

OUR NEWS

JUNE 2016

2016 PROVES DIFFICULT AS MMF CALL LOW FOR FIRST QUARTER

Parishes thanked for 2015's results but more hard work needed this year if diocese is to avoid deficit



Following last year's rise in the MMF call to 28 per cent, the diocese ended 2015 with a surplus of around £658,000. But this figure doesn't equate to money in the bank. The total includes a £300,000 underspend on property repairs, which will need to be made up, and a £358,000 movement in the pension liability, which must now be included on the balance sheet.

At the Diocesan Synod in May, Mike Sturgess, Chairman of the Truro Diocesan Board of Finance, told members that

while it was clear parishes had made a tremendous effort and should be thanked, the news for this year was not as rosy with a £1.15 million deficit likely at the end of 2016 if contributions continued at the January to April level.

For the first four months of 2016 the collection rate, against budget, was ten per cent lower than the same period last year, a financial shortfall of £382,359.

While the Deanery consultations around the way MMF is calculated may be partially responsible for the drop with parishes contributing in a different way, the diocese's costs continue as before with monthly expenditure needing to be met.

Mr Sturgess, pictured, said: "While 2015 was very encouraging and we are hugely grateful for all parishes' efforts in rising to the 28 per cent challenge, 2016 is more worrying. We've made a good start on the journey to financial stability but there is still a long way to go."

GO FOR GOLD WITH GREEN CHURCH KERNOW AWARDS

The diocese has re-launched its environmental awards as Green Church Kernow Awards.

Churches are invited to take part in the scheme which could see them awarded Bronze, Silver or Gold for their efforts to 'Care for Creation'. Successful churches will receive a certificate and a door sticker to display and those achieving Gold will receive their certificates from Bishop Tim at Diocesan Synod.

JOIN THE SCHEME

<http://tinyurl.com/hnrul58>

OUR NEW WEBSITE

The diocese has launched its new **website** and **Information Area** and we have produced a user guide to help you find your way around while it's all new.

The guide will provide details as to what you will find where from clergy and parish information to secure and what to do if you need access to a password protected area.

We are also asking churches to make sure their Church Near You profiles are up to date as there will be developments with the Directory Live in the coming months.

USER GUIDE

<http://tinyurl.com/hrovkrh>

BISHOP'S LETTER

“ In May the Diocesan Synod agreed Confidence in the Gospel, a Development Plan for the Diocese. As you will see the plan is an ambitious one and we hope it will build on the very good work being done right across the diocese as we work towards our vision of Discovering God's Kingdom, Growing the Church.”

BISHOP TIM

The plan will need lots of resources and we are now working to make sure they are in place so that we can then take some of the bold new initiatives that are outlined. However the first priority in the plan is that we call one another to prayer. I hope therefore you might consider how you pray personally and corporately. How for example do you use prayer in your meetings? Do you simply say a prayer at the beginning or are there ways we can ensure prayer infuses all that we do.

We are holding a day of prayer on September 3 this year at St Petroc's Bodmin from 12 noon until 4pm. This will be an interactive day and enable us to experience different ways of praying and to wait on God. I do encourage you to come to this and invite as many as you can to come and pray with us.

The other major items in the Development Plan will be developed during this coming year and you will hear more about them. Confidence in the Gospel is crucial for all of us as we seek to respond to the God who calls us and is faithful. God calls each and every one of us by name and he makes us his own. How do we respond to that call and to that love which is so generous? This plan is ambitious because we believe God wants us to be ambitious for the Gospel. This plan is rigorous because we believe we are ultimately accountable to God and we need to be accountable to one



another. This plan is and will be costly not only or even primarily in terms of money but in terms of our own energy and commitment.

It is our responsibility to share the good news with others and to discover ways to connect with those who at present are unaffected by the news that God loves them.

I encourage you to read Confidence in the Gospel, discuss it and your response to it and if you would like help, or resources to help you in considering the implications of it, do please be in touch with us.

“Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are competent of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our competence is from God, who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of letter but of spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”
(2 Corinthians chapter 3 vv 4 – 6).

READ THE PLAN

<http://tinyurl.com/z58resv>

DAY OF PRAYER REQUEST FOR ANGLICAN CENTRE

This year the Anglican Centre in Rome celebrated its Golden Jubilee. It is a vital link with the Roman Catholic Church in the Vatican. The centre has asked for a day of prayer on May 29, and on June 14 the Choral Evensong at Westminster Abbey will also celebrate the Golden Jubilee. It is hoped that the preacher will be the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Centre has appealed for a retiring collection in our churches to enable its work to continue and a special prayer has been issued to use.

