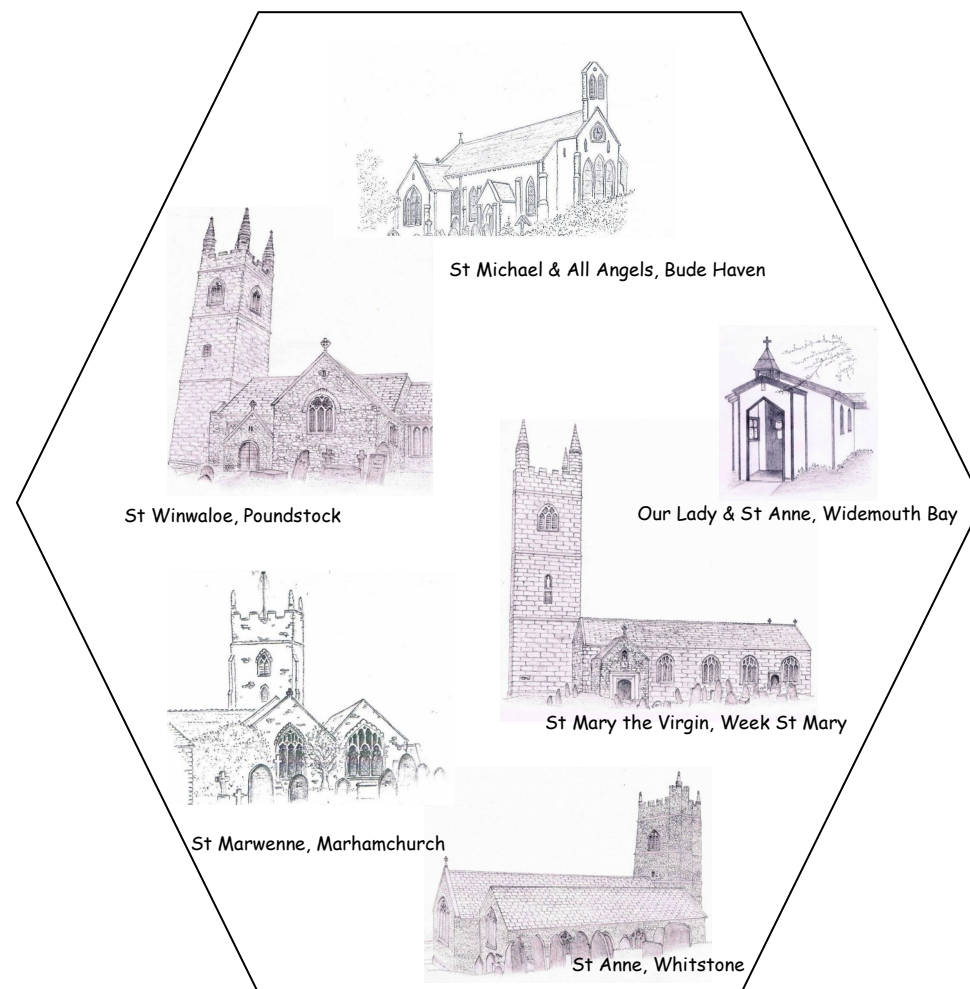


# Stratton Deanery Central Cluster

## Voices Together



Free

**JAN & FEB  
2021**

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## MAIN CONTACTS FOR OUR CLUSTER:

Please contact any of the following for information or enquiries about Anglican Church life in the Cluster:

### **Our Parish Priest & Rural Dean:**

Father David Barnes, The Rectory, The Glebe, Week St Mary, EX22 6UY Tel: 01288 341670 d.barnes645@outlook.com

### **Our Churchwardens:**

#### St Anne's, Whitstone:

Mervyn Collins: 01288 341598 Phyllis Walter: 01288 341699

#### St Marwenne's, Marhamchurch:

Rob Corney: 01288 359754 Angela Grills: 01288 361247

#### St Mary the Virgin, Week St Mary:

Lesley Booker: 01288 341221 Dick Sowerby: 01288 341348

#### St Michael's, Bude Haven:

#### Our Lady & St Anne's, Widemouth Bay:

Judy MacDonald: 01288 362254

#### St Winwaloe's, Poundstock:

Hilary Kenny: 01288 361504 Barry Smith: 01288 361716

**Stratton Deanery website:** [www.strattondeanery.co.uk/](http://www.strattondeanery.co.uk/)

### **Editor of *Voices Together*:**

Clare Hicks, Trelowen, Lynstone, Bude EX23 0LR.

01288 352726; [clare.hicks@virgin.net](mailto:clare.hicks@virgin.net)

Copy deadline for **March 2021** issue—  
by **Friday 19th February** please

### **ELECTRONIC COPIES OF *VOICES TOGETHER***

If you would like to receive a copy of this magazine please email Lesley Booker: [lesleybooker@gmail.com](mailto:lesleybooker@gmail.com)

## **NOT TOO LATE TO DONATE TO THE LOCAL AREA SOCIAL ACTION FUND**

Bude-Stratton Community Project (Neetside Community Centre) and Bude Coastal Community Team have partnered to establish a Bude-Stratton Social Action Fund. The Fund will provide small grants to organisations addressing the impacts of Coronavirus in the **wider Bude** area – such as food and fuel poverty, loneliness and mental health.

