

# Annual Report

2020-21

## Falmouth + Penryn Churches Together

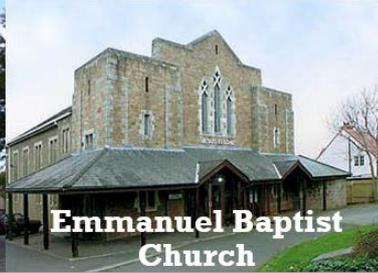
*working together  
to share  
the love of God*



# FPCT MEMBER CHURCHES



**All Saints Parish Church Falmouth**



**Emmanuel Baptist Church**



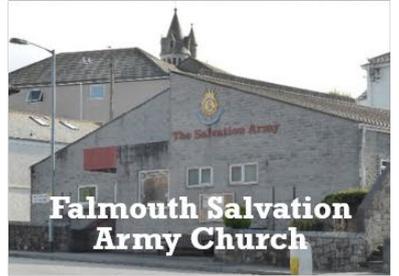
**Falmouth Methodist Church**



**Falmouth Parish Church of King Charles the Martyr**



**Falmouth Quaker Meeting**



**Falmouth Salvation Army Church**

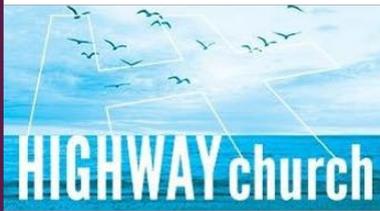
**Falmouth  
+ Penryn  
Churches  
Together**



**The Harbour Church (Elim Pentecostal)**



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



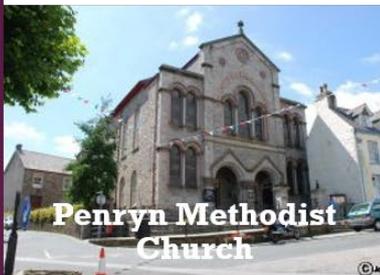
**Highway Church**



**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 Mawan Church**



**St Michael's Church Penwerris**



**St Mylor Church**



**Stirring of the Water Ministries**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21 : TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<i>Administration</i> .....	4
1 †† FPCT Officers & Executive Members 2020-2021.....	4
2 †† Overview & convenor’s report – Euan McPhee .....	5
3 †† Obituary: Revd Robbie Bowen – Ruth Bowen .....	6
4 †† FPCT Accounts 2020-21 – David Arrondelle .....	8
<i>Prayer &amp; Discipleship</i> .....	9
5 †† Nativity Trail 2020 – Roger Mills .....	9
6 †† Christmas Carols 2020 – Roger Mills .....	10
7 †† Prayer for Christian Unity 2021 – Roger Mills .....	11
8 †† World Day of Prayer 2021– Sue Mills.....	12
9 †† Ecumenical Lent Course – Roger Mills .....	14
10 †† Good Friday Walk of Witness 2021 – Roger Mills.....	15
11 †† Thy Kingdom Come 2021 – Roger Mills.....	15
12 †† Prayer Tent – Richard Edwards .....	16
13 †† The Filling Station.....	17
14 †† Justice and Peace Action Group – Mary Bradley.....	18
<i>Community Needs</i> .....	20
15 †† Foodbank – Ruth Painter & Catherine Hansa .....	20
16 †† Care Home Ministry – Peter Richards.....	21
17 †† Christians Against Poverty (CAP) – Glyn Lumley .....	23
18 †† Footsteps Community Coffee Shop – Jan Winslade .....	24
19 †† Men’s Breakfasts .....	25
20 †† Fairtrade Falmouth– Pat FitzPatrick .....	26
21 †† Modern Slavery in Cornwall – Roger Mills .....	28
<i>Young People</i> .....	29
22 †† Messy Church .....	29
23 †† University Chaplaincy – Becky Nesbitt.....	29

24	‡ Falmouth Street Pastors .....	30
	<i>Networks</i> .....	30
25	‡ Transforming Mission – Diocese of Truro .....	31
26	‡ Churches Together In Cornwall – Lesley Chandler.....	31
27	‡ Transformation Cornwall – Jane Yeomans .....	33
28	‡ Social Action Mapping (SAM) – Roger Mills .....	33
29	‡ Communications – Roger Mills.....	34
30	‡ Churches Together in England – Roger Mills .....	34

## **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 2020-2021**

<i>Convenor</i>	<i>Euan McPhee Falmouth Methodist Church</i>
<i>Treasurer:</i>	<i>David Arrondelle St Mawnan Church</i>
<i>Secretary:</i>	<i>vacant</i>
<i>Minutes Secretary:</i>	<i>Nona Wright Falmouth Methodist Church</i>
<i>Safeguarding Officer:</i>	<i>vacant</i>
<i>Public Relations Coordinator:</i>	<i>Roger Mills St Budock Church</i>
<i>Executive Member (minister):</i>	<i>Revd Amanda Evans St Mylor/St Gluvias</i>
<i>Executive Member (minister):</i>	<i>Jo Crook Highway Church</i>
<i>Executive Member (minister):</i>	<i>Revd Canon Bill Stuart-White All Saints/KCM</i>
<i>Executive Member (minister):</i>	<i>vacant</i>
<i>Executive Member (lay):</i>	<i>Lesley Chandler Falmouth Quaker Meeting</i>
<i>Executive Member (lay):</i>	<i>Jane Charman All Saints Church</i>
<i>Executive Member (lay):</i>	<i>Pat FitzPatrick St Mary's RC Church</i>
<i>Executive Member (lay):</i>	<i>vacant</i>

*For your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. You rule throughout all generations. The LORD always keeps his promises; he is gracious in all he does. The LORD helps the fallen and lifts those bent beneath their loads. The eyes of all look to you in hope; you give them their food as they need it. When you open your hand, you satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing. The LORD is righteous in everything he does; he is filled with kindness. (Psalm 145:13-17).*

Welcome to this annual report of the work of the Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together. To say that this has been a difficult year would be an understatement. And yet, throughout the challenging times of the Coronavirus Pandemic, a real sense of community-spirit has been evident. Despite the restrictions good things have emerged.

However, it is only fitting that at this point I acknowledge the passing of our dear friend and former chair, Rev. Robbie Bowen. His bright, cheery and positive influence on all whom he met and especially on the work of Churches Together will be sorely missed. His was a generous spirit of love and acceptance of all, and a life well lived in the service of God. We extend our love and prayers to his wife Ruth, and to Hannah and Daniel. An obituary is included in this report.

Despite the cancellation of many events, including the Good Friday Walk of Witness and the Live Nativity, online versions of others were still able to happen. Perhaps the greatest benefit was that the great team of volunteers that would have run them have had the opportunity to have a bit of a break and (recuperate?) their energies! It has also allowed us all to reflect on what it actually means to be church and how we can be that new expression of church in a time of restrictions. Technology has had a significant role in enabling various forms of Christian activity to continue.

