

Annual Report

2019-20

Falmouth + Penryn Churches Together

*working together
to share
the love of God*



CHURCHES
TOGETHER
CORNWALL



*inspiring unity
sharing our gifts*

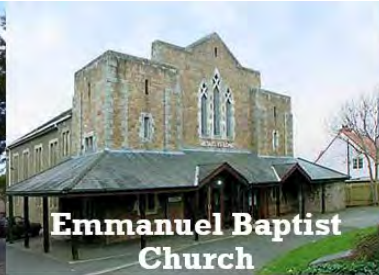
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FPCT MEMBER CHURCHES



All Saints Parish Church Falmouth



Emmanuel Baptist Church



Falmouth Methodist Church



Falmouth Parish Church of King Charles the Martyr



Falmouth Quaker Meeting



Falmouth Salvation Army Church

**Falmouth
+ Penryn
Churches
Together**



The Harbour Church (Elim Pentecostal)



**CHURCHES
TOGETHER
CORNWALL**
*inspiring unity
sharing our gifts*



Highway Church



Life Church Falmouth



New Street Church



Penryn Methodist Church



St Budock Church



St Gluvias Church



St Laudus Church Mabe



St Mary's RC Church



St Mawnan Church



St Michael's Church Penwerris



St Mylor Church



Stirring of the Water Ministries



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ADMINISTRATION

Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together (FPCT) is an association of 19 Christian congregations in Falmouth, Penryn and the surrounding areas; providing a forum in which we can explore, and through which we can put into effect, ways of serving God together – both in worship and in service to the community. FPCT is governed by its Forum, comprising representatives from each member church and project, and serviced by its Executive, whose members are elected by the Forum. All meetings are public and anyone is welcome to attend, but only church representatives may vote.

1 ✚ FPCT OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE MEMBERS 2019-2020

<i>Chair:</i>	Revd Robbie Bowen <i>Falmouth & Penryn Methodist Circuit</i>
<i>Vice-chair:</i>	Revd Stephen Tudgey <i>King Charles Church [until 31.12.19]</i>
<i>Treasurer:</i>	David Arrondelle <i>St Mawnan Church</i>
<i>Secretary:</i>	vacant
<i>Minutes Secretary:</i>	Nona Wright <i>Falmouth Methodist Church</i>
<i>Safeguarding Officer:</i>	vacant
<i>Public Relations Coordinator:</i>	Roger Mills <i>St Budock Church</i>
<i>Executive Member (minister):</i>	Revd Amanda Evans <i>Carnmarth S Deanery</i>
<i>Executive Member (minister):</i>	Jo Crook <i>Highway Church</i>
<i>Executive Member (lay):</i>	Lesley Chandler <i>Falmouth Quaker Meeting</i>
<i>Executive Member (lay):</i>	Jane Charman <i>All Saints Church</i>
<i>Executive Member (lay):</i>	Euan McPhee <i>Falmouth Methodist Church</i>

Three further Executive Members may be appointed in future years.

2 † OVERVIEW & CHAIR'S REPORT – REVD ROBBIE BOWEN

Greetings! Pray for our new Chair & Vice-Chair!

It has been a joy and privilege to serve as Chair of FPCT for the past two years, and it is with regret that I have to resign this summer on health grounds (bowel cancer). I have been so greatly encouraged by your love and prayers for me and my family over the years past, and the time to come. We continue to pray for His healing, but trust in Him for all that's to come, whatever form of healing that may take. For your love we want to say a big Thank-you!



During the year, after prayer & consultation, we completed our document **Our Vision & Purpose, Ways & Means Under God**. The purpose was to ask again, where is God leading us, and what is His vision for our future work? Our guiding text was from Colossians ch 3 vs 17. *And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.* (NIV) Amen indeed!

The outcomes from this process may seem fairly mundane, but they do consolidate the work we are doing, working on the principle of *doing a few things well, not ignoring our present commitments*. What I find most exciting is the idea of *pop up prayer meetings*, the *Emergency Spiritual Response Team*, and measures to make our village churches feel more connected. Implementation is a work in progress!

Such a document is always under review, but has almost become ancient history following the Covid-19 Pandemic! We will certainly need to review it, under God, in the light of what we have learnt over this period. Our churches have responded wonderfully to this crisis, reinventing themselves in all kinds of ways. However, our response as *Churches Together* could, I feel, have been a little more pro-active. There is nobody to blame on this – we have all been very busy in our own spheres – but an honest & open discussion in love on how we responded *together* will be helpful. It will inform our vision of where God is calling us to the *new normal*.

We still have a *to do* agenda! One item is to really effectively appreciate our volunteers. As an organisation we are that blessing machine that relies on volunteers, be it the Food Bank, Live Nativity, Street Pasors, Footsteps Café,

Justice & Peace, Environmental concerns, Exec/Forum members, to name but a few. I say a **BIG Thank-You** to you **all!** Also we are yet to appoint a part time secretary, something which I'm sure the 2020-21 Exec will review. Can I make a special thank-you to Roger (Mills) who has tirelessly worked on our behalf throughout the year, not least compiling this Annual Report. The LORD bless you, Roger!

I'm so proud to be part of FPCT that enables, under God, so much of God's blessing in our community. You could say we are a *lean mean machine*, enabling God's love to be spread abroad in our community, and beyond!

As Paul encouraged the Philippians, so he encourages us:-

Forgetting what is behind and straining to what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called heavenwards in Christ Jesus. Phil 3:13f (NIV).

We join with Paul, *straining to what is ahead* too!

May God bless, Robbie

Rev Robbie Bowen

3 ✚ OUR VISION & PURPOSE, WAYS & MEANS UNDER GOD

Introduction

This is a final statement presented by the FPCT Executive, following extensive consultation in the January 2019 Forum, a Special Meeting held on May 2nd 2019, and further Forum, AGM, & Exec discussions.

We have attempted to listen to our people, and to God, and exercise responsible leadership in presenting this statement. It is not a full vision statement, but provides pointers to our future priorities.

Many of the proposals are fairly mundane, and will need honing and working on. They are made against the backdrop of the principle, *doing a few things well, not ignoring our present commitments.*

Falmouth
✚ Penryn
Churches
Together

1 Rural/Village Mission

- Villages to be encouraged to raise their needs/opportunities with FPCT.
- That FPCT are represented from time to time at village events, as requested by the villages.
- That FPCT hold occasional events in the villages.
- That village church subscriptions be reduced by 50%, currently from £200 to £100 per annum. To be implemented from 2020.
- That village membership does not carry the expectation of full involvement with events in Falmouth/Penryn, whilst acknowledging and encouraging local village networks.

2 Urban Mission

- Support Dementia Awareness initiatives.
- Encourage responsible shared use of available resources within our churches, eg mini buses, play equipment, catering resources, etc. That a suitable list be compiled.

3 Prayer and Worship

- Times of regular prayer meetings/times, etc, of member churches are shared by FPCT.
- We welcome and share all initiatives for prayer together, including *pop-up*, & one off prayer events.
- We establish a four times yearly pattern of united worship:-
 - Sunday morning pulpit exchange & afternoon joint service during the Week Of Prayer for Christian Unity (mid/late Jan).
 - Good Friday Walk of Witness in Falmouth
 - Foodbank/Creationtide Celebration (late Sept/early Oct).
 - Worship event held in one of the villages
- We create opportunities to eat & share together.

4 Special Events

- We work on celebrating and finding volunteers.
- We celebrate the outreach through events such as the Live Nativity.

5 Future Vision

- We acknowledge and celebrate the work of the *Mission Hub*.

- We celebrate the many ministries/outreach initiatives that happen under the banner of FPCT, and will seek to encourage & support initiatives that members feel driven by the Spirit to pursue.

6 **Public Engagement**

- We look towards establishing an *Emergency Spiritual Response Team*. Such a team that would enable us to respond in prayer, or otherwise, to (inter)national emergencies, eg terrorist bombing, death of a prominent person, etc.
- We engage with Public Servants, those aspiring to Public Office,
 - at, for example, election times.
 - in offering prayer, thanks and support.
- We recognise and respond to the Climate Change Emergency.