A Crowdfunder campaign to help raise money towards the Social Action Fund will go live on 1<sup>st</sup> December. If you'd like to donate towards the Social Action Fund, please search for 'Bude-Stratton Social Action Fund' on the Crowdfunder website from 1 December:

[www.crowdfunder.co.uk/search/projects](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/search/projects)

If you don't have access to a computer but would like to make a donation, please contact me:

Ian Saltern Community Projects Manager

Bude Coastal Communities Team

07932 306940 01288 356212

[community@budecoastalteam.org.uk](mailto:community@budecoastalteam.org.uk)

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADVERTISE IN THIS MAGAZINE  
PLEASE CONTACT HEATHER WHITLOCK ON 07771 964672

### **Sponsoring *Voices Together***

Please would you consider sponsoring our magazine? It is partly through the generosity of our readers that we are able to keep the magazine free of charge. Any amount, small or large, will be gratefully received. For more information please contact Heather Whitlock on 07771 964672 or Clare Hicks on 01288 352726.

### **RIP Margaret Gove**

The Editor has been informed that, sadly, Margaret Gove has passed away. She was a faithful member of St Michael's until moving to Cumbria some years ago.

### **St Marwenne's House Group**

The aim of the group is about growing in discipleship. It meets every Wednesday evening, currently on Zoom. Contact Janet Ward on 01409 255759 or email her at [janetmwuk@gmail.com](mailto:janetmwuk@gmail.com) for more details and a zoom invitation.

### **St Petrocs Society Christmas appeal**

St Petrocs is a Cornish charity working to reduce homelessness in the county. Their 2 centres—Breadline Centre in Penzance and Truro Resource Centre—have remained open throughout the pandemic. 600 individuals received help and support in the first 6 months this year. St Petrocs currently has 19 houses providing accommodation for 123 individuals. St Petrocs aims to increase the number of bed spaces available over the next 12 months.

St Petrocs has launched its Christmas appeal and it's not too late to donate. You can send your donation direct to St Petrocs (St Petrocs Winter Appeal, Peat House, Newham Road, Truro, TR1 2DP; cheques can be made out to St Petroc's Society); or donate online at [localgiving.org/winterappeal2020](http://localgiving.org/winterappeal2020).

If you still have an envelope from last month's magazine these can be returned to St Michael's or St Marwenne's when the churches are open.

There are a lot of calls on our purses at this time of year but please give what you can. Thank you.

*Clare Hicks*

## **PARISH NEWSLETTER**

Dear Friends

I write this letter prior to the Christmas festivities and there is no doubt this coming Christmas will be very different to that which we have experienced for many a year. Christmas by its very nature is a great time of expectation and hope and this year is no different with a COVID-19 vaccine on the near horizon giving great hope to many people.

We seem to have been preparing for Christmas for an eternity, not quite knowing how we will be able to celebrate this great feast. One of the things I'll miss the most is singing the great carols of Christmas. One of my favourite carols is "O little town of Bethlehem" especially the line "Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light". To me it expresses that a great hope has come into the world in the form of a baby named Jesus shedding an everlasting light. However no sooner will Christmas arrive than it seems to be disappearing into the far-flung corners of our memory.

Fast on the heels of the Christmas season comes the feast of Epiphany. It might be said that the feast of the Epiphany is a little bit like after the Lord Mayors Show, the only thing that is left to do is the clearing up.

Yet for the Greek and the Russian Orthodox Churches the feast of the Epiphany is given as great a precedence as Christmas Day. This doesn't mean that in the Eastern Churches the story of the Magi ranks above the birth of Jesus. It acts as a reminder to show that Epiphany is something much more than a simple story about the three Kings visiting the Christ Child.

The truth of the matter is simply this: as we move from Christmas to Epiphany, we move from an emphasis on the coming of Christ to his revelation of who and what Christ was.

The coming of Christ, which we celebrate on Christmas day and the revelation of Christ which we celebrate throughout

Epiphany are in a sense two aspects of the same truth; the incarnation, the fact that God became man! The same is true for the Resurrection and the Ascension. They are both aspects of the Easter truth.

The story of the Magi became attached to the feast of Epiphany because it was the first revelation story. The gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh pointed to who Jesus was and what he was going to be, gold for Kingship, frankincense for priesthood and Myrrh for sacrifice.

Throughout the Epiphany season the gospel readings show a gradual unfolding of the truth about Christ. We see this through his baptism, the calling of his disciples, the signs and wonders which Jesus performed, the wisdom he exhibits and the revelation of what God the Father is like.

Most people put the Crib scene away with the Christmas decorations but in many ways, it makes sense to leave the Crib erected throughout Epiphany. It's a reminder that Epiphany is not a season in isolation, it is in fact an extension of Christmas. It reminds us of the great mystery that God became man.

