

Annual Report

2015-16

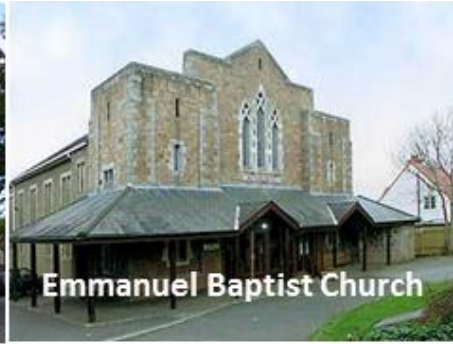
Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together

*Working together
to share
the love of God*





All Saints Parish Church
Falmouth



Emmanuel Baptist Church



Falmouth Methodist Church



Falmouth Parish Church of
King Charles the Martyr

FALMOUTH
NEWLife

Falmouth
& Penryn
Churches
Together

**HARBOUR
CHURCH**
• FALMOUTH •



Penryn Methodist Church



Penwerris Church



St Budock Church



St Gluvias Church



St Mary's RC Church



St Mawnan Church



Salvation Army



Stirring of the Water
Ministries



United Reformed Church with
Trinity Baptist Chitch



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1 | OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR & CHAIR'S REPORT – JAN WINSLADE



Phil Misselbrook

It is with great sadness that I begin this report with the news that Phil Misselbrook died on 11 June; although as Christians we know that he is now out of pain and safe in God's hands, we deeply mourn his passing and continue to keep Sue and the family very close in our prayers. Phil was such a rock in FPCT throughout the years, and we give thanks for his wise counsel and faithful service in bringing so many people to Christ. We shall miss his wonderful friendship and practical help in all our activities. We remember fondly too, Jenni Crozier, who was such a stalwart of the prayer tent and B:Beautiful, who died on the 12th April. May they both rest in Peace and rise in Glory.

The past year has seen several changes including those of various officers. Jennie Morgan (now McIver) resumed her role as chair, which had been interrupted by ill health, but sadly had to stand down again in November for family reasons. Charles Blizzard has retired as Treasurer after many years of sterling service, and we thank him for all his hard work. David Arrondelle has kindly agreed to take over the role of Treasurer for which we are very grateful.

We also said farewell to Fr Jon Bielawski and the Revd Mark Mesley who have both now moved to Devon, and we welcome Fr Brian Kenwrick and Revd Robbie Bowen into our fellowship. Its Mark and Alison Godwin will be leaving us in July, and we wish them both well in their new post. I would like to thank Fr Jon, Mark, Mark and Alison for all their support during their time with FPCT.

The Study Day in January (the first, we hope of many), was very successful; the theme 'Being the Body of Christ' being our focus for growing ever closer together as we seek to do God's will. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was also well supported with daily services throughout the week.



Jenni Crozier

One of the strengths of FPCT is that people from across the denominations willingly join together in prayer and practical support for our local and global community.

Very sadly, the Footsteps Coffee Shop has had to close, but we remember with gratitude all that was accomplished there during the 4 1/2 years in which it was operational.

As we contemplate the future, we must bear in mind the importance of forward planning in our events. We often need to obtain permission from the Town Council and always have to carry out a risk assessment before each one, all of which takes time, and very often a deadline of 6 months ahead.

My hope and prayer for the future of FPCT is that we will work ever closer together to bring the Kingdom of God to Falmouth, Penryn and the surrounding area.

2 | FPCT OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE MEMBERS 2015-16

Chair: [Jul-Dec 2015] Jennie Morgan Emmanuel Baptist Church
[from Feb 2016] Jan Winslade St Budock Church

Vice-chair: Revd Geoffrey Bennett St Budock Church

Treasurer: [Jul 2015-Apr 2016] Revd Charles Blizzard Emmanuel Baptist
[from May 2016] David Arrondelle St Mawnan Church

Joint Secretaries: Sue & Roger Mills St Budock Church

Executive Member (minister): Lt Alison Godwin Salvation Army

Executive Member (minister): Revd Pat Whittaker URC/Trinity Baptist

Executive Member (lay): Mary Bradley St Mary's RC Church

Executive Member (lay): Lesley Chandler Falmouth Quaker Meeting

A further two lay and two ministerial members may be appointed in future years.



Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together
Receipts and Payments Account
Year Ended 30th April 2016

Receipts		
Subscriptions from Churches		1700
Payments		
Evangelism	354	
Insurance	449	
Sundries	<u>198</u>	
		<u>1001</u>
Surplus of Receipts over Payments		<u>699</u>
Balance B/F 01-05-15	76	
Surplus of Receipts over Payments	<u>699</u>	
Balance C/F 30-04-16		<u>775</u>

Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together
Statement of Financial Activities
Year Ended 30th April 2016

1) Safe Space		
Balance B/F 01.05.15		4790
Grants etc.		<u>1000</u>
		5790
Less Payments		<u>5588</u>
Balance C/F 30.04.16		<u>202</u>
2) Footsteps Coffee Shop		
Balance B/F 1.05.15		595
Proceeds from the Coffee Shop		<u>3205</u>
		3800
Payments: Foodbank	1200	
Street Pastors	500	
Kidz Klub	<u>510</u>	
		<u>2210</u>
Balance C/F 30.04.16		<u>1590</u>

3) **B:Beautiful**

Balance B/F 1.05.15	384
Income	<u>1209</u>
	1593
Expenses	<u>1073</u>
Balance C/F 30.04.16	<u>520</u>

Kidz Klub

Receipts and Payments Account

Year ended 30th April 2016

Receipts

Personal Subscriptions	954
Gifts from Trusts	1500
Sponsorship from F&PCT Footsteps Café	510
Church Subscriptions	<u>2950</u>
	5914

Expenses

Wages	5052	
Admin	<u>170</u>	
		<u>5222</u>
Surplus of receipts over payments		692
Balance B/F 01.05.15		434
Surplus for year		<u>692</u>
Balance C/F 30.04.16		<u>1126</u>

4 | CONSTITUTION AND CHARITY REGISTRATION – ROGER MILLS

In November 2014, FPCT agreed, after 8 months' discussion and much soul-searching, to adopt a constitution (see Appendix), for the first time in its existence. There is much to be said for not having a constitution: it gives great freedom and flexibility, and makes it easy for a wide range of churches to participate. The change was agreed for two reasons:

1) to provide a written document for the basis of evaluating new applications for membership (in conjunction with a separate Statement of Faith: at the AGM in 2015, we agreed to adopt that used by Churches Together in England (CTE), as all our member churches' parent bodies are members of CTE)

2) to allow the possibility of registering as a charity, for which a written constitution is required. This would a) allow us to accept donations and claim Gift Aid, which increases their value by 25%, and b) give us the opportunity to apply for grants available only to registered charities: this is now the great majority.

Note that FPCT has not yet decided to apply for charity registration, but has instructed its officers to investigate what this would entail, and make recommendations to the Forum on the various options available. The Forum will then debate and vote on whether to make application to the Charity Commission, who, on the basis of our past record, will decide whether or not to approve our application.

To facilitate this investigation, we have sought advice from Churches Together in Cornwall (CTC) and Transformation Cornwall, who have both been extremely helpful. David Smith from CTC has provided us with model documentation, based on that supplied by Churches Together in England and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, and spoken to the Forum on the benefits of charity registration as experienced by Churches Together in the Penzance Area (CTIPA).

The constitution we have adopted is based on that used by CTIPA, as modified to meet the requirements of the Charity Commission. This should reduce the likelihood of any further modifications being required of us should we apply.

The Charity Commission requires the organization to set up a small group of trustees, with which it will deal; it is not able to deal with a group as large and amorphous as our Forum. Our constitution thus requires the creation of this group of future trustees, giving it the name 'FPCT Executive'. At the AGM in 2015, we agreed to proceed with setting this up. Initial proposals were discussed in Sept 2015, modified in the light of discussion and finalized and agreed in Nov 2015. It is very much a work in progress, and we continue to experiment with different models. The name has been the cause of some confusion, as it could be taken to imply that its role is to manage the Forum, whereas the reverse is true: its task is to execute the decisions of the Forum (not execute the Forum!) and undertake such tasks as the Forum requests.