7 **Ways & Means**

- Look towards paid admin secretarial help.
- Reduce village church subscriptions by 50%. (Currently from £200 to £100 per annum). To be implemented from 2020.
- Set an annual budget, as a means to sharpening our outreach.
- Seek to improve our communications.

Adopted, Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together Forum Oct 3rd 2019

Colossians ch 3 vs 17. "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

4 FPCT ACCOUNTS 2019-20 – DAVID ARRONDELLE

FPCT Main Account

Opening Balance		£2851-78
Subs paid in : FPCT	£2008-75	
Footsteps	2286-83	
Falmouth Street Pastors	165-00	
	<hr/> 4460-58	
		<hr/> 4460-58
		7312-36
Less expenditure:-		
Charitable Donations	£540-00	
Insurance	£517-47	

Paypal account	£781-99	
Churches Together in Cornwall	£30-00	
Footsteps (coffee)	£49-35	
Barnabus Design	£72-00	
Account charges	£112-00	
	<u>£2102-81</u>	<u>£2102-81</u>
Closing Balance		<u>£5209-55</u>

FPCT Kidz Klub Account

Opening Balance		£1517-59
Subscriptions	£528-00	<u>£528-00</u>
		£2045-59
Outgoings:.		
Wages	£238-50	
Accounts charges	£65-00	
	<u>£303-50</u>	<u>£303-50</u>
Closing Balance		<u>1742-09</u>

B:Beautiful Account

Opening Balance		£908-46
Interest accrued		<u>£1-67</u>
Closing Balance		<u>£910-13</u>

Business Premium Account

Opening Balance		£15-73
Interest		<u>£0-03</u>
Closing Balance		<u>£15-76</u>

PRAYER & DISCIPLESHIP

Witnessing, worshipping and praying together forms the core of our work in sharing the love of God with our community.

5† LIVE NATIVITY 2019 – ALI DURKIN

Last year, 2019, marked a ‘make or break’ moment for Falmouth Live Nativity. Set up by Deacon Michelle Legumi eight years previously and continued by Jane Charman since Michelle moved on, the organization of the event had become an onerous burden for Jane, who had started a full-time job and just did not have the time and energy involved to co-ordinate the much-loved and popular outreach mission to the area.

Following unsuccessful requests for help, a meeting was called at the Huddle in July 2019 with the ultimatum that the Falmouth Live Nativity may well not take place at all if something didn’t happen! The Holy Spirit intervened in people’s hearts and minds and the meeting was full of people keen to help but not to ‘head up’ the event....

As it turned out, I put myself forward along with my totally unaware friend Naomi Finney who is an ‘animal person’, used to dealing with other ‘animal people’. Deacon Jane Mills also was ‘prompted’ to come forward as ‘spiritual guide’ even though she was due to be going on sabbatical in early October.



Meetings with the 'Christmas Committee' of the Town Council were not only inspirational, but also fun. So many people from all over the town are involved with the Christmas Events in Falmouth, of which Live Nativity is a much-loved and incredibly well-supported key part.

Fundraising in support of the costs involved in hiring the marquee, security, road closures, insurance etc, although feeling onerous initially, in the end was amazingly inspirational. Donations came from FPCT (£1,000) and St Mary's (who were unable to do their usual fundraising as their church hall was having work done) of £100. The biggest vote of thanks goes to Jan Winslade and the long-suffering Roger who offered their home for a 'Soup and Apple Pie' lunch fundraiser. We then exceeded the £2000 target comfortably. The Town Council Team of Richard Gates, Richard Wilcox and Emma Webster (the brand new Events and Marketing person who had to 'hit the floor running' in



September when she started) were always at the end of an e-mail and always so helpful and supportive.

Jane Mills managed to persuade Steve Wild, Chair of the Methodist Circuit in Cornwall, to come and welcome the crowd to Events Square.

Bad weather and high winds had been predicted for the event. However, after a very short squally shower, when most people were protected in Events Square, Jane Charman (Bio-hazard Officer and Event Manager) and the Town Management team set the 'show' on the road - literally.

Heavily pregnant Mary on a donkey, escorted by Joseph stopped at several Inns en-route, including 5 Degrees West, Harbour View, Amanzi and 'The Tragos Hostelry', where yet another familiar-faced inn keeper (aka Rev. Bill Stuart-White from All Saints Church) had a very witty chat with our Narrator, aka Ian Smith, about Brexit and how tired he was of it all – especially with a General Election in a few days' time!





Arriving at the fields outside Bethlehem (KCM), a heavenly host of Angels sang (aka KCM Choir) and the shepherds and on-lookers were addressed by the beautiful Angel Gabriel (aka Audrey Gilbert, age 10yrs from New Street Church), telling the shepherds to follow the star.

King Herod, aka Trevor Jones, Church Warden from St Michael's, Penwerris, was found shouting at the crowd outside his Natwest Palace, regarding some so-called King who was supposed to be born in Bethlehem sometime soon and did they know anything about it?

Further along, the three Wise Men, who very nearly became two (Rev' Andrew Mumford from FMC and Patrick Gilbert from New Street), until father of the '3 camels', Luke Durkin was 'volunteered' by his desperate mother... He did a good job, at short notice, as did my grandkids who had been drafted in as the alpacas had been grounded by DEFRA.



Rev. Steve Wild addressed the hundreds of people of all ages who gathered at the marquee, informing them about the REAL meaning of Christmas...they sang Carols and everybody joined in prayer.

The Stable 'Tableau' with Mary, Joseph and 'baby Jesus' (unfortunately our real baby had to be replaced at very short notice with the 'Open the Book' baby), Shepherds, Angels, Wise Men and some very unusual camels (one of whom sang and who all looked a little familiar to me), was a sight to behold. Background music and PA system were supplied and managed by Gwynn Richards, who was assisted on the procession by the new, but very able, Gary Thomson from The Salvation Army.



In FMC, the 'A Team' were present providing refreshments to guests and to volunteers (Jeanette Coleman and her Ladies and Tracey Lyall and her Team) all from FMC. The Costume Team under Pat Fitzpatrick from St Mary's had carefully prepared and laid out all the costumes. Rebecca St Ledger-Renfree and her mum baked and bagged 120 Pasties for the volunteers on the morning ably assisted by her two young sons! The Stewards from all Churches, Evangelists from the Prayer Tent Team and hospitality team from FMC engaged with members of the public and kept them feeling welcomed and safe. Entertainment was from Helen Woodward who single-handedly managed a craft table for all the children whilst the mums, dads and grandparents were serenaded by the beautiful voices of St Mary's School Choir.



At the end of the day, a whole load of clearing away had to be done and I must thank Tony Thomas from FMC for all his hard work setting up and clearing away along with the rest of the team from FMC. Lastly, I would like to thank my husband Ross who did a lot of the tech work and communications. At the end of the day, I think it all went pretty well, the day was just full of love and joy and I think was enjoyed by all.

6 † PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY – ROGER MILLS



The theme for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was devised by the Churches in Malta, based on the story of St Paul's shipwreck there as described in the last two chapters of the Acts of the Apostles. The service for the Sunday in the Week thus had a nautical theme, and an impromptu boat, formed by wrapping strategically placed chairs in paper, formed the centrepiece of our united service in Falmouth Methodist Church. It also featured oars bearing on their blades the Christian qualities of Trust, Perseverance, Harmony, Courage, Unusual Kindness, Transformation and Generosity, carried

by representatives of different churches. These oars (actually plastic canoe paddles) also did service at Truro Cathedral's service at 2pm, reaching Falmouth just in time for our 4pm service thanks to Lt Andrew Hammond from the Salvation Army ferrying them back after taking part in the Truro event.



The service booklet, containing much food for ongoing thought on the theme of 'Unusual Kindness' can still be downloaded from <https://ctbi.org.uk/>. Weekday services were this year experimentally incorporated with churches' regular services, varying in time and location; this meant that more of each church's regular worshippers were able to enjoy the services, but generally in a less ecumenical context. As in previous years the services were also presented by Churches Together in Cornwall at Truro Methodist Church at 11.30am daily, including participation from Falmouth and Penryn.