As we move into January, we stand at the beginning of Epiphany; let's not make the mistake of thinking that it is an event after the Lord Mayor's Show. Let us not think of Christmas as something which is past but a thing that is continually with us shedding its everlasting light on everyone. As we have celebrated God becoming man at Christmas, let us view Epiphany as a period of God unfolding more and more of himself to each us.

May I wish you all a happy and holy new year

David

### **Week St Mary HUBS House Group**

This group is now meeting on Thursday mornings at 9.30 on zoom. Everyone is most welcome to join us. Please call Sue Dickinson on 01288 341016 if you would like to receive the zoom connection.

### **St Marwenne's Marhamchurch**

Well, a happy, and healthy New Year for you all. I wish to thank all those who have been instrumental in bringing church into our homes, especial thanks to Lesley Booker for working so hard with what must have been an uphill struggle, and a steep learning curve.

A small group managed to bring us an excellent Carol Concert, and thanks to those involved, most welcome.

I thought I would share with you a poem that my daughter wrote in my Christmas card. It covers most of what we've all had to cope with last year.

If nothing else, I feel 2020 has made us all re-evaluate what is important in our lives. Family and friends come top of my list, and our faith has helped get us through.

Janet Ward

**2020**

### **A poem by Ruth Young**

It was the 24<sup>th</sup> March when lockdown began,  
We followed Captain Tom, what a wonderful man,  
A beacon of hope and fresh air he has been,  
in the record books twice, then knighted by the Queen.

We watched TikTok, did exercise in our front room.  
Baked loads of goodies and quizzes on Zoom.  
People came together to give support where they could.  
Stay home, save lives, slogan was understood.

We had plenty of sunshine and whipped coffee cream,  
washed all our shopping till it was sparkling clean.  
VE celebrations, confined to our lawn,  
Stayed home all day until the next dawn.

Oh, what a year 2020 has been, who would've predicted Covid 19?  
It's a year we certainly will not forget.  
We danced on our step and clapped for NHS.  
Did the koala challenge and taskmaster days.  
Eat out to help out, HANDS FACE SPACE!

just as Jesus did. I am sure Mary would have liked him to stay around their home.

Before we know where we are it is Ash Wednesday on the 17th and we are faced with the penitential time of Lent. Jesus went in to the desert and fasted for 40 days. Maybe this year we could give up one food that we love as well as spending more time in reading and contemplation. We are supposed to be Christians not 'half hearted ones'.

This Zoom thing has certainly helped us to join with others. I have even had three talks on Thomas Merton in America and been able to join in the discussion. My family are doing Zoom on Boxing day, 41 of us. Thanks to Lesley [Booker] we have been able to keep in touch with Father David.

Probably because I have been around a long time I am enjoying being in this lock down period and I was pleased to have a letter from one of my grandchildren. She has 3 children, the oldest is 5, and my granddaughter writes 'I am quite enjoying this time when I have not got to be socialising'. Maybe it is in our genes as my Grandmother never went out (she did have a large garden). I often relate, when my father was ending his days here I said 'would you like me to get the car out and go down to see the sea?'. He had spent his life with boats. He replied 'I have seen the sea' Contentment with our lot helps, or is it accepting crosses?

Jean-Pierre de Caussade wrote a book *Self-Abandonment to Divine Providence*. The translation of 2013 calls it *The Sacrament of the Present Moment*. Reading it I thought how one of my Grandson talks about 'mindfulness' and he tells me 'when you wash dishes enjoy the warmth, see the beauty of the bubbles and wash each dish with care' I think this is what Caussade taught, 'being aware'. I quote 'all we have to do is to receive what we are given and allow ourselves to be acted upon'.

Prayer:

Dear God, we ask help in our acceptance of the common tasks. As we begin this new year may we grow in Love for all thy creatures.

Forgive us.

Enable us to be moulded by our crosses that we may be more like your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen

Hilda Walter

### Jan & Feb details for "Zoom" Services at time of going to print

All the details below are **subject to change** depending on circumstances prevailing at the time and to the internet being willing.

**Every Wednesday at 9 am** there will be Morning Prayer on zoom. Please contact Lesley Booker if you wish to be included on the zoom service contact list: [lesleybooker@gmail.com](mailto:lesleybooker@gmail.com)

There will be a **service in at least one church each Sunday** in the month which will also be available on zoom—for details please see pages 14 & 15.

### *Voices Together* during the Coronavirus pandemic



As the churches still have limited opening, there are various places where you will be able to collect your magazine. David Williams has kindly offered his house, Rock Haven, Upton, as a collection point and you can also collect one from the Crescent PO and shop in Bude, the Beach House shop at Widemouth and usually in the village shops.

The magazine will also be available on the *Voices Together* facebook page and St Michael's facebook page and also on the Stratton Deanery website. Lesley Booker will also send out as a pdf attachment to emails (see bottom of page 2 for Lesley's details).

Any problems with obtaining a copy please contact either Heather Whitlock (07771 964672) or Clare Hicks (01288 352726)

Why not lend your copy of this magazine to a neighbour or friend when you have finished with it?