Membership comprises the officers (chair, vice-chair, treasurer and secretary) and up to eight elected members (four lay and four ministers) chosen to give a balanced representation of the denominations in our membership. Their period of office is three years, and we have agreed to stagger appointments over the period 2015-17 to avoid all standing down at the same time. In Nov 2015 we appointed an initial four members, and are extremely grateful to them for taking this step into the unknown and helping to formulate mechanisms to enable the Forum to work as effectively and efficiently as possible. Their first task has been

to appoint a Community Needs Working Party, described later in this Annual Report; its conclusions will be presented at the AGM, and no doubt provide us with new challenges which will require prayer, funding and enthusiastic volunteers to take forward!

5 | COMMUNITY NEEDS WORKING PARTY – MARY BRADLEY

In March 2016, Transformation Cornwall was invited by FPCT to facilitate a time-limited working party to look at the social/community needs and issues in Falmouth and consider how FPCT might respond.

An open invitation was extended to anyone interested to participate. The Working Party had its first meeting in April 2016 with the following membership:

- Lois Wild: Project Officer, Transformation Cornwall
- Mary Bradley: St Mary's RC
- Sarah Corbett: King Charles the Martyr
- Jane Charman: Falmouth Methodist Church
- Pat FitzPatrick: St Mary's RC
- Daniel Shermon: All Saints (Daniel had to retire half-way through for personal reasons)

Remit:

1. Research and establish social needs in the local community
2. Engage the local council, various agencies and the general public to get their views
3. Review data obtained and identify areas of concern and needs not being met
4. Present findings to FPCT at July AGM
5. Suggest event for Queen's 90th Birthday to stimulate public interest.

Methodology:

Four meetings have been held to date (20.6.16). At the first meeting, the group suggested to FPCT that a Cream Tea event would be a suitable occasion to celebrate the Queen's birthday; this was subsequently arranged for Sat 2 July.

1. An Action Plan was drawn up.
2. Already-existing responses to local needs were identified and effectiveness considered: both faith based and non-faith based.
3. Further research ensued, data and local statistics were reviewed, e.g.:
 - i. Falmouth Methodist Church Regeneration Consultation
 - ii. Falmouth and Penryn Community Network
 - iii. Falmouth Neighbourhood Plan
 - iv. Hidden Citizens: research identifying loneliness in older adults

4. Interviews were carried out with a variety of members of the general public
5. Various local NGOs (non-governmental organisations) and agencies were contacted and visited, e.g.:
 - i. Beacon Regeneration Project
 - ii. Schools
 - iii. Dracaena Centre
 - iv. Foodbank
6. Emerging themes/opportunities were drawn out as the information garnered was analysed and collated. Duplications and gaps were identified.
7. Further work: summary of findings and ideas for FPCT to respond

Working Group experience:

For all of us this has been a very exciting, fruitful and enjoyable time. Starting out, we did not know what to expect. We have learned much from those who have helped us in our researching and from working together as a group. As our final deliberations move to a close, we do have a sense of satisfaction at what has been achieved. Our vision for the future is that doors may open and good things result, especially to help the lonely and marginalised in our local area. We thank God for His guidance throughout; our meetings have always ended with prayer. May His kingdom come and His will be done as we look forward to FPCT's response.

6 | PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY – ROGER MILLS

During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity this year (18-25 January) we held daily services at noon in various churches, as well as the traditional pulpit exchange at Sunday morning services and United Service in the evening. All were well attended, with the daily services attracting around one hundred people over the course of the week with a powerful sense of the presence of the Spirit. Many expressed the desire for more frequent opportunities to pray together, and in May we were able to do that by joining with the Anglican church during the Archbishops' Week of Prayer for the evangelisation of our country, in the week leading up to Pentecost. Prayer Stations were set up at St Budock Church and daily prayer walks arranged. The FPCT Justice and Peace Group met at Budock for its May meeting which was devoted entirely to prayer, and the week concluded with us joining with Christians from across Cornwall at the Pentecost Celebration at Gwennap Pit.

7 | BEING THE BODY OF CHRIST : STUDY DAY – ROGER MILLS

In September 2015, FPCT agreed to adopt the theme 'Being the Body of Christ' as the keynote for all its activities in 2016, exploring this with a Study Day on 29 January at Emmanuel Baptist Church. Some 40 people from 16 different churches attended to explore what it means to 'be the body of Christ' in 2016, through a mixture of talks, discussion, worship and prayer (and pasties!). The main address was given by Dr Russell Blacker (National Caucus for the Persecuted Church), supported by Revd Lucy Larkin (South Western Ministry Training Course) and Phil Misselbrook (Ambassadors for Christ)– sadly the last time he was to speak at an FPCT gathering. Each speaker left us with three questions to discuss in small groups, which proved both challenging and illuminating. A full report of this very rewarding day can be found on the FPCT website at <http://www.falmouthchurchestogether.org.uk/study/>.

This was the first time in its history that FPCT had taken time out to think in depth about what we are called to do, and following on from the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity left us with a very clear sense that we need, as Phil put it, to "Go in His name so that others will know that He lives". Our chair, Rev Pat Whittaker asked us to think how FPCT is going to change in the next 2 years. Russell emphasised that FPCT needs to be seen as one, and Lucy challenged us to get to know Falmouth better – the Community Needs working party is our first response to that. The Revd Geoffrey Bennett led our closing worship, when we gave thanks for such an inspiring day and were encouraged to recognize Christ in each other and in all our churches.

8 | FOODBANK / HUB OF HELP – SARAH SIMONS

The Falmouth and Penryn Foodbank is situated in Highway House in Penryn. It serves those in the community who find themselves in unexpected crisis, sickness, redundancy and benefit changes, to name but a few reasons.

The Foodbank is supported by the Churches Together network and without their support and the community as a whole the Foodbank would not be where it is today and for that we are so grateful.

We are supported not only with donations of food but also financially. We also apply for funding regularly which helps to sustain the project.

The last year has been a transition for us as the Foodbank has been housed in its new premises of Highway House which has been amazing but cold in the winter. We needed to secure funding to continue to provide the service in this building.



We were so thrilled and blessed when the whole community got on board to help us in paying that next instalment. We now continue to raise funds for next year's final payment.

We do have something called the 200 Club whereby you can donate anything from £5 a month upwards to help us towards the running costs of this vital work or alternatively you could donate £10 a month for a year in order to help us purchase the building.

The Foodbank is run by many dedicated volunteers from various churches and those in the local community. There is one paid position and that is for Sarah Simons who is the Foodbank Coordinator.

In order for people to obtain food a referral system is in place and clients can obtain vouchers from multiagency professionals such as their support worker, doctor, CPN, health visitor or Citizens Advice Bureau.

We have realised there are many other things that surround people needing food, such as debt, housing and employment. For that we reason this January we started the Hub of Help alongside the Foodbank.



Hub of Help

We have therefore partnered with Cornwall Befriending Service, Lizards Pathways and MP Sarah Newton's caseworker, all offering specialised help in these areas when the Hub is open.

Helping Hands, a local CIC company, also continue to work closely alongside the Foodbank helping those in crisis with practical things and furniture. We have established a safe space for the community to come, a place where they can be themselves with no fear of judgement and can pop in just for a cup of tea, cake and chat.

As we head on further in the year we are sure that we will continue to evolve as the needs do, we are aware of always having to be flexible and change where necessary in order to help those in the community who need it the most.

9 | FALMOUTH STREET PASTORS / SAFE SPACE – PAM GRAY

The Street Pastors continue their work each Saturday night. During the past year they have picked up around 1000 bottles and pieces of broken glass. They have given out approximately 120 pairs of Flip Flops and endless bottles of water and Fruit Pastilles.