That said, we all know that there is no real substitute for meeting together in person. Many churches are now worshipping together once more, albeit with safeguards in place, and we hope that some of the Churches Together activities will recommence soon. I hear that the Footsteps Café Team are champing at the bit, and raring to go!

One of the ongoing issues that continually plagues all voluntary organisations, including Churches Together, is - **we do have some important and unfilled roles!** So my hope and my prayer is that more people will step forward to join the Executive of the Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together – see the list of officer positions in this report. Please do prayerfully consider whether you could help out.

The G7 Summit has taken place in Carbis Bay, putting Cornwall centre-stage in the world's eyes (of course, those of us who live here have known all along that Cornwall is the centre of the world!). Later this year, the climate change summit, COP26 will take place in Glasgow. We are now in the midst of a Climate and Ecological Crisis; the actions of humanity are threatening the whole of Creation, including our own existence. As followers of Christ, made in the image of God, we all have a God-given responsibility to care for creation and our neighbours around the world. People of faith are now waking up to the need to act and pray in a way that honours what God has made.

As we look forward to another year of working together for God's Kingdom here on earth, may we rise to these challenges in a spirit of love, determination, hope and joy. We all have differences in terms of faith and practice, but we all share one earth!

May God bless you all in your work for the Kingdom, in your individual lives, in your church families and collectively through Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together!

Euan McPhee, Convenor

### 3 † OBITUARY: REVD ROBBIE BOWEN – RUTH BOWEN

*Robbie Bowen was chair of Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together from 2018-2020, when he had to stand down due to illness.*

*Robbie passed peacefully away on Sunday 25th October, at home surrounded by all his family in Cornwall - after a long battle with cancer, very bravely, positively and cheerfully fought.*



*This appreciation by his wife, Ruth Bowen, was written for the Methodist Recorder.*

Robbie had a sense of adventure and zest for life, right from being very young. The eldest child of Marilyn & Alan, he went to school in Chittlehampton & South Molton, University in Aberystwyth, ministerial training at Queens in Birmingham and overseas preparation at Kingsmead. He was ordained in Freetown, Sierra Leone in 1993, after arriving amid civil war in 1991. He served in the Koidu Joint parish of the Kono-Kailahun District from 1991-1994. When it became too dangerous, he was restationed in Brikama, in The Gambia, where he ministered between 1995-2002. Robbie loved West Africa, living with and alongside his flock, sharing in their lives and working tirelessly to spread the good news of the gospel. In a recent tribute to him it was said that he arrived in West Africa with a bike, not a new jeep. It was also said that he put away his skin colour and took that of Christ, which is universal.

Prior to entering the ministry, he worked in railway signalling. He also spent one year in Donaghadee in Northern Ireland as a lay pastor after attending Cliff College and whilst testing the call into the ministry. In 2000 he married Ruth, their daughter Hannah was born in 2003, their son Daniel in 2004. Family circumstances brought them back to the UK in 2003, where Robbie was then stationed in the Upper Calder Circuit in Todmorden. Members and friends were able to remark upon the sharing of his, sometimes, African ways in Yorkshire – the wearing of bright clerical shirts, his ability to arrive a little late and his wearing of shorts all year round, whatever the weather. His desire to see the Kingdom of God come on earth never wavered, he was always enthusiastic, keen to welcome people and always trying to find new ways of conveying the gospel message.

As a railway fanatic, imagine his delight at being stationed in Crewe (Cheshire South Circuit) in 2010. Just as for Todmorden, part of his work was with a building scheme, he always believed that churches should be multipurpose and available to serve the community. In 2015 he moved to the Falmouth & Gwennap Circuit in Cornwall, this time near to his other great love – the sea. Throughout his life and ministry Robbie valued people, he was patient, loving, compassionate and an adventurer. He had a sense of humour, loved spending time with his family and would always take the train by preference.

Robbie had one brother (William) and one sister (Liz), he always enjoyed friendly banter with his brother, including discussions of late re: Brexit. He was also a fan of cycling, on one occasion completing John O'Groats to Land's End and several times cycling 100 miles in one day sponsored for Christian Aid. He was a fun, hands-on dad, making time to be at all the significant events. Sadly, cancer was diagnosed in 2017, he underwent lots of chemotherapy sessions, always cheerfully and without complaining, and working until the very end. He will be greatly missed. The positive impact of his life has been significant. Recent donations in his memory were in excess of £5,000, testimony to the high regard in which he was held and the extent to which his life touched others'. We are thankful for a life lived richly and to the full, and that he now goes to that place prepared for him in his Father's house.

## 4 † FPCT ACCOUNTS 2020-21 – DAVID ARRONDELLE

### FPCT Main Account

Opening Balance		£5209-55
Subs paid in : FPCT	£1335-00	
Donations	£505-00	
	<u>£1840-00</u>	<u>£1840-00</u>
		<u>£7049-55</u>
Less expenditure:-		
PayPal account	£777-45	
Churches Together in Cornwall	£40-00	
Charitable Donations	£1750-00	
Insurance	£508-02	
Missionary	£368-00	
	<u>£3443-47</u>	
		<u>£3443-47</u>
Closing Balance		<u>£3606-08</u>

### FPCT Kidz Klub Account

Opening Balance		£1742-09
Subscriptions	£486-00	£528-00
Closing Balance		£2228-09

### B:Beautiful Account

Opening Balance		£910-13
Interest accrued		£0-41
Closing Balance		£910-54

### Business Premium Account

Opening Balance		£15-76
Interest		NIL
		£15-76

## PRAYER & DISCIPLESHIP

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

## 5 † NATIVITY TRAIL 2020 – ROGER MILLS

The now-traditional Live Nativity sadly could not take place in 2020. Instead with the kind co-operation of a number of shop owners in the town, a



Community Nativity Trail was devised for children and families to follow through the streets, with scenes from the nativity story displayed in shop windows, along with a QR code to scan for more information and details of Christmas services, as the usual postcard could not be

distributed. We hope that the Live Nativity will return on Sun 5 Dec 2021.



As part of Falmouth Town Council’s Christmas celebrations, it had been planned to hold a band-led open air carol service at the Quarry Car Park with contributions from various local churches. Sadly, as the pandemic progressed it became clear that this would not be feasible, so the event was moved online and premiered on YouTube on 13 December as a 40-min pre-recorded service of carols, readings, reflections and prayers from fourteen churches and several projects including CAP and the Foodbank. Although of necessity developed ‘on the hoof’ the resulting production was professional, joyful and inspiring, and was viewed over 1000 times on YouTube – where it can still be found at [https://youtu.be/1BWODj\\_N998](https://youtu.be/1BWODj_N998). Fittingly, the service was dedicated to the memory of Robbie Bowen.



