

# Annual Report

# 2016-17

## Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together

*Working together  
to share  
the love of God*





All Saints Parish Church  
Falmouth



Emmanuel Baptist Church



Falmouth Methodist Church

FALMOUTH  
**NEW**life



Falmouth  
& Penryn  
Churches  
Together



Falmouth Parish Church of  
King Charles the Martyr



Falmouth United Reformed Church  
with Trinity Baptist Church

**HARBOUR  
CHURCH**  
• FALMOUTH •



Penryn Methodist Church



St Budock Church



St Gluvias Church



St Mary's RC Church



St Mawnan Church



St Michael's Church Penwerris



St Mylor Church



Salvation Army



Stirling of the Water  
Ministries

# FALMOUTH & PENRYN CHURCHES TOGETHER

## ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017



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## 1 | OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR & CHAIR’S REPORT – *JAN WINSLADE*

I feel that FPCT has been truly blessed this year. There has been a renewed spirit of cooperation throughout all the fellowships which culminated at Pentecost when we concluded the wonderful novena of “Thy Kingdom Come”.

Our membership has grown this year and we are delighted that St. Mylor has joined us. There have been changes too. Last summer we said goodbye to Alison and Mark from the Salvation Army, and we welcome in their place Nicola and Andrew.

Father Steve from All Saints retired in November, and Colin Biggs (URC) in January. We are very grateful to them both for their support over the years. Those with long memories will never forget Fr. Steve as Captain of the good ship Pentecost all those years ago.... and Colin more recently stepping up to take over as chairman of FPCT at short notice as well as serving on Churches Together in Cornwall. We wish them both a long and happy retirement.

Roger and Sue Mills both retire from their roles as joint secretaries of FPCT and Roger as our Webmaster, at the AGM. I cannot stress too much how grateful we are to them both for all the hard work they have put in over the last three years, and hope that they will now be able to spend more time together enjoying their retirement.

Our big annual community event, the Live Nativity has grown over the years, and is now an integral part of Falmouth’s Christmas activities. This year it was streamed live on Periscope, reaching a global audience; sections of the video were also added to Facebook.

One of the initiatives last year was the setting up of a working group to assess the community needs in the town of Falmouth and the surrounding area, which presented their findings at last year’s AGM.

In response, we relaunched “Footsteps” in Falmouth Methodist Church. This is providing a welcoming, weekly coffee morning where those suffering from loneliness – one of the ongoing community needs – can come and enjoy fellowship as well as Fairtrade tea, coffee and the truly scrumptious homemade cakes which appear each week. Footsteps also provides much needed extra funds for our other projects such as KidzKlub, Street Pastors and the Foodbank.

We are now tackling another important issue raised by the community needs group: homelessness and the rough sleepers. The improved facilities at the Dracaena Centre are making a huge difference, along with the FareShare FoodCloud initiative, which donates free food which would otherwise be sent to landfill. There is a long way to go, but the cooperation between FPCT, the police and the town council is already bearing fruit.

We have not stopped at local issues. At the second annual study day in January the subject was “Living simply that others may simply live”, in which we explored the effect of climate change on vulnerable communities worldwide, and the necessity of using Fairtrade goods whenever possible. It is good that we have a strong justice and peace group in FPCT to keep us informed about global issues.

My prayer for the year 2017-18 is that we will all continue to pray and work together, so that FPCT will be a beacon of hope in our troubled land, and that together we will further God’s kingdom in Falmouth, Penryn and the surrounding villages.

## 2 | FPCT OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE MEMBERS 2016-17

<i>Chair:</i>	Jan Winslade <i>St Budock Church</i>
<i>Vice-chair:</i>	Revd Pat Whittaker <i>United Reformed Church</i>
<i>Treasurer:</i>	David Arrondelle <i>St Mawnan Church</i>
<i>Joint Secretaries:</i>	Sue & Roger Mills <i>St Budock Church</i>
<i>Executive Member (lay):</i>	Mary Bradley <i>St Mary’s RC Church</i>
<i>Executive Member (lay):</i>	Lesley Chandler <i>Falmouth Quaker Meeting</i>
<i>Executive Member (lay):</i>	Jane Charman <i>Falmouth Methodist Church</i>

*One further lay and four ministerial members may be appointed in future years.*

**FPCT main account**

Opening balance		3846.25
Plus Receipts:-		
	Subscriptions from churches	3125.00
	Donations	<u>157.00</u>
		3282.00
	Footsteps (gross)	2506.85
	Evangelism	<u>400.16</u>
		10035.26
Less Expenses:-		
	Wages	1953.84
	Evangelism	999.11
	Sundry Expenses	2028.04
	Footsteps	<u>553.50</u>
		<u>5534.49</u>
Closing balance		<u>4500.77</u>

**Kidz Klub Account**

Opening balance		1126.77
Plus Income:-		
	Subscriptions	858.00
	Trust Fund donation	<u>500.00</u>
		<u>1358.00</u>
		2484.77
Less Expenses:-		
	Wages	813.54
	Travel Expenses	300.00
	Accountant	<u>28.00</u>
		<u>1141.54</u>
Closing Balance		<u>1343.23</u>

**Business Premium Account 1**

Opening Balance		565.24
Plus Income:-		
	Interest	<u>.21</u>
		565.45
Less Expenditure		<u>NIL</u>
Closing Balance		<u>565.45</u>

## Business Premium Account 2

Opening Balance	15.67
Plus Income	<u>NIL</u>
	15.67
Less Expenditure	<u>NIL</u>
Closing Balance	<u>15.67</u>

### 4 | PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY – ROGER MILLS

#### Crossing



#### Barriers

[www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer](http://www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer)  
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2017

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 18-25 January, followed the same pattern as last year with prayers at 12 noon offered at different churches, and a united service on Sun 22 January at Falmouth New Life Church. This was well attended, but the weekday services attracted fewer than last year, and it was suggested that next year they might be held in the evening to allow those at work to attend. The theme, in this year of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Luther's Reformation, was *Crossing Barriers* and the churches in Germany prepared some

thought-provoking materials around the theme of reconciliation, particularly appropriate as we seek to heal divisions following the Brexit vote and the political instability in this country which has ensued. Once again, the opportunity to pray together on matters which affect us all was highly valued.

### 5 | LIVING SIMPLY : STUDY DAY – SUE MILLS

Following our first Study Day on 'Being the Body of Christ' last year, a second was held on Sat 28 January on the theme *Living Simply, So Others May Simply Live: A One Day Workshop on Sustainability*, again at Emmanuel Baptist Church. Some thirty people attended from various churches to hear four thought-provoking

responsibility // respect // relationships // reflection



speakers, interspersed with short worship sessions and small group discussions. The topics covered were headed 'responsibility', 'respect', 'relationships' and 'reflection' and included climate change, ecotheology and sustainable living, economic injustice, migration and climate refugees, and living in relationship. The three

worship sessions were linked by verses of Graham Kendrick's hymn 'Beauty for brokenness', with the chorus:

*God of the poor, friend of the weak, give us compassion we pray,  
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain,  
Come, change our love from a spark to a flame.*

Worship included readings from the Gospel of Mark, chapter 3, 1 Samuel chapter 3 and Leviticus chapter 19, the last, with the words "Do not do anything that endangers your neighbour's life. I am the Lord. ... Love your neighbour as yourself" summarising rather well the message of the day that how we live our lives has an impact on everyone else and on the whole of creation itself.