They have talked to and prayed for hundreds of people and continue to 'Help, Care and Listen' wherever there is need.

The 'Safe Space' project closed in the autumn, and the First Aider from Cornwall Resus, formerly attached to that project based in Falmouth Methodist Church,

now accompanies the Street Pastors on the streets. This initiative has been successfully tested with prompt and expert attention for casualties related to alcohol or accident. We hope to continue this partnership but this does depend on funding for Cornwall Resus being available.



Several of our stalwart volunteers have recently retired or moved away. Many of the Street/Prayer Pastors have been part of the team since the start, over 5 years ago, and we would welcome some younger people to boost our numbers. Summertime can be extra challenging due to the influx of holiday makers to Falmouth and the need for our volunteers to take their own well-earned

holidays.

With the closure of Footsteps Café, funding for the work we do now comes from donations and from the collecting boxes we place in pubs and clubs.

We hope that FPCT will continue to support the commitment of the Street and Prayer Pastors by encouraging members of all churches to explore the possibility of joining the team.

10 | FOOTSTEPS COFFEE SHOP – PENNY WILLIAMS

Footsteps Coffee Shop was established in 2011 primarily to raise funds for local charities: Food Bank, Street Pastors, after school Kidz Klubs and St. Petroc's Home for the homeless. This also gave us the opportunity for a fantastic Christian outreach. The premises were the coffee shop on Church Corner belonging to Falmouth Parish Church, which we rented for £30 per session, initially, one Friday per month. This proved a success and we increased opening over the coming years to every Friday but closed each January.



Footsteps was entirely run by teams of volunteers from FPCT, some helping in the shop and some at home providing all the produce; soups, quiches, cakes etc. All were dedicated helpers. We did well and raised a considerable amount of money.

Takings had reduced considerably in 2015 in comparison to the previous year, even in the summer months, and in November 2015 we experienced one Friday when our profit only covered the £30 church rent, leaving nothing for shopping repayment. There is now incredible competition with somewhere in the region of 20+ coffee/tea shops in Falmouth town; some, of course, used by students are offering free wi-fi. We were unable to compete. In addition, in 2015 Trago Mills opened their own extremely popular café charging very reasonable prices with an added bonus of a superb view over the harbour. This impacted **hugely** on us

more especially during the greater part of the year when we had to rely on local trade.

The team also considered those who regularly helped, on Fridays, some every Friday whether morning or afternoon shift, and all the produce providers; it all takes time and money. We'd always had a good selection of produce but in the last few months not the number of people coming in who had previously enjoyed our variety of light lunches and cakes.

From September 2015 Fridays became enormously disappointing! The period July-mid December 2015 saw a profit of £1485.08. For the same period in 2014 we'd made £2750.98.

So the Footsteps team regretfully, in many ways, made the decision to cease operating our coffee shop with effect from Friday, 11th December. It seemed that it had run its course and was no longer viable.

We had been in existence for 4½ years during which time we really had raised a considerable amount for our local charities. All by donation in time or effort from the 40 or more folk, involved in one way or another, over that period. We all do feel that we were greatly blessed and were so grateful for the opportunity we have had.

11 | CARE HOME MINISTRY – *PETER RICHARDS*

Just over ten years ago one or two Falmouth care homes approached Churches Together with a view to starting regular monthly services. This ministry has now grown to cover eight homes - 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 from the start has been:

- to provide opportunity for Christian worship and fellowship to residents who are often no longer able to attend church, and to help them connect or re-connect with God;
- to offer friendship to all residents and staff and, when requested, to provide spiritual support.

The service itself lasts about 30 minutes and will include singing of well-known hymns, short prayers, a Bible reading, maybe a poem, and a "Thought for the Day". Teams consisting of a leader/speaker, musician and two or three singers are currently drawn from 11 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.

During the year 35 people have been involved in the care home ministry, which include 17 leaders/speakers, 6 pianists and 12 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 17.

Income / Expenditure

During the year St Mary's Catholic Church made a generous donation of £50 to enable purchase of prayer cards and devotional booklets to give to residents after each service. Apart from that the care home ministry has not received and does not expect any other income. Team members give freely of their time and petrol and small items (such as visual aids) that may be used in the services. They also provide the occasional home-made cake for one or two of the homes and mince pies at Christmas. Apart from the purchase of the above-mentioned booklets, the only other item of notional expenditure was photocopying of hymns sheets, which was done at Emmanuel Baptist Church. The Church passes this cost onto FPCT as part of a general sum for printing and other services.

Management / Leadership

The care home ministry is currently 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.

Impact on the community

The monthly services form part of the social activities organised by many of the care homes. Comments from residents, staff, and occasionally visiting relatives, indicate that the services meet a real need and are very much appreciated. Music, singing and reading of familiar scriptures can be especially helpful for those who suffer memory loss. Some residents may have very few visitors and the monthly service provides a welcome opportunity for a friendly chat.

Achievements / challenges

Over the past year (July 2015 – June 2016) the care home ministry has been maintained with the help of a fantastic team of talented, committed and servant-hearted people. No effort has been spared to make each service fresh, inspiring and memorable. Especially encouraging was the request from one home for two extra visits to sing carols and then Easter hymns along the corridors for residents unable to leave their rooms. During the year the loan of a portable keyboard has reduced the need for sharing amongst the pianists. Changing start times in

two of the homes has been helpful to staff and encouraged more residents to attend the services.

Challenges have included the recent illnesses of two key members of the team and the moving away of a faithful supporter of the ministry.

Future Plans

During the coming year we can anticipate the departure from Falmouth of two team members, so there will be a need to recruit new and possibly younger people and hopefully draw on a wider spectrum of churches. We shall also continue to encourage team members to visit homes between monthly services and keep in touch with residents when they are in hospital. Within the next twelve months it seems likely there will be a request for the services at Denyer Court sheltered flats to be brought within the orbit of the FPCT care home ministry. This will further underline the need for strengthening the team.

12 | KIDZ KLUBS – ALAN & SUE OFFORD



Our first Kidz Klub started at Falmouth Primary school in Jan 2004. It's like a holiday club but weekly, after school, with action songs, film clips, drama, games, competitions etc., all presented from a Christian point of view. We also have one in St Francis school and for King Charles school. We started with about 20 volunteers for the one Kidz

Klub in 2004, but are now down to 9 volunteers for the 3 Klubs and several of these are not available in the new school year.

The Kidz Klubs are headed up by Alan Offord with Lynda Mckewan doing the admin and resource gathering for 2 clubs and Mo Misselbrook for the other club. Lynda is now our only paid worker, although we have been able to give the occasional gift to some of our unpaid helpers.

It is difficult to measure our impact in the community as Kidz Klubs are very much a seed sowing ministry, that we hope will bear fruit in the years to come. Our 'old' boys and girls always seem pleased to see us and are generally very happy to talk faith with Alan and others in senior school or when they see him around the town. Most of our children have little or no connection with church. In fact, only last week, one parent shared with Alan that this is the first Christian event their daughter had ever been involved in. Sarah Gray, who is helping to run a Youth Alpha course at Falmouth School, commented that many of the teenagers who come had previously attended Kidz Klub, where seeds were sown that have had an impact many years later.

Achievements in this year have been the sharing of life and faith with about 60 children each week and, generally, good relationships with the rest of their families.

Challenges this year - lack of funding and volunteers!

We are asking God for his plans for the new school year as it looks as though we cannot continue without more input of volunteers and funds. Maybe other initiatives are going to rise up and take on where Kidz Klub has left off? Maybe there are unknown volunteers out there with a heart and gifting for children's work?

How will they hear unless someone tells them? Romans 10:14.

13 | SCHOOLS CHAPLAINCY – *MICHAEL GRIFFITHS*



I was appointed a governor of Falmouth School in January 2015. The senior leadership team was disappointed with the chaplaincy, which appeared to them to lack impact.