## 7 † PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2021 – ROGER MILLS

'You're on mute' is one of the most memorable phrases of the pandemic. But in Cornwall the churches were definitely not 'on mute' and going online in 2021 led to an at least ten-fold increase in the numbers we were able to reach during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. An integrated programme of daily services at Noon on Zoom (and also Facebook Live), daily podcasts from local church and community leaders, a 24/7 Prayer Chain and accompanying Prayer Board, coupled with daily social media posts on themes and actions of the day together with Sunday services from local Churches Together groups resulted in well over 1000 engagements.

An ecumenical and county-wide team of presenters was assembled, including some from FPCT, who agreed to do a daily live service at 12noon on Zoom, also live-streamed on Facebook so those who wished to watch later could see the recording. Quite a steep learning curve but in the event, all ran (fairly) smoothly, and 152 people joined on Zoom and a further 416 on Facebook, at total of 568 so both were well worth doing. It was great to see people from the far north of the county and from the Isles of Scilly who could never make it to Truro. The services are also available on CTC's YouTube channel. Downloadable pdfs were also produced for churches to give out to those not online.



Complementing the daily services was an entirely new initiative, CTC Podcasts, with daily reflections from local church and community leaders on the theme of the service for that day. Published at 6am, these were widely distributed on Twitter (5,500 impressions), Facebook and (after

some technical difficulties!) Spotify. Over 500 people listened on the Acast host site. The podcasts were compiled and presented by CTC's vice-chair Donna Birrell, until recently presenter of BBC Radio Cornwall's faith programme – we are extremely fortunate to have her expertise!

46 people committed to 71 hours of prayer in our prayer chain, which achieved good coverage in the mornings from 6am to noon but was pretty 'holey' at other times but nevertheless still holy! And many will have been praying without signing up throughout the week. Many found the accompanying Prayer Board very helpful, and a snapshot is available on our infoHub for ongoing consultation.

Alongside CTC's activities, several local Churches Together groups organised online services on Sunday, including Launceston, Par, St Austell and Falmouth & Penryn. FPCT's service hosted by All Saints went through many iterations in the planning process, due to ever-changing Covid restrictions, emerging eventually as a live Zoom service which attracted around 50 participants and was also made available on CTC's YouTube channel.

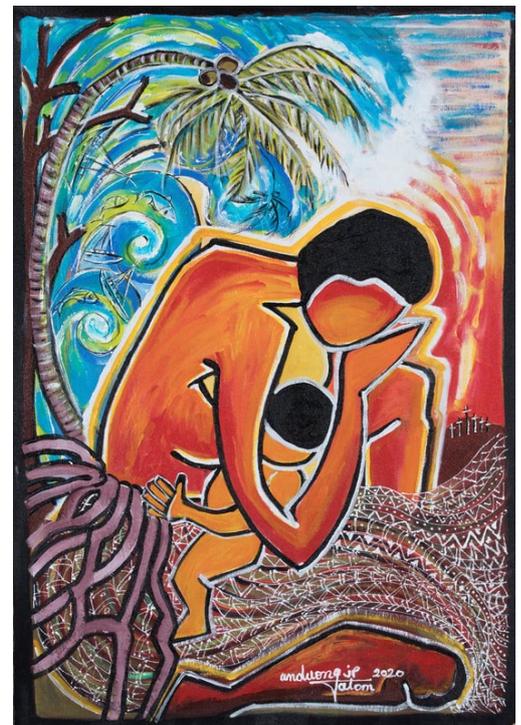
Although forced on us by the pandemic it is clear that the online Week of Prayer is here to stay, and Christian voices raised in unity will continue unmuted for years to come!

All the resources mentioned can be accessed at [www.ctcinfohub.org/wpcu](http://www.ctcinfohub.org/wpcu).

## 8 † WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2021 – SUE MILLS

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

The service for 5th March 2021 was prepared by the Christian women of Vanuatu on the theme "Build on a strong foundation". With the uncertainty over the possibility of being able to hold a live service this year owing to the pandemic, our committee, meeting on Zoom in November and January, decided to stream a service with 4 participants filmed reading in the scheduled Emmanuel Baptist Church, with displays laid out, and 5 others recording their readings from their own homes. These latter included the 3 "Voices from Vanuatu", for whom



Barbara Meade, the representative from Penwerris Church, unable to take part on account of deafness, made beautiful garlands using the instructions in the “Resources for Leaders of Children’s Groups” leaflet. Thanks very much to Steve Smith, the Media Technician from Emmanuel, who filmed those in the church and put the whole service together, including recordings of the hymns by members of the Baptist Worship Group, it went very well and has been widely appreciated by all who have seen it. There were 68 views by the end of the initial streaming on the day, a similar number to those who normally attend the service in person, and 244 by the next day, although it is impossible to know either how many of those watched the whole service, or who viewed parts of it again having already watched the complete service. The service remains available to view on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HriELdBL70Q>. It is possible that far more people were able to take part in the service than usual, thanks to the technology, but we don’t know how many who would have attended in church were unable to join in through lack of the technology. We had hoped to hold a second, evening service involving young people this year, but that will have to wait for another year.

One of the aspects of the widespread inability to hold live services this year which the National Committee was concerned about, was the expected much lower level of expected donations, which go to support grants made to charitable organizations with projects assisting mostly women, families, and children in many areas of the world, as well as the organization of the annual service. To this end the links on the national website [www.wwdp.org.uk](http://www.wwdp.org.uk) for online donations and donations by text message were clearly shared in our service, as well as the offer to receive donations by cash and cheque at the home of the Branch Secretary. We were very grateful to the FPCT Forum, with whom this information was shared in advance of the service, who voted to contribute £500 as a charitable donation to the WDP. With personal donations via the Branch Secretary of £210 this meant that the total amount of our offering sent to the National Committee was £710.00. Of course, we have no way of knowing how much more was sent directly by participants and viewers of our service either online or by text.

The aim of our local committee for Falmouth and Penryn, which only meets twice a year, usually in November and January/February, to plan the service,

is to have up to two representatives from each of the member churches of Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together, under whose auspices we operate. Sadly, we have no current representatives from St. Gluvias, Highway, Harbour or Stirring of the Water on the committee and this year the representatives from Life Church and the Salvation Army also did not participate in the service, though to what extent this was due to the technology – or lack of it – or other reasons is not known. It would be good if for next year, when the service on Friday, 4th March 2022 prepared by our own England, Wales and N Ireland committee on the theme “I know the plans I have for you” is provisionally planned to be held at the Parish Church of King Charles the Martyr, Falmouth, it could be supported and planned by representatives from all the churches in Falmouth and Penryn.

## 9 † ECUMENICAL LENT COURSE – ROGER MILLS

This year our Lent Course was on the theme of Modern Slavery, complementing the training course on the same subject hosted by New Street Church. We used the course *Women in the Shadows* provided by the Clewer Initiative, the Church of England’s unit designed to raise awareness of modern slavery, identify victims and to help provide victim support and care.



The material was very well designed and very thought-provoking; in many ways tough to engage with, but throughout offering positive messages of hope. Eight participants, including some from Redruth and Launceston, joined the 5-week course on Zoom and none dropped out, always a good sign! The course, which can also be used by individuals at any time, can be accessed at . <https://www.theclewerinitiative.org/womenintheshadows>.