<p><b>MOTHER* &amp; TODDLER COFFEE POT CLUB</b>          Meets every Tuesday 10am—12pm in          Week St Mary Parish Hall. Contact          Emma Woolfe or Kathy Jeffrey          (Search Coffee cebook for POTS in Facebook Groups)          (*Grannies, Grandads, Carers etc)          All Welcome</p>	<p><b>C A M E O</b></p> <p><b>Come And Meet Each Other</b></p> <p><b>Next meeting:</b>          2-4- pm  <b>Contact:</b>  <i>Sue Dickenson</i>  <b>01288 341016</b></p>
<p><b>ABS Chiropody</b>          Anne Richardson MSSCh/MBChA          Chiropodist/Podiatrist          Tel: 01288 341 941</p> <p>Surgery at:          Hartham Lodge,          Week St Mary,          Near Bude          EX22 6XJ</p> <p>Diabetic Foot care          Nails Treatments          Callus &amp; Corns          Foot Pain          Verrucaeas</p> <p><a href="http://www.sites.google.com/view/abschiropody/">www.sites.google.com/view/abschiropody/</a></p> <p> </p>	<p><b>Widemouth Bay Summerhouse Activities</b></p> <p><b>We meet on the 2nd &amp; 4th Friday of each month</b></p> <p><b>Join us and off load any problems, have a cup of tea and cake. Sometimes we play a game. Whatever we do it gets us out of our house to enjoy time with friends.</b></p> <p><b>Ring Hilda on 01288 361323 for more details</b></p>

### Red Letter Days: January 2021

A new year, a new beginning in which, with the birth of Jesus, we will learn more of how he lived and try to allow him to live in us. The year begins with The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus on the 1st. This was according to the Jewish tradition. We forget that Jesus was born into a Jewish family and we often portray him as 'blonde with blue eyes'.

The Epiphany is on the 6th with the arrival of 'some wise men' (Matt 2 v 1) who came from the east where they had seen a star and followed it. We have turned the men into Kings and we put them in the stable, Matthew talks about them going to the House. Sometimes I think we spend too much time looking at details. If we wrote our life stories I expect there would be some things that we remember correctly and some not. The New Testament was written after Our Lord had gone from sight. (Any of our Priests could tell you how long after ... I have forgotten).

We move on to the 10th when John was baptising people who wanted to repent and live a new life. Jesus asked to be baptised and we have the story of how a voice from heaven came to him declaring 'You are my beloved son'. It is sad that often in life we have times when we are very aware of the spiritual world and are almost frightened by it. Why should we think that God is not going to speak to us? We are beloved sons and daughters. In our baptism we are made 'A child of God and an inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven.'

The 25th is the Conversion of St Paul. Here was some one who never saw Jesus and yet he was so overwhelmed by 'a vision' that his whole life was changed. We have had our lives disrupted by the 'virus'. It has given us time to see where we can change our lives and to think. I pray that we rise from this period more ready to be 'children of God'

### February 2021

The presentation of Christ in the Temple is on the 2nd. It may be celebrated on the Sunday Jan 31st. Again this was according to the Jewish rites of that time. We call it Candlemas and celebrate with lots of candles. The readings tell us how Simeon held the child and was aware that this child was very special. I believe that every child is special, that as parents we have to do our best and allow them to 'leave the nest'

### *A New Year's postcard from Hayling Island*

*A very happy New Year and may it be special. Christmas, at the time of writing has yet to happen, and it is certainly promising to be different. We expect to spend it with Rachael, but Stuart will be Paramedic-ing on the Isle of Wight. The Oxford branch of the family includes Ellen who is home from Leicester Uni where Covid is busy, so we have all decided to stay apart. What a party there will be one day!!*

*A number of you had a Christmas letter, so I don't wish to repeat it. Do share yours if you wish, but I will repeat the expedition news from Chichester, as it is most enjoyable. We continue to explore Hampshire, and recently discovered Bosham Hoe in Chichester harbour. You can drive around the edge of the harbour at LOW TIDE..... many are washed into deeper water! It adds much to an outing to Chichester and is charming.*

*The trees continue to charm us although have now shed their clothes. The joy of pale green leaves will soon follow.*

*The Roman Palace near Chichester is also a superb visit, which we are looking forward to revisiting when things eventually re-open. We do hope the Spring will see a general reopening, and many of you may wish to acquaint or re-acquaint with Hampshire.*

*Wishing you all a much improved 2021 and we look forward to a possible visit maybe in our mature motor home. Bye until next time.*

*Peter and Mary.*

### **Meet 'n' Eat Next Soup and Sweet Lunches**



Held in WSM Parish Hall at  
12.30pm  
on the  
first  
Mon-  
each  
August)

day of  
month (not

**Everyone is very  
welcome**

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### **STRATTON**

### **DEANERY BOOK CLUB**



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reading:

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## PROPOSED REORGANISATION OF LOCAL BENEFICES

The following is extracted from a letter from Simon Cade,  
Secretary to Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee, dated  
2nd December 2020

### MISSION AND PASTORAL MEASURE 2011

#### STRATTON DEANERY

The Bishop of Truro has asked us to prepare a draft  
Pastoral Scheme in respect of pastoral proposals  
affecting Stratton deanery.



