

Penwith Deanery Plan Summary

Vision & Mission Priorities

Fruitfulness and Sustainability in Church and Community Life in Penwith

Penwith, as much as anywhere in Cornwall, speaks of natural beauty and rooted communities alongside challenges as changing trends in social and economic life unsettle traditional patterns of life. For the Deanery, this requires responses that engage with the present, look forward to the future and sustain what has been valuable from the past.

Our circumstances require that we embrace both change and continuity and that we are thoughtful about what of our current life we carry into the future and what we let rest in our past. Trusting in God's generosity to us, we need to use wisely the gifts and talents we have been given and have hearts and minds open to sense the new possibilities prompted by God's presence with us.

- We want to celebrate the roots of our Christian tradition that have marked the landscape and decorated it with church buildings which speak of the continuing desire to worship and have places of stillness.
- We want to encourage interest in pilgrimage and in Celtic Christianity and the part played then and now by the historic churches of Penwith.
- We desire growth in the number and variety of worshipping communities, alongside a careful nurturing of existing worshipping communities.
- We desire to serve the needs of people in Penwith's towns and villages, responding particularly to the economic and social difficulties experienced by those of all ages. Our priority is to engage with people and community organisations to respond to the needs of families and of people struggling to make ends meet.
- We recognise that the gifts of God vested in the people of Penwith are a rich resource that need to be encouraged to blossom. Each church community needs both ordained and lay leaders equipped and empowered to lead and sustain church life.

Mission and Ministry Priorities

The Deanery Plan has agreed five particular areas on which to focus:

1. Discipleship and growing faith
2. The poor, schools & young people and community life
3. Buildings and money
4. Creation, pilgrimage and hospitality
5. Life giving leadership and diversity of calling

Pastoral Structure

There are currently ten parish groupings/clusters/benefices in Penwith Deanery. This Deanery plan is reorganizing this into two Groups (East and West) which will be the focus for worship, pastoral care, community service and outreach. The pattern of the worshipping life within the two Groups is to be based on partnership between ordained and lay people.

West Side

The vision of the **West Side** is for a Group Ministry with a Joint Church Council (JCC), organised into 3 benefices. The individual PCCs will continue to function alongside the Joint Council.

The six current benefices are:

- The Penlee Cluster
- Sancreed
- Gulval and Madron
- Towednack & Zennor
- The Lands End Churches
- The Penwith Pilgrims

reducing to three benefices:

- Penlee with Sancreed (Paul, Newlyn, St Mary with St Paul, St John the Baptist, St Creden)
- Land's End (St John the Baptist, St Morwetha, St Levan, St Sennen, St Buryan, St Just)

- **Gulval, Madron, Towednack & Zennor** (St Maddern, St Gulval, St Tewinock, St Senera)

This group ministry is seeking ever closer integration and team working in order to focus on their objectives. The JCC will be formed with the hope that, over time and as individual clusters and PCCs feel ready, the number of committees, councils and structures will be reduced and more work will be done in the JCC.

East Side

The **vision of the East Side** is for a Group Ministry with a Joint Church Council (JCC), organised into 3 benefices. The individual PCCs will continue to function alongside the Joint Council.

The four current benefices:

- **St Ives and Halsetown**
- **Mount's Bay Benefice**
- **Lelant and Carbis Bay**
- **Godrevy Benefice**

reducing to three benefices:

- **St Ives and Halsetown** (St Ia the Virgin, St John's-in-the-Fields)
- **Mount's Bay Benefice** (St Ludgvan & St Paul, All Saints, St Michael & St Piran, St Hilary)
- **Hayle Estuary Benefice** (St Anta and All Saints, St Uny, St Winnear, St Elwyn, St Felicitas, St Gwithian, St Erth)

Clergy and Staff

The Penwith plan incorporates a mixed economy of ministry.

The deanery will be led by a newly appointed Rural Dean, who will be an experienced team leader and will be foundational to the leading and implementing of the new plan.

Each of the six benefices will have a stipendiary vicar, supported by a team of self supporting ministers, pioneer ministers, and children and young families workers.

The plan currently includes the following salaried roles:

- 4 x Children and Young Families Workers
- Pioneer Minister for the Western Group
- Kingdom Enterprise Worker
- Growing Faith and Discipleship Coordinator
- Christian Heritage and Mission Worker
- Rural Poverty Officer
- Deanery Administrator

Funding and Finances

An important element of the deanery plan was ensuring that our costs of ministry accurately reflect what we are able to afford.

The deanery plan is based on the prayerful hope that levels of giving will return to the levels that they were before the pandemic, with a recognition that times have changed, and that for many the financial landscape now looks very different to how it did two or three years ago.

In order to support us in this, funds have been made available to us in the form of £120,000 per annum of lowest income communities funding as well as a £448,000 strategic mission investment from diocesan reserves.

These funds, alongside those that we can generously give, allow us to meet the indicative costs of our ministry.