7 † WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – SUE MILLS



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT

Women, men and children of all ages were called to 'Rise, take your mat and walk' to join the World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 6th. Christian women of Zimbabwe prepared this year's service, encouraging us all to reflect on the difficulties and unrest that have plagued their country over many years. They shared the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future. They encouraged us to walk with them as they continue their often turbulent journey towards full reconciliation.

Our Falmouth & Penryn Committee for 2019-2020 included representatives from 11 of FPCT's 20 member churches and met in November and January in All Saints Church, the host church for the 2020 service, with a few members also meeting in Barbara Meade's flat for a workshop making coloured plaits from wool and garden twine for the service. Two of us were able to attend the Cornwall Conference and Preparation Day



in Newquay in November and found it very helpful for our planning. All participants also met in the church for a rehearsal 4 days before the service.

71 people attended the service at All Saints, which was very well received, and was followed by vegetable soup prepared by several committee members and organized by Bren Stuart-White and Barbara Jenkins, our All Saints committee reps, with bread and Baker Tom's rolls kindly provided by Sarah Gray. Roger Mills set up, projected and played the electronic vision and sound, showing pictures of Zimbabwe and playing Zimbabwean music, and All Saints organist Daniel Sherman accompanied the hymns on the church organ.

During the service participants were invited to fill in cards with their commitments to use love, peace and reconciliation in the community. 32 cards were collected, to be prayed over before the following FPCT Forum meeting, but this was sadly



cancelled, owing to the coronavirus lockdown in place by then. The report listing these commitments was circulated to Forum and WDP committee members and is still available from Sue Mills, for anyone who would like to pray about them.

While continuing to hold this year's service at 10.30 a.m. the committee also considered holding a second service at 7 p.m. in the evening to accommodate those who would like to attend such a service but who work full time, have family commitments, are students, or for whatever reason would prefer an evening service. We decided that there was not the time or enough commitment to do so this year, but that we would consider it again next year, when the service(s), prepared by Christian women of Vanuatu on the theme "Build on a strong foundation", is/are due to be held at Emmanuel Baptist Church, where we might hope to involve some of the young people in an evening service. Those attending this year's morning service were given a brief questionnaire on their opinions about the timing of future services, the results of which were:

	Morning (10-12)	Early afternoon (1.30-3.30)	Late afternoon (4-6)	Evening (7-8)
P=Preferred	28	4	1	4
M=Maybe	4	13	12	15
I=Impossible	0	6	9	9

On this basis I recommended that we consider arranging 2 services, one continuing in the morning and another in the evening, for which we should during the coming year find a group of committed, preferably younger, people to organize it. We wait to see what 2021 holds for us all.

8 † STUDY DAY: FAITH, HOPE AND CLIMATE – EUAN MCPHEE

FAITH, HOPE & CLIMATE
Responding Positively to the Climate Emergency
 How we, as a Christian Community, can respond positively – and share that positivity with others!
Speakers include Rev Dr Lucy Larkin, Katrine Musgrave, Luci Isaacson & Dr Euan McPhee
 EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
 Western Terrace, Falmouth TR11 4QJ
 Sat 12 October 2019 9.30am-1pm
 no charge – no booking

This year's Study Day – actually a half-day ending at lunch-time – looking at aspects of what it means to 'be the Body of Christ' in our world today was held in October rather than January in the hope of better weather!

The focus was on the climate emergency, and what our response should be as Christians. Organised

and introduced by Dr Euan MacPhee, ecologist and Methodist Lay Preacher, the half-day workshop on 12 October was held at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Falmouth. Around 40 people from a wide range of churches gathered to hear four excellent speakers leave us in little doubt that we must take action, we must do it now, we must work together and we must go forward in hope, however daunting the prospect.

Revd Dr Lucy Larkin opened with a theological perspective, encouraging us to 'hit the ground praying'; we need to be confident in our Christian values, traditions, and skills, supporting those in need, especially the young. Head teachers and university chaplains are increasingly finding young people with 'climate anxiety'; and many are out on the streets protesting, their placards proclaiming '*there is no planet B*', '*System change not climate change*', '*don't be a fossil fool*'... Greta Thunberg's address to the United Nations Climate Action summit made headlines around the world: "*People are suffering, people are dying, entire ecosystems are collapsing. We're in the beginning of*

a mass extinction. And all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth. How dare you!"

Rowan Williams, writing in the Extinction Rebellion handbook 'This is not a drill' said *"the climate crisis is not some unfortunate accident, but a reality that has been at the very least accelerated and measurably worsened by a set of habits and assumptions that have poisoned us as a human race. We may or we may not escape the breakdown. But we can escape the toxicity of the mindset that has brought us here. And in so doing, we can recover a humanity that is capable of real resilience."*

So Lucy urged us to hold our nerve, come together in lament for what is happening, to listen to the despairing, and bring hope; to identify our talents and use them; and embody deep humility, childlike wonder and awe, wisdom, generosity, compassion, and tenderness; to practise restraint, prudence, creativity and inspiration; and be endowed with playfulness, optimism, and joy.



Luci Isaacson, Diocesan Environmental Officer, offered a pathway to practical action through the '10 Pledges' which have been widely taken up across the county; those who have done them are asked to talk about them and encourage others to follow suit. We need to become 'trusted messengers'; this is particularly powerful when leaders do it. Cutting carbon emissions is the number one priority at the moment. Courses for 'environmental champions' for local areas are being held up and down the county (Luci had to leave after her talk to run one in Penzance).

Martin James from Cornwall Council then identified key areas for council involvement in delivering their pledge to make Cornwall carbon-neutral by 2030, as defined in their Climate Change Plan published and adopted in July 2019: encouraging biodiversity: developing green corridors along highways, planting wild flowers in verges etc; planting 8000 hectares of trees to form a Forest for Cornwall; supporting local environmental plans; encouraging developers to build environmentally neutral houses; and improving public transport.



Katrine Musgrave, Christian Aid's new rep for Cornwall, then gave a global perspective on the effects of climate change internationally and locally. Cornwall was identified as one of the areas of the UK most prone to flooding. Christian Aid supports global disasters around the world,

where flooding removes the basics for human survival; in the UK we have systems and structures to assist those affected by flooding, but others are less fortunate. Around the world the most vulnerable are most affected. At the current rate of carbon emissions, billions will suffer food and water shortages by 2050 and 250 million will become environmental refugees. Using volunteers, Katrine gave a visual demonstration of how the countries with lowest emissions are suffering the greatest from climate change - we need to walk lighter in the world. Christian Aid's current focus is on moving to a low carbon economy and the financial investments of our banks, challenging them to shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

The remainder of the morning was spent in discussion and a resume of the points made can be found on the CTC infoHub at <https://www.ctcinfohub.org/faith-hope-and-climate-workshop-outcomes/> together with links to the 10 Pledges and other documents.

9 † GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS 2020 – ROGER MILLS

Social distancing regulations made it impractical to hold our usual Good Friday Walk of Witness this year, so it was replaced with a virtual walk – a series of slides on YouTube featuring meditations on the series of paintings 'Footsteps of Christ' designed by the Benedictine Sisters of Turvey Abbey, selections of which we normally display at our stops at churches in the course of the Walk, together with photos from previous walks. This year we were able to 'visit' and pray for all our 20 congregations on our virtual walk – a very long distance in reality, though some are planning to take this route for real next year!



The virtual walk was available online from Good Friday until Easter Monday, thanks to kind permission from the publishers of the Turvey Abbey paintings who waived their copyright fee across the weekend. Around 230 people viewed it in that period, significantly more than normally attend the real Walk, so maybe we will need to offer both in future years!