I attach a copy of the draft Scheme and a glossary  
of terms used. I am sending a copy to all the statutory interested par-  
ties, as the Mission and Pastoral Measure requires, and any others with  
an interest in the proposals.

Anyone may make representations **for** or **against** all or any part or parts  
of the draft Scheme (please include the reasons for your views) prefer-  
ably by email or by post to the Church Commissioners at the following  
address no later than midnight on **Monday 18 January 2021**.

Rex Andrew

Church Commissioners

Church House

Great Smith Street

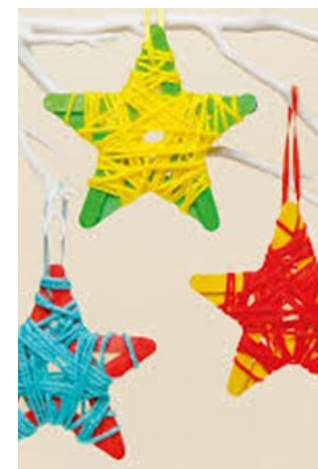
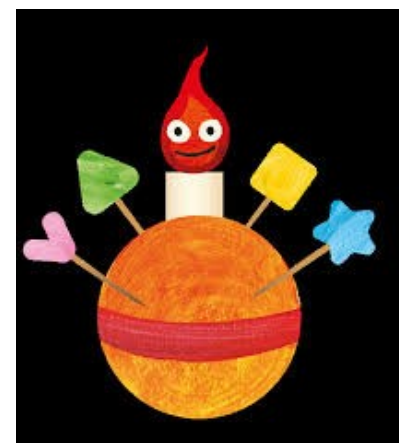
London SW1P 3AZ

(email: [rex.andrew@churchofengland.org](mailto:rex.andrew@churchofengland.org)) (tel: 020 7898 1743)

If they have not acknowledged receipt of your representation before  
this date, please ring or e-mail them to ensure it has been received.  
For administrative purposes, a petition will be classed as a single repre-  
sentation and they will only correspond with the sender of the petition,  
if known, or otherwise the first signatory for whom they can identify an  
address - "the primary petitioner".

If the Commissioners do not receive representations against the draft  
Scheme, they will make the Scheme and it will come into effect as it  
provides. A copy of the completed Scheme will be sent to you together  
with a note of its effective date.

If the Commissioners receive any representations against the draft  
Scheme, they will send them, and any representations supporting the  
draft Scheme, to the Bishop whose views will be sought. Individual rep-  
resentors and the primary petitioner will then receive copies of the  
Commissioners' correspondence with the Bishop (including copies of all  
the representations). They and individual petitioners may comment fur-  
ther. Copies of all of the representations received and associated cor-  
respondence will normally be published on the Commissioners' website  
if the matter needs to be considered by them.





## Simeon and Anna - The Light of the World

In the church's calendar, Candlemas, or the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, is celebrated on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, or on the nearest Sunday. On this day, we remember the occasion when Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to present him before God. Whilst there two faithful people, Simeon and Anna, testified as to who Jesus really was. Simeon said that Jesus would be 'The light of the world'. Different sources of light are used to help our understanding of its meaning.



A torch - we use it to show us the way in the dark, just like Jesus, through his example and teaching shows us how God wants us to be and to live.

Birthday candles - there is a mood of joy that surrounds celebrations. Jesus can bring joy into people's lives through knowing what Jesus has done for us through his life, death and resurrection.

The Nightlight - its light gives us comfort and reassurance in the darkness just as Jesus gives us comfort, hope and reassurance when we have sad and difficult times

### Our song is

'Jesus, Light of the World' The words can be found on YouTube. Also 'This little light of mine'.

Activities are centred around light

Light giving sun -with yellow loops of paper

Lanterns

Candles - Many different ways of creating these

Stained glass lightbulb

Cut paper Christingles

Stars - Winding coloured wool around cardboard shapes

### Prayer:

Lord, thank you that your light shines on your people throughout the world and throughout history. Help us to shine, loving each other through thick and thin. Amen

Mary Tilzey

Those making representations should indicate whether they would like an opportunity to speak to the Commissioners regarding their representations in the event the Commissioners decide a hearing should be held. Their meetings are normally held at Church House, Westminster, but during the current circumstances they may need to be held virtually via 'Zoom'. If a hearing is held, they will let you know the arrangements for attending (in person or virtually) and details will also appear on their website. Otherwise, if a hearing is not to be held, the case will be considered in private and you will be informed accordingly.

When the Commissioners acknowledge representations they will let individual representors (and the primary petitioner) know the next few dates of their Committee's meetings. They will confirm the actual date of any hearing nearer the time. The Commissioners will decide if the draft Scheme should proceed when they consider all the representations on the basis of a paper prepared by their staff and any points raised at the meeting. If the Commissioners do so decide, any representor or petitioner against the draft Scheme may seek leave from the Privy Council to appeal against the decision.

You will be informed of the Commissioners' decision and the reasons for it.

Please see [www.churchofengland.org/consultation](http://www.churchofengland.org/consultation) for further information about the procedure.

\*\*\*\*\*

The PCC secretaries will ensure that the required Notices will be displayed and Announcements made at as many services as possible at every parish church, chapel of ease or licensed place of worship where a service is held during the notice period (including 'streamed' services).

