance at Modern Slavery Study Day.

Visit to local Food Bank.

Topics considered and acted upon : immigration, modern slavery, human trafficking in Cornwall (police) Fairtrade, climate change and environment.

### Actions have included:

- Writing to local MP re Syrian Refugees.
- Writing to MEP re: EU new CAP Policy and effects on sugar producers in poor countries.
- Writing to prisoners in support of Christian Solidarity Worldwide.
- Holding an International Party to celebrate Cultural Diversity.
- Reporting on Study Days and our meetings in FPCT weekly notices.



We are a group, from 5 denominations, enjoying working together to promote justice and peace, locally and further afield, as part of our Christian mission.

We would welcome your support and invite you to join us.

## 20 | PRAYERS FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS – MARY BRADLEY

Our Hour of Prayer for Persecuted Christians started in February 2013, meeting one evening a month in St. Mary's Church Hall. Numbers had been small, 3-5 usually at a meeting. However, this did not discourage us and, since October 2014, our meeting has followed on from the Justice and Peace Hour, at 3pm on the 2nd Tuesdays of each month, in St. Mary's Church Hall.

Since then, it has been good to have an increase in numbers.

The Study Day on Persecuted Christians, held in November 2014, has acted as a stimulus to us and we receive the monthly news bulletin from Dr Russell Blacker. Christians are persecuted in over 60 countries worldwide and news of atrocities reaches us daily. We are reminded that every good action and prayer contrasts the evil in our world.

Each month, a particular country or situation is held up in prayer; sometimes we have a guest who can give us first-hand experience and information.

We believe that prayer can move mountains.

We come together believing that Jesus said "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them."

News reaches us via Open Doors, Barnabas and Christian Solidarity. We have written and sent Christmas cards to those imprisoned or harassed.

It is with humility and gratitude for our freedom here in the UK that we intercede for those who have been executed, bereaved, tortured, trafficked and displaced from country and home, because of their Christian Faith. We are privileged to have the opportunity to gather in prayer for our Persecuted Brothers and Sisters.

You are invited to join us in St. Mary's Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 3pm, or pray at home with us at that time.

## 21 | FAIR TRADE – MARY BRADLEY

Falmouth is a "Fairtrade Town", the first in Cornwall, but there has been little activity during the last year due to a scarcity of available personnel. However, in May, several members of St. Mary's and a Quaker, came together to relaunch "Fairtrade Falmouth". Nationally, Fairtrade sales fell by 3% in the last year, due to the supermarkets.

Why Fairtrade?

Many workers and farmers in developing countries find it difficult to provide for their families, due to poor market access, monopoly of big corporations, unfair prices, etc. Often the amount they receive does not cover the cost of production. With Fairtrade, workers receive decent wages to cover production and a little extra premium to invest in business and community initiatives, e.g. healthcare, safe working conditions, education, co-operatives.

Every time we go shopping, we have an ethical choice to make. Fairtrade goods are not always more expensive than others.

To work for a fairer world and a decent deal for workers is part of our Christian social teaching and mission.

The new Fairtrade Group hopes, in the coming months, to achieve small, manageable, practical objectives. These will include :

- Visiting local shops to promote Fairtrade.
- Recruiting a wider Fairtrade Support Group from the local community.
- Spreading the word...speaking with local organisations.
- Visiting each member church of FPCT to share our experience of running a monthly Fairtrade stall.

We hope, by next year, to be able to give you better news that Falmouth is functioning as a Fairtrade Town. We ask for your prayers and support.

[N.B. There is a Fairtrade Hub at Diocesan House, Truro, who are most helpful regarding churches having Fairtrade sales.]

## 22 | WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – ALISON BIGGS

This year the theme for this worldwide day of prayer was written by the women of The Bahamas and entitled 'Jesus said to them: Do you know what I have done to you?'

On March 6<sup>th</sup> 2015 approximately 70 people met at St Michael's and All Angels Parish Church, Penwerris from churches across Falmouth and Penryn. The service was led by Miss Barbara Meade, from the host church, and representatives from across the FPCT took part. It was a colourful, joyful service which captured the flavour of this island country. The Bahamas consists of over 700 islands covering 100 sq. miles of the Caribbean. Usually the committee invite a speaker for the service but this year the women of The Bahamas requested that the service proceeded without a speaker as they felt it would detract from the flow of prayer and praise. Many of those at our service commented how good a service it was, the most memorable for a number of years. It certainly flowed and had a peaceful, happy atmosphere.