Further details of all the sessions and of follow-up resources can be found at <http://www.falmouthchurchestogether.org.uk/living-simply-a-study-day/>.

## 6 | THY KINGDOM COME – ROGER MILLS

*Thy Kingdom Come*, the nine days or *novena* of prayer between Ascension and Pentecost, was first introduced as an initiative by the Anglican Archbishops of Canterbury and York last year, and marked in our Anglican churches. This year, the event extended to all denominations, endorsed by all the leaders of Churches Together in England. In FPCT, a number of events were organised:



#PLEDGE2PRAY

- Daily prayer slots, 11.15-12noon at different churches
- Daily prayer walks from/to different churches
- Prayer stations installed at All Saints, Emmanuel Baptist Church (in Portacabin), and Budock, all open daily
- 24-hr prayer vigil on Wed 31 May at Mylor
- Worship and prayer around prayer stations at All Saints, Wed 31 May

In addition, FPCT members provided prayer ministry throughout the 'Beacon Event' at Truro Cathedral on Sun 28 May, which included three services in very different styles: Choral Evensong with St Mary's Singers, Praise and Worship with Newquay Creation Church worship group, and a Taizé service including foot washing, laying on of hands and anointing. All attracted large attendances, with over 600 people participating at various times. Prayer stations, some prepared by students, were installed around the Cathedral and available throughout the evening, together with a Prayer Tree

constructed by Truro College students which had stood on High Cross on Saturday afternoon for passers-by to add prayers. The event was organised by Churches Together in Cornwall with support from the Seedbed Trust, Diocese of Truro and Creation Fest; Roger Mills represented FPCT on the ecumenical planning team.

The week closed with a Pentecost celebration at Gwennap Pit, at which the preacher was the Revd Roger Walton, President of the Methodist Conference. A large contingent came from Falmouth & Penryn, many travelling on a vintage bus from King Harry Coaches, hired for the occasion.

*Thy Kingdom Come* will be held again in 2018, 10-20 May. Meanwhile we continue to pray together and seek every opportunity to do so.

## 7 | **FOODBANK – SARAH SIMONS**

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

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 and we can signpost them to different agencies to help.

The Foodbank is run by many dedicated volunteers from various churches and those in the local community. Last year we fed 1,097 people.

Our food donations come from far and wide and a special thanks to all the Churches who faithfully drop off food every week and to those who financially support us. In order to sustain the running costs of the Foodbank we continue to need funding and at this present time have not been able to make our final payment on purchasing Highway House. The 200 Club is something we set up last year, this is where you can donate anything from £5 a month upwards to help sustain the vital work or alternatively you could donate £10 a month for a year in order to help us purchase the building. 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; thank you all, you really do make a difference.

## 8 | FALMOUTH STREET PASTORS – PHIL & BRIDGET CLEMOES

Pam Gray handed over the Falmouth Street Pastor Coordinator's role to Phil and Bridget Clemoes jointly in January of this year. We are all extremely grateful to Pam for all her hard work and for the helpful and encouraging way in which she handed over. We would also like to thank everyone at FPC'T for their welcome and encouragement.

The Street Pastors continue their work each Saturday night. We gather at 9:30pm at Falmouth Methodist Church for prayers and set out on the streets from 10pm to 3am (and sometimes later if we are caught up in an incident!) Normally there should be 4 Street Pastors out leaving 2 Prayer Pastors back at base. Sometimes there are only 3 Street Pastors, but there are always a minimum of 2 people back at base. There have been 2 times in the last year when a team was not able to be sent out due to lack of volunteers.

During the past year we have picked up around 1000 bottles and pieces of broken glass. This removes potential weapons from the streets and saves cuts to bare feet. We have given out approximately 120 pairs of Flip Flops and endless bottles of water and Fruit Pastilles. Water and a sugar boost help people recover from the effects of alcohol and other things. Flip flops also save bare feet from cuts and prevent broken ankles from tottery high heels!



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

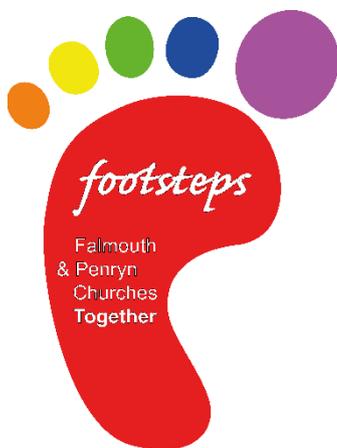
The First Aider from Cornwall Resus accompanies the Street Pastor team on the streets, providing prompt and expert attention for casualties. We hope to continue this partnership but this does depend on funding for Cornwall Resus being available.

We are making contacts with the University and hoping to have a presence on the campus during Freshers Week plus on their pub crawl in September. We are continuing to require new volunteers and are encouraging the churches to advertise for new recruits.

Q. What did Churches do in the past when they were a bit short of money?

A. Pray for it, and work for it. They had a Jumble sale, or a Summer fair, or a Christmas bazaar, or a coffee morning.

A few years ago, money was needed for some of the activities that were happening under the FPCT banner. After a considerable amount of prayer a Coffee Shop was opened on the premises of King Charles the Martyr church. It was a really good idea, and could have been developed into a nice little earner. However, it was not to be, and perhaps it had done what it was intended for.



The people who had worked there missed it, many customers missed it, but it was in July of last year that FPCT found they needed to be able to support, once more, some of the services we offer. KidzKlub, Street Pastors, Foodbank, the events at Easter and Christmas. It just happened that Falmouth Methodist Church had refurbished their downstairs hall. It looked great, just the place for a coffee morning, right in town, next to banks, Tesco, taxis and buses. It just happened that a few people

from Footsteps were together at a farewell supper. They all agreed to support it if a day could be found to hold a regular coffee morning. It just happened that there was only one day left in the church diary for a regular letting. THURSDAY. We took a booking for one month and opened on August 2nd. After two weeks, we decided to rebook until Christmas. In those 5 months, we had a turnover of £2000. Of course, there are expenses, rent, coffee, milk and sugar. But not for cakes! Cakes come every week as donations. Homemade cakes that look amazing and taste better. We have also been blessed recently with the gift of colourful new aprons bearing the Footsteps logo.

What started out as a fundraiser has developed very quickly into a rather special place. Each week we have about six or seven helpers, serving in the coffee shop, keeping track of the washing up in the back kitchen, taking the money as people leave, and also spending time to stop for a chat.....

That is perhaps the most important thing we do. We listen! We often laugh, we sometimes cry! But there are some of our regulars who rely on being able to see familiar faces, who need to be able to talk, who might just need a little company. We are blessed that our church friends are supporting us, but we

also delight in meeting people who have come for a day out on a coach tour, or have one day ashore from a cruise ship. I love telling them that two ladies at the coffee machine are from St Mary's, that the Salvation Army are in the Kitchen, that the cashier is a Baptist, that that waitress is C of E and that one a Methodist, that I and another listener are URC. If they hail from an area where Churches Together work, they usually say something like "WOW, they only hold meetings where we come from"!