### **SUMMARY OF MAIN PROVISIONS OF DRAFT SCHEME (NOT PART OF THE DRAFT SCHEME)**

This draft scheme provides for:

- i. The dissolution of the five benefices of the Boscastle & Tintagel Group of Churches; Kilkhampston with Morwenstow; Poughill; the North Kernow Benefice; and the Week St Mary Circle of Parishes and for the sale proceeds relating to the former parsonage House of the benefice of Poughill to be transferred to the Truro Diocesan Pastoral Account; and
- ii. The creation of three new benefices of: a) North Kernow; the Bude Coast & Country Benefice; and c) the Boscastle Group of Churches; together with the appointment of their first incumbents, the parsonage houses of the new benefices and for the future patronage arrangements for the new benefices in the diocese of Truro.

**DRAFT  
PASTORAL SCHEME**

This Scheme is made by the Church Commissioners this day of 20 in pursuance of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011, the Right Reverend Philip, Bishop of Truro, having consented thereto.

**Dissolution of benefices and disposal of proceeds of sale of former parsonage house**

1. (1) The five benefices of the Boscastle and Tintagel Group of Churches; Kilkhampton with Morwenstow; Poughill; The North Kernow Benefice; and the Week Saint Mary Circle of Parishes in the diocese of Truro shall be dissolved.

(2) The moneys held by the Truro Diocesan Board of Finance Limited arising from the disposal of the former parsonage house of the benefice of Poughill shall be paid into the Truro Diocesan Pastoral Account.

**Creation of new benefice of North Kernow**

2. (1) A new benefice which shall be named "The Benefice of North Kernow", which shall be a rectory, shall be created in the diocese of Truro, and the area of the new benefice shall comprise the parish of Kilkhampton, the parish of Launcells, the parish of Morwenstow, the parish of Poughill and the parish of Stratton, which parishes shall continue distinct.

(2) The new benefice and its constituent parishes shall belong to the archdeaconry of Bodmin and the deanery of Stratton.

(3) If immediately before this Scheme comes into operation the Reverend Teresa Lorraine Folland holds an ecclesiastical office in any of the benefices referred to in clause 1(1) hereof she shall be the first incumbent of the new benefice.

(4) The parsonage house of The North Kernow Benefice (known as 5, Cormorant Close, Bude, EX23 8FJ) shall without any conveyance or other assurance be vested in the incumbent of the new benefice in her corporate capacity as her official residence.

(5) Subject to clause 2(3) hereof, the right of presentation to the new benefice shall be exercised alternately, with the first turn belonging to His Royal Highness Charles, Prince of Wales, in right of his Duchy of Cornwall; and the second turn shall be exercised jointly by the Bishop of Truro in his corporate capacity; the Truro Diocesan Board of Patronage; the Church Society Trust, whose registered office is at Church Society, Ground Floor, Centre Block, Hille Business Estate, 132, Saint Albans Road, Watford, WD24 4AE; and the Church Pastoral Aid Society Patronage Trust, whose registered office is at Sovereign Court One (Unit 3), Sir William Lyons Road, University of Warwick Science Park, Coventry, CV4 7EZ.

**Creation of The Bude Coast and Country Benefice**

3. (1) A new benefice which shall be named "The Bude Coast and Country Benefice", which shall be a rectory, shall be created in the diocese of Truro, and the area of the new benefice shall comprise the parish of Bude Haven, the parish of Marhamchurch, the parish of Poundstock, the parish of Saint Mary Week and the parish of Whitstone, which parishes shall continue distinct.

(2) The new benefice and its constituent parishes shall belong to the archdeaconry of Bodmin and the deanery of Stratton.

(3) If immediately before this Scheme comes into operation the Reverend David Keith Barnes holds an ecclesiastical office in any of the benefices referred to in clause 1(1) hereof he shall be the first incumbent of the new benefice.

(4) The parsonage house of the benefice of the Week Saint Mary Circle of parishes

**GREENFINGERS— in the garden in January &  
February**



If there was anything positive about last year's invasion by Covid-19, it was the huge surge of people's interest in gardening. When we return to any sort of normality (whatever that might be), continuation of this interest will

be of enormous benefit. Many people have no proper garden but as long as you have some outdoor space, vegetables of all kinds grow successfully in containers. You'll need a deep pot for carrots and leeks as their roots are long but medium-size containers are suitable for most green vegetables. If you have just a concrete path or patio, think about raised beds and cold frames. Any handyman could produce a raised bed for far less cost than some of those advertised. *Greenfingers* would not be without the two large raised beds which contain carrots, kale, winter cabbage and chard. Winter lettuce fills several containers, and to step outside and pick fresh greens is a blessing.

Be prepared for any sort of weather during these two difficult months. Never be without fleece and some kind of cover such as cloches. Torrential rain is capable of lifting bulbs out of their pots.

No more cutting back now. Having said that, if Wisteria has got a bit out of hand, especially crossed branches, judiciously prune these out but don't be too severe or you may have fewer flowers later. If the soil around Daphnes is very wet, it is essential that you fork-in some horticultural grit. Waterlogging can kill Daphne, so be sure to save this fragrant winter-bloomer.