I met with Revd. Charles Blizzard (who I understood to be heading up FPCT's schools chaplaincy work): it seems that it was difficult to provide volunteers to commit to the work.

I then met with Alex Yarlett who is a qualified youth worker based with Falmouth Light & Life Church. He was enthusiastic about the prospect of pulling together a team of youth leaders with a vision for schools work. The School was keen to appoint him to head up a revitalised chaplaincy.

Consequently, in December 2015 the school wrote formally to Revd. Charles Blizzard to terminate the appointment of FPCT to the chaplaincy at Falmouth School. The appointment of Alex Yarlett and his team started in the spring term of 2016. By the end of that term, the team had led a number of assemblies, and an average of more than 50 students were attending a weekly drop-in. That number has increased and the School is providing additional facilities for the increasing numbers. During the summer term, the chaplaincy started a Youth Alpha course, with more than 30 students attending. The School is delighted with the new input and is keen to support increasing activities.

At the end of 2016, there will be a review of the first 12 months to see what additional resources may be required to continue to support and encourage this important and exciting work. The School has provided some resources and otherwise the work is funded by Falmouth Light & Life Church. It is proposed that the Falmouth School chaplaincy will extend to its two feeder primary schools, King Charles the Martyr and St Francis. The headteacher of those schools has indicated full support.

I wish particularly to note that Sarah Gray has been a consistent and faithful member of the chaplaincy team throughout the period up to the termination of

FPCT's appointment and she has joined the new team with the same enthusiasm and commitment. Particular thanks are due to her.

14 | UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY – BECKY BARBER

What the Chaplaincy Does

Our chaplaincy team provides pastoral and spiritual care for students and staff 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.

Sources of Funding and Management/Leadership

The Chaplaincy's staffing costs are funded by a partnership of the 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) who also provide chaplaincy facilities on both Penryn and Falmouth campuses.

The Multifaith Chaplaincy has a part-time administrator and one full-time Co-ordinating Chaplain who manages a team of friendly volunteers who are ambassadors for various churches and faith communities. The volunteers are recruited by the Co-Ordinating Chaplain and approved by the Chaplaincy Advisory Group. Interest from volunteers is always welcome.

Impact on the Community

The chaplaincy works primarily with the students (currently 6750) of the University of Exeter in Penryn, Falmouth University and the staff (currently 1594) of both universities, FX Plus and our student union FXU.

Achievements and Challenges (July 15-June 16)

This year we have really enjoyed a new home on the Penryn Campus, a beautiful old cottage which we have found students and staff really love, finding it to be a real sanctuary to escape to amidst the busy-ness of work and study. We have been able to re-start our staff breakfasts and we also have a monthly Christian staff gathering over lunch. We have also been working hard on policies and procedures that embed the chaplaincy in the university community and help us to work safely and in partnership with Student Services.



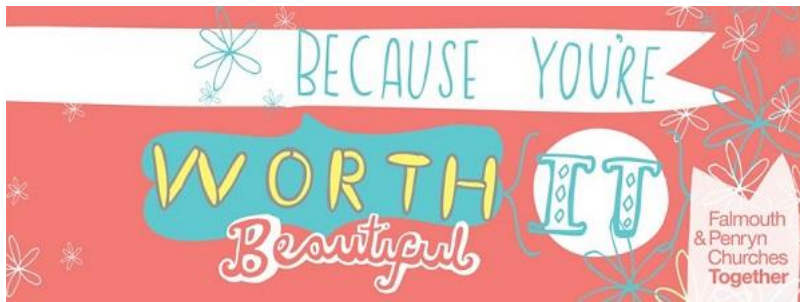
From the stained glass window in Tremough House at the heart of the Penryn Campus

Future plans

Next year we look forward to welcoming a new chaplain onto the team, Pete King from Harbour Church who is particularly passionate about working with international and postgraduate students. We are also excited about working ever more closely with the Christian Union on a new idea for helping students find a church to call home and in due course, our university carol service!

15 | B:BEAUTIFUL – SARAH GRAY & DIANE EDWARDS

B:Beautiful came out of the fantastic gathering of ladies on the Logos ship in 2007 where they expected 50 women and 200 turned up and several were turned away. A group of ladies got together and made an announcement ‘if you want this to happen again please leave a contact on the papers on the tables.’ We created a team that consisted of some women of Christian influence in Churches Together and B:B was born.



Churches Together invested money into the ladies' events as we pioneered our way forward. Since then we have self-funded through ticket sales. We have used local hotels and businesses because

we wanted the community to know about us and we found our non-Christian friends would come to a hotel better than church.

We want to thank all the team ladies, past and present for all the hard work and support in having faith, praying and believing in a God who provides everything we need. BIG THANKS! As we need to honour the people who have laid a foundation for this to keep going strong and making it a success.

The team at present consists of Jo Crook, Diane Edwards, Rachel Kay and Sarah Gray. Also we have a few B:B angel helpers and we are currently looking for more angels, we hope to recruit these every time we have an event.

B:Beautiful's name was born out of a scripture in Ecclesiastics 3:11: "he has made everything beautiful in its time". The desire was that each woman we encounter will know that they are special, unique and a valued member of God's Kingdom, and they in turn would take the message to their friends and would come to have a relationship with God.

We hold three events a year on a Saturday morning and can accommodate up to 100 ladies and we plan in the future for more.

We are very grateful to all the local hotels that have hosted us and look forward to their continued support.

We prayerfully consider various topics for each event. Our aim is to have speakers that can share their miracle and stories of how they have walked with God and overcome!

B:Beautiful is an event for women of all ages, backgrounds and experience.

The feedback we receive after the events is very positive.

The current ticket price is £8 or £7 as an early bird at the event. 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.

In the last year we have had themes of *Uniquely You* March 2016; June's theme will be *Women overcoming challenges*, and in October *Growing in God's fragrant beauty*.

The Team are currently selecting venues, themes and speakers for our 2016-17 programme, where in 2017 we have been running for 10 years and we are going to celebrate what God has done and is doing.

Many thanks to all for your continued support and prayer for our future, to reach the next generation of women.

16 | PRAYER TENT – TONY THOMAS

The Prayer Tent was founded and supervised by Jenni Crozier and Phil Misselbrook and their work within and around the tent will be sadly missed by many, many people who came to them both for comfort, healing or just to talk, for a friendly smile or to receive a blessing. They passed on so much love to so many, right in the centre of Falmouth on the first Saturday of every month. We in Churches Together will miss them both but are confident in the knowledge that they are safe in the arms of Jesus. Thank you to all the other members of the team who turn up every month in all weathers, to share the love of Jesus with the public at large. During the last two months we have met under the guidance of Mark Wild of 'Stirring of the Water' as a temporary arrangement.

At present the operation of the Prayer Tent is on hold pending further discussion.



17 | UNITED SERVICES & ECUMENICAL PRAYERS – ROGER MILLS

In 2015, FPCT held United Services in alternate months with a United Prayer Meeting in the intervening months. The services were well supported but the prayer meeting attracted only small numbers; that does not matter particularly

but as the meeting was held irregularly on different weekdays it may be that many were not able to keep track of it. So in 2016 it was agreed to hold United Services quarterly and precede each one with 30mins of prayer. As the first service of the year was in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and the second took the form of participation in the Pentecost Gwennap Pit service, we have not yet tried out this model, but it will be introduced for the remaining services in 2016. We have however had several opportunities to pray together, as reported elsewhere, including a Prayer Vigil on the eve of the EU Referendum, and there is a growing sense amongst our congregations that praying together needs to be our first priority as we seek to be more effective as the Body of Christ in Falmouth & Penryn; we will continue to explore ways of doing this.