If you would like to join one of our rotas, you would be made very welcome. We need people to make cakes or scones, and/or to help us deliver the goods to our customers by being waitresses for 2 hours a week. Even if you could only offer once a month, it would be great to hear from you. Just come down, see if you think you would like to help, and tell us there and then, and you can put your name on the calendar. There's a lot of fun, and laughter. The whole ambience of the place is one of joyful service and appreciative customers. We start at about 9:30am, getting organised, and we cannot thank our Methodist friends enough for all the help they offer each week, setting up the tables and putting out the notice boards. Just before 10am we gather for a prayer, to ask God's blessing on whatever we are called to do that day. We join in a circle, and occasionally, there will be a few early birds there waiting for friends to join them, so they are included in the circle as well.

## 10 | CARE HOME MINISTRY – *PETER RICHARDS*

Over ten years ago Churches Together was approached by a Falmouth care home about having a regular monthly service for residents. This ministry has now grown to cover ten homes - Abbeyfield Home (Stracey Road), Chy Nampara (sheltered flats), Denyer Court (sheltered flats), King Charles Court Nursing Home, Langholme Care Home, Roscarrack House 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 Christian worship and fellowship to residents who are often no longer able to attend church;
- to offer friendship to all residents and staff and provide spiritual support, where requested.

The services last about 30 minutes and then members of the team stay to chat with residents and sometimes visit and pray with those confined to their

rooms. The teams consist of a leader/speaker, musician and singers drawn from 10 local churches.

During the year upwards of 40 people have been involved in the care home ministry, which include 18 leaders/speakers, 6 pianists and 16 singers/befrienders. The size of the team for each service varies from 3 to 6, and the number of residents ranges from 3 to 15+. Each month we are meeting over 90 people across the 10 homes.

During the year St Mary's Church made a donation of £50 to enable purchase of prayer cards and Christmas cards to give to residents. Apart from that the care home ministry has not received any other income. Team members give freely of their time and petrol.

The care home ministry is led by Peter Richards, who maintains a set of guidelines and code of conduct, prepares the rota on a six-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 meet to discuss any issues that have arisen, plan for future services and pray for residents and staff in each home.

The monthly services form part of the social activities organised by many of the care homes. Comments from residents and staff 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.

Over the past year (July 2016 – June 2017) 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. 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 recruiting of new team members to cover the monthly services at Denyer Court and Langholme, which have both been added to the rota during the year.

In the coming year we will continue efforts to strengthen the team and hopefully draw on an even wider spectrum of churches. We will also endeavour to visit homes between monthly services, to build relationships with residents, visit them when in hospital or keep in touch if they move to another home.

## 11 | 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. and all presented from a Christian point of view. We also had one in Mabe school for a number of years which stopped several years ago and St Francis school which stopped last year due to lack of volunteers available. We still have one running for King Charles school as well as Falmouth Primary Academy. We started with about 20 volunteers for the one Kidz Klub in 2004, but are now down to 9 volunteers for the 2 Klubs and several of these are not so available in the new school year due to illness, caring commitments, students moving on etc. We've had to cancel 2 sessions at Falmouth Primary this term because we haven't had enough people to staff it.

The Kidz Klubs are headed up by Alan Offord with Lynda Mckeown doing the admin and resource gathering. 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 about 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.

Achievements this year have been the sharing of life and faith with 30-40 children each week and, generally, good relationships with the rest of their families. Challenges this year have been an aging workforce with other caring commitments!



We are asking God for his plans for the new school year as it looks as though we can only continue with one club 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? Please let us know what other children's and family initiatives you have linked with your churches so that we can link families up to events that are suitable for them.

## 12 | SCHOOLS CHAPLAINCY – ALEX YARLETT & TEAM

There are so many encouraging things to share about how the chaplaincy work at Falmouth School has been progressing. Below are a few highlights of some of the things we have been involved in at the school this past year.

### *Wednesday Lunchtime drop-in:*

The past year at Chaplaincy has seen the Wednesday lunchtime chaplaincy drop-in continue to flourish. On average, the team greet 80 students a week on a Wednesday and have had up to 100 students in a lunchtime. The team have had the opportunity to encourage and support various students through interactive activities and conversations as well as creating a safe and fun space for students of all ages and interests to spend their lunchtime.

### *Assemblies:*

The chaplaincy has taken several weekly assembly slots as well as hosting the end of year and Christmas school assemblies. These assemblies have been well received by staff and students alike.

### *Thursday lunchtime:*

Over the past year the team have run various other school activities on Thursdays including youth alpha, an after-school youth club which we are now running as a Thursday lunchtime group.

### *Prayer points:*

- Please be praying for the school staff and students as we continue to have an encouraging and fruitful relationship with students and staff alike.
- Pray that we steward our relationship well with the school.
- Pray for finances and team to grow so we can fulfil all the opportunities we find ourselves with.

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.

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 (the service delivery partner of both universities) who also provide chaplaincy facilities on both Penryn and Falmouth campuses. The 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 Management Group.

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.

This year we have continued to enjoy our 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. There we are now offering a weekly Catholic Mass and a weekly "Lunchtime Service" led by local Anglican & Methodist ministers. Our 6 wonderful volunteers (from St Mary's, King Charles the Martyr, Quakers, Harbour Church + two churches further afield) have been working as hard as ever.

Next year we are beginning to plan for growth – everybody knows the student numbers are set to rise and we'd like our ministry to grow with it. In particular we're exploring chaplaincy in Truro, serving medical students and staff, night time chaplaincy at Penryn and better provision for the beautiful Falmouth Campus. Interest from potential volunteers will be most welcome.

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 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. The photos show our last meeting: we had a fantastic event where people were blessed and many prayed for.



We are looking to have a celebration of 10 years of B:Beautiful in Autumn 2017. The team have been busy in their own churches and some have been unwell but we thank God for healing. We endeavour to meet together soon. We also plan to add some ladies to the team, it is always great to have fresh ideas and also to use the younger generation. Many thanks to all for your continued support and prayer for our future, to reach the next generation of women.

## 15 | PRAYER TENT – *RICHARD EDWARDS & MARK WILD*

It was a daunting task to take on the running of the prayer tent after the untimely departure for home by the two stalwarts of the project Phil Misselbrook and Jenni Crozier. However, with the continued help from those who were part of the team we were able to keep the candle burning. The initial focus was on evangelism using the excellent stock of tracts provided. What we noticed is that not many folk requested prayer, those that did were more likely to be committed Christians.



Recently we addressed this problem by using a pavement sign offering healing prayer for sickness, emotional and physical pain. The response took some time to come but by the end of the morning a small number of folk, new to the ways of Christianity, requested prayer for themselves and some for others who are suffering.

On a couple of other occasions, we introduced a guitar player to create a worshipful atmosphere. We should re-introduce this in the summer months along with an artist creating pictures that would prompt questions. Help from other churches to provide this would be most welcome.

A couple of times in the last year we have had the pleasure of working alongside the HOTS (Healing On The Streets) team from Light and Life; this was very encouraging and should perhaps become a fixture with churches working together on the streets of Falmouth, with a vision to stage it in Penryn.