Those who attend always comment on the fact that the words of the service go around the world from sunrise to sunset in so many languages and cultures. It reminds us that we are all part of God's family, a culturally rich and diverse peoples full of praise and love for our Lord and Maker.

Many at the service stayed to share fellowship over refreshments afterwards. A time to catch up with friends and acquaintances across FPCT. Those gathered were reminded that in 2016 we would follow the theme 'Receive Children, Receive Me' written by the women of Cuba and we would gather at New Life Church, Dracaena Avenue, Falmouth on the first Friday in March.

## 23 | LIVE NATIVITY – JANE CHARMAN

The Live Nativity is a re-enactment of the Christmas Story. It starts at Event Square where a pregnant Mary & Joseph hear that they have to travel to Bethlehem. Joseph

then leads Mary through Falmouth on a donkey. Many of the shops along the route have innkeepers shouting “no room at this inn”. The procession is followed by members of the public. It stops at King Charles the Martyr church where their choir and children from King Charles School are dressed as angels singing hymns and carols while a small flock of sheep graze on the pavement. The



The procession then stops at NatWest bank where Herod is at his palace guarded by two police officers. Further along three wise women riding horses take up the lead and follow the start to the stable, which is situated on The Moor, where Jesus is born (we had a 3 month old baby). The final scene is played out in a mock stable.



Live Nativity 2014 was the largest so far. Although the weather was far from good and everyone got soaked before and during the procession there were a record number of spectators. The final scene was held inside a large marquee that had been erected earlier in the week for a craft market and left on The Moor for the Live Nativity to utilise. The inside of the

marquee housed the stable scenery and around the edges pens were erected to house goats, rabbits, guinea pigs, Shetland pony, alpacas, lambs and the donkey that Mary rode. There were also craft tables for the children to make & take including Christian literature. St Mary’s School choir sang after the final scene. There were free refreshments being served from the Methodist Church throughout the afternoon and people stayed in the marquee to look at the final scene which stayed in situ for a while as well as looking at the animals.

A concert by the Barry male voice choir was held in the Methodist Church to raise funds. Falmouth town council then fund matched. The total spent came to approximately £480. This was made up of Car Parking and travel expenses for the animals, catering for all of the volunteers and public, gifts for the volunteers, craft supplies and lanyards for the stewards. Members of local churches donated heart shaped cookies for the refreshments.



The Live Nativity was overall managed by Deacon Michelle Legumi with a team of 11 others taking on specific responsibility such as catering, stewards, animals etc. Each team leader is then responsible for recruiting their own team; however, as this was the 3<sup>rd</sup> year many people came back from previous years to help who were from many of the local churches. Although there was only a core team of 12 over 200 people volunteered in some way during the day.

Bringing the Christmas story onto the streets is the only exposure to the Christian aspect of the festive season for some people. There was a wide cross section of the public following or watching the procession and final scene, from very young children to senior citizens. Many people commented that it made them focus on the real meaning of Christmas without any commercialism and gave people an opportunity to sing carols and connect with each other. It was a true community event covered extensively in the local newspapers.

The achievements of this event were how so few people can bring together so many volunteers to co-ordinate such a large town event. The Live Nativity is a major event in the Falmouth Town Christmas calendar. The challenges are as always the weather, with wind and torrential rain making it difficult to erect scenery and keep the donkeys and horses calm.

Falmouth Town Council has already added the Live Nativity into its Christmas schedule for Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2015. A kick off meeting will be held early in September to start the preparation for this year's event.

## 24 | EASTER LIVE – *LT. ALISON GODWIN*

In 2014, in a Churches Together meeting, the question was asked as to whether we could take the good news message of Easter out into town for the local community to be part of, like the Live Nativity! For many years the local churches of Falmouth, Penryn and the surrounding area have met together at Emmanuel Baptist Church on Good Friday morning to share in a march of witness going in and out of different churches (for short reflections and a mini re-enactment) to end up at King Charles the Martyr Church for a short thought and refreshments. Although this has been a good witness to the local community and a blessing for many taking part, it was suggested that as Churches Together we could do more to bring God's message of love to the community. So it was concluded that there would be a re-enactment of the crucifixion on Good Friday on The Moor in Falmouth, and then a return on Easter Sunday to the same place for a 'Celebration of Life'.