18 | FILLING STATION – CHARLES NEATE



The Filling Station is a new informal way of expressing the Christian faith. Meetings are held monthly in a non-church venue. It offers high quality speakers, contemporary sung worship and powerful, accessible prayer ministry. Meetings are overtly spiritual but presented in a manner that those outside the church would feel comfortable. Meetings are short, sharp and focused, we find the Holy Spirit is active and faith is built up. Many church leaders find them to be an excellent additional ministry tool.

The Falmouth Filling Station has been going since 2014. We meet once a month (except August and December) in the Penmorvah Manor Hotel in Budock. We chose this location for several reasons. It is in a rural location. This is because the Filling Station was originally designed to be a rural ministry, as towns are usually well served for all types of ministry. Other reasons are that we get the accommodation free, parking is no problem, there is plenty of space for worship and most importantly we receive a superb reception from all the staff who make us most welcome.

The format of the evening is as follows:

Welcome with a free hot beverage and muffin, followed by a short introduction and worship songs.

In the midst of the songs we have someone to give a life changing story. These have been emotional and uplifting. Following the worship, we have a speaker who normally talks on a theme suggested by the Filling Station. To end the evening, we have prayer and healing ministry.

Our original funding came from a competition held by the Diocese of Truro. We received £5000. With this money we bought a projector, screen, music centre, other small electrical items associated with that equipment and software to

operate it. Ongoing expenses include paying for coffee and muffins and speakers' expenses, which could include transport and a small gift. As we have had speakers from some considerable distance, our funds would be severely depleted by now, however we have been bolstered by some very generous donations which means that we still have half our original funds.

The organisation of the Falmouth Filling Station is simple, just two people, one to organise speakers and one to organise worship music. However with the passage of time, this situation will change, these two roles will split into several parts.

There are people who fulfil important roles at the venue, these include those who greet people and those who are prayer ministers. We have a prayer meeting the week before every Filling Station where these future roles can be discussed.

The Filling Station has proved very successful ecumenically, we have attracted Christians of all persuasions. We pray that they are so full of the Holy Spirit that they are more confident in their faith to be able to spread the word.

For the future, we have the possibility of setting up another Filling Station when we have filled the Penmorvah. A prophecy from the Glasgow Prophetic Centre stated that we should grow through a healing ministry, so exciting times ahead.

19 | MESSY CHURCH – *THE MESSY CHURCH TEAM*



Messy Church (MC) was started in Falmouth by Tina Mead at the beginning of 2015. Her enthusiasm and energy drew together a team to bring her plans into action. During 2015 there were eight events, and so far (May 2016) there have been a further five, with two more planned before the summer break. One MC was held on Castle Beach and the rest have all been held in St Francis School, Longfield, Falmouth.

The school has been most supportive, for which we are very appreciative.

MC is a Fresh Expression of church in its own right, which began in 2004 and has now spread all over the UK; it is primarily for people who do not already belong to another form of church. MC is a way of being a Christ-centred church for families involving fun, based on creativity, hospitality and celebration. Our MC is held between 4 and 6pm on a Sunday, which we hope is a time when families can join us together. Children under 16 must always be accompanied by a parent or carer, but all ages are welcome. For more information see www.messychurch.org.uk.

It takes quite a large team (20-30) to set up and run a MC and we are so grateful to the many people who help us with time, skills, materials and money. Messy Church is funded by a combination of private donations and St Budock PCC.

Each 2-hour session includes the same basic elements although not always in the same order. On arrival all attendees sign in and are given a name badge, then offered a drink and biscuit while we gather. Next we hold the celebration which will include songs, a Bible-based story, prayer and more songs. The 'Open the Book' team has enacted the relevant Bible story several times for us. The activities which follow include crafts, games and construction projects; different each month to relate to the Bible story, and designed to suit the wide variety of ages and interests of the family members (not just the children.)

The final part of the session is the meal where everyone sits down to eat and talk together. This is usually cold food as we do not have the use of the school kitchen, but with so many skilled cooks/bakers in the congregation we have managed a wide variety of delicious light meals. We have 'Table Talk' cards relating to the day's story on each table to encourage discussion.

Tina handed over leadership of MC in Falmouth, and it is now run by a Core team who plan each session and gather together the helpers, materials and food needed on the day. The Core team is currently Geoffrey Bennett, Marcus Jones, Alan Offord, Jan Winslade and Mary Wright. Michael Wright was a member of the team for a while and we would like to thank Tina and Michael for their enormous contributions to MC in Falmouth. We could not make MC happen without our loyal band of helpers, and we would be delighted to welcome new members to our team.

20 | OPEN THE BOOK – ALAN BELL

A small team of 10 signed up to join the Open the Book (OtB) training and then registered with OtB and had the necessary DBS checks completed. Unfortunately, this number quickly dropped to 8 before we were able to give our first performances of the Christmas



Story at St Francis and King Charles schools in December 2015. This was really well received by the children and 2016 dates were agreed with the schools. Before Easter 2016 we were able to perform the Easter story at both schools and this was followed by the stories of the Garden of Eden and Noah at King Charles (and this will be repeated at St Francis in late June).

Although we have made a slow start, due to fitting in with other school activities, our stories have been really well received by the teaching staff and the children. We are looking forward to putting together a new programme of stories starting in the Autumn term and be able to involve our 3 new recruits who have asked to join us.

We must mention our brother in Christ Phil Misselbrook who was a stalwart in our story telling. He is sorely missed.

21 | DOOR-TO-DOOR VISITING – PHIL MISSELBROOK

The late Phil Misselbrook wrote this report in December 2015 at the end of the project to visit every house in Falmouth. It stands as a tribute to the huge debt we owe to Phil, and the huge challenge he has left us to carry on the work.

After just over four years I have great pleasure to inform you that the FPCT visitation team has now reached every home in the town of Falmouth with our Church Neighbourhood Packs (although there may have been one or two exceptions of homes that we have missed).

Ever since becoming a Christian (over thirty years ago now) I have looked at my home town thinking about how we can reach everyone with the Gospel? I find it hard at times to sit enjoying the wonderful love of God in church while most of those around do not understand the message of hope, forgiveness and a fresh start found in Jesus. The only solution I came up with is to go where every person lives and tell them, thus the door to door visitation ministry.

For some Christians the door to door ministry has a stigma attached to it, I believe this is because of door salesmen and the cults bothering people etc. But this kind of outreach is and can be very rewarding as the overwhelming majority of people are most polite as they answer the door and when they realise we are just from the local churches.

The lows of this kind of ministry are:

1. The weather has not always kind to us. People do not like to stand at the door in the wind and rain, also we get wet and our literature become crumpled and damp.
2. The response of some of those we have spoken with on the doors (not that they have been nasty or rude), just that there is an overwhelming sadness about them not understanding or wishing to know about the Lord and His offer of forgiveness and eternal life.
3. We have not seen many people seeking or coming to church through this ministry even though as time and time again we have felt that God really spoke into their lives. But we have told them so it's now out of our hands.

The highs of this kind of ministry are:

1. For me one of the joys has been people's response when many ask the question, "What church are you from"? To which we reply, "All of them". This has a real impact on them.
2. The joy of ministering to people on their doorsteps is amazing as you see the Lord opening their minds to the reality of Him.

3. Reaching people who would never darken the doors of a church with our gospel of hope and seeing them blessed by what you have said or prayed with them. There are many broken and grieving people out there!
4. Being put on the spot by a difficult question or two, this really deepens your faith.
5. Knowing the Holy Spirit's prompting as He is right there with you. We go to each house as strangers but try to leave the person as friends.

Following is an analysis of the results:

We reached:

1. Homes visited = 6,797.
2. People at home = 3,003.
3. Packs given = 1,805.
4. Surveys done = 1,391.

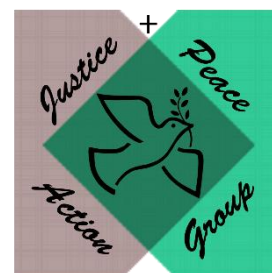
There were five questions to the survey we used.