MORE INFORMATION

W www.anglicancentreinrome.org

E canonmalcolm@gmail.com

SOWING THE SEEDS AT THE ROYAL CORNWALL SHOW

Churches from across Cornwall will be 'sowing the seeds' at the Royal Cornwall Show in June.

Starting the night before the show opens, there will be the annual Eve of Show service in the main showground from 6.30pm on Wednesday, June 8. Afterwards there will be a pasty reception for all who attend at the Churches Together Tent (Stand 1). The Diocese's Weddings' Team will also be on hand in the Wedding Marquee (Pitch 104) to talk to couples thinking about their big day, providing information and advice.

MORE INFORMATION

<http://tinyurl.com/hxk2o4x>

CHURCHLIVE COMES TO DEVORAN THIS SUNDAY

Devoran's church will be broadcasting live via Periscope on Sunday as part of the national ChurchLive project.

TUNE IN

<https://twitter.com/ChurchLive>

<http://tinyurl.com/ok8lv7m>

MISSION CASE STUDY

FROM CORNWALL TO AFRICA: GIVING THE GIFT OF LITERACY



An innovative project encouraging parents to talk to their babies is raising literacy rates in Tanzania and could soon be used across many developing countries.

The brainchild of David and Jan Townend, two retired teachers now living in Illogan Parish, ZUMM was developed after the couple noticed that mothers in Tanzania were not speaking to their babies.

Jan says that through their work in the country as teacher trainers they knew there was a big issue with illiteracy and after talking with colleagues and local people, the couple realised that the language environment of Tanzanian babies was very poor. "Talking to a baby is learned behaviour. It seemed parents didn't know how important it was to talk to their babies, or how to do it."

Using contacts built up over four years of living and working in Tanzania, the couple were able to take their idea to the government. ZUMM, or Talk to Your Baby, began life as a two day workshop sponsored by the Ministry of Education.

The couple began pre-pilot work with families in Mvumi, the community in which they had first lived. "We knew two churches there, and the people knew and trusted us," said Jan. "We trained a small group of 15 mothers to talk to their babies

and how to make toys out of things they had. They really got it," said Jan. "As the babies responded by smiling and making sounds, the mothers came to see them as lovely, intelligent little people. Little did we foresee that the village would never be the same again!

"When we went back three weeks later, we discovered they had gone home and talked to their sisters and neighbours and the group had grown to 26 and a lot of them had already made little toys. Six months later, there were 45 mothers in the group. Two of the ladies from the church had started reinforcing the messages and had opened the church for the mothers to come in and talk and play with their babies once a week and share experiences. That group has now grown to 100, all crowding into the building and includes fathers."

David said: "ZUMM has shown that a training programme can make a huge difference. In our study within six months there had been an increase of 80% in the number of words spoken to the babies, in the groups who had received training, compared to control groups, and village elders were making comments about how they'd never seen such intelligent children!"

In June, David and Jan will be leading a group of 11 from their local parish, St Illogan, on a visit to Tanzania, mainly in Mvumi. While there, the group will work with local people to turn the village's old, small church into a playgroup or pre-school room for those leaving the ZUMM group to move into.

The congregations of St Illogan Parish have supported the project with £2,000 raised through fundraising activities, just one of many initiatives the parish has supported in Tanzania.

READ MORE
<http://tinyurl.com/hx2uy6b>

LOTTERY FUND MONEY FOR ST POL DE LEON CHURCH

St Pol de Leon Church, part of the Penlee Cluster, has received a 'first round pass' of £34,300 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to develop a major project that will celebrate peace through the restoration of the church's significant First World War memorial window.

This development funding will help the project team to progress their plans so that they can bid for an estimated £259,000 of funding from the HLF towards the end of 2016. The project will not only restore the window, but will also commemorate victims of armed conflict over the last 100 years, create a series of exhibitions, community history projects and workshops on the theme of Sacrifice, Peace and Reconciliation as we approach the anniversary of the end of the First World War.

READ MORE
<http://tinyurl.com/zywd4fg>

WE LOVE YEW TREE FUND

To support those responsible for mature yew trees and to protect our national yew heritage, small grants of up to £400 are available to help cover the costs of essential maintenance work and inspections of yew trees on land owned by a non-profit organisation, church or Parish Council.

MORE INFORMATION
<http://tinyurl.com/zyo6aog>

ECCLESIASTICAL CONTEST

Insurance company Ecclesiastical has launched a national competition to find a church with the brightest ideas for helping its local community.

There will be a top prize of £10,000 with five runners up receiving £2,000.

The aim is to highlight inspirational projects and campaigns making a difference.

MORE INFORMATION
<http://tinyurl.com/z5692k7>

TO BREXIT OR NOT TO BREXIT?