10 † THY KINGDOM COME – ROGER MILLS

THY KINGDOM COME UNLOCKED IN CORNWALL: THE SOUTH WEST PRAYS



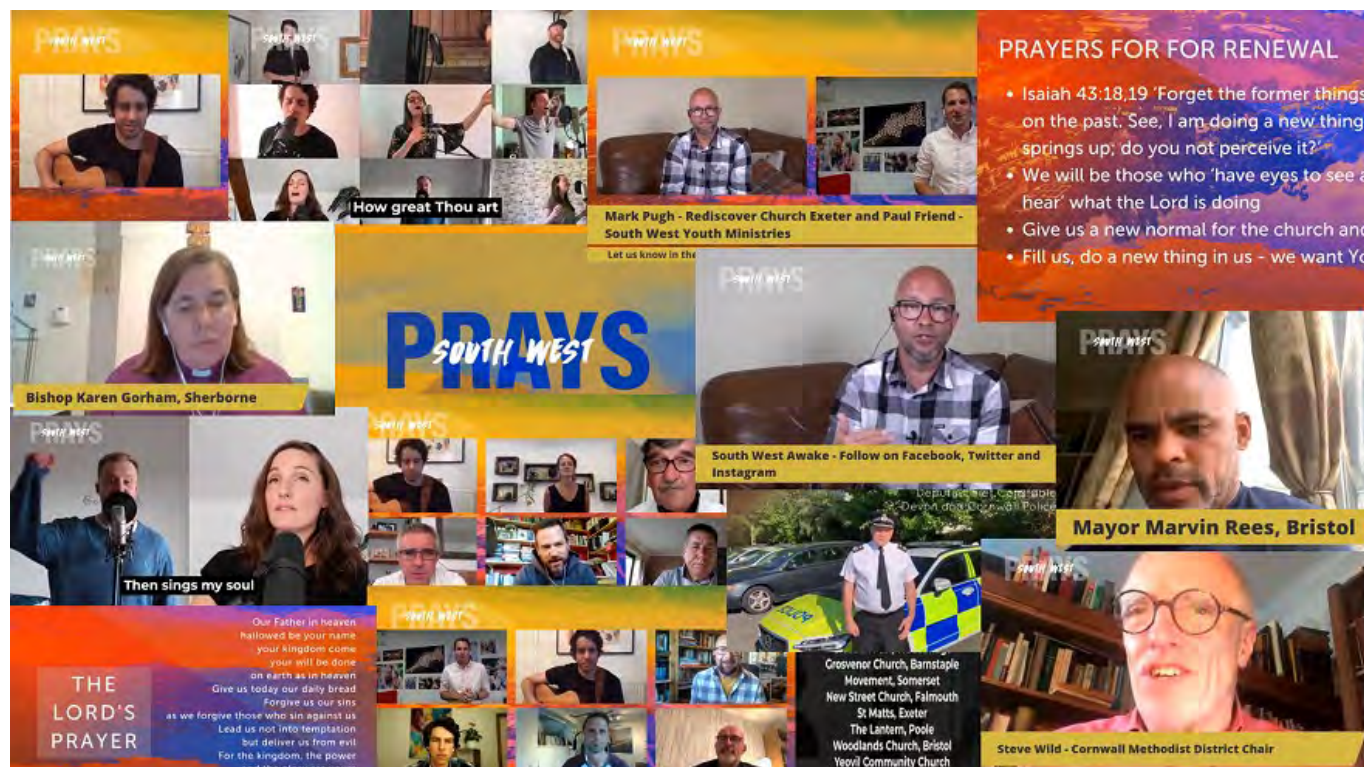
Isaiah 43:18-19: Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

It was all going so well. Renewal would be the theme. On the eve of Pentecost, Christians would be stationed at one-mile intervals across the entire 630 miles of the South West Coast Path (www.southwestawake.com), praying simultaneously at 2pm for the coming of the Kingdom. In Cornwall, an additional web of inland prayer walks would link churches of different denominations across the county. On Pentecost Sunday, two Beacon Events would unite us in praise, at Liskeard for those in East Cornwall, and at Gwennap Pit (the open-air amphitheatre near Redruth where John Wesley preached to thousands) for those in the West. By February, a web site was set up with 630 green dots on a map of the coast path and they were beginning to turn first orange and then red as people signed up for that spot until it reached capacity. Speakers and musicians across the county were being

invited to the Beacon Events. What could possibly go wrong – other than the weather?

Then came lockdown and it was soon apparent that none of the plans could go ahead. What to do? Well, Thy Kingdom Come is about prayer, so pray we would. St Martin's Church, Liskeard would prepare a virtual Beacon Event for the morning of Pentecost Sunday, repurposed for the whole of Cornwall; and church leaders across the five counties of the South West would join in the region's biggest prayer group that evening to pray online for unity, frontline workers, missional effectiveness, leaders, and renewal.

It all worked better than we could have dreamt. Videoconferencing gremlins left us (almost) alone, thanks to the highly professional teams behind the scenes. The morning service (available at <https://bit.ly/2XOLhMb>, viewed 1200 times) was accompanied by online prayer rooms where individuals could pray live with members of St Martin's, and a parallel kids' session was introduced by a video in the main service. Powerful worship from the Transforming Mission Worship Group, performing at their homes across Cornwall, accompanied a message of joy and hope from Sarah Yardley of Cornwall's Christian festival Creation Fest.



Sarah also offered the first prayers in South West Prays that evening (<https://bit.ly/3cqVfZw>), in which prayers from each county on each of the five themes were offered by 28 different leaders (including Roger Wyatt from Harbour Church, Falmouth) embracing a wide diversity of traditions and

styles. At the conclusion of each section the topics covered were displayed (available to download at <https://bit.ly/2TXMIac>) as we paused for our own reflections. A link allowed individuals to request personal prayer, and worship leaders across the region, including some involved in the morning, provided inspirational music. Those watching live (over 2,500) added their own prayers via chat.

Not what we had planned then: but in many ways better, and certainly reaching larger numbers – huge thanks to all involved. The Coastal Path prayer chain will still go ahead, when safe to do so; and we will meet again to pray Thy Kingdom Come next year. But renewal is in progress now, across our county and our region. New relationships are developing, and denominational boundaries losing importance. *See, I am doing a new thing!*

11 † MISSION HUB – RICHARD EDWARDS

Falmouth & Penryn MISSION HUB

The Mission Hub group arranged a fourth Falmouth Mission on 16 November 2019. This was a one-day event, based at Falmouth Methodist

Church and operated from two tents on The Moor: a Prayer Tent and a Family Outreach Tent. It was a busy day with 14 people praying the salvation prayer and many more significant conversations and prayers with people.

Plans for a further event in 2020 were interrupted by lockdown, but we look forward to working together again in mission post-Covid!

12 † PRAYER TENT – RICHARD EDWARDS

A year of locational disruption

In winter, during the market closure and inclement weather, the prayer tent team are privileged to shelter and pray in the Methodist portico for which they are most grateful. Summer involved a variety of prayer opportunities which we as churches

together have a responsibility to be involved in. The market on the Moor gives us an opportunity to act upon our words and become relevant in sharing the hope we have in Jesus in every situation when serving our community. The prayer tent is the most obvious regular way of doing this. It is a God given



opportunity encouraged by the town council for us to demonstrate the heart of Father God for all people.



The Christmas Nativity procession through Falmouth provided a unique opportunity for our mobile free bible dispenser, the pram, to be in operation, enabling gospel hungry children to have the true story of Christmas placed in their hands.

Sadly, the enforced lockdown prevented us from being available for the community during a time of great need to provide encouragement and comfort.

The team consists of believers from FPCT churches, Truro Baptist Church and Truro RC Church.

13 † THE FILLING STATION – CHARLES NEATE

Just as other groups, the Filling Station meetings have come to an abrupt halt. We all hope and pray that the preventative measures against Covid 19 are going to be effective and this terrible virus can be stopped in its tracks. We all want to return to normal, to praise our Lord in fellowship once more. At the moment we are not sure of a date for return, probably not before September. The meetings we have had have been Spirit filled, the two hours we meet with our Lord are fulfilling as we sing our hearts out in worship and bathe in the light of the Word of the Lord. We are most grateful to those men and women who give their time to speak to us, some who are prepared to travel long distances. It is refreshing to know that the Lord is still in control



and we, his people have a role to play in bringing in the Kingdom. We are really amazed, and thankful, for the numbers of people who are prepared to come out on cold and wet Monday evenings to worship our God. But then it is understandable that people of all denominations, whatever their differing forms of worship, have one thing in common – Jesus – and will take every opportunity to worship Him, aided by the Holy Spirit. And that is all the Filling Station is. An opportunity to praise our God, surrounded by the people of God.