1. What do you believe about God?
 - 31% said a force.
 - 25% said personal.
2. What do you believe happens at the end of our lives?
 - 26% said we die and that's it.
 - 15% said we all go to heaven.
 - 51% were not sure.
3. What do you believe about Jesus Christ?
 - 27% said he was an ordinary man.
 - 20% said he was a prophet.
 - 20% said he was the only Son of God.
 - 29% were not sure.
4. If you could ask God one question what would it be?
 - 69% said why is there so much suffering in the world?
5. If you could know God personally, would you be interested?
 - 7% said no.
 - 22% said they were not sure.
 - 54% said yes they would be interested. Mind you not all accepted that Jesus is the only way. Sadly many thought they could know/find God without His help...

All in all, it's been an amazing time and opportunity and I would like to thank all those who have prayed for us as well as all who came out on the doors; also I want to say a real **BIG thank you to Falmouth New Life Church for all their encouraging hospitality.**

It's now over to the Lord as He is watching over His Word to perform it.

The group has continued to meet monthly throughout the year with a small but faithful attendance: 4-8 in number. It has been a busy and fruitful year. We seek to work for justice and peace, “thinking globally and acting locally”. We meet always with hope in our hearts and pray that the Lord will use us in a myriad of ways to bring about his Kingdom of love, justice and peace.



Activities during this year have been varied and enabled us to reflect on our Christian responsibility of stewardship, sharing and working, hoping and praying. Our programme has included the following;

2015

July: - *Prisoners at Home and Abroad* – Open Doors, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Barnabas Fund, Community Projects.

September: - *Racial Justice and discrimination* Migrants in the UK and in our area.

October: - *Refugees, The true Story*, with John Shinner – Devon and Cornwall Refugee Support. John brought with him a refugee (a Pharmacist) from Afghanistan, who had to flee for his life when he converted to Christianity.

November: - *The Biblical basis of stewardship and concern for the planet*, with Dr Euan McPhee, ecologist and conservationist.

December: - *Follow up from November*, with Dr Euan McPhee. Update on his cycle ride to Paris for the International summit on climate Change.

2016

January: - *Year's Review* – discussion of recent and current issues and plans for future action.

February: - *Food sustainability at national and international level*. In our world 1.7 people are hungry while 1.5 in 7 is overweight or obese. Reasons for world hunger are many and food sustainability is a justice issue, including climate change, wastage of crops, over fishing, agriculture reliance on seed, pesticides, meat consumption etc., war on waste.

March: - *Celebration of Fairtrade Fortnight* – Fairtrade Big Breakfast

April: - *The Third Millennium* – Emerging trends and changes in our world today and impact on these of *Medical Missionaries* in the world today.

May: - *Week of Prayer for our Country* – Prayer time at St Budock church. Two hours of prayer for our country, justice and peace.

Other Activities have included;

- Attendance at study days
- Signing petitions
- Taking part in public demonstrations

- Writing to MPs, councillors and others
- Attending prayer service for refugees at Truro Cathedral
- Writing letters to prisoners at home and on death row in the USA
- Attending meetings on support of refugees
- Lent lunches in aid of refugee support.

Hope in Our Hearts – Our meetings always begin with prayer/scripture reading, after which we share the good things that are happening with regard to justice and peace. Just to mention a few:

- Reduction of exorbitant rates of interest for ‘payday lending’ and government regulation of loan sharks
- Government to action Asda’s “wonky veg boxes”. Currently 1/3 of all produce is wasted and binned. Asda and Tesco now selling imperfectly sized or shaped foods, e.g., tiny apples.
- New higher minimum wage.
- World’s largest consumer goods & supermarket chains to ensure supply chains are “slavery proof”.

In conclusion we are thankful for the freedom to gather together each month and be a resource in working for the coming of the Kingdom.

Please come and join us – 2-3pm, second Tuesday of the month, St Mary’s church hall. All are most welcome.

Please pray for our world - for a fairer world of love, justice and peace.

23 | PRAYERS FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS – MARY BRADLEY

FPCT’s hour of prayer for persecuted Christians started three years ago. Meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 3pm in St Mary’s Church Hall. Numbers vary; usually 6-8 people attend.

We are well informed about the increasing persecution of Christians and those of other faiths, by the radio, national press and by organisations working for, and supporting persecuted Christians. It seems that daily we hear of: - harassment, violence, physical torture, rape, and death, of our brothers and sisters in more than 65 countries now. Our own government’s response is designed to affect refugees in Syrian refugee camps, but not the many Christians who would fear for their lives in such camps and hidden in churches and elsewhere.

We do believe that no prayer ever goes unheard and that prayer moves mountains and it is with rejoicing that news sometimes comes of a prisoner being released or a journey to a safe place is arranged.

Accurate information comes to us monthly through Dr Russell Blacker’s newsletter and resources such as Barnabas Fund, Christian Solidarity

Worldwide, and Open Doors, as well as through attendance at meetings and study days. The candle we light at each meeting reflects to us that “Christ is the Light of the World” and this light never fades and will overcome all evil. In humility we pray that our prayers will be a source of light, grace and compassion and healing for those for whom we pray.

Do come and join us or pray with us in your own home. May God bless you all.

*God of freedom, God of justice,
God whose love is strong as death,
God who saw the dark of prison,
God who knew the price of faith:
touch our world of sad oppression
with your Spirit's healing breath.
Rid the earth of torture's terror,
God whose hands were nailed to wood;
hear the cries of pain and protest,
God who shed the tears and blood;
move in us the power of pity,
restless for the common good.
Make in us a captive conscience
quick to hear, to act, to plead;
make us truly sisters, brothers,
of whatever race of creed:
teach us to be fully human,
open to each other's need.*

24 | FAIRTRADE FALMOUTH – PAT FITZPATRICK

Fairtrade Foundation

Fairtrade works to benefit small-scale farmers and workers, who are amongst the most marginalised groups globally, through trade rather than aid to enable them to maintain their livelihoods and reach their potential. It's about supporting the development of thriving farming and working communities that have more control over their futures and protecting the environment in which they live and work.

Fairtrade Falmouth

Falmouth town gained Fairtrade status in 2005. Renewal of Fairtrade status is every two years. The next renewal application is due 26 April 2018. Many hotels



and coffee shops, and some churches, in the town serve Fairtrade tea and coffee, but there is still much work to do to promote Fair Trade.

Fairtrade Falmouth Team

The team is small in number and is not representative of the many organisations, businesses, faith communities, etc., in Falmouth. The original Fairtrade representative and organiser of the Fairtrade team in Falmouth retired from the team in 2015 after serving for 10 years. Since then the team has diminished in numbers. Currently, we have three members and in addition, two representatives from the town council who have been unable to attend any meetings this past year due to work commitments. Recently the manager of the Food Bank in Penryn agreed to join the team and a representative of one of the local churches has also been promised. We will continue to explore ways of making the team more representative. We do not have a budget for running costs. Any profits raised are donated to the Fairtrade Foundation.

Events/actions over the past 12 months

- In July 2015 we promoted Fairtrade products at the newly opened CO-OP in Falmouth.
- In March 2016, with the support of Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together, we organised a “Fairtrade Breakfast” during Fairtrade Fortnight. After costs, £75 was raised which was sent to the Fairtrade Foundation to support special projects.
- St Mary’s church in Falmouth run a monthly stall throughout the year selling Fairtrade products.
- Two presentations were given at two Justice and Peace meetings, one in February 2016, on food sustainability at home and abroad, and one in March on Fairtrade and sustainability.

Future Aims

Future aims include a Fair Trade Churches Together. We plan to contact church reps to arrange meetings in individual churches to promote Fairtrade stalls. Fairtrade goods are easily sourced on sale or return from the Fairtrade Hub in Truro.

We will also be looking at the following;

- Ways to support a new development that enables gold to be processed without the use of mercury. Using mercury in gold extraction is cheap and convenient but utterly toxic to people and the environment.
- The impact of slavery on trade. Asda and one other supermarket have agreed to see that all their food sources are “slavery proof”.
- Aim to support Fair Trade with our local and national food farmers.