*For follow-up actions, see p. 28.*

## 10 † GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS 2021 – ROGER MILLS

Once again Covid restrictions prevented us from holding the normal Walk of Witness from Emmanuel Baptist Church to King Charles, so we again joined instead in a 'virtual Walk of Witness' following the traditional route but extended to allow us to 'visit' all our member churches on



the way. As in 2020 this was based around the set of paintings and meditations 'Footsteps of Christ' produced by the Benedictine Sisters of Turvey Abbey, with kind permission of the publishers. These were supplemented by newly-recorded readings, reflections and songs from members of our churches; we offered no particular guidance on what these should be, but in the event they all dovetailed beautifully into the existing material, making a moving and genuinely spiritual event which attracted 168 views on YouTube – still available at <https://youtu.be/05TtFkv3Z54>.

## 11 † THY KINGDOM COME 2021 – ROGER MILLS

Due to the uncertainties of the pandemic, it was not possible to organise the usual Pentecost celebrations at Gwennap Pit as the climax to the Novena of prayer between Ascension Day and Pentecost, this year falling between 13-



23 May. Instead, we trialled for the first time daily online reflections at noon, based on the model used for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021. These were based

around the themes offered by *Thy Kingdom Come* but with a local focus on the work of Churches Together and were again supplemented by a virtual prayer room open each morning from 7am-noon, and a prayer board on the new Churches Together Facebook page *Christians Praying in Cornwall* (@cornwallprayer) set up in February for all to share prayer and thanksgiving around the work of our churches. The reflections were offered live on Zoom and Facebook, with catch-up possible on Facebook and YouTube, and reached around 500 people; they can still be viewed on

<https://www.ctcinfohub.org/thy-kingdom-come-2021/>. The ecumenical team delivering the 11 reflections included four from FPCT.

*Thy Kingdom Come* this year was also focussed on the issues to be discussed at the G7 meeting in Carbis Bay in June, and the events organised by churches around that, introducing a season of prayer ending on 19 June with the South West Awake coastal path prayer event, when groups from our churches offered prayers at ten points along the path from Falmouth to the Helford. More about these events in next year's report! Our prayers will continue through the summer and autumn in the lead up to the COP26 climate change conference in Glasgow in November 2021, with many activities already planned by the churches locally, across the county and the country. Keep up with the latest news and reports on [ctcinfohub.org](https://www.ctcinfohub.org), where you can also subscribe to our highly regarded weekly newsletter!

## 12 † PRAYER TENT – RICHARD EDWARDS

*1 John 2:17 This world and its desires are in the process of passing away, but those who love to do the will of God live forever. (Habitually do the will of God!)*

It is a privilege to be able to talk freely about our Lord Jesus and pray openly in the public marketplace for those who need prayer, every month. Sadly, that habitual honour was denied us for much of the last 15 months even though it was made clear that prayer was an essential part of life, more so than commercialism! Only essential businesses were allowed in the market during the latter part of the lockdown. The worship of mammon is a hindrance. Due to the restricted number of gazebos available, only regular hirers have first choice.



Currently we are present on the moor twice a month, the first Saturday in the month in the open and a Thursday in a tent. The council only provides repeat commercial businesses with a gazebo on busy Saturdays. Hence the picture of the pram sheltering under the tree on a wet Saturday; good thing the birds were out for the day!

Our main purpose is power evangelism revealing the goodness and love of God, however, most of the time we are



involved in evangelism, or discussing aspects of Christianity, which can be carried out anywhere on the streets, this purpose can be covered by anyone who has a heart for the lost, whilst the ministry team takes care of specific prayer needs in the tent. So far, in the last two months we have witnessed two instant healings for non-believers and a couple of decisions to follow Jesus, apart from the many discussions with believers from other parts of the UK.

We welcome the opportunity to heal and pray for members of the churches in Falmouth and Penryn whom we represent.

Roy (team member) says, "It is challenging to be there. The front line of Christian ministry in the town, the Prayer Tent is appropriately in amongst the traders and the pedestrians on the moor. It is where Jesus would be and is as we minister His Presence and Healing power."

Janet (team member) "The prayer tent is an essential outreach for the people of Falmouth and Penryn to give them hope."

## 13 † THE FILLING STATION

The Filling Station has had to be suspended during the pandemic but looks forward to resuming meetings as conditions allow. Nationally, a calendar of online virtual Filling Station events to which all are welcome is available at <https://thefillingstation.org.uk/virtual-events-calendar/>.

*The Gospel compels us to look hard at our lives and to choose to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the oppressed and poor.*

*This challenge can often feel too much for us, the difficulties are too great. By taking small steps in the right direction, we are following in the footsteps of Jesus.*



During the past year we have come together via Zoom for our monthly meetings.

- Current membership is 12, from 3 local churches (Budock, Falmouth Methodist and St. Mary's RC) occasionally joined by others.
- Working for Justice and Peace is an integral part of living out our Faith.
- We are willing "to stand up and be counted".

### Monthly meeting topics, actions taken

#### 1 Letters written to MPs and petitions signed have included a wide range of concerns:

*The Arms Trade*

*Refugee UK policies and the "Napier Barracks"*

*Persecuted Christians worldwide*

*Fair Trade*

*Brexit Trade Agreements*

*Cancel the international debt of poor countries*

*"The Church can change the world" CAFOD report*

*Climate change*

*Protecting our local environment*

*Women's issues – internationally*

*CAFOD and Christian Aid activities*

*Covid-19 vaccines*

*Indigenous peoples, their rights, wisdom, and discrimination*

*G7 meeting, Carbis Bay, June 11-13, 2021.*

#### 2 Weekly News

A short news item is included in the Churches Together in Cornwall Weekly News.

The “J&P” insert is also more widely forwarded to CAFOD representatives in Cornwall, CTE, Caritas and others.

The News comprises: - internationally, nationally, and locally

- (i) Good News to share and be thankful for;
- (ii) Items for prayer and reflection - and our concern;
- (iii) Actions for the week.

### 3 Throughout the year

We have participated in the following initiatives:

*Thy Kingdom Come*

*Fair Trade Fortnight*

*Lent courses [Modern Slavery]*

*Holding the November ‘Red Wednesday Service’ & Sunday Service for persecuted Christians*

*G7 Wave of Hope*

*Season of Creation*

### 4 Looking forward 2021-2022

We hope to ...

*extend membership of the group;*

*keep up to date with current and new concerns, e.g., Robots, Ethics, and the future of jobs;*

*continue to have our monthly Hour of Prayer for those persecuted for their faith;*

*work with other Christian groups, e.g., Christian Aid, and secular NGOs [non-governmental organizations] to bring about justice and peace and freedom of religious belief.*

We thank God for being with us in our efforts and pray, as in the Lord’s Prayer, “May Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, ON EARTH as it is IN HEAVEN”. Thanks also to Roger Mills for facilitating “Zoom” meetings for us.