The Tent - Help to erect the tent in the morning (9 to 9:30am) and decamp and store it at lunch time, is becoming necessary. Especially now that Tony Thomas, after being such a stalwart for many years moving and erecting the tent once a month is not as fit as he once was. One thing he cannot do is move

a wet tent to an area in the Methodist Church where it can be dried out. This has resulted in the tent not being used in wet conditions, perhaps when we could make best use of it! The problem is the material used absorbs the water and becomes heavy. This meant that on certain wet Saturdays in winter we had to cancel the event. At other times when a forecast promised showers we simply used a table and chairs to maintain a presence and make a quick get away should it rain.

Whilst writing about the tent we faced a problem at the beginning of June 2017 when suddenly we weren't welcome to pitch it close to the other traders because it was the wrong colour! It is appropriately red! Apparently, we should have a black and white tent of a particular design and different material.

Research with those who allow us to pitch the tent should be consulted and funds allocated if we are obliged to make a change.

It is our considered opinion that this vital outreach should continue with more churches being involved.

## 16 | UNITED SERVICES – *ROGER MILLS*

United services were held in August (Songs of Praise on Prince of Wales Pier), November (International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, at URC) and January (Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, at New Life). In addition, we met together for prayer on Good Friday at the Walk of Witness, and during Thy Kingdom Come between Ascension Day and Pentecost. Last year we experimented with bi-monthly prayer meetings between united services; this year it was decided to hold the prayers immediately before the services, which has worked well. There remains a need, however, for more regular opportunities to meet for prayer, and all ideas are welcome!

## 17 | FILLING STATION – *CHARLES NEATE*



The Filling Station has had another successful year. We must thank and praise our Lord for this because without Him we could not achieve so much, if anything. Through prayer, our speakers have enlightened us with the Word

of the Lord; our testimonies have shown us that the Lord helps us in our everyday lives. Our musicians have led us magnificently in worship and our venues have enhanced our connection with the Holy Spirit.

Our main venue is the Penmorvah Manor Hotel. Neil and his staff have looked after us very well, with a warm welcome and a warm room to fit the fifty to eighty worshippers. The coffee and buns are delicious and they are all we have to purchase at this venue. Due to demands put upon the hotel in summer, we had to use All Saints Church on Killigrew Street in July. Any worries we may have had in using a church for our meeting were dispelled when not only the usual people turned up, but several whom the 'droplet' signposts surrounding the building attracted.

The worshippers at the Filling Station come from all branches of the wider church, from Pentecostal believers to Roman Catholics and of course everyone in between. We have succeeded in being ecumenical but we need more success in attracting unbelievers.

The Filling Station is for all those people who are searching for more than just mere existence, who realise there is more to life than the pursuit of money and material objects, and who need our Lord in their lives to give meaning. These people may be reluctant to come to a church on Sunday. While we, with joyous celebrations, proclaim the sovereignty of the Lord, thanking and praising Him for helping all our efforts during the week to bring in His Kingdom, this sometimes, in this more secular world, is strange and off-putting.

The Filling Station attempts to overcome this by meeting on a Monday evening, providing a non-threatening venue, set up like a coffee shop, with free coffee and buns (though we do ask for contributions). Everything is done to put folk at ease. There are people who meet and greet at the door and show vacant seats. People sit around tables with flowers in the middle. They sit with friends to support them but the tables are big enough that new friends may be made.

There is no ritual, though we do have an underlying programme of events. We start with worship hymns and songs.

During the music session, someone gives a testimony; we call it a 'Life changing event'. Testimonies are very powerful. Ordinary people will tell of some incident in their lives that can only be God inspired. It is often said 'that

God works in mysterious ways' but listening to these testimonies you realise that God's plan, though still beyond us, is working among us to prepare us for His kingdom, here and yet to be.

Our speakers have been inspirational. The Word of the Lord has been proclaimed powerfully and significantly for our lives in the modern world. Our speakers have come from churches in the local area, from Cornwall and beyond; each one has told of the love of the Lord and the hope we have in Him.

During the two hours we spend at the Penmorvah we pray often. Sometimes during the proceedings, someone will stand and give an impromptu prayer; sometimes someone will give thanks for something, such as healing. The Filling Station is not just a sedentary occasion, there is opportunity for everyone to take part as the Spirit takes them! At the end of the evening, there is ample time to give prayer for those who need it.

In June 2016 at the Filling Station Conference in Oxford, the Falmouth Filling Station was given a prophecy by the Glasgow Prophetic Centre that we would have a healing ministry. That prophecy is coming to pass as several people have had illnesses relieved. Hopefully, our healing ministry will grow in the coming years. The Filling Station has the capacity to grow and we pray that it does because apart from Sunday it is another opportunity to be filled with the Holy Spirit, don't we need and crave that?

## 18 | MESSY CHURCH – *THE MESSY CHURCH TEAM*



Messy Church (MC) combines fun, food, crafts, games and singing with telling stories from the Bible and discussing their relevance to everyday life for both children and adults. The mission of Messy Church is to reach families who have never set foot in a church before, or who have not found a church that suits them, and help them become followers of Jesus. Messy

Church was started by Lucy Moore in 2004 under the auspices of the Bible Reading Fellowship, and there are now 3,500 Messy Churches around the world. More information can be found at [www.messychurch.org.uk](http://www.messychurch.org.uk).

Messy Church in Falmouth started in 2015, so we are still quite a young organisation. We meet on the morning of the second Saturday of the month (except August) and we usually meet in All Saints Church, although the July MC happens on the beach. We are funded by St Budock Church PCC topped up with generous donations from individuals. We try to keep our costs low; each session costs about £30 to run. MC is organised by a core team of five; Clair Allan, Revd Canon Geoffrey Bennett, Alan Offord, Jan Winslade and Mary Wright, and there is a team of about 15 helpers to draw on. There will be about ten of us running a MC session. Most of our helpers are currently drawn from the Budock congregation; we would greatly welcome support from other church communities.

The number of families who attend MC fluctuates – it has been as high as 10 and as low as 4 in the last year. Our usual format is: we start at 9:30 with breakfast (which can be porridge in the winter and pancakes in the warmer weather) always with toast, cereals, fruit juice, tea and fresh coffee. We then engage in games, crafts and activities which relate to the story of the day and chosen to involve all ages. Finally we come together for the Celebration which includes storytelling, songs and prayers. We finish about 11am.



In the past year, we have changed our timing (previously Sunday afternoons) and our location (previously St Francis School). We are very grateful to All Saints Church for making us so welcome, and we feel that this change has made us more accessible to families in the Falmouth area. We have broadened our publicity to eleven primary schools in the area, we have a Facebook page, we send out personal emails and we put up posters in the Falmouth area. One of our challenges is the amount of activities available for families, and another is making contact with families who do not currently attend a church but who are interested to know what Christianity has to offer them.

As noted already, we are a young Messy Church, so our plan is to try to build up our own regular congregation of families. We would appreciate prayers and support from all of the churches in FPCT.