25 | WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – ALISON BIGGS

This year the theme for this worldwide day of prayer was written by the women of Cuba and entitled 'Receive Children, Receive Me'.

On March 4th 2016 between 60 and 70 people met at New Life, Dracaena Avenue from churches across Falmouth and Penryn. This was the first time New Life had hosted this service and we were warmly welcomed by members of their congregation with refreshments prior to worship – traditional in Cuba. The service was led by Sarah Gray, from the host church, and representatives from across the FPCT took part. It was a thought provoking service which captured the essence of this island country. Cuba is the largest island in the Caribbean, being only 93 miles from the USA. As last year the writers of the service requested that there be no speaker so we watched a PowerPoint reflection on the theme. Many of those at our service commented what a happy, joyful service it was.

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 people full of praise and love for our Lord and Maker.



Many at the service stayed to share fellowship afterwards. There was also an opportunity to continue sharing over a Lenten lunch. Those gathered were reminded that in 2017 we would travel to The Philippines with the theme 'Am I being Unfair to You?' and would gather at Falmouth Methodist Church on the first Friday in March.

26 | FALMOUTH LIVE NATIVITY – JANE CHARMAN

Falmouth Live Nativity is held on the 2nd Sunday in December and is a re-enactment of the Christmas story, starting with Mary & Joseph setting out on their journey to Bethlehem. Starting at Events Square at 1:30pm, Mary rides a donkey accompanied by Joseph through the centre of town looking for an Inn to stay at.



Unable to find anywhere to stay, Mary and Joseph encounter many Inn Keepers who turn them away, and Angel Gabriel who is accompanied by a choir of angels, shepherds and their flock of sheep. Further

along they encounter Herod giving commands to his people and eventually Mary and Joseph find a stable to stay in on The Moor. The crowd temporarily lose sight of Mary and Joseph so they follow the three wise men on horseback and a bright shining star to find the stable. Once the crowd get to the stable,

which is housed in a large marquee on The Moor, they find that Jesus has been born and is surrounded by a variety of animals in their pens.

The Live Nativity is now a major event in the Town's Christmas calendar and is whole-heartedly supported by the town council and town management team. It is a fantastic opportunity for Churches Together to bring the true meaning of Christmas to the community. The whole event is free and dispels the myth that Christmas has to cost money. There is community carol singing before, during and after the procession as well as free refreshments in the Methodist Church. The marquee on the moor has several pens with animals that can be stroked as well as a pets' area that children can enter to be closer to the animals, which include very friendly and playful pigmy goats.



To help with the cost of this event fund raising is carried out. In 2015 St Mary's Catholic Primary School and the Community Gospel Choir held a hugely successful combined concert that saw everyone clapping, singing and dancing throughout the evening. The Town Council fund-match all the money we raise, which is a great help.

2016 sees the 5th consecutive Live Nativity and it will be bigger and better than ever. If you would like to be involved with preparation, fundraising or on the day, please contact jane_charman@hotmail.com - this is the ultimate outreach and so much fun, there really is a job for everyone.

27 | GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS – JAN WINSLADE

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the application to gain permission for the walk to continue through the town to KCM was not submitted in time; the result being that we were not able to conclude with the usual act of worship there. However, despite the short notice, Phil Misselbrook was able to obtain permission to use the facilities on the Moor.

The walk began with the usual safety reminders and a short Service at EBC before proceeding down to the Moor, pausing at each Church for a brief communal reading from Scripture and a prayer.

On reaching the Moor, there was a dramatic reading from the Passion Narrative followed by a Good Friday hymn. The walkers were then welcomed into Falmouth Methodist Church where the Revd Robbie Bowen conducted the final act of Worship before everyone enjoyed Hot Cross Buns and fellowship together.

Our thanks go to the Methodist catering team who made everyone so welcome. In 2017 it is planned that the Walk will proceed through the town to KCM.

28 | BEACH LABYRINTH – *TONY THOMAS*

On a Thursday in August last summer we decided to again attempt the labyrinth on Gyllyngvase Beach. A willing and able group of diggers arrived, including Andrew Nicholson, the Cornwall Methodist Youth Enabler. Andrew is the founder of the project and attends every year to lend a hand.

We started to dig at 10am in good weather. Alas, this was not to continue as the heavens opened. Being stalwarts we decided to finish the project and on completion at about 11.15am we all made a dash for the beach cafe. There we remained and admired our labours from afar, whilst drying out for the following four hours. Finally making a return dash to the labyrinth in order to destroy the same, this being a requirement of the beach rules and regulations.

Never in the past five years had we experienced such adverse conditions yet we were all happy to be working for our Lord Jesus. Sadly, it is with heavy hearts that we will miss our brother, Phil Misselbrook, who has always turned up with his Cornish Shovel over the years. God bless you Phil.

Please watch for announcements for the next dig. The plan is for a labyrinth on a Thursday in August, shovels at the ready.

29 | OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – *MARY THOMAS*

Operation Christmas Child is one of the initiatives of Samaritan's Purse, which is an international relief and development organisation that works through local churches to proclaim and demonstrate the love of God amongst communities in need and proclaiming the hope of the Gospel.

Samaritan's Purse is an International registered charity relying on the generosity of God's people.

By getting involved in this project it will enable more children to receive a "Christmas box", who through no fault of their own are unable to share the love and excitement that Christmas brings to our children or grandchildren.

The Methodist Church, St. Mary's Catholic Church, St. Gluvias Church and Emmanuel Baptist Church all became actively involved and produced about 250 boxes between them. enabling the Helston sorting centre to send 1,114 boxes to the children in Romania. We are also grateful to the Methodist Church in offering their premises as a Drop off point for the Falmouth area.

My prayer for 2016 is to get more Churches involved, I can provide the leaflets and have DVDs available to show interested Churches and can be contacted on 01326 311907. Please help raise more boxes this year. November 14th is the cut-off date for collection.



In 2014 we drew up job descriptions for the posts of Webmaster and Press Officer to cover FPCT's communications activities. Unfortunately, we were unable to fill either post so the duties remain for the time being with the Secretaries; however they are quite time-consuming and it is important that in due course the planned positions are filled.

A new website was set up in July 2015 using Wordpress software which is relatively easy to use and thus, hopefully, to transfer to a new Webmaster when necessary! The new site provides both 'static' information about FPCT and news items on Christian activities around our area, the number of which is really quite staggering and continues to grow. The news items are also distributed by e-mail in the weekly *FPCT Messages*, originally sent only to Forum members but now available to anyone who cares to sign up, using a form on the website. The current circulation is 112. This too has adopted new software (Mailchimp) again to improve transferability. Our Facebook page is gradually growing and now has some 182 'likes', and our 'post reach', i.e. the number of people who see individual posts, has gone up to about 400 at times, so it is a worthwhile outreach of increasing importance. Content is mainly reblogged from other sites, together with announcements of FPCT activities. The latter are automatically harvested by Kingdom Vision for their Cornwall-wide website and Facebook page, and similarly announcements from their sites feed into our own content. Our Twitter account has shown rather less activity, but tweets are occasionally picked up by the local press.

Although our electronic communications are reaching a growing audience, there remains difficulty in ensuring that all in our local congregations are fully aware of what FPCT is and does, and we continue to explore ways of doing this more effectively. This Annual Report, produced for the first time last year, is a good way of raising awareness and we encourage everyone to distribute it widely in our churches and local organisations.

31 | CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CORNWALL – LESLEY CHANDLER



Churches Together Cornwall (CTC) is made up of DEOs (Denominational Ecumenical Officers) who represent their specific denominations and report back to those denominations throughout the county. The CTC executive is there to oversee and offer guidance to the 38 CT groups (of which FPCT is one) throughout the county. By being affiliated

with CTC some local events and activities benefit from CTC's joint insurance cover.