We extend a warm welcome to those who may like to join us: see <https://www.falmouthchurchestogether.org.uk/> for further information.

*May the Lord bless us*

*Make his face to shine upon us*

*and give us his peace.*

Mary F. Bradley, Co-ordinator

## COMMUNITY NEEDS

*Practical social action is a major plank of FPCT 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](http://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.*

### 15 † **FOODBANK – RUTH PAINTER & CATHERINE HANSA**

Penryn and Falmouth Foodbank is a project founded by local churches and community groups, working together towards stopping hunger. It is open for clients on Mondays between 11am and 1pm and on Thursdays from 2pm until 4pm. The foodbank does not deliver but other community groups are delivering on our behalf if the need arises. An e-referral system has recently been introduced.



When you have no financial safety net, a sudden crisis, such as bereavement, benefit delay, redundancy or illness, can leave you unable to feed yourself or your family.

Such situations can quickly deteriorate, leading to relationship

breakdown, house repossession or worse. Penryn and Falmouth Foodbank works to support people who find themselves on the edge of disaster

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!

**'To listen and care, to show and share the love of Christ with all.'**

The pandemic has given us new ways of fulfilling this aim of the care home ministry. It was vital we kept in touch and provided as much support and spiritual input as we could by the following means:

- Telephone calls and emails to managers and activities coordinators
- In person services in the garden of the Day Centre
- Outline services and other resources for staff to use
- Video service on YouTube each month (shown on communal TV or tablets)
- DVDs of the YouTube service (for residents confined to their rooms)
- Audio CD each month (for residents with sight loss)
- CD of Christmas carol tunes played by Nicki Tumbridge
- 'Monthly Link' (topical piece with pictures and spiritual application – some homes copy to all residents)
- Christmas and Easter cards on behalf of FPCT for every resident (174 in total)
- Bouquet of spring flowers especially for the staff in each home and the Day Centre

During a time when residents have missed contact with family and friends and staff have been under immense pressure, hopefully the input from the care home team has brought some hope and encouragement. There have been several appreciative comments – e.g.

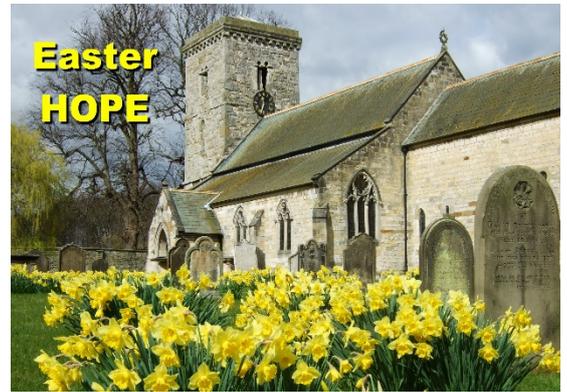
*“Please thank the team once again. You have been a great support to me and all in the home”*



Staff bouquets for Easter

The care home ministry is led by Peter Richards, and a core group of about 12 people within the 30 strong care home team would normally meet every other month to pray, discuss any issues that have arisen and plan for future services. Over the past year we have committed to meeting every month via Zoom and spending much time praying for residents and staff and also for members of the team.

During the year we received £70 from FPCT to enable purchase of Christmas and Easter cards. Apart from that the care home ministry has not received any other income. Team members give freely of their time and cover minor expenses out of their own pockets.



Easter Card

We long and pray for the day when we can re-start regular monthly services in the Age UK Day Centre, Chy Nampara, King Charles Court, Langholme, Roscarrack House, Tresillian House (Abbeyfield), Trevern and The White House. Risk assessments will have to be prepared and we will be guided by the procedures adopted by each home. Contact has been established with Antron Manor Care Home in Mabe, where monthly services were led for many years by two members of the Salvation Army. In future this will be the responsibility of the care home team. We will be offering our services to the new Falmouth Court Care Home, expected to open in the summer of 2021. The Monthly Link and YouTube services (available on <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGYmw3RRK8T1jTSYU5Z2Hgg>) have been reaching many more people than would attend a service, so we anticipate those continuing for the time being. With advancing age some members of the team may not be able to do so much, so we pray for more people to join us who have an affinity with older people and a strong desire to share the love of Jesus.



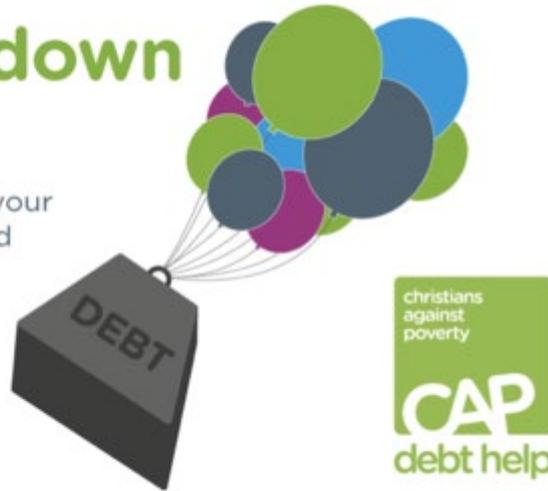
DVD Cover

## Christians Against Poverty – Debt Centre and Job Club

During the year, we have seen two new Christians Against Poverty (CAP) services begin in Falmouth and Penryn.

### Weighed down by debt?

Free debt counselling in your community from an award winning charity.



A CAP Debt Centre has been launched in association with St. Budock Church, under the management of Jacqui Bennett. The Centre offers free debt counselling to anyone weighed down by debt and

in need of help. Local appointments are available to help create an effective budget which, if appropriate, CAP will distribute on their clients' behalf. For those in severe debt, CAP can walk clients through insolvency options.

Meanwhile, at Emmanuel Baptist Church (EBC), a CAP Job Club to support job seekers has begun, managed by Glyn Lumley. Job Clubs offer an 8-week

### Step towards employment

A free club for job seekers.

Friendly, practical support to help you step confidently into employment.



course, together with one-to-one coaching to meet the individual needs of members. There is also an emphasis on building a sense of community with others who are unemployed.

Both of these new services have been adversely affected by the coronavirus pandemic but continue to look for every opportunity to support those in need as restrictions ease.

EBC also runs the CAP Money Course to help with budgeting and money management skills.

For more information, contact Jacqui Bennett 07376 655711  
[jacquibennett@capuk.org](mailto:jacquibennett@capuk.org) and Glyn Lumley 07544 858232  
[glynlumley@capjobclubs.org](mailto:glynlumley@capjobclubs.org)

## 18 † FOOTSTEPS COMMUNITY COFFEE SHOP – JAN WINSLADE

Footsteps, like the rest of the cafes in Falmouth has not been open since March 2020, during which time the team have managed to keep in touch with each other by weekly emails and phone calls; these have proved invaluable in keeping us all focused on why Footsteps is so important as a way of combatting loneliness in the elderly and those living on their own in Falmouth, which was one of the reasons the café came into existence in the first place. Lockdown has shown us all how much we appreciate fellowship in our lives as well, even if it has to be online.