## 19 | OPEN THE BOOK – ALAN BELL

Open the Book began in 1999 and since then thousands of school children have discovered Bible stories, during assembly and collective worship. Open the Book is a national programme of themed and dramatised storytelling at no charge to primary schools. The Churches Together team currently story-tell at St Francis and King Charles schools in Falmouth during their Tuesday morning assemblies. In addition, the team was invited to be the first ‘act’ in the Live Nativity celebrations and performed a story in Events Square before the Nativity story began.



Now in its second year in Falmouth, the small team of 9 people has regularly told and acted out stories at the 2 schools. Feedback both from the teaching staff and children has been very positive with the stories being very well received.

The challenge for the small team has been managing to find the time to rehearse and deliver the stories to the timetable agreed with the schools. We are always looking for new volunteers who have the time on Friday afternoons for rehearsals and some Tuesday mornings at one of the schools. No acting experience is needed but not being averse to dressing up is a requirement!

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

This open group meets monthly throughout the year with an average attendance of 6-8 people. Set up four years ago, we seek to bring about a more just and peaceful world in what may be small but important ways. As Christians, we are called to uphold the dignity and sanctity of life of every person created in the image and likeness of God. This entails thinking globally and acting locally: “as often as you did this to the least of my brethren, that you do unto me”.



Under the justice and peace umbrella, we have considered many aspects of life in the 21st century and endeavoured to keep abreast of the issues as they arise. We bring good news to our meetings (of which there is plenty) as well as those situations that hit the headlines.

Our meetings are underpinned by prayer and reflection and sharing of news and views.

*September 2016 – Iraqi refugees in Jordan*

We organised an open meeting at which Della Shenton (founder of Parishes for Peace) spoke movingly of the refugees who have sought sanctuary in Jordan but have no means of subsistence, some of whom now live in converted shipping containers. A spontaneous response raised £200 in donations. Following this, a member of St Mary's Church organised a coffee morning with stalls, as a result of which £800 plus was raised. Christmas cards were also written and signed, with a message of hope and loving concern and these were taken to Jordan in time for Christmas.

*October 2016* – a further in-depth consideration of the global refugee situation was undertaken.

*November 2016*

The focus was on good news around the world and those ways in which statutory Christian and voluntary organisations are seeking to make the world a better place. Overall, globally, poverty is lessening (although it may not seem so) and more people are benefitting from access to clean water, education, enough food to eat, health care and sustainability projects. Fairtrade initiatives are resulting in sustainable living, safe working environments and workers' rights and dignity is respected.

*January 2017 - A one day workshop*

A one day workshop was held on Sustainability - 'Living Simply so that others may simply live' – see section 5.

*February 2017 – Visit to Shelterbox*

Shelterbox is a Cornish charity which has spread globally. Our visit was to the new visitors' centre in Truro. The 2-hour presentation enabled us to learn about the logistics, realities and ongoing improvements in responses to disasters. Shelterbox certainly moves with the times, e.g. a special insulated tent designed for colder climes e.g. Mongolia - the tent having a stove inside with smoke exiting through an outlet to the exterior.

We packed one of the famous 'Green Boxes' which cost £600, and hold the basic living necessities for 8-10 people, i.e. tent, cooking & eating utensils, water purification unit, blankets, wind up torch and a few children's items including a teddy bear.

Another box provides items of equipment to set up a classroom/school – to many a little normality to those caught up in disasters.

Containers are now shipped ahead to strategic warehouses in various parts of the globe, where trained responders are available to spring into action and also to have a proactive role.

#### *March – Woman’s World Day of Prayer*

We participated in this annual event – see report in section 23.

World Peace day was celebrated and Fairtrade Fortnight also (see section 22). Fairtrade is now very inclusive in our undertakings.

Study Days have been attended on: The NHS, Dementia Support, Churches Together in Cornwall and an ecumenical day on the Persecuted Church.

#### *May – Visit to Exeter University – Penryn Campus*

This was facilitated by the Events Manager and Head of Professional Studies and Dean of Strategic Planning. The purpose was an exploration of ethical, environmental and justice issues and the relationship partnership of the university and its sharing of facilities with residents.

A one-hour ‘open forum’ enabled questions to be asked and information to be shared. Topics such as climate change and research were also discussed. Visits were made to the research laboratories and three specific projects viewed and discussed.

The university really welcomed us hospitably and it is hoped that relationships with FPCT will develop further, e.g. in student volunteering.

Full report on <http://www.falmouthchurchestogether.org.uk/forthcoming-services-and-events/justice-peace/>.

#### *Prayer Walk*

As part of a series of events during ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ (see section 6), a prayer walk was organised around the Old Hill area of Falmouth. As the meeting point was by a petrol station, we began with a short prayer for all travellers, the walk took us past a local school where we prayed for the pupils, teaching staff, and all the good work that is going on to support the welfare and learning of the children. During the many stops, we prayed for the police, local community support centres, the residents, a planning application meeting (due to be held the following day), a small local shop and the lady

working there. The walk concluded with a short stop to enjoy a saffron bun purchased from the shop.

Other aspects of Justice & Peace work – carried out by individual members included: writing to MP's, government ministers, participating in 'Save our Falmouth' campaign, signing petitions, and standing up to be counted in a variety of situations.

We report to FPCT Forum meetings and highlight any necessary issues for action.

### *Invitation*

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month (except August), 2pm – 3pm, in St Mary's Church Hall. New members are most welcome! Do drop in and see what we are up to. You are welcome to join us for a cup of tea/coffee after the meeting. Contact details: Mary Bradley – [mary@corisande.plus.com](mailto:mary@corisande.plus.com)

### *Prayer*

*May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people - so that we will work for justice, equality and peace.*

*May God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, starvation and war – so that we will reach out our hands to comfort them and change their pain to joy.*

*May God bless us with the foolishness to think that we can make a difference in the world – so that we will do the things which others believe cannot be done. (CAFOD).*

## 21 | PRAYERS FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS – MARY BRADLEY

*“When one part of the body of Christ suffers, we all suffer and the priority asked of us by persecuted Christians is prayer” (Baroness Caroline Cox)*

- Christians are persecuted in over 60 countries worldwide and news of atrocities reaches us daily.
- We believe that every good action and prayer contrasts the evil in our world.

Our hour of prayer for persecuted Christians started 4 years ago and follows on from the Justice and Peace Action Group, at 3pm on the 2nd Tuesday of every month in St Mary's Church Hall. It is with humility and gratitude for our freedom here in the UK that we intercede for those who have been executed,

tormented, bereaved, trafficked, and displaced from country and home because of their Christian faith. We believe that prayer moves mountains and the ripples from our prayer spread out to encompass the whole world. Jesus said, “where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them”, so we also believe our calling to prayer is his work.

We are a multidenominational group of faithful followers of Jesus, small in number but united in open love for our persecuted brothers and sisters.

*Christian refugees meet the same persecution in Europe as in their own countries, for they are attacked in camps where there is a mixture of nationalities, religions and cultures. They fear for their lives and their cultures (International Christian Consulate).*

*The Western world does not understand that in most of the world, faith is integral to life (World Watch Monitor)*

We pray,

*In thanksgiving*

For all those working to raise awareness of persecution and for the courage and faith shown by the suffering; for the freedom to worship in our own country.