Gardens are in a messy state now but don't apologise for yours. Birds and insects make use of it, and nature is looking after itself. Just remove any fallen leaves from the lawn, then spike the grass. Apart from that, try not to walk on the lawn if it is wet or frozen. Make sure the hosepipe is empty and cover the outside tap if we have freezing weather.

Now forget all active gardening and plan your exciting garden for the coming season, which will be here very soon.

*Greenfingers* wishes all readers the very best for this New Year.

*And Winter, slumbering in the open air  
Wears on his smiling face a dream of Spring*

Samuel Taylor Coleridge

## **Persecuted Christians in Myanmar.**

Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, in South East Asia, has a population of about 54 million. Of these some 8%, or 4.5 million are Christian, 5% are Muslim, 2% are local beliefs, and the remaining majority 85% profess Theravada Buddhism. The Buddhist Burman ethnic majority dominates and oppresses the other tribal groups, many of whom are Christian.

Myanmar has been governed by a repressive military dictatorship since 1962. During this time they have carried out a systematic persecution of all non Burman tribes, especially when they were not Buddhist. These tribes, notably Chin, Karen, Kachin and Naga, often living in the hill country, have suffered continuously from these violent campaigns. The more recent persecution of Rohingya Muslims has been widely publicised, being loudly condemned by the UNHCR, and international news agencies. Somehow the plight of Christians, who suffer similar persecution seems to have been largely ignored. Sadly it continues still today.

Hundreds of thousands have been displaced, often by aerial bombardment. Tens of thousands have had to flee and are living in IDP (Internally Displaced Persons) camps where food and healthcare are scarce.

Thankfully in 2015, under a new government, a change of policy has brought greater hope for the future. Sadly it appears that the military are still very much in control and persecution of ethnic and religious minorities continues, albeit to a lesser extent than before.

In spite of this, growth in Christian Churches over the last two decades has accelerated, largely as a reaction to the growth of Buddhist nationalism among the majority population. Many Bible schools exist throughout the country, and indigenous church planters and missionaries boldly proclaim the gospel. Little progress is made among the ethnic Burman people, but in the ethnic tribes who have suffered so much, churches are growing. With more elections coming up next year, we can only hope and pray that the situation will calm down, and soon the country will become a more peaceful, tolerant and inclusive place.

### **Prayers:**

Give praise and thanks to God for the growth in the churches in Burma.

Pray that the persecution of Christians and other minorities will diminish and soon cease altogether.

Pray that the new elections next year will usher in a strong government who will stand up to the army and be able to curtail their persecution of the minority groups.

Pray that those in the IDP camps will have better conditions and will soon be able to return to their tribal homes.

Ask God to comfort and support all those who have suffered violence and trauma over the previous decades, giving them strength and peace in their hearts and in their faith.

Give thanks that Bibles are available in the main Towns at a price, but pray that Bibles will freely reach believers who need them in remote villages.

*Michael Davey*

(known as The Rectory, The Glebe, Week Saint Mary, Holsworthy, EX22 6UY) shall without any conveyance or other assurance be vested in the incumbent of the new benefice in his corporate capacity as his official residence.

(5) Subject to clause 3(3) hereof, the right of presentation to the new benefice shall on each occasion be exercised jointly by the Bishop of Truro in his corporate capacity; the parochial church council of the parish of Bude Haven; the College of the Guardians of the Holy House of Walsingham, whose registered office is at The College, Walsingham, Norfolk, NR22 6EF; the Master, Fellows and Scholars of Sidney Sussex College in the University of Cambridge; and the Guild of All Souls, whose registered office is at Saint Andrew's Parish Centre, 2, Saint Andrew's Road, Willesden Green, London, NW10 2QS.

### **Creation of new benefice of The Boscastle Group of Churches**

4. (1) A new benefice which shall be named "The Benefice of The Boscastle Group of Churches", which shall be a rectory, shall be created in the diocese of Truro, and the area of the new benefice shall comprise the parish of Forrabury and Minster, the parish of Jacobstow with Warbstow and Treneglos, the parish of Otterham, Saint Juliot and Lesnewth, the parish of Saint Gennys, the parish of Tintagel and the parish of Trevalga, which parishes shall continue distinct.

(2) The new benefice and its constituent parishes shall belong to the archdeaconry of Bodmin and the deanery of Stratton.

(3) If immediately before this Scheme comes into operation the Reverend Heather Jane Aston holds an ecclesiastical office in any of the benefices referred to in clause 1(1) hereof she shall be the first incumbent of the new benefice.

(4) The parsonage house of the benefice of the Boscastle and Tintagel Group of Churches (known as The Rectory, Forrabury, Boscastle, PL35 0DJ) shall without any conveyance or other assurance be vested in the incumbent of the new benefice in her corporate capacity as her official residence.

