

DECEMBER 2015



The Rt Revd Tim Thornton, Bishop of Truro meets Pope Francis watched by the Revd Tim McQuiban, the Methodist fraternal delegate and a Methodist Minister in Rome
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The Rt Revd Tim Thornton, Bishop of Truro, says it is clear there are “major differences in the room” at the Roman Catholic Synod on the Family in Rome where he recently represented the Anglican church.

Writing in his [blog](#), Bishop Tim said the process was still not clear or easy for many and mused on the difficulties of holding together a body with universal authority when there were so many local expressions relating to very different local circumstances.

Whilst in Rome, Bishop Tim joined in debates around divorce and homosexuality and even managed to squeeze in a couple of minutes with Pope Francis.

He also found the time to keep the people at home in the Diocese of Truro up-to-date with his experiences via his [blog](#) and [Twitter](#).

The Bishop was taking part as the Anglican Fraternal delegate at the synod joining hundreds of bishops from all over the world who gathered to discuss various issues relating to Family.

Along with all the others who attended, Bishop Tim, who is also President of the Association of Interchurch Families, had the opportunity to speak for three minutes in the main gathering as well as taking part in small group workshops.

Speaking before he left, Bishop Tim said: “I was one of about ten fraternal delegates from the main Christian denominations and traditions.

Chairman - Bishop Tim Thornton
Vice Chairman - Reverend Steve Wild
CTC Missioner - David H Smith
Treasurer - Paul Durkin
Charity No 1053899
www.churchestogetherincornwall

“I listened to contributions which of course vary enormously. Some were very much in favour of the suggested changes and the direction of travel. Some were keen to keep to what they regard as the traditional teaching.

“It was quite fascinating to observe how the meetings worked and what, if anything, happened in public and what happened behind the scenes. I was looking forward to being there and was fascinated to compare what I know and experience of the Church of England decision making process with what happened in Rome.”

He added: “I was intrigued to hear whether we can all understand ourselves as we related one to another and to each one of us, as members of the human family.”

Paris attacks: Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby admits doubting God, warns against military action



The most senior bishop in the Church of England has admitted that the Paris attacks made him question the presence of God. Justin Welby described how the terrorist attacks had “put in a chink in his armour” of faith.

While it isn't the first time that the Archbishop has admitted to doubting the existence of God, Welby said that he was searching for answers following the brutal attacks that killed 130 people on 13 November.

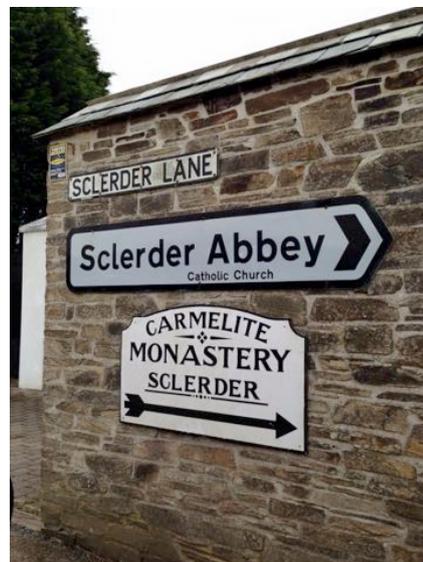
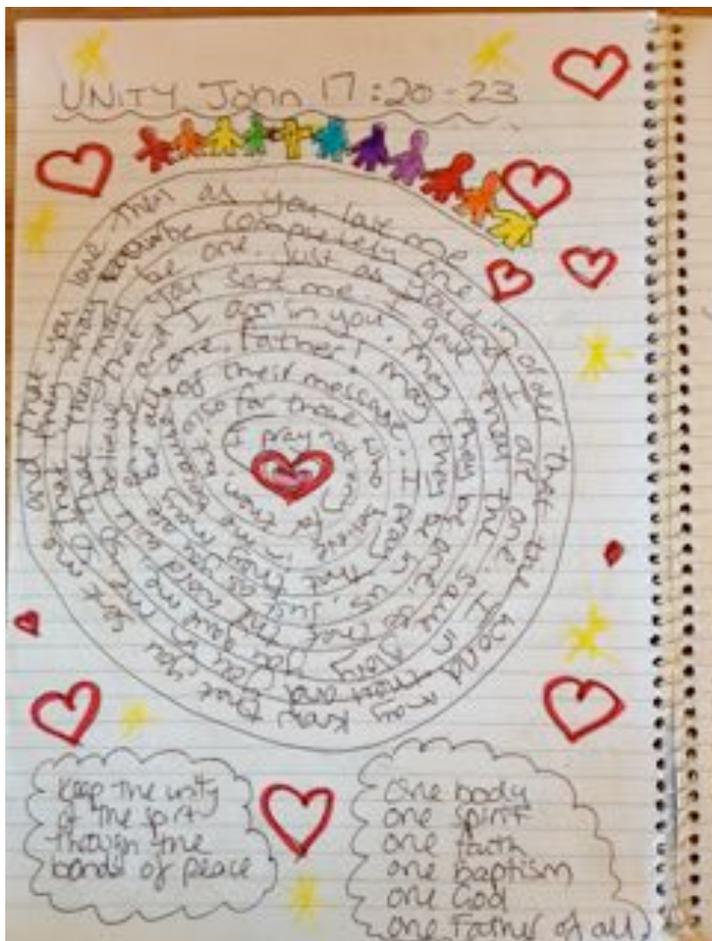
“Saturday morning, I was out and as I was walking I was praying and saying: ‘God, why – why is this happening? Where are you in all of this?’” Welby said during an interview with the [BBC's Songs of Praise](#). “And then engaging and talking to God. Yes, I doubt.”