To aid our worship we sing uplifting songs and hymns. Geoffrey, aided by his troubadours have been marvellous, although we have lost two stalwarts – Alan Bell and Annette who have decamped back to the frozen north. I am sure that St. Timms in Sheffield will appreciate their return. Geoffrey cannot do it all though, so we are most blessed to have Mark Grove and ‘One Heart’ play on many occasions. Not forgetting Roger Mills who ensures we all sing the correct words when we sing.

Those who stand up and give a short explanation of how God has broken into their lives with a “God-given moment”, are a vital part of our worship. Those listening are uplifted as they remember that God works ‘in the ordinary’, He is with us constantly, looking after His flock.

There is a secondary aim for the Filling Station which follows the desire of Jesus Himself. That is to encourage the unchurched to join us. Everybody who comes to the Filling Station has that task to fulfil. To aid this task, the Filling Station should not use a church building for its worship, instead a non-threatening space is used. A space where people of all denominations and those of no faith will feel at ease. However, it is not always possible to achieve this, especially in summer. Most of the time we use the Penmorvah Manor Hotel. They have looked after us very well. The management have given us their dining room free of charge, so we have tables for six to eight persons with tablecloths and flowers or candles. The staff also provide tea or coffee and buns (which are chargeable). We are therefore in very pleasant and comfortable surroundings. However, due to hotel summer schedules, we have been unable to use Penmorvah and have resorted to using a church building. Bill has generously offered All Saints, in Falmouth. We have enjoyed our visits there but it is not ideal as it does not fit our ethos. We have financial outgoings – cakes and buns as mentioned, guest speaker expenses and Filling Station Central expenses which means that the ‘Bishop’s

Den' £5000 windfall is almost exhausted. We have been blessed with people who have donated and those who have been most generous in their giving, but our present state of finances is concentrating our minds, looking for different venues for instance.

One tremendous asset that we have is Beth Tumbridge, who has taken over Annette's job in the Budock Church office. Apart from all she does for the church she has also taken over the administration for the Filling Station (praise the Lord!) She is doing a much better job at advertising Filling Station meetings so we hope and pray that the Filling Station gets more widely known and we grow in numbers.

14 † JUSTICE AND PEACE ACTION GROUP – MARY BRADLEY

"A passion for Justice, a desire for Peace, a concern for Creation are essential in the living out of the Gospel. Our churches' social teaching on justice is rich in wisdom about building a just society, respecting human dignity, peace building, crossing boundaries and caring for God's creation." (CAFOD)



As such, our FPCT Justice and Peace group works on behalf of FPCT, to look beyond our horizons, and work in prayer and solidarity for a better and just world. The group meets monthly and we have been pleased to welcome new members, bringing numbers up to 11, including Anglicans, Methodists and Catholics.

Activities this year have included:

- *July 2019:* Our Annual Review, looking back and looking forward, planning for future activities.
- *September:* Celebration of the Season of Creation: a woodland walk pilgrimage of shared reflection and prayer in Tregoniggye Woodland (which dates back to c1300). Appreciation of God's glorious creation and the local volunteers working party, enabling families to have safe public access to this local treasure.
- *October:*
 - Climate Change Study Morning, arranged by Dr Euan McPhee with Lucy Larkin (theologian), Lucy Isaacson (climate change Diocese of Truro), Katrine Musgrave (Christian Aid) and Cornwall County Council - a very positive event.

- Focus on renewable energy: United Downs Geothermal Project, presented by Jane Charman.
- *November:* Living under an oppressive regime. A group member shared her personal experience of being arrested and imprisoned in the Philippines for protesting with other activists against oppression, injustice and the government and the consequences for her immediate family. This was a truly international group meeting with folk from India, Hong Kong, Philippines, Iceland and Cornwall.
- *December:* Visit to Justice and Peace Group of St. Augustine's Church, St. Austell. A very informative dialogue, exchanging experiences of working for justice and peace, networking, linking with other organisations, partnerships with Christian Aid and CAFOD, prayer vigils.
- *January 2020:* Environmental Concerns: international issues. Nasser Trise, postdoctoral researcher at Tremough Campus (researching insect pests) spoke on the myriad effects of climate change worldwide.
- *February:* Meeting with Christian Aid representative for Cornwall, Katrina Musgrave. Update on Christian Aid news and activities. Planning visit to HSBC Falmouth.

As part of Christian Aid's National Action, our J&P group visited HSBC Falmouth delivering a letter to forward to CEO Noel Quinn, urging the bank to phase out financing fossil fuels and invest in clean energy to protect the world and its peoples.

Other activities of the group have included:

- Signing petitions
- writing a letter of concern to our local MP and others, supporting Falmouth Town fair trade events
- rejoicing in the many good things that are happening worldwide: time is spent at each meeting reporting positive happenings locally and internationally.

With the advent of COVID-19 and lockdown, JPAG activities as a group are currently on hold. We pray for all those affected by the Covid-19 lockdown:



job losses, business failures, hunger, poverty, isolation, lack of health services, for those in the suburbs of big cities, those who are sick and bereaved, both nationally and internationally. We look forward to a better world in the future with a greater awareness of our interconnectedness, where we are all brothers and sisters, united in pursuing the common good of us all. May God bless us all.

15 † PRAYERS FOR THE PERSECUTED – MARY BRADLEY

After the Justice and Peace meeting, we gather for an hour of reflection and prayer for all those persecuted for their faith. This includes not only Christians but also our brothers and sisters from other faiths: Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists. Freedom to practice one's religion is an integral part of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

We do believe that prayer can move mountains and the ripples of prayer from our small group may spread far and wide, encompassing the whole world in love, intercession and concern.

The Bishop of Truro's Independent Review for the Foreign Secretary of FCO Support for Persecuted Christians, July 2019, painted a stark picture of the nature and scale of injustice perpetrated against Christians today, from petty discrimination to targeted attacks, kidnap, sexual violence, torture and death.

Red Wednesday 2019:
Support for Red
Wednesday was one of
the recommendations of
the Truro Report.
Around the globe,



buildings were lit up, banners displayed and services held, sending a clear message that the silent suffering of Christians and other minority faiths groups around the world is unacceptable. No-one should lose their homes, livelihoods, or lives for peacefully held beliefs. So, for the first time a Red Wednesday service was held in Falmouth on 27th November at St Mary's, during which we sang, reflected, heard a personal story of persecution and prayed. The Gospel was from Matthew 16:26-31 and spontaneous prayer followed. Although only about 40 people attended, there was a powerful surge of belief and hope with our concluding hymn, *Thine be the glory, risen, conquering son, Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won*. And on the spot

collection raised over £50 for the agencies working for persecuted Christians. We hope Red Wednesday will become more widely known and celebrated.

In January, Dr Patrick Sookdheo, International Director, Barnabas Fund, spoke on “Hated Without a Reason: Why Christians are Persecuted Today” at a special meeting of the Filling Station held at Falmouth Methodist Church. His challenging and very informative talk attracted a large audience of c.120.

Group members individually support the organisations Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Barnabas Fund, Aid to the Church in Need and Open Doors, and receive ongoing information and sometimes news to rejoice in as interventions to prevent discrimination are successful.

We have been very aware of:

- the increasing attacks and persecution of militant groups in Nigeria, with bombing of churches, villages razed to the ground, internal displacement and lack of government intervention.
- The Rohingya persecution in Myanmar with over 1 million fleeing to Bangladesh.
- The hospitality offered to Syrian refugees in Lebanon, where over one third of the population are refugees.
- 5500 churches in China destroyed or closed in 2019 with under 18's banned from going to church and surveillance cameras and facial recognition equipment in every church; over 1 million Uighur Muslims interned in China.
- In 2019, the United Nations established an International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief (22 Aug).