On Good Friday 2015, Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together put on a powerful and moving modern day re-enactment of the crucifixion on the Moor. Despite the rain, approximately two hundred people gathered to witness the event which was both shocking and moving. A lot of hard work went into staging the event and it was only possible thanks to the fifty or so volunteers that took part to bring the message of Good Friday to life.

As we all know, however, the crucifixion is not the end of the story and so on Easter Sunday we came back together again on The Moor at 3pm to celebrate Jesus rising from the dead. The Easter Live event on Sunday was a wonderful celebration of life. There was music from Salvation Army band and also the Harbour Church worship band who provided an amazing selection of Blue Grass and Country music that got many up and dancing. Children were able to get their faces painted, make crafts and have a go

on the bouncy castle. There were free hot cross buns (donated by Asda, Baker Tom and local church members) and tea, coffee and cold drinks that made the whole affair feel like a true celebration.

Both events together provided a wonderful and complete witness to the whole Easter message in the heart of Falmouth.



#### Funding & Expenditure:

##### *Income:*

£100 *Churches Together*

£100 *donation*

##### *Expenditure:*

Good Friday: £50 *PA*

Easter Sunday : £70 *Bouncy Castle*

£25 *Children's Craft*

£15 *Chocolate Eggs*

Easter Live was made possible by the amazing generosity of people's time, talents and resources; the cast members, the props team, the script writer, musicians, face painters, hospitality team...the list could go on. All under the direction of Deacon Michelle Legumi (Good Friday) and Lt. Alison Godwin (Easter Sunday).

There were challenges on the way! The Good Friday re-enactment had to be scaled back from original proposed plan due to the lack of volunteers, and limited planning time available. There were challenges with weather, PA systems and a few other logistical problems on the Friday; however, overall, and given this was the first time this had been done, the planning team were very pleased with the way Good Friday and Easter Sunday went and many people were blessed. So thank you, all that got involved. Praise God.



## 25 | BEACH LABYRINTH – TONY THOMAS

The beach labyrinth has had another successful year on Gyllyngvase Beach during the four Thursdays in August.

A labyrinth has a set path from the start to the centre. We mark out and dig the trench in the sand about fifteen meters in diameter and leave a cone shaped mound in the centre. The mound is then covered with pebbles and a driftwood cross is placed on the top. The dig takes just over one hour, depending on the number of diggers.

People are invited to take some rubbish, such as a piece of dried seaweed and walk to the centre. In their own time they are asked to deposit their rubbish at the base of the cross, symbolizing their inner problems. They then select a pebble as a memento of the experience.

This has been the fourth year of the labyrinth in Falmouth and during that time we have had some wonderful comments and expressions of joy and sadness. Often it starts with the children who then come back with their family for another visit. The average number of visitors per day is about sixty.

We are most grateful to all the willing diggers who turn up regularly to ensure that the message reaches the public in general. A special thank you must go to Andrew Nicholson, the Cornwall Methodist Youth Co-ordinator, who started the project and comes along every year to lend a hand.

Why not come along with your shovel this August, The more the better!

## 26 | TALL SHIPS MISSION – PHIL MISSELBROOK

During the Tall Ships Regatta, 28-30 August 2014, FPCT held a Mission. There were twenty five members in the combined team of one-to-one evangelists, Street Chaplains and members of the Gideon's who were giving away New Testaments on the ships and to the visitors.

*Neil Tinson writes...*

For the first time, FPCT assembled a team of Street Chaplains, made up of ministers and members of local churches, to have a presence in Falmouth during the Tall Ships Regatta. Their role was simple: to be Jesus' hands and feet on the streets. A demonstration of love, with no agenda.

We also set up an accompanying 24-hour chaplaincy helpline specifically for the event. The Chaplains were well received and encouraged, enjoying many conversations with visitors, residents and volunteers alike and gathering a number of prayer requests to follow up. On the back of this, I pray that

event-based Street Chaplaincy can become a regular and valuable part of FPCT's future work in the community.

*And Phil writes...*

We spent most of the time on a quayside next to the tall ships, engaging with the tens of thousands of people coming to see the ships. We all experienced God at work in many people's lives as many hundreds went away from the tall ships with more understanding about God's love for them shown in the Lord Jesus Christ.