The Archbishop's comments came as Europe is on a heightened security threat from Islamic State (Isis) terrorists. [Brussels was on lockdown](#) on Sunday (22 November) as a manhunt was underway for Paris fugitive [Salah Abdeslam](#). Meanwhile, David Cameron is expected to announce his [strategy for military intervention](#) in Syria in the coming days.

However, the Archbishop cautioned against a “damaging instant reaction”, despite the way that IS terrorists have distorted their faith, calling it “one of the most desperate aspects of our world today”.

On military intervention, the Archbishop said: “Two injustices do not make justice. If we start randomly killing those who have not done wrong, that is not going to provide solutions. So governments have to be the means of justice.”

Welby said that he and his wife had lived in Paris for five years, further adding to the shock that he felt in the wake of the attacks. He described the city as being one of the happiest places that they had lived in and said it was “heartbreaking” to see the city suffering.



Just wanted to share the two photos with you re Churches Together (Looe and District) Healing and Wholeness service we had recently at Sclerder Abbey.

The church was full and many people came forward for healing prayer and laying on of hands. I was one of a praying prayer with Rev Andrew Hill (Riverside United Church West Looe) who also led the service.

I feel so healed that day having received prayer for a painful heel which was as a result of a back injury on duty (I'm a police officer). I am pain free today!! I have been in sciatic pain since June.

Praise the Lord and the power of prayer! Visiting preacher was Rev. John Hereward from Wadebridge whose first career was as an A&E doctor.

Refreshments afterwards were served by members of Chemin Neuf who reside at Sclerder Abbey.

Helen Priestley

The Looe & District Churches Together Quiet day at Sclerder Abbey

The theme of the day was 'One in Christ' and there were 18 of us who all gathered in the oratory at the abbey. We started with the National Retreat Association Prayer and the day constructed of 3 sessions each with a focus on a piece of scripture followed by a period of reflection and silence.

The first session focussed on One God and we thought about our different experiences with God. We listened to a song with beautiful lyrics which inspired me to write a poem in the first period of silence and contemplation.

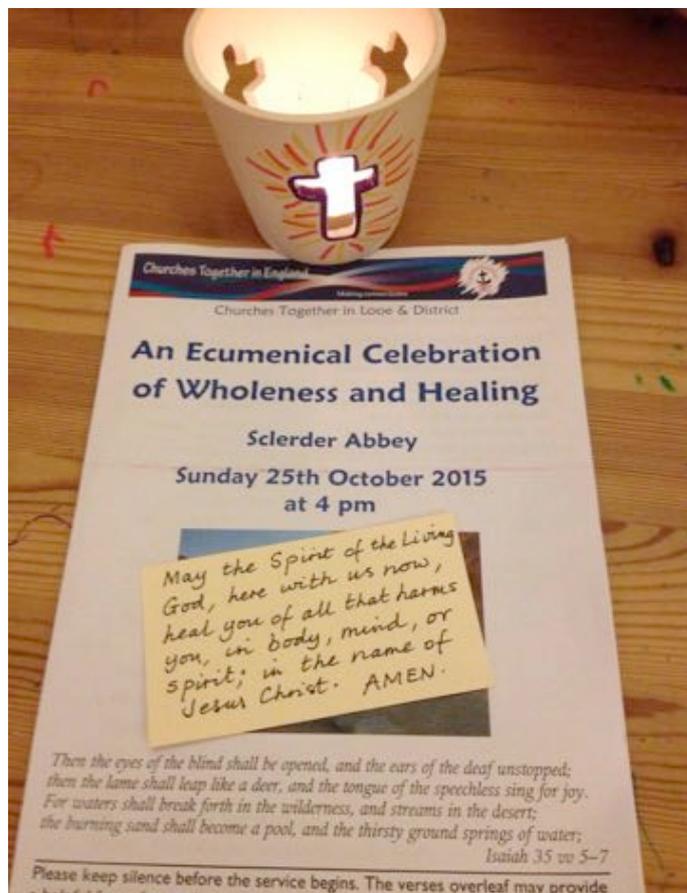
I truly felt God's presence with me as I wrote it, surrounded by his beautiful creations whilst lying on the apple tree in the abbey's ancient orchard. I had primroses at my feet and apples gently being tickled from the trees around me.

The second session was on 'One Church' and focussing on Unity and we used a passage from John 17:20-23 to lead us in contemplative prayer. I constructed a picture from this. It helped me focus on the words and unity. I prayed that we grow in unity and answer Jesus' prayer to be "as one" in unity.

The final session of the day was on One Hope, allowing God in silence to fill us afresh with hope, especially if our spiritual reserves are low.

It was a beautiful day in such spiritual surroundings and I felt compelled to share it with you with God speaking to me so clearly during every period of contemplation.

Helen Priestley
St Wenna, Morval, Looe
(First year Ordinand SWMTC)



WAKE UP CALL ON THE FARM!

It was with great sadness a few weeks ago that I turned on my television to witness yet another Cornish dairy farmer coping with the heart-breaking task of packing up his home, his livelihood and