So our reflections and information received have aided the focus of our prayer. FPCT have produced further guidance in the leaflet *Supporting Persecuted Christians: What can I do? Pray – Learn – Witness*, available at www.falmouthchurchestogether.org.uk/persecution/. We invite you to do this and to join us in prayer at home or by coming to our meetings (see *CTC Weekly News* for details) for “*Freedom to believe is a right and if we don't speak up, no one will. Solidarity with persecuted Christians is in our hearts. We should never be complacent about this. It is not someone else's business. It is our business. It has a claim in our hearts as Christians*”: Catholic Archbishop of Southwark 2019 at a service for Aid to the Church in Need.

COMMUNITY NEEDS

Practical social action is a major plank of FPC'T activities, carried out alongside other institutions and offering a Christian response to need wherever we encounter it. Our 2016 Community Needs Survey, available at www.falmouthchurchestogether.org.uk/fpct-community-needs-working-party-report-published, highlighted many areas of need, some of which we have been able to address and some which remain – we pray that opportunities will arise to permit us to tackle them too.

16 **FOODBANK – RUTH PAINTER**



One in five people in the UK now live below the poverty line. The Penryn and Falmouth Foodbank provided 1031 three-day food supply parcels to people in crisis last year, and during lockdown demand has continued to grow. The main foodbank at Highway Church has been supplemented

by satellites at Constantine and Stithians, opened in April 2020 as a result of local initiatives.

The Foodbank works on a voucher referral system in conjunction with local agencies. If they feel an applicant is struggling to put food on the table, they will issue them with a foodbank voucher. The local agency can also provide long term support if needed to help address some of the issues behind the reasons for the crisis. Our foodbank works with a number of different agencies, such as Citizens Advice, children's centres and health visitors. To find out more about the agencies that hold our vouchers and how you can get help, please contact us on foodbank@highwaychurch.co.uk or 01326 618575.

When someone visits a referral agency they will take some basic details from them to complete the voucher. This will help them to identify the cause of the crisis and offer practical guidance. It also means we are able to prepare suitable emergency food for the right number of people. Once a voucher is issued, it can be exchanged for a minimum of three days of emergency food at the nearest foodbank centre.

We want to make sure that no one in our local community has to go hungry, but we need your help to make this happen. Your gift of financial support, time, business partnership and food can make a real difference. For details of how to donate food or money, volunteer or partner with us, please visit our website at <https://penrynfalmouth.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/>. The support of Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together, its constituent churches and individual Christians is hugely valuable and enables us to continue this sadly now essential ministry. It is very much appreciated!

17 † CARE HOME MINISTRY – PETER RICHARDS

Regular monthly services are currently held in six homes – King Charles Court, Langholme, Roscarrack House, Tresillian House (Abbeyfield), Trevern and The White House. In addition there is a monthly service at Chy Nampara sheltered flats. During the year Churches Together has taken responsibility for the regular services in the Age UK Day Centre.

The aim of the monthly visits is :

- to provide opportunity for Christian worship and fellowship to those who are often no longer able to attend church;
- to offer friendship to all and provide spiritual support.

The services last about thirty minutes and then members of the team stay to chat with residents and sometimes visit in pairs and pray with those confined to their rooms. The teams, consisting of a leader/speaker, musician and singers, are drawn from ten local churches.

During the year around thirty five people have been involved in the care home ministry, which include twenty leaders/speakers and six pianists. The size of the team for each service varies from two to six, and the number of residents ranges from two to twenty plus. Each month we have been meeting with about eighty people, plus staff and visitors.

During the year we received £60 from FPCT 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 other month a core group of about fourteen 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 and the Day Centre. 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 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. Once again two extra visits were made to King Charles Court to sing carols and then Easter hymns along the corridors for residents unable to leave their rooms. In November, a special Remembrance Day Service was arranged again for the residents of Trevern.



The greatest challenge has been the recent lockdown in connection with the coronavirus, with all homes closed to visitors and the Day Centre not opening. We have endeavoured to maintain regular contact by email and telephone and by placing short videos on YouTube, which can be shown to residents. An outline Easter service was provided for staff to use where appropriate, and the activities organisers in one home took the initiative of crafting their own service. Sickness and advancing years mean that some members of the team are not able to do quite so much. We are also sad to see the Church of England Intern scheme coming to an end, which means we will not have the benefit of these young people helping with the care home ministry.

In the coming year we will continue efforts to strengthen the team. 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.

18 ‡ FOOTSTEPS COMMUNITY COFFEE SHOP – JAN WINSLADE

Since the last report, Footsteps continued to flourish in its dual role of being a welcoming weekly space for folk to come and enjoy coffee/lovely homemade cakes, and more importantly a listening ear and fellowship, as well as being a source of income for FPCT.

Each January we have a “wash up” meeting to chat about how we are doing, and where we can improve. At this January’s get together, we felt that we should be reaching out to more vulnerable people, so we prayed for guidance. Our prayers were certainly answered.



In February we were approached by Jess Merivale who is the health and wellbeing coach for “Pluss”, a community interest company that supports thousands of people each year to achieve a career and fulfil their potential; and Lollie Brewer, who works for Cornwall Hospice

Care and is hoping to set up a community friendship café in Falmouth and Penryn jointly with colleagues in the community.

At the same time, Churches Together in Cornwall launched SAM – Social Action Mapping for Cornish Churches which is an initiative to make Church-led social action programmes better known to the wider community.

We set up a meeting with Jess and Lollie in March, but sadly the Coronavirus pandemic intervened before we could meet, and Footsteps like the rest of the country was put into lockdown. Our plans are on hold for the time being but will I’m sure come to fruition before too long.

In the meantime, the Footsteps volunteers continue to meet virtually each Thursday morning by email and phone, and members of the team have contributed the following to this report.

A cafe ordinarily has a buzz of conversation going on but I find with Footsteps that the conversation is punctuated with people greeting each other and an overall air of friendliness and laughter. We are.....one big family. I really enjoy my time working in FPCT Footsteps Coffee Shop & look forward to my sessions very much. Linda

It is a privilege to share God's love with our lovely customers, especially as some of them do not see many people from day to day! I also enjoy fellowship & fun with the other members of the team & we have all now become firm friends. Sylvia

I love volunteering at Footsteps. Of all the things I am committed to doing, Footsteps is my favourite. It is a special place where people meet up with friends for a reasonably priced hot drink and homemade cake. If you come alone, you won't be alone for long as there is always someone to chat to. A place where people have their favourite table and can stay for as long as they like. A place where it gets noticed when they are not there. There is a buzz about the place that is infectious and lifts your spirits. Footsteps helpers come from various churches in Falmouth and it is a privilege to be part of this team. We really are a team; we work well together and care about each other. We welcome new volunteers to the team, whether to help with waiting on tables, help in the kitchen or by baking cakes. Interested? Pop in for a chat; we are a friendly bunch. Footsteps last met on Thursday 12th March due to the Covid -19 lockdown and I am so looking forward to the day when we can open up again. Pat

For me, Footsteps has been a very special morning, once a week on a Thursday, when I meet up with our lovely group of volunteers. I feel that Footsteps provides a much-needed oasis of Peace, Friendship and Prayer in an increasingly frenetic world. I'm sure we have been missed by our 'regulars' and that we all pray that they are keeping safe and well. May it not be too long before we can all gather together once more for coffee, cake and chatter. "We'll meet again".....and we DO know where! Jean

These reflections tell me how much we, as a team enjoy the fellowship of working together to bring God's kingdom closer in Falmouth and Penryn, and we all look forward to opening Footsteps again in the not too distant future.

19 ‡ MEN'S BREAKFASTS – ROD MCGLADE

FMB (Falmouth Men's Breakfasts) has continued to meet regularly at Membly Hall Hotel on the seafront over the past year. We have received continued feedback from people who have been encouraged and blessed by our times together. Notably, some attendees have not been church goers but have felt the FMB a 'safe' gathering to come to. This warms the heart somewhat and taps into the core ethos behind FMB. However, in the light of the current virus situation and its predictably ongoing ramifications, the FMB is officially closed down until 2021.



Rod McGlade who has been leading over the past year has decided to step down from the role due to the demands of his own church as it faces, like all of us, the challenges of how to navigate through this virus-dominated year. The FMB will emerge again in 2021 I'm sure but with perhaps a slightly different format. Please keep praying.