We gave away over 3,500 items of Christian literature and during the last day alone hundreds and hundreds of Gideon New Testaments.. Some we saw being thrown into waste bins, others we saw being ripped up and thrown away but most were treasured and accepted with gladness.

The team also experienced people wanting prayer right there on the quayside. The Lord gave the team two pieces of scripture over our time, one was the Parable of the Sower and the other came from 2 Chronicles 15:7 "*But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded*". What more can we ask for,.





All in all a very worthwhile opportunity expressing the love of God shown in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Both Neil and I want to thank FPCT for their support, encouragement, backing and prayer over this precious time of witness. Heaven will show up the fruit of what was done in His name.

## 27 | WW1 COMMEMORATION – REVD. MARK MESLEY

As deputy-Chairman (Acting Chair) of FPCT last year, I represented Churches Together on the Falmouth Planning Committee for the commemoration of the Great War. As a result of this representation, Street Pastors were also invited to lay a wreath along with other significant local organisations. This was in recognition of the valued contribution that the Street Pastors make to the local community.

*Sunday 3rd August, 2014*

In the event, we had a Civic Service in the morning @ 1100am at the War Memorial in Kimberley Park, which was led by myself, as the Mayor's Chaplain for 2014/15 (to Cllr John Body). This started with a parade from the Town Hall and we were joined by the Choir of King Charles the Martyr Church and their parish priest, the Revd Stephen Tudgey, who assisted with the prayers. We were joined by our Member of Parliament, Sarah Newton. The service was followed by a picnic in the park

In the evening, we had a Churches Together Service at King Charles the Martyr Parish Church, at which the Revd Stephen Tudgey officiated and our preacher was the Revd Colin Biggs from Falmouth URC/Trinity Baptist Church. On this occasion I was asked to lead the prayers. The service was well attended and was a dignified way of marking this historic event. The Mayor, Cllr John Body and many other local councillors were in attendance.

There was a further brief ceremony on the Monday (the actual date) at the Cross of Sacrifice at Falmouth Cemetery.

## 28 | SAMARITAN'S PURSE: OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – MARY THOMAS

This is an International Relief project which enables over 10 million hurting children to receive a gift plus the opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus around the world.

This is achieved through the generosity of the involvement of Churches and Schools through the Shoe Box Appeal. Last year 850,638 shoe box gifts were collected in the U.K., is it possible to increase this amount in 2015?

It gives Churches the opportunity of opening their doors to the community by arranging coffee mornings, bring and buy stalls, knitting circles, etc. to promote their involvement in the project. Monies collected can then be used to purchase goodies to fill the boxes, perhaps having a filled box on display to enable the public to see what is involved.

It would be really encouraging to see more Churches becoming actively involved in the project. I am available to attend a meeting in any Church gathering to offer encouragement.

My grateful thanks to Falmouth Methodist who have really aroused enthusiasm among their congregation, both young and old, and who also willingly offer their premises as a public collection point.

## 29 | COMMUNICATIONS – *ROGER MILLS*

Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together is an enabling body, which makes recommendations to its member churches but has no power to act without their approval. It is thus extremely important that those churches are fully aware of all the issues FPCT encompasses. This is quite a challenge! And while the range of reports in this Annual Report demonstrate that, over the years, we have had some considerable success in both informing and encouraging our members to support our activities, we are aware that this very range may come as a surprise to some readers within our congregations. For this reason we have decided to produce this our first Annual Report, and continue to seek better ways to communicate news of Christian activities of ecumenical interest both within Falmouth and Penryn and further afield in the county.

Simultaneously with the publication of this Report we are launching a new website, designed for easier updating and able to adapt to viewing on computer, tablet or smartphone. During the year our Communications Group devised job descriptions for the posts of Webmaster and Press Officer, the latter intended to improve our profile with local press and media, and compile a photographic record of our activities. At the time of writing both (voluntary!) positions remain unfilled, with the duties being undertaken by the Joint Secretaries. While this is fine for the moment, we are concerned to spread the knowledge of the practical systems used for our communications so that we avoid hiatus when roles change in future. So if you are interested in helping out, do please get in touch!

A great deal is happening these days both within FPCT and around Cornwall, and we receive large numbers of announcements every week with requests to circulate to our member churches. To assist with this we are now using commercial (but free!) software to distribute a weekly announcement bulletin. This is no longer restricted to Forum members; anyone can sign up on the website. Currently the 'FPCT Messages' is e-mailed to 106 subscribers.