*Around the world*

For Christians who are not free to worship especially those currently threatened in Syria, Nigeria, South Sudan and Pakistan.

For those of other Faiths, who protect Christians despite risk to themselves.

*In this country*

For Christians experiencing more subtle persecution or ridicule.

For those working to widen understanding of the realities of persecution.

For Christian MPs and those striving to bring the realities of persecution to the government, pressing for action to be taken, nationally and internationally.

*In Prison*

For those wrongly imprisoned.

For those sharing their faith in prison.

For those in prison living in dreadful conditions.

*For refugees*

For those fleeing for their lives.

For those separated from loved ones, without shelter or food.

For those in camps suffering persecution.

We are well informed by a variety of sources:

- Christian Solidarity Worldwide, [www.csw.org.uk](http://www.csw.org.uk)
- Barnabas Fund, [www.barnabasfund.org](http://www.barnabasfund.org)
- Open Doors, [www.opendoors.org](http://www.opendoors.org)

Please do come and join us in our monthly hour of prayer, or join us in prayer at home, on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. 3-4pm, St Mary's Church Hall, Killigrew Street.

*Lord Jesus, let us not forget our brothers and sisters*

*In so many lands*

*Who are persecuted because they believe*

*You are the light of the world*

*May we be the light in the darkness for them*

*Keeping them in our minds and hearts*

*Lifting them up to You*

*In love and prayer*

*Amen.*

## 22 | FAIRTRADE FALMOUTH – PAT FITZPATRICK

*Fighting Poverty through Trade, not Aid*



Falmouth was the first town in Cornwall to gain Fairtrade status and has been a Fairtrade town since 2005. Many hotels, cafés and coffee shops in Falmouth and the surrounding area serve Fairtrade tea, coffee and other Fairtrade products. Some local churches serve Fairtrade refreshments and you can

buy Fairtrade goods from a regular monthly stall (2nd Sunday of the month), at St Mary's Church Killigrew Street, and the Methodist Church on the Moor.



Why support Fairtrade? Fairtrade's mission is to connect disadvantaged producers and consumers, promote fairer trading and empower producers to combat poverty, strengthen their position and take more control over their lives. Fairtrade means happier farmers and workers. We can make a huge difference

to the lives of small scale farmers by the choices we make each time we shop.

We are a small enthusiastic band of volunteers. We are not representative of the many organisations, businesses, faith communities, in our town and we need to be. So, please come and join our team, we need you. Our meetings take place every two months. We work in partnership with Falmouth Town Council and report to town council meetings every three months. Our aim is to raise awareness of why Fairtrade matters and to encourage local support, in whatever way we can. We also report to Falmouth and Penryn Churches Together forum meetings.

It has been a busy, encouraging and productive year. Our work has involved the following:

#### *Visits locally*

Visits have been made to some shops, cafés, coffee shops, food outlets and hotels in Falmouth. It was very encouraging to discover that some Fairtrade was on sale in all the places we visited. Our visits are ongoing as there are many coffee shops, cafés etc in Falmouth and the surrounding area.

#### *Fairtrade Presentations*

Fairtrade presentation have been given to Falmouth Rotary Club, Falmouth U3A (University of the Third Age), Mawnan School, St Mary's School, Marlborough School, FPCT Justice and Peace Action Group and St Mary's Lenten Lunch.

Fairtrade Fortnight 27 Feb- 12 March – events included a Fairtrade Afternoon Tea (plus a Fairtrade stall) which was well supported. The event raised £135 for a special Fairtrade project. A second event was held at Footsteps Community Coffee Shop (Methodist Church) on the Moor, Fairtrade snacks were on the menu and a Fairtrade stall was also available.

#### *Funding*

We are very grateful to have received three donations this year from the Town Mayor and the Deputy Mayor, towards the running costs of our work. The fund had a total of £133.94 at end of March 2017.

#### *Future Aims*

- We will continue to explore ways of expanding our steering group
- Continue to work on the development of a Fairtrade Churches Together
- Plan various events during Fairtrade Fortnight 2018 in different locations
- Explore ways of raising awareness of the vital work the Fairtrade Foundation is doing to enable farmers and workers to enjoy sustainable

livelihoods, feed their families, fulfil their potential and have a say in their future.

### *Prayer*

*Lord God, in the fields of the poor  
Even when abundant fruits ripen  
Injustice sweeps them away  
And families hunger  
Help us to share the fruits of Your bounty  
So that all Your family benefit  
From your gracious gifts.*

(based on Proverbs 13:23)

## 23 | WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – SUE MILLS

The 75 participants in Falmouth and Penryn's Women's World Day of Prayer (WWDP) service, held on the morning of 3rd March at Falmouth Methodist Church on The Moor, joined an estimated 3 million men, women and young people in 170 countries worldwide and at some 6000 services in the British Isles alone. Now in most countries, including Scotland, just called the World Day of Prayer, it is the largest truly international and ecumenical Christian movement in the world, led by Christian women who welcome all to join in prayer and action for peace and justice on every first Friday of March. Its origins date back to the 19th Century. Just as our prayers encircle the world, so God encircles us with his love.



Each year the service is prepared by the Christian women of a different country. This year was the turn of the Christian women of the Philippines, who gave us an inspiring service on the theme of justice and fairness in society, the workplace, and the distribution of

resources, under the title "Am I being unfair to You?" Our local committee of around 20, representing 14 of the churches in Falmouth and Penryn, had allocated the roles of the different readers in the service to members of the different churches, many of whom wore brightly coloured clothes and even some Filipino dresses brought by a lady from the Philippines who attends Emmanuel Baptist Church. A high point was the dramatised Bible reading from Matthew 20 - Jesus' parable of the labourers in the vineyard – performed

by members of the Open the Book team. Many of the hymns and songs, several of them from the Philippines, ably accompanied by Nicki Tumbridge, were unknown to the congregation, though practised beforehand by members of the committee. Another high point was Annie Stephens' solo singing of the verses of the hymn of which we all joined in the chorus "Let justice roll down like a river".

The worship area was set up with two facing semicircles of chairs around a central table on which a cross, pair of scales, open Bible and candle were placed on a coloured cloth, to which during the course of the service readers added a pitcher of water, a bunch of palm leaves, a bottle of oil and a banana leaf basket of fruit. After their readings, they then moved to the front semicircle of chairs facing the congregation, gradually building up the circle, while we all sang the chorus:



"Come and join the circle, come and take my hand. Come and join the circle, come and be my friend.

Gather round and see what the world can be.

Come and join the circle, come and share God's word with me."