20 ‡ FAIRTRADE FALMOUTH– PAT FITZPATRICK

LIVE FAIR - SHOP FAIR - SAVE LIVES



Our group, small in number though we are, continue to raise awareness of the importance of Fairtrade in our town in whatever way we can. Or at least we did until March of this year, when Covid-19 lockdown meant all gatherings and meetings were postponed. We have found having a Fairtrade stand at public events is a very effective way of reaching a much wider audience and have really enjoyed engaging with a broad section of local people and visitors to our town.

Membership of our group

Because our group has only three members (we are also supported by two Town Council Fairtrade reps), we are very thankful for the support we receive from FT volunteers; without them we would be unable to host Fairtrade events.

Group membership needs to grow. It is important for our group to be representative of other groups in Falmouth. Please come and join our group, we need you. If you have any questions, please contact me: Pat Fitzpatrick, phone: 01326 316566 or email: patfitzpatrick70@btinternet.com.

Finance

Thanks to the financial and practical support of FPCT and Falmouth Town Council, we have been able to fund FT events in 2019 and 2020. As of March 2020, our Fairtrade Falmouth bank account balance is £165. Balance includes £29 from donations received at our Fairtrade Fortnight coffee morning event February 2020.

Fairtrade SW Supporters Conference

We attended the Southwest Supporters Conference in September 2019. The conference was held in Exeter and Brod Ross (Falmouth Town Councillor and Fairtrade rep) not only attended the meeting with two of our members, but also provided the transport to and from the meeting. The meeting was worthwhile and well attended and we came away feeling greatly encouraged. The conference was an opportunity to meet Brian Terry, from Fairtrade Camborne. Since then, we have joined a FT Cornwall campaigners support group (coordinated by Brian) which meets at Truro Methodist Church.

Fairtrade Events 2019-2020

September 2019 - we had a FT stand at the Tea Festival which was well attended. Fairtrade tastings were on offer and visitors to the stand had the opportunity to sign a Living Wage petition. This was a very worthwhile event and thoroughly enjoyable.

October 2019 – we provided refreshments at the Fairtrade Boardgame Café at the Fun Palace Event. We also had an information stand and provided some lunch-time food. Attendance was good. The Living Wage campaign was again promoted. These events not only enable us to raise the profile of Fairtrade but give us the opportunity to connect with people and have ongoing contact if people wish.

February 2020 – two events were held to celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight. The main event was a Coffee Morning in the Town Council Chambers and a smaller event was held at Footsteps Community Café at the Methodist Church.



We were very pleased to welcome Falmouth Town Mayor Steve Eva and Mayoress Victoria Eva to the Coffee Morning. We are very grateful to the Mayor and Mayoress for their support and to the Town Council for making the Chambers available to us.

The focus this year was on cocoa farmers in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana. High levels of poverty affect small-scale farmers and their families in these countries, preventing them from accessing basic human rights. Over 60% of the world's cocoa is grown in West Africa but only a fraction of the cocoa leaving there is currently certified as Fairtrade. The chocolate industry in the UK is worth 4 billion a year. To highlight the importance of this issue, we offered good quality Fairtrade chocolate tastings, served FT hot chocolate, had a stand selling Fairtrade chocolate and shared a short story about a Fairtrade cocoa farmer.



The Living Wage campaign was also a big focus. In a report to launch Fairtrade Fortnight, the organisation said farmers could live a decent life for £1.86 a day, the average price of a bar of chocolate. They believe living incomes are key to ensuring the future sustainability of cocoa. A comprehensive new Sustainable Livelihoods Landscape Study, produced by the Fairtrade Foundation in partnership with Cocoa Life, backs up the concerns of cocoa farmers with hard data. The report concludes that chocolate companies need to make major changes if cocoa farmers are going to have a sustainable future.

Since then the effects of the Coronavirus and recent falling cocoa prices make the message from cocoa farmers even more urgent. A report from the UN Development Programme (posted 30th March 2020), voiced the following concerns: “The growing Covid-19 crisis threatens to disproportionately hit developing countries, not only as a health crisis in the short term but as a devastating social and economic crisis over the months and years to come. With an estimated 55 per cent of the global population having no access to social protection, these losses will reverberate across societies, impacting education, human rights and, in the most severe cases, basic food security and nutrition”.

The UN report echoes the concerns we have. The Fairtrade Foundation is deeply worried that this virus will devastate communities; not only because of its impact on people’s health, but also the very real possibility that containment measures will cause widespread hardship to people’s incomes. Fairtrade is working hard with commercial partners to find solutions for supply chains being hit the hardest and to ensure people get the support they need.

But such is the scale of this crisis, it is not something that can be tackled by any one organisation working alone. This global challenge requires a global solution, and so, the Fairtrade Foundation supports the call from former Presidents and Prime Ministers, together with NGOs including Oxfam and Save the Children, for a coordinated G20 response to this pandemic.

Fairtrade supporters and campaigners have been invited to take part in a special online Q&A get together, on Thursday 4th June 2020. There will be an opportunity to discuss the impact of the Coronavirus crisis, the Fairtrade Foundation’s partnership with Cocoa Life, the effect of climate change on cocoa production, and the living income campaign. We will be taking part and have submitted some questions.

YOUNG PEOPLE

Work with young people has always been a central focus of FPCT’s remit. Following the death of Alan Offord, the Falmouth Salvation Army have taken over the running of the Kidz Klub, and our Open the Book group suspended activities pending the appointment of a new leader prior to lockdown, but we hope will resume when schools are able to operate normally Here we summarise initiatives covering age groups from pre-school to University.

21 † **MESSY CHURCH – MARY WRIGHT**

Messy Church in Falmouth has had an interesting and challenging year. We lost a dear friend and crucial Core Team member in Alan Offord and send condolences to his wife Sue and the whole Offord family. By December 2019, the small Core Team who plan, prepare, and provision the sessions was struggling. So, we decided to take a break while we considered the way forward. An Emergency Meeting was convened, and we were delighted that from this, three new members of the Core Team were recruited, and several new Helpers offered their assistance.



We re-started with new enthusiasm and energy in March but were then halted in our tracks by Covid-19. Undaunted, Jane Charman put together a Virtual Messy Church (VMC) for April telling the story of Palm Sunday. It had the story, songs and activities – the only things missing were the breakfast and the tambourines which we

borrow from Budock Junior Church. We hope to continue holding VMC while 'lockdown' prevents normal Messy Church.

We had bought some special Easter Chocolate bars to give out to the families on April 4th, so we gave them to the local Food Bank and hope that they brought pleasure to many families. In November 2019 we gave Advent Calendars to our families – these gifts are generously funded by Budock PCC and kind donors who support Messy Church and cover our running costs.

When we restarted in March, we tried to increase our publicity; we put up 30 posters in appropriate places – local schools, churches, supermarkets and coffee shops. We have our own Facebook presence, and we had short articles in local newspapers, and details in Budock Church, FPCT, Messy Church websites and in Cornwall365.

Messy Church in Falmouth serves families who enjoy attending a Christ-centred church involving fun, hospitality, and creativity as well as learning and celebration. We are registered with Cornwall Council to serve food, and

two of the Core Team are studying for Level 2 – Food Safety and Hygiene for Catering. We usually meet on the second Saturday of each month (except August) at 9.30 am at All Saints Church, Killigrew Street. In July we had fun on Gyllyngvase beach and made the most of the sea, sun and sand.

A big thank you to all our helpers and supporters; individuals, St Budock Church, All Saints Church and FPCT. We hope that you will continue to support us as we reach out to families in Falmouth. We would be delighted to welcome new helpers (we need you from 9 to 11 am on the second Saturday of the month), just contact the Budock Parish Office on 01326-378065. If you would like to know more about Messy Church please see the website www.messychurch.org.uk, our Facebook page “Falmouth Messy Church” or speak to one of the Team listed below.