Financial support comes from participating denominations and is proportional to the size of the church membership in the county. CTC is a charity. David Smith, county missionary, oversees and guides the work carried out in the name of CTC. A warm welcome has been extended to Pentecostal and evangelical churches and Bishop Tim invited leaders of those churches to a supper at Lis Escop.

In order to best serve our communities, *'All we do must be immersed in prayer'* was the main recommendation from the two conferences last year in Bodmin and Truro. Other needs were identified ranging from improved communication to other ways of doing church. Ways in which to attract (and keep) children and young people were discussed and shared. The creation of a common prayer across the denominations was considered.



Bishop Tim meets Pope Francis in 2015

Dementia awareness featured significantly with a much praised one day event at the cathedral and the Methodist church.

As I write this, The Royal Cornwall Show is taking place and the role of the CTC tent in recent years (in terms of outreach) goes from strength to strength. The annual Pentecost service at Gwennap Pit this year had an ecumenical focus and sunshine!

CTC continues to be informed by Chris Javad about Christian Aid around the world, particularly in the war zones of the Middle East and Africa. We have also heard about the climate coalition lobby in parliament via Chris.

The CTC Education Group which supports the future of chaplaincies in educational institutions has been re-established with John Keast OBE. This group is keen to establish an annual one day conference for those involved with school chaplaincy work.

CTC has been ably supported throughout the year by Debbie Croucher and Lois Wild from Transformation Cornwall. There is no doubt that CTC benefits enormously from their organisational skills and sheer hard work. The conference this year for the east of Cornwall will be held in Saltash (June 20th) - the conference in the west will be held later in the year. The CTC website and online newsletter continue to attract more and more visits each year - www.churchestogetherincornwall.org.uk.

32 | TRANSFORMATION CORNWALL – DEBBIE CROUCHER

Transformation Cornwall is a partnership project between the Diocese of Truro, the Methodist District in Cornwall, Churches Together in Cornwall and Church Urban Fund.

It is chaired by Rt Rev'd Bishop Tim Thornton, Bishop of Truro and has representatives from all the partners, as well as Cornwall Prayer Initiative, lay Christians and clergy.

Its aim is to strengthen faith-based social action in Cornwall.

One of the main focuses of TC's work is to deliver the *Meet the Funders* programme, which provides workshops and events to build the capacity of faith and non-faith based organisations to access mainstream funding to develop their social action projects. From 2012–2015 TC supported groups and organisations to access in excess of £350,000.

TC also offers 1:1 support for a small number of groups and organisations, which included the start of the FPCT Footsteps Coffee Shop and is currently facilitating the FPCT Falmouth Community Needs Report - June 2016.

CONSTITUTION FOR THE WORKING TOGETHER OF CHURCHES IN FALMOUTH & PENRYN

**As agreed by the Falmouth and Penryn Churches Together Forum
26 November 2014, and amended on 25 November 2015**

BASIS

Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together (FPCT) unites its churches in those areas which acknowledge God's revelation in Christ, confesses Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures contained within the Holy Bible and acknowledges the power and the will of the Holy Spirit. These churches commit themselves to:

- seeking a deepening of their relationship with Christ and with one another in the Christian Church
- fulfilling their mission to proclaim the life and death of Christ by sharing their faith with each other and giving service to the world

These churches affirm this intention through the love of God, Jesus Christ and the workings of the Holy Spirit.

AIMS

The aims of these churches shall be:

- a) to enable them and their congregations to explore Christian faith together, to develop equal relationships, to work towards a common truth and to make decisions jointly
- b) to encourage them to worship, pray and reflect together on the true nature and purpose of the church in the world – each church being encouraged to share its unique spiritual treasures with other churches and to work with the Spirit to embrace diversity and difference
- c) to enable them to live in the Spirit of Christ's life and work, to spread this message jointly by loving words or actions and to take steps towards a greater unity
- d) to enable them to respond to the needs of society through their awareness of Christ's teachings on compassion, forgiveness, giving, judgement, love, relationships, respect and responsibility

In particular FPCT shall:

- i) serve as a means of communication between churches and the community of Falmouth and Penryn on areas of common concern
- ii) provide a focus for relating to local statutory and voluntary bodies (council, police, schools, residential homes, charitable organisations etc.)
- iii) co-ordinate mission and evangelism (as appropriate) in the area

iv) provide a focus for discussion and action on matters of social responsibility and for responding to the needs of the disadvantaged in the areas of Falmouth and Penryn

AREA

FPCT aims to serve the towns of Falmouth, Penryn and their surrounding areas.

RELATIONSHIPS

FPCT is affiliated to **Churches Together Cornwall (CTC)** which in turn is affiliated to **Churches Together in England (CTE)**.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of FPCT shall be open to:

a) any church or association of local churches within a Christian tradition which is affiliated to a church or association of churches which is a full member of Churches Together in England or Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and which can broaden its perspective with compassion and respect to make a place for churches with differing styles of worship leading to inclusivity within this CT group

b) any church or association of local churches within a Christian tradition which affirms the Basis and commits itself to promoting the aims of FPCT and which has its own national or regional organisation and ecclesiastical identity which can broaden its perspective with compassion and respect to make a place for churches with differing styles of worship leading to inclusivity within this CT group and

c) any church which does not contain creedal statements in its faith and practice and therefore is unable to commit fully to statements of faith in the Basis – provided that 75% of those full member churches shall be satisfied that such churches remain committed to the Aims and Purposes of FPCT and that it will work in the spirit of the Basis and which can broaden its perspective with compassion and respect to make a place for churches with differing styles of worship leading to inclusivity within this CT group

OFFICERS

The officers of FPCT shall be a Chairman and Deputy Chairman (one of whom shall normally be a minister of religion and the other a lay person). These officers will conduct meetings, communications and other duties in a balanced, respectful and tolerant manner. In addition to these officers there will be required an Honorary Treasurer and an Honorary Secretary (plus a Minute Secretary if desired) to be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Forum. Officers shall serve for an initial period of 3 years and may be re-elected if willing to serve for a further period not exceeding 3 years.

NB the Chair and Deputy would benefit from having a staggered period of office to ensure continuity.

FORUM

The forum shall:

- a) consist of clergy, ministers and up to two members of each participatory church
- b) consist of representatives from any association, network, movement or ecumenical partnership which brings together people of Christian denominations within the area for purposes congruent with the Basis and the Aims of FPCT (such organisations may be Christian Aid, YMCA etc.)
- c) be able to co-opt others with particular expertise or understanding but these co-options shall not total more than 25% of the representatives elected to the forum and shall normally be for a maximum of 2 years. Those co-opted may not vote on an amendment to the Constitution.
- d) meet not less than twice annually. The main meeting shall be the AGM at which the audited accounts shall be presented, officers elected and annual reports submitted.

ENABLING GROUP/EXECUTIVE

This body shall:

- a) be appointed with the function of enabling member churches to make decisions in common at and between Forum meetings and to serve as a reference point for the Forum
- b) comprise the officers of the Forum, up to 4 lay representatives and up to 4 ministers appointed by member churches with regard to appropriate representation of the various Christian traditions and denominations in membership
- c) may set up working groups to explore issues identified by the Forum or the enabling group/executive. It may also commission a particular member church or body to work on behalf of all.

FINANCE

Each member church shall pay such annual subscription to FPCT as shall be agreed at the Annual Meeting of the Forum. The financial year shall be from May to April. Cheques will require the signatures of two of the four officers. An Honorary Auditor will be appointed at the AGM.

CONSTITUTION

The Constitution and any subsequent amendment to it shall require the approval of 75% of the member churches acting through their normal decision-making bodies.

REVIEW

It is intended that FPCT shall reflect the developing life of its Christian churches as they continue their journey together. Every 5 years, a review group shall be appointed by the member churches in consultation with **Churches Together in Cornwall** to report on the progress of its journey and to make proposals for desirable changes.

November 2015