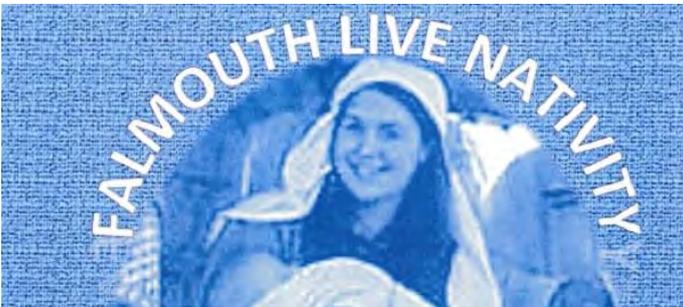
There was no speaker, but the leader, Michelle Legumi, invited us to reflect on the artwork produced by the women of the Philippines on the front cover of the service booklet and also projected onto a screen at the front of the worship area. This showed two contrasting sides, one brightly coloured and suggesting lush vegetation, beautiful beaches, blue seas and plentiful harvests, and the other grey, high-rise buildings and the changing face of industry, with only fish bones for food. The woman in the centre covers her right eye, so that she cannot see the destruction and poverty beside her. She holds a pair of scales weighted towards the plentiful harvest. As we reflected on both sides of the picture we were encouraged to hold to the truth that God is a fair and just God. As part of the service four of the named readers distributed little bags of rice from baskets to the congregation – the fruits of the harvest – and then they used the baskets to

collect the offering in aid of WWDP grants to charities and charitable projects at home and abroad. The offerings at the Falmouth service totalled £416.50, to which was added £92.70 from a smaller service held at Mawnan Smith, making a grand total of £509.20 sent to WWDP Head Office.

This was a very moving service which we were privileged to take part in and was attended, unexpectedly, by the Chair of the WWDP National Committee, who happens to live in St. Austell! A wonderful lunch of soup, bread and cheese was provided afterwards by the ladies of Falmouth Methodist Church.

## 24 | FALMOUTH LIVE NATIVITY – JANE CHARMAN

The 2016 Live Nativity was a great success with all the usual scenes playing out through the town. However, two new features were added to keep the event fresh and interesting for all the people who take part and come to watch. To keep everyone at Events Square occupied before the procession left, Open The Book performed a bible story, which was very entertaining and the crowd loved it. The other addition was a small flock of sheep that walked through the town on lead ropes. They walked with their shepherds from The Moor to Events Square with the wise men and an angel on horseback as well as the narrators of the Christmas Story. This caused a great deal of interest and encouraged people to follow them to Events Square. The sheep got a little peckish on their journey so had a nibble at the real that were dotted sheep and their joined the main to The Moor. The



streamed live on Periscope and were watched by people all over the world. A small portion of the recording was also posted to Facebook where we received many good comments and thanks.

As always, this event could not take place without the endless energy of all the volunteers and we received a wonderful letter from Sarah Newton MP congratulating us on such a fantastic community event. The team has already started putting together a program of fundraising events which will include a coffee morning at St Mary's RC church hall on Tuesday 11th July, and hopefully two others at KCM Coffee Shop on Wednesday 9th August and Falmouth Methodist Church on Saturday 12th August; a Car Boot sale is also planned. The Live Nativity Team also hope to join the marching carnival at the

start of Falmouth Week, so do look out for us. We can never have enough volunteers, so please feel free to contact us via our Facebook page [facebook.com/falmouthlivenativity](https://www.facebook.com/falmouthlivenativity) - there are jobs for all ages and abilities. Thank you for supporting the Live Nativity.

## 25 | GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS – JAN WINSLADE

The annual Walk of Witness on Good Friday was well supported with over 120 people assembling at Emmanuel Baptist Church for an opening Act of Worship conducted by the Revd Charles Blizzard. We then made our way



down to the town centre pausing at each Church en route for a reading and reflection. This year we were able to continue through the town to King Charles the Martyr where our Walk of

Witness concluded with a hymn and prayers led by the Revd Stephen Tudgey, before we all made our way to the Church Hall for refreshments and fellowship. Our thanks go to the catering team at KCM for providing such a warm welcome and Hot Cross Buns, to all the stewards and especially to Alan Offord who not only provided the PA for the Walk, but carried the cross back to Emmanuel afterwards.

## 26 | COMMUNITY EASTER CELEBRATION – JAN WINSLADE

On Easter Sunday, we held a free afternoon community party on the Moor to celebrate the Good News that Jesus is alive. He is Risen indeed: Alleluia!

The weather was beautiful and although the numbers were not great, we gave away 150 Hot Cross Buns, kindly donated by Baker Tom, as well as numerous cups of tea and Easter biscuits. Attractions included



children's craft and games plus live music provided by Val and John Thorne.

A big thank you must go to the Town Council for lending us the gazebos; to Falmouth Methodist Church for the use of their tables, chairs and catering equipment and to everyone who helped in any way before, during and after the event. The Christian outreach and fellowship certainly made up for all the hard work.

## 27 | BEACH LABYRINTH – TONY THOMAS



Last year in mid-August we enjoyed a great day on Gyllyngvase Beach from 10am to 4pm. Again, we were ably guided by Andrew Nicholson, the Cornwall Youth Enabler, who founded the beach labyrinth project. It now takes place on over ten beaches in Cornwall and is moving into England. The weather was good, especially after the continuous rain of the previous year.

Around seventy people visited the labyrinth and many were greatly moved and gained Spiritual refreshment from the journey. As in the past, children would go on their own and then return with their parents and walk through as a family.

The principle is to dig a labyrinth in the sand, which takes just over one hour; build a mound in the centre, cover it in pebbles and put a driftwood cross on the top. The visitor is invited to walk to the centre carrying some rubbish to drop at the base of the cross, symbolizing personal problems. Then take home a pebble to remind them of their visit.

I thank all of the diggers who turn up year by year and especially Deacon Michelle and David Legumi who will be greatly missed and wish them every happiness in their new appointment. Thanks also to Andrew Nicholson for his commitment and guidance.

## 28 | OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: SHOE BOXES – MARY THOMAS

Grateful thanks to the Churches who became involved in last year's collection. 318 boxes were delivered to the centre in Helston to be sorted and checked before being transported by road to needy children in Romania. This year the centre were able to send 7328 boxes: what an achievement !



Churches: is it possible to increase our contribution this year? It is such a worthwhile charity, and gives us the opportunity of sharing God's love and compassion to little helpless children. The appeal starts in November; leaflets will be available in October. The collection point is Falmouth Methodist Church; closing dates will be given on the leaflets. Friends, start knitting now, and collecting bargains in the shops. God bless you all!

Improving communication between churches is one of the central aims of FPCT and it is clear that this is most effective when done on a one-to-one personal basis. However, the volume of Christian activity in our own area and across the county is now so large, we have to rely on ‘news bulletins’ in one form or another. Our weekly e-mail newsletter *FPCT Messages* currently has 118 subscribers, and includes all events sent to us with a request to publicise. These come to us by e-mail, Facebook/Twitter and web pages – and very occasionally on paper! The present format has been used for two years now, using the free Mailchimp software, and although bulletins are straightforward to compile they are time-consuming and rather too large to take in, so a re-think is probably due! FPCT-organised events are also included on our Facebook page, which mainly reposts news items of interest from other churches and organisations. From a low base three years ago, our page has grown steadily in support and now has 219 ‘likes’, up from 50 two years ago. Some posts are viewed 400+ times – the most popular so far almost 1000 – although the average would be 30-50. Nevertheless, Facebook is currently the most effective means of communicating with other Facebook users, and it is notable that most of our member churches now have their own Facebook pages. Those without Facebook accounts may like to check <http://www.falmouthchurchestogether.org.uk/latest-facebook-posts> which displays all the latest items.