As the lockdown restrictions seemed to be easing in the spring, on May 13<sup>th</sup> we had a team meeting on Zoom. We began with prayer, and then went on to think about the following question: - When Covid restrictions are lifted, do we want to open Footsteps again? The answer was a resounding YES.

This led to the following decisions: -

- We will liaise with Falmouth Methodist Church (FMC) about dates etc.
- In the meantime, Nona and Pat will spring clean the box, and note what will be needed e.g., notepads and pens when we open.
- Jeanette will refresh the cake and volunteer rota.
- We do not intend to put up our prices but will instead provide smaller portions. Exceptions to this might include Fruit Cake, and anything containing chocolate. This will be kept under review.

- Moira has suggested that whoever is taking the money should wear rubber gloves.
- Jeanette will enquire whether we can increase our rent for the room to include filter coffee sachets as an easier way to purchase these.
- Everyone will have their own apron which they will take home each week to wash.
- We will all wear visors whilst the café is open rather than masks. These can be purchased cheaply from Trago.
- We will need publicity and so will arrange a photoshoot when the opening date is announced.



Jane Charman has offered to help us compose a risk assessment document.

We will meet again to finalize our plans when we have clearance that opening will be possible and that FMC will be happy to accommodate us.

As I write this on July 2nd, we are planning to have another meeting on July 22<sup>nd</sup> by which time hopefully all restrictions will be lifted, with a view to opening Footsteps again in the

very near future. I have spoken to Hazel from FMC, who has confirmed that we can open on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> July, so that we can again be witnesses for Falmouth and Penryn Churches Together with our love, fellowship, tea, coffee and cake!

## 19 † MEN'S BREAKFASTS

Another victim of the pandemic, we hope the popular Men's Breakfast Fellowship will re-emerge in a new form when conditions allow.

Fairtrade is a simple way to make a difference to the lives of the people who grow the food we love. The Fairtrade Foundation does this by making trade fair. Fairtrade is unique. The foundation works with businesses, consumers and campaigners. Farmers and workers have an equal say in everything Fairtrade does.



The Fairtrade Foundation has a vision: a world in which all producers can enjoy secure and sustainable livelihoods, fulfil their potential and decide on their future. The mission of Fairtrade is to connect disadvantaged farmers and workers with consumers, promote fairer trading conditions and empower farmers and workers to combat poverty, strengthen their position and take more control over their lives. **Fairtrade is more than a mark on a product, it is a call for change.**

Over the past 12 months, life in the global south has been anything but simple. Like the rest of the world, communities in the global south have had to deal with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, with limited access to healthcare, vaccines, and financial support life has been very challenging for farmers and producers in that part of the world. Fairtrade premium funds have been used to help minimise the spread of the disease, such as purchasing and distributing face masks and other protective equipment or by implementing hygiene campaigns.

Sadly, that is not their only challenge as millions of farmers and workers are also on the frontline of the climate crisis. Changing weather patterns, plant disease, hurricanes, rising temperatures, mean loss of crops and income. People harvest less and receive less money. Everyone suffers the negative consequences of the climate emergency; it impacts the environment and economy.

Fairtrade farmers are among the people who have contributed the least to climate change and yet they are already feeling the worst effects. Is this fair?

Tackling climate change is at the heart of the Fairtrade movement, as it threatens the livelihoods of those Fairtrade is working to protect. Too many farmers barely earn enough to make ends meet, even without factoring in the



effects of climate change. And that is why Fairtrade is fighting for farmers to earn a Living Income, so that they have the power to effectively fight the crisis affecting their communities and continue with their livelihoods sustainably. A Living Income for a cocoa farmer in West Africa is estimated at £1.86 per day. Some earn as little as 75p a day.

Choosing to back Fairtrade is one way we can stand with these vulnerable communities living with the challenges of the climate crisis. Check the Fairtrade Foundation website and sign to join the Fairtrade fight against the climate crisis and the fight for a Living Income.

Due to the impact of the lockdown, Fairtrade Falmouth Steering Group has not been as active and visible as in previous years. We really do enjoy organising a large Fairtrade Coffee morning during Fairtrade Fortnight and other events throughout the year and look forward to chatting about Fairtrade to locals and visitors to our Fairtrade Town. Sadly, we were unable to do that this year. Instead, with the help of Falmouth Town Council and our Fairtrade volunteers, we had a Fairtrade stall on two consecutive Saturdays in the Town market. The stall had Fairtrade goods for sale and printed information to take away for those interested in finding out more about Fairtrade. Our team also contacted all the supermarkets in Falmouth and Truro asking them to consider giving the Fairtrade products they stock a prominent position in their store during Fairtrade Fortnight. Lidl went one better and featured all the Fairtrade goods they stock in their weekly magazine, and then followed that a week later with a glossy booklet featuring a selection of Fairtrade products along with stories about the farmers who produced these goods. **Thank you, Lidl.**

Like everyone else, we look forward to an end to restrictions and hope it won't be too long before Fairtrade Falmouth can safely organise large events once more and engage with the people of Falmouth.

Finance – Thanks to Falmouth Town Council we were able to finance all the events we organised in 2020 and 2021. A donation of £70 was made in 2020 to

the Fairtrade Foundation for current projects; a large portion of this was donated by people locally. Our current balance is £91.39.

Finally, we are always open to adding to our group numbers. We are a friendly bunch and welcome new ideas, so please join us, Fairtrade needs you! If you are interested, please contact: Pat Fitzpatrick, 01326316566. And if you are a local church, please consider becoming a Fairtrade Church.

## 21 † MODERN SLAVERY IN CORNWALL – ROGER MILLS

*Modern Slavery affects an estimated 46.8 million people globally and the number of victims is rising year on year in the UK.*

*In Cornwall, there have been 31 Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking cases reported in the last 12 months. These are only the reported cases.*

*Slavery exists in Cornwall; the problem is growing, and we want to do something about it.*



### HIDDEN VOICES TRAINING

*Hidden Voices* is where we decided to start. This is a new resource from The Clewer Initiative, designed to help churches and communities respond to Modern Slavery.

The training focuses on Modern Slavery in Cornwall and includes Biblical reflections, case studies, and practical tools and activities. Plus, we also had local contributors Steve Rowell (Cornwall Council's Serious Organised Crime Operational Lead) and Naomi Bruce (founder of charity Bringing Freedom).

This was run on Zoom during February and March 2021 as a partnership between The Clewer Initiative, New Street Church, Transformation Cornwall, The Diocese of Truro, Transforming Mission, Falmouth & Penryn Churches

Together, and Churches Together in Cornwall. Now the training has finished we have 25 people from across Cornwall ready and equipped for action. Meeting regularly, they will be working with churches, the universities, businesses and other organisations to raise awareness of the issues. For more information visit <https://newstreetchurch.org/community/hiddenvoices/>.