That is the question...

With the EU Referendum happening on June 23, James Hills ponders how we approach our ballot papers.

As a politically uninformed person, I've been frustrated at not being able to decipher fact and propaganda in the debate.

There clearly are issues of sovereignty, migration, security and business. But as someone helpfully pointed out, "Britain's membership of the EU is fraught with problems, but so is leaving."

So what things will I be considering as I go to do my ballot paper:

1. Abraham Kuyper, a Dutch theologian, once said, "There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, Mine!" Jesus is Lord - this one thing brings me comfort in this vote. He's the one who Psalm 2 says has Kings and Rulers as a footstool for his feet, who Romans 13 says is the one who establishes authorities power. And therefore, Jesus will still be able to build his church whatever happens, history is proof itself that nothing can stop his church growing.

2. Therefore, we need to pray earnestly. Pray that the country and government would make wise decisions and that the decision would be the best for the glory of God.

3. As Christians we're called to love God and love our neighbour. So how about we rephrase the question: will this affect whether I'm able to love God and how can we be in the best position to love our

neighbours? Both those within our country & those outside, particularly the huge number of desperate refugees.

4. Independence isn't in the Christian vocabulary. Jesus is building a people, not a group of individuals, our churches are living proof of that. So maybe we need to think again of the question as what is the best way we can work together with other countries and people, inside or outside the European Union?

Whichever way you're thinking, run your thinking through these Christian lenses. Don't just vote with your gut, but seek to find out and understand the arguments, praying earnestly for wisdom.

MORE INFORMATION

www.jubilee-centre.org for more helpful info

James Hills' is a husband, dad, optimistic Spurs fan, lover of food and the people in the church family and parish of St Kea where he is Assistant Curate.

GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

WANT TO JOIN THE TEAM?

GET IN TOUCH:

comms@truro.anglican.org

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY

27-30 Once upon a Time – Stories from Childhood Flower Festival St Andrew's Church Stratton, 10am-5pm

28 (-June 1) A celebration of the Spirit of Mount's Bay (flowers, art, music), St Mary's Church, Penzance, 10.30am

28 Youth Concert, St Mary's Church, Pz, 7.30pm

29 Cream Teas, St Saviours Church, Polruan, 2.30pm

29 Mousehole Male Voice Choir, St Mary's Church, Penzance, 7.30pm

JUNE

1 Heinichen Ensemble, St Mary's Church, Penzance, 1.15pm

3 K'antu, St Endellion Church, 7.30pm

4 Organ recitals, All Saints Church, Fal, 2.30pm

8 Eve of Show Service, Royal Cornwall Showground main arena, Wadebridge, 6.30pm

9-11 Churches Together Tent & weddings team, Royal Cornwall Showground

10 CMED course Active & Reflective Kids, St Mary's Church, Penzance, 10am

11 Isabel Galleymore & Luke Thompson day of poetry, St Endellion Church, 10am, £15, tickets@endellion.org.uk

11 (-12) Flower festival to mark HRH The Queen's 90th birthday, St Odolph's Church, Pillaton, 11am

12 Royal Tea Party, St Gluvias Church, Penryn, 2pm

14 Media Training, www.churchcommstraining.org

15 CMED: Dealing with Conflicts in Church, Judge's Dining Room, Shire House, Bodmin, 10am, to book 01872 274351

17 Bristol University Madrigal Ensemble, St Endellion Church, 7.30pm

18 Organ Recitals, All Saints Church, Fal, 2.30pm

20 Churches Together Conference, Saltash Baptist Church, 10am – 3.30pm. To book <http://tinyurl.com/h6m3k3>

21 Social Media Strategies, www.churchcommstraining.org

22 Effective Design, www.churchcommstraining.org

24 Cornish American Song Institute – the Songs of Folk & Legend, St Endellion Church, 7.30pm

24-26 Flower Festival "90 Glorious Years" St Michael & All Angels, Bude 10am-5pm

25-26 Flower Festival "Songs of Praise – Hymns Ancient & Modern" Lezant Church, 10am-5pm

26 Taizé on Tamar, All Saints Harrowbarrow PL17 8BG, 3pm

29 Educational Chaplaincy, Penryn University Campus, 9.30am-3.15pm, <http://tinyurl.com/h7soffp>

30 Windows Into, Hayle Methodist Church, 7pm, 01736 756669

GET IN TOUCH

If you have a news story or a diary date to share, please get in touch: 01872 360037 comms@truro.anglican.org before the 17th of each month.

OTHER LINKS

SRO Briefing <http://tinyurl.com/zxtkcjy>

FOLLOW US TO KEEP UP TO DATE...



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