(5) Subject to clause 4(3) hereof, the right of presentation to the new benefice shall on each occasion be exercised jointly by the Bishop of Truro in his corporate capacity; the Truro Diocesan Board of Patronage; the Dean and Canons of the Queen's Free Chapel of Saint George within Her Castle of Windsor; and the Right Honourable Albert Clarence Eliot, Earl of Saint Germans, care of The Estate Office, Port Eliot, Saint Germans, Saltash, PL12 5ND.

### **Assistant curates: consequential provision**

5. If immediately before this Scheme comes into operation any person holds an office of assistant curate (however described) in any of the benefices referred to in clause 1(1) hereof he, she or they shall as consequence of the dissolution of the said benefices effected by the Scheme hold such office or offices subject to the same terms of service in one or more of the new benefices as the Bishop shall direct.

### **Coming into operation of this Scheme**

6. This Scheme shall come into operation upon the first day of the month following the date of it being made by the Church Commissioners.

**Notes by the Diocesan Office (not part of the draft scheme):** The rationale behind the diocesan proposals is as follows: **The proposed reorganisation is in line with the deanery plan, which was adopted by the deanery synod on 11 September 2018. This plan was to reduce the number of stipendiary posts in the deanery to three (plus a house-for-duty post) and to create three new benefices to reflect this change. A conventional district was created in November 2018 and is composed of all the parishes in the deanery. This has enabled three stipendiary clergy to be appointed across existing benefice boundaries. The deanery is now in a position to create the proposed three new benefices, and to make the conventional district redundant.**



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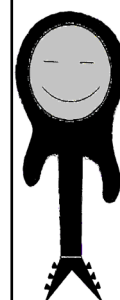
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**Zoom services:** for details of zoom services scheduled for Jan & Feb in the cluster, please see page 5.

**IF we are able to open the churches, below are the Sunday & Wednesday services which will be held in church, some of which will also be available on zoom** (internet willing) for those who cannot be present at the services. If you would like to join in by zoom and are not already on the list, please contact Lesley Booker: lesleybooker@gmail.com

### SERVICES FOR JANUARY

DATE	READINGS	TIME	SERVICE	CHURCH	LEADER
Sunday 3rd	Isaiah 60: 1—6	9.30 am	Holy Communion	BH	LWL
Epiphany	Psalm 72:1-7.10-14 Ephesians 3: 1-12 Matthew 2: 1-12	9.30 am	All Age Worship	WSM	
Wednesday 6th		10.00 am	Holy Communion	WB	
Sunday 10th	Genesis: 1—15	9.30 am	Holy Communion	M	LWL
Baptism of Christ	Psalm 29	9.30 am	Morning Prayer	P	
	Acts 19: 1—7 Mark: 1: 4—11	11.15 am	Holy Communion	W	
Wednesday 13th		10.00 am	Holy Communion	BH	
Sunday 17th	1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]	9.30 am	Holy Communion	BH	WSM
2nd Sunday of Epiphany	Psalm 139:1-5.12-17 Revelation 5:1-10 OR (RCL) 1 Corinthians 6:12-20	11.15 am	Holy Communion	WSM	
Wednesday 20th		10.00 am	Holy Communion	WB	
Sunday 24th	Genesis 14:17-20	9.30 am	Holy Communion	P	LWL
3rd Sunday of Epiphany	Psalm 128	9.30 am	Morning Prayer	W	
	Revelation 19: 6—10 John 2: 1—11	11.15 am	Holy Communion	M	

### SERVICES FOR JANUARY continued

DATE	READINGS	TIME	SERVICE	CHURCH	LEADER
Wednesday 27th		10.00 am	Holy Communion	BH	
Sunday 31st	Malachi 3: 1—5	10.30 am	Benefice	WSM	
Presentation of Christ in the Temple	Psalm 24:[1-6] 7 – 10 Hebrews 2:14-end Luke 2:22-40		Holy Communion		
Candlemas					
<b>SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY</b>					
Wednesday 3rd		10.00 am	Holy Communion	WB	
Sunday 7th	Proverbs 8:1. 22-31	9.30 am	Holy Communion	BH	LWL
2nd Sunday before Lent	Psalm 104:25-37 Colossians 1:15-20 John 1: 1-14	9.30 am	All Age Worship	WSM	
Wednesday 10th		10.00 am	Holy Communion	BH	
Sunday 14th	2 Kings 2:1-12	9.30 am	Holy Communion	M	LWL
Sunday next before Lent	Psalm 50: 1-6	9.30 am	Morning Prayer	P	
	2 Corinthians 4: 3-6 Mark 9: 2—9	11.15 am	Holy Communion	W	
Wednesday 17th		10.00 am	Holy Communion	WB	
Ash Wednesday					
Sunday 21st	Genesis 9:8-17	9.30 am	Holy Communion	BH	WSM
1st Sunday of Lent	Psalm 25:1-10 1 Peter 3:18-end Mark 1: 9-15	11.15 am	Holy Communion	WSM	
Wednesday 24th		10.00 am	Holy Communion	BH	
Sunday 28th	Genesis 17:1-7.15-16	9.30 am	Holy Communion	P	LWL
2nd Sunday of Lent	Psalm 22:22-30	9.30 am	Morning Prayer	W	
	Romans 4:13-end Mark 8:31-end	11.15 am	Holy Communion	M	