## **YOUNG PEOPLE**

*Work with young people has always been a central focus of FPCT's remit. Here we summarise initiatives covering age groups from pre-school to university.*

## **22 † MESSY CHURCH**

Messy Church had to be suspended during the pandemic but will return when circumstances permit.

## **23 † UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY – BECKY NESBITT**

It's a been a very different year for our university students and staff as it has been for us all. The chaplaincy has been operating as far as possible online, offering support to students and staff via Teams meetings and on the phone. We have also been offering dog walks which have proved really popular. Our preferred mode of face-to-face support accompanied by tea and cake has been severely challenged and our team of volunteer chaplains are really missing doing what they love best.

We have really felt for all our students, especially those for whom their first year at university was not the start anyone would want and for those who have finished their studies stuck at home and have not been able to graduate in the manner we would all have wanted for them. We are also aware of the immense pressures that have weighed on our academic and professional services staff who have had to re-think the way they do everything. We are



hoping and praying they all get a good break over the summer and that the buzz will return to our campuses in the autumn and rejuvenate us all. We are anticipating a rise in demand for pastoral care in the autumn as everyone processes the enormity of what we have all been through, and our team are always open to new volunteers here in Penryn and Falmouth and also down the road in Truro. If you know anyone who is interested, we ask for a minimum of 2 hours per week although most of our chaplains think 4 is better – just drop us a line if you would like to know more.

## 24 † FALMOUTH STREET PASTORS

In the absence of students, the normal Street Pastors service has been suspended for the past year, but we are looking forward to it re-starting when conditions permit.

## 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 Anglican initiative Transforming Mission and at county level with Transformation Cornwall. Read on for more details!*

## 25 † **TRANSFORMING MISSION – DIOCESE OF TRURO**

The Transforming Mission initiative continues to develop across Cornwall, including Camborne, Truro, St Austell and Liskeard alongside Falmouth, where New Street Church is now well established at All Saints Church, led by Rev Sophie Chatten. The Huddle Café sadly fell victim to the pandemic and had to close, but the space is still used

to host various activities and new opportunities are being explored as restrictions are lifted. Children's work includes the popular new playgroup Little Sparks at All Saints and also in Penryn in conjunction with St Gluvias Church, the Kids Matter Parenting Programme at All Saints, schools work at King Charles and St Francis primary schools and a YouTube channel containing bible-based materials for various uses. Tailored activities are being devised for students and young people, Alpha groups are running regularly, and community work includes a developing programme raising awareness on modern slavery. For all the latest news check out [newstreetchurch.org](http://newstreetchurch.org).

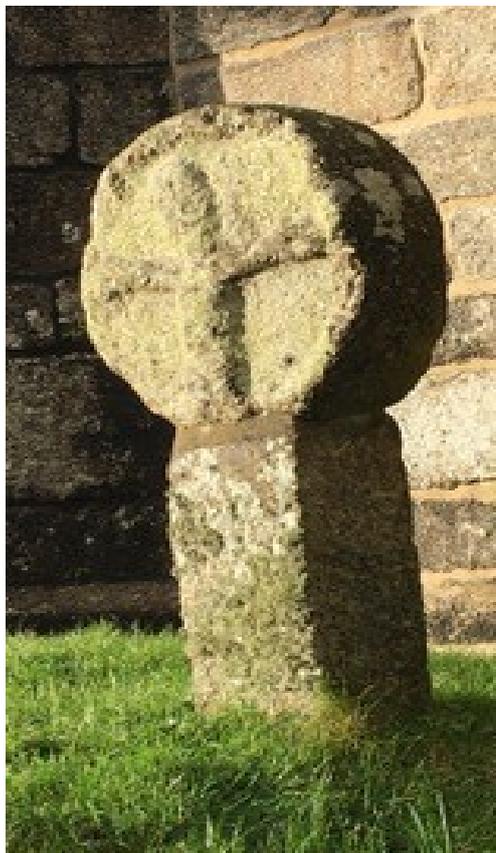


**EQUIPPING THE CHURCH  
TO REACH THE MISSING  
GENERATIONS**

## 26 † **CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CORNWALL – LESLEY CHANDLER**

Churches Together in Cornwall (CTC) has met regularly online via Zoom throughout the past year.

So much is now so different for all of us since the Covid pandemic shocked us into forced change. I think we can all be guilty of initially shying away from the thought of having to change what we do and the ways in which we do it. At a faith, belief and worship level we have needed to look at ways of focusing more on the things that matter and on the upsides of 'forced change'. For me personally, Zoom has been a lifeline, a spiritual connection with others boosting my interpretation of that Quaker advice to *'Seek to know one another in the things which are eternal...'*



The 'virtual' ways of worship, prayer, praise and faith have been a necessary glue as many events throughout the year have been cancelled or postponed until meetings in person are safe. CTC has responded to events in the world by seeking to understand ways in which the Church (in all its identities) can function with love and hope - racial injustice here in Cornwall and elsewhere, climate crisis everywhere, social injustices highlighted by the pandemic and witnessed by soaring use of food banks everywhere. All the while making Christian worship more accessible to people in Cornwall, particularly during Easter, Christmas and wider ecumenical events throughout the Christian calendar. I am reliably informed that attendance has been greatly increased online

without the need for travel risking health and environment. That has to be seen as an advantage to 'forced change'.

The role of *Prayer*, silent, with words and by action has been of great significance throughout the year and in moving and creative ways from Donna Birrell's podcasts to the more recent waves of hope. Never has there been so much access to prayer online under the banner of CTC and further afield.

The role and function of Pentecost within the Church signifying the working of the Spirit and spiritual renewal, has, during this Covid period, shown that love and hope are moving in abundance, compassion is palpable and miracles are there to be witnessed.

My online ecumenical relationships with members of other churches, have been nurturing, humbling but most of all, affirming. That affirmation that we are as one and in this (life's journey) together brought into sharp definition throughout the isolation of the pandemic.

Christenings, weddings, funerals, sacramental and non-sacramental ways of worship are emerging again here in Cornwall. They will quite possibly look different, but they will be the Godly outcome of that 'forced change' enabling

us to bear witness to that of God in each one of us whilst recognising that we are all precious, unique, children of God.

## 27 † TRANSFORMATION CORNWALL – JANE YEOMANS



Transformation Cornwall strengthens faith based social action in Cornwall and is a faith infrastructure organisation working with people and organisations of all faiths and none.

We regularly partner with inspiring and inclusive local and national organisations working to address poverty, social injustice and exclusion within Cornwall. We have worked alongside Falmouth and Penryn Churches Together for a number of years among a variety of projects.

We were delighted to formally partner with them again in February 2021 when Transformation Cornwall, Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together, The Clewer Initiative, New Street Church & Churches Together in Cornwall came together to develop an online 6-week training course on 'Modern Slavery in Cornwall'.