Mary Wright on behalf of the Messy Church Team (*Rev. Canon Geoffrey Bennett, Jane Charman, Sylvia Storey, Canon Bill Stuart-White, Jan Winslade, Nona Wright and Mary Wright*)

22 † **UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY – BECKY NESBITT**

The Multifaith Chaplaincy provides pastoral and spiritual care for the students



and staff of Falmouth University and the University of Exeter in Cornwall – a community now in the region of 10K. We currently have a team of 7 volunteer chaplains serving the Penryn and Falmouth Campuses and also caring for medical students and staff at Truro. Our Co-Ordinating Chaplain has shifted to a 3-day a week contract and we'll be reviewing options for the additional 2 days once the financial picture is a little bit clearer in September.

Since Lockdown, as is true for us all, life has changed considerably. Our chaplains have been supporting students and staff online and we are planning now for the new academic year and adapting everything we do to the new blended approach the universities are taking, to enable students to continue to receive support online, but exploring face-to-face socially distanced

options as well. It seems likely that our chaplaincy spaces will remain closed in the autumn so we're working hard at thinking of creative ways we can reach out to those in need and promote the service we offer. We'll also be making particular efforts to support our staff, who have lots to do adapting to the ever-changing landscape. As always, we are grateful for the prayers of the local church community for our work and also welcome enquiries from anyone considering offering some time as a volunteer.

23 † FALMOUTH STREET PASTORS – BRIDGET & PHIL CLEMOES

Thanksgiving and Commissioning Service 10th Year Anniversary



Being commissioned (photo Kevin Gray)

This was the highlight of the year celebrating Falmouth Street Pastors 10th year anniversary. Many of those original pioneers are still on the team and were honoured with Long Service Certificates. So Thank You - to all of you who were setting this up 10 years ago and have remained faithful servants. The service was on 28th September 2019 at Life Church with Pastor Rod McGlade making us welcome. The terrific worship band led us into a lovely time of worship and thanksgiving. We were blessed to have the Assistant Chief Constable, Paul Davies and the Town Mayor, Steve Eva speaking. They both made us feel that we, Falmouth Street Pastors, are a valuable part of our community. Duncan Withall, the Ascension Trust (our overseers) Representative conducted the Commissioning and presented the award certificates. It felt such a special moment being prayed over and blessed. I would like to thank all those who helped behind the scenes and made it such a memorable event.

Future

What a strange time to be writing a report. After a successful year with our volunteers from 13 different churches going out every Saturday night 10pm – 3am, plus the 2 Freshers Thursday nights in September, we are now stood

down. The majority of our members are in the “vulnerable” category and the students are at home. The pubs and clubs are shut and there is no need for us on the streets on a Saturday night at present. Please pray for our future, and please be on standby in case we need more volunteers or funding!

NETWORKS



the Churches Together network

Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together does not operate in isolation, but forms part of the national network of Churches Together groups co-ordinated at county level by Churches Together in Cornwall (CTC) and nationally by Churches Together in England (CTE). Similar bodies in the other UK nations are co-ordinated by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI), themselves members of the Conference of European Churches (CEC) and the World Council of Churches (WCC), so we are truly part of a global movement. Locally, we also work with the new Anglican initiative Transforming Mission and at county level with Transformation Cornwall. Read on for more details!

24 † TRANSFORMING MISSION – DIOCESE OF TRURO

Following its piloting in Falmouth, the Transforming Mission initiative is now extending to four other towns:



Camborne, Truro, St Austell and Liskeard, with new staff being appointed. In Falmouth, New Street Church is now well established in its new home at All Saints Church, and

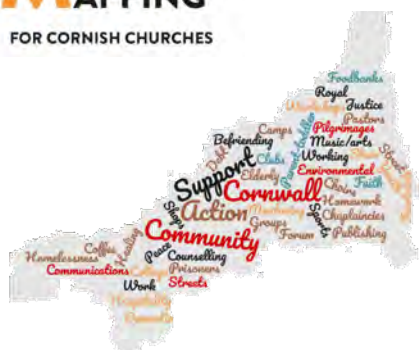
Rev Sophie Chatten has been appointed as its new Lead Minister. The Huddle

Café is flourishing as a refreshment centre in both a physical and spiritual sense, work with young people and families is developing well and the worship group are becoming a valuable resource for our area and indeed the county. For the latest updates visit <https://trurodiocese.org.uk/about-us/transforming-mission/>.

25 † CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CORNWALL – ROGER MILLS

During the year Churches Together in Cornwall launched a new 'vision statement': *Inspiring Unity – Sharing our Gifts*, which has been adopted as a strapline on all publicity. It accompanies a new 'mission statement' identifying four areas of mission each subdivided into two, giving eight themes under which to focus our work: these are *Proclaiming*: Celebrating and Communicating; *Developing & Nurturing*: Teaching and Encouraging; *Serving*: Social Action and Justice & Peace; and *Transforming*: Communities and Environment. These are derived from the Anglican 'Five Marks of Mission', revised and adapted for ecumenical use.

A Churches Together in Cornwall Executive member has taken on responsibility for each of these missional areas and the aim is to develop links with relevant groups active in those areas, developing new networks to encourage sharing of expertise and facilities across the county.



The first outcome of the new structure is our project *Social Action Mapping for Cornish Churches (SAM)*, working with local Churches Together groups to identify social action

projects run or supported by churches, many of which are little known and hard for social prescribers and others who could refer people to them to identify. The projects will initially be listed on the CTC infoHub (www.ctcinfohub.org) and the data made available to other listings such as Cornwall Link <https://cornwall-link.co.uk/>; at a later stage it is hoped to produce a regular

magazine-style listing for distribution to surgeries etc. The project was launched in February 2020 at the Penryn Campus Volunteering Fair with the aim of recruiting students to assist in data gathering; sadly lockdown has slowed this while the Universities are closed, but the project has begun to gather information and volunteers to assist are most welcome!

26 † TRANSFORMATION CORNWALL – JANE YEOMANS

Transformation Cornwall is a Joint Venture between the Diocese of Truro, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Methodist District, Churches Together in Cornwall and the Church Urban Fund.

We are a capacity building organisation with Christian values. We strengthen faith based social action in Cornwall.

Our vision: *'To see faith in action at the heart of flourishing communities in Cornwall'.*

We support groups in tackling poverty and exclusion in their local communities.

We work in three ways...

1. Delivering the Meet the Funders Programme
2. Providing 1:1 support to faith groups to develop their social action
3. Strengthening links between faith based and mainstream organisations



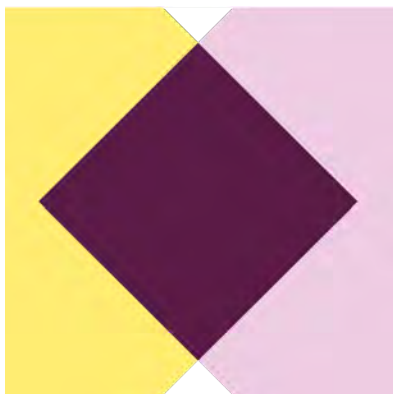
If you would like to find out more about how we might support your community project please get in touch, we would love to hear from you.

Transformation Cornwall, Church House, Woodlands Court, Truro Business Park, Threemilestone, Truro TR4 9NH. Tel: 01872 274351 ext 205. Email: info@transformation-cornwall.org.uk or website: www.transformation-cornwall.org.uk.

27 † COMMUNICATIONS – ROGER MILLS

The *CTC Weekly News*, produced under the auspices of Churches Together in Cornwall is now one year old and is becoming well established across the county, with local information for Falmouth & Penryn featuring in its Carrick edition. During lockdown virtually no physical events were able to take place, but online webinars and similar events flourished, pretty much trebling the editor's inbox! Online church services developed fast and the CTC infoHub provided the only county-wide listing to include all denominations. Our Facebook and Twitter feeds have grown rapidly in popularity and our information service now offers three tiers: daily updates on social media, weekly highlights in the Weekly News email, and a long-term library of events and reference material on our website. Access details for all these are on the back cover.

Falmouth + Penryn Churches Together



**CHURCHES
TOGETHER
CORNWALL**
*inspiring unity
sharing our gifts*



for Christian news and events in our area and
countywide visit www.ctcinfohub.org

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