We also have Facebook and Twitter accounts, which have grown slowly since their introduction a few years ago, but are now proving useful communication tools. Facebook 'likes' have doubled in the past year, now standing at 99; a modest number, but definitely showing potential! We hope to develop this further in the coming year.

These are exciting times to be a Christian in Cornwall, and especially in Falmouth & Penryn. Despite all the talk of the demise of Christianity in this country, the evidence suggests rather the contrary. This is Good News: and a primary task of FPCT is to communicate it!

### 30 | CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CORNWALL – LESLEY CHANDLER

Churches Together in Cornwall (CTC) is one of around 50 intermediate bodies throughout England. CTC's aims and functions have been developed and adapted from the Swanwick Report and consist of...

- being a visible sign of the churches' commitment to one another
- promoting and supporting ecumenism
- encouraging shared worship, service to the world and the sharing of treasured traditions
- enabling spiritual growth to flourish alongside changing relationships - working towards fuller unity with consideration given to theological and practical issues especially those arising from local ecumenical projects
- enabling churches as they grow in unity to seek a common mind and share decision-making
- enabling churches to respond to the needs of society at all levels
- promoting, co-ordinating and supporting intermediate bodies in England
- ensuring all departments, divisions and boards of churches at national and intermediate levels work as closely together as possible
- promoting and supporting the appointment of full or part-time ecumenical officers or similar at intermediate level
- encouraging reviews of ecclesiastical boundaries for better alignment in order to promote shared mission

Cornwall draws DEOs (Denominational Ecumenical Officers), from the Roman Catholic, Russian Orthodox, Anglican, Methodist and Baptist churches, Quakers, the URC and the Salvation Army. DEOs meet four times a year and an additional four times a year at Executive meetings usually attended by church leaders.



*Left: workshop in St Austell - Right: Church Leaders Pilgrimage at Landevennec*

The Executive oversees and offers guidance to the 38 CT groups throughout Cornwall and is also guided by the DEOs. Typical matters covered at meetings would be the progress and reviews of LEPs (Local Ecumenical Partnerships) within the county, the Education Group (College chaplaincy and the Barnabas Awards), the planning of the valued CTC presence at the Royal Cornwall Show, the need for good communication at all levels (the CTC website enjoyed 923,000 hits in 2014 and CTC online newsletters number 30 currently and can be found by clicking on **INFO** at the CTC website - <http://www.churchestogetherincornwall.org.uk/> - we are all invited to send in work for publishing in the newsletter). Other events planned, presented and discussed throughout the year have been the Interfaith Forum and Dor Kemmyn - CTC are delighted to announce that John Keast OBE will be the CTC representative on this forum. Highlights of 2014-2015 included the planning of the workshops for **“THE DECLARATION OF INTENT: One Year On”** at St Austell in November 2014 with recommendations ranging from the sharing of lay and ordained ministry across the denominations to the changing of ‘Churches Together’ to ‘Christians Together’ and much discussion around many other topics. The preacher for the Ecumenical Service at Gwennap Pit during Pentecost was the Rev. Steve Wild this year with music from the Salvation Army Band (Cornwall Corps). CTCs chairman Steve Wild and Bishop Tim covered mission weekends together in Saltash, Helston and the IOS. Chairman Steve Wild the new President of the Methodist Conference is pictured below during a ‘*laying on of hands*’ at Gwennap Pit.



*Left: Shire Hall Bodmin with John Pollard - Right: ‘Laying on of hands’*

The Church Leaders’ Pilgrimage to Landevennec took place in May when 32 of us connected with our common Catholic ancestry to share companionship, contemplation on the four interpretations of the Emmaus story, monastic chant, the dignity of the brothers, and silence (not forgetting food and drink!). CTC have welcomed as speakers throughout the year, members of the Chemin Neuf community at Sclerder Abbey, John Pollard (chairman of One Cornwall) and were pleased to be involved with the very successful **Dementia Awareness Action Day** in June this year.

During the past year CTC has welcomed into membership ‘Culdrose Chaplaincy Group’ and ‘Christians Together in Redruth’ and onto the Executive, Tracey Dockree of ‘Kingdom Vision’ and Rev. Derek Collins of ‘Epiphany Works’.