The strength and diversity of the partnership enabled us to recruit and train a core team of 25 people and organisations who met and trained together and are now catalysts for change, co-developing a year of action to promote awareness of Modern Slavery in Cornwall and equip local churches and communities to get involved.

## 28 † SOCIAL ACTION MAPPING (SAM) – ROGER MILLS



Just before the pandemic, in February 2020, Churches Together in Cornwall launched the Social Action Mapping for Cornish Churches (SAM) project to make church-led or supported social action better known outside the church community, particularly to the social prescribing and related networks. The aim was to build a small team of students to gather information from local Churches Together groups, including FPCT, on initiatives in their areas, and add it to the CTC infoHub. Sadly, Covid prevented realisation of that plan, though we will revisit it when conditions permit. In the meantime, we have been delighted to partner with Age UK to add projects to their Cornwall Link platform: visit <https://cornwall-link.co.uk/campaign/SAM-cornish-churches>

to see what has been added so far; project leaders can add their own information or ask CTC to do it for them. The partnership was launched earlier in 2021 and offers many exciting possibilities for future developments, supporting our communities across the county.

## 29 † COMMUNICATIONS – ROGER MILLS

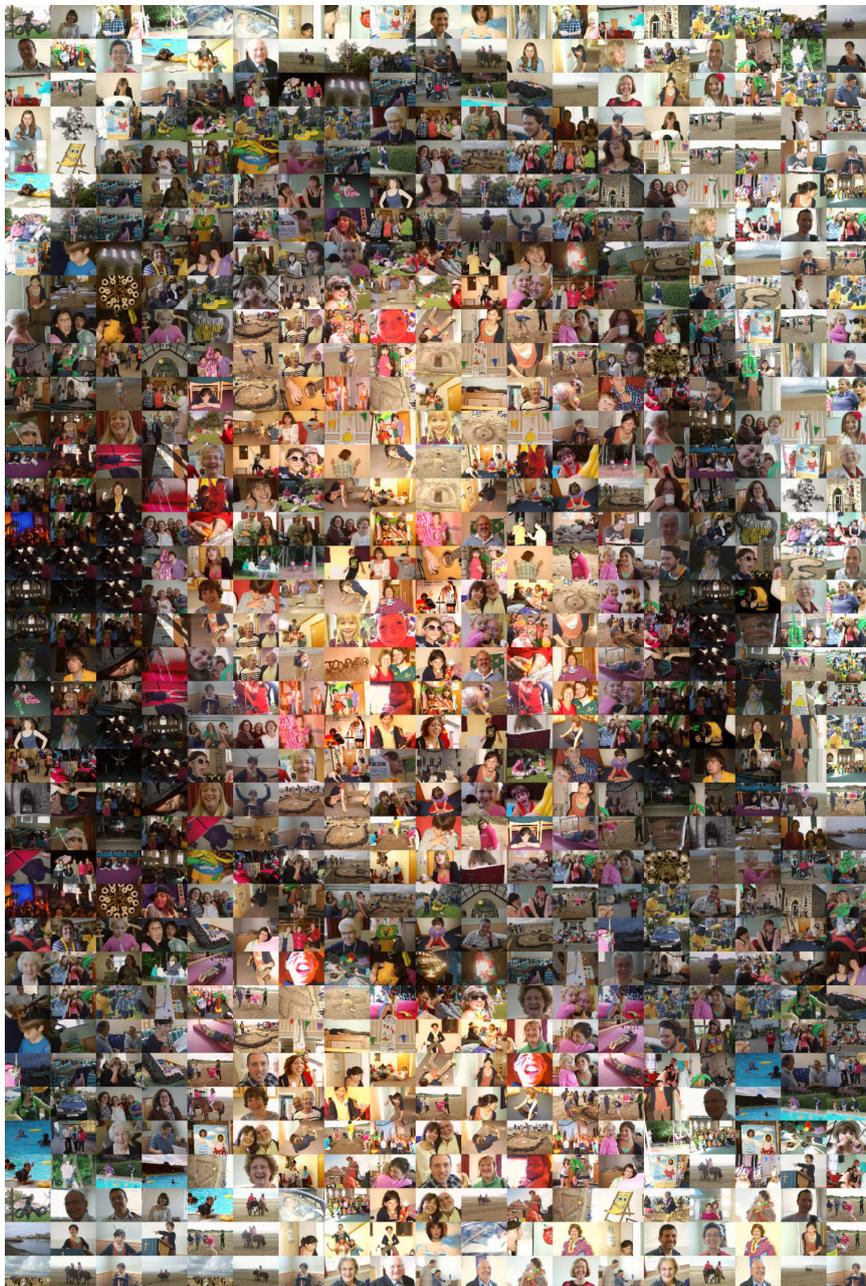
The *CTC Weekly News*, produced under the auspices of Churches Together in Cornwall, is now well established across the county, with local information for Falmouth & Penryn featuring in its Carrick edition. During lockdown virtually no physical events were able to take place, but online webinars and 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.

## 30 † CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ENGLAND – ROGER MILLS

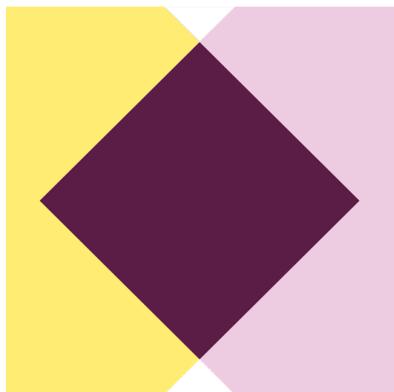


Churches Together in England (CTE) has embarked on new projects to review how ecumenical work is progressing in England and offer suggestions of new ways of doing things, based on best practice around the country. *Reimagining Intermediate Ecumenism* is the first stage which is looking at county groups including Churches Together in Cornwall, which is developing a (currently unique) system of team management.

The second stage will involve *Reimagining Local Ecumenism* and will offer suggestions of new ways of working together which may be more community-focussed and less demanding on time for our hard-pressed ministers and volunteers. Our aim in Cornwall is to develop a much flatter structure with better links between local and county activities and easier ways of working with both secular and faith-based groups in specific areas, such as Creation Justice and Mental Health. The pandemic has engendered many new ways of working and many new opportunities for networking; there are new avenues to be explored and we hope they will lead to more productive, effective and easier to manage initiatives as we continue to build the Body of Christ here in Falmouth and Penryn. Watch this space!



# Falmouth + Penryn Churches Together



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



**CHURCHES  
TOGETHER  
CORNWALL**

## infoHub



*scan to subscribe to  
CTC Weekly News*

for Christian news and events in our area and  
countywide visit [www.ctcinfohub.org](http://www.ctcinfohub.org)



[www.falmouthchurchestogether.org.uk](http://www.falmouthchurchestogether.org.uk)



FalmouthPenrynChurchesTogether



@FPCTogether



[info@falmouthchurchestogether.org.uk](mailto:info@falmouthchurchestogether.org.uk)