FPCT also has a Twitter account, so far little developed, but there is considerable potential here. The website, revamped two years ago, is the main source of ‘reference information’ about our activities and members, and has proved pretty robust in its present WordPress incarnation, suffering only two crashes in that time, otherwise being available 24/7. The local press are very supportive but we could make more use of them in reporting events by ensuring relevant materials are sent to them at the right time – for which we very much need a Press Officer! There is also a great need to involve more people in our communications activities, both to lighten the individual load and to ensure our news content is well tailored to our audience. We hope for progress in the coming year!



Churches Together in Cornwall is one of about 50 intermediate bodies in counties and cities throughout England. It has, at its core, the purpose of supporting local churches to work together in a variety of ways and to encourage a shared mission for the benefit of communities in Cornwall. CTC has a website at <http://www.churchestogetherincornwall.org.uk> and a Facebook presence <https://www.facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherInCornwall/>.

The Executive provides a link with Churches Together activities locally, regionally, nationally and internationally, through its affiliation with CT in England. Here in Cornwall, it is financed in this manner which is representative of size and number within the county.

Church of England	40%
Methodist Church	30%
Roman Catholic Church	10%
Baptist Church	5%
Salvation Army	5%
Society of Friends	5%
United Reformed Church	5%

Assisted by David Smith, the County Ecumenical Missioner, the work of the Executive is guided by the DEOs (Denominational Ecumenical Officers) who meet quarterly throughout the year. During 2016, the CTC Executive welcomed Revd Matt Noble of Truro Baptist Church and Sarah Yardley of CreationFest to join them. However, towards the year end, there were retirements and resignations from Majors Jean and Ian Harris (The Salvation Army), David Hampshire (Greek Orthodox DEO), Revd David Pountain (Baptist Union and DEO), Revd Colin Biggs (URC and DEO) and Chris Jadav (Christian Aid). CTC is actively looking for a new County Ecumenical Officer due to the retirement of David who is leaving for health reasons. He has given much of his time (and health) to the ecumenical journey here in Cornwall.

The Pentecost Ecumenical Service held at Gwennap Pit in 2016 on what must have been the hottest day of the year, was addressed by Revd Paul Smith and based on John Wesley’s sermons. The Salvation Army Band (Cornwall Corps) accompanied throughout.

Working together throughout the year began with the theme of ‘Seeds and Germination’ at the new look CTC tent at The Royal Cornwall show last June.

Revd Roger Greene masterminded all the planning once again. Eighteen chaplains took part and handed out free informative leaflets.

The work around dementia awareness is growing with *CTC Dementia Action Group*.

This group created a “Friendly Faces” leaflet explaining the use of two basic sessions organised by the CTC Dementia Action Group and joins a list of work supported by Churches Together from continuing street pastors to food bank helpers.

John Keast and the Education Group have continued to support the future of chaplaincies in FE colleges and institutions and a highly successful Day Conference organised by Becky Nesbitt was held at Falmouth University with guest speaker Ben Ryan, author of ‘A Very Modern Ministry’.



Our CTC representative on the Cornwall Faith Forum (Dor Kemmyn) is John Keast. Faiths represented there are Baha'i, Buddhism, Hinduism, Humanism, Paganism, Islam, Judaism and Christianity. All have committed to work together towards the building of the Dor Kemmyn interfaith centre for Cornwall; the photo shows the Peace Pole erected on site in

March, displaying the message and prayer *May Peace Prevail on Earth* on each of its four sides in English, Hebrew, Arabic and Cornish.

Chris Jadav of Christian Aid has kept the CTC Executive fully informed of events that were happening in other parts of the world. We have heard much on the refugee crisis, health concerns in Africa and the climate coalition lobby in Parliament. We particularly thank Chris for her work and for keeping us informed. Revd Derek Collins continues to keep us informed of the the work and activities undertaken at Epiphany House. He has shared the literature on the series he had devised on “Conversations with God.”

CTC has successfully introduced and integrated annual conferences and this year, the conference was held in both the east and the



west of the county. The agenda was the same at each and dealt with what is meant by 'The Holy Spirit'. The conference was felt to be open, honest and thought-provoking.

For the housebound, a list of audio and visual broadcasts has been collated and made available.

Over 30 pilgrims set off for a retreat at the Benedictine monastery in Landévennec in May for what was a deeply enriching spiritual experience.



The silence, the guidance, the love and the reverence there bring to mind the phrase 'See how these Christians love one another...'

As I write this, I can add the involvement of CTC at the three consecutive and differing styles of worship held at the cathedral in Truro on the last Sunday of May to mark Archbishop Welby's global initiative #Pledge2Pray with activities throughout the county centred on prayer.

With a website in place and an online newsletter for CTC, we not only say goodbye to David Smith but to Bishop Tim, our chairman, who leaves to continue his work at Lambeth Palace. Thoughts, wishes and thanks go with them for their committed service to ecumenism.

### 31 | 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. Our mission is to Strengthen Faith-based Social Action in Cornwall.

It's been a year of transition for us; Lois Wild, who will be familiar to many of you in Falmouth, left us to work with St Petroc's at Christmas. We are very grateful to Lois for all her hard work during the time she was with us.



In February we welcomed Jane Yeomans into the Project Worker role, Jane has settled in amazingly well and is enjoying the work very much, which is great.

In addition to our main Meet the Funders programme, which continues to be in high demand, we are running a series of workshops in east Cornwall (currently) and west Cornwall (in the autumn):

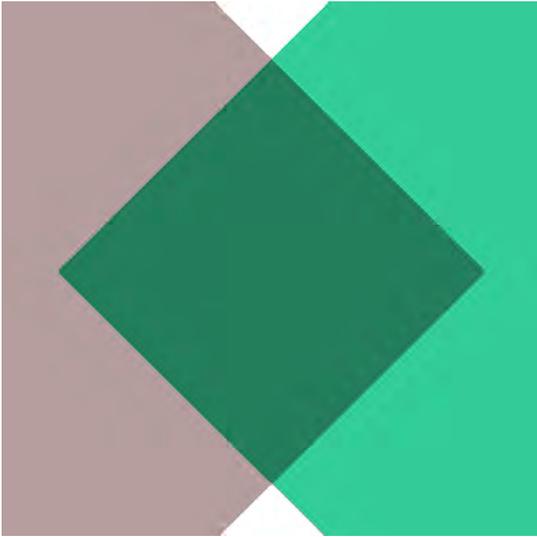
Funding Applications for Beginners takes groups through the process of setting up a project, seeking funding for a project and monitoring and evaluation – all essentials for a

successful project.

We have been working with BBC Radio Cornwall to develop Coffee with Donna (Birrell) to try to reach out to people who are isolated and needing to socialise. Each month we are visiting a coffee morning/social group of the Churches/Churches Together in an area and inviting people to come along to meet and have 'coffee with Donna'.

It's a good opportunity to encourage people to come along and for those working to make these groups happen to be recognised and appreciated.

We ran Coffee with Donna in Falmouth in February at the Churches Together Footsteps Coffee Shop and everyone was made to feel very welcome, including some of Donna's fans! Different groups are keen to get involved and we are now booked up till the end of 2017!



# Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together

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*Edited by Roger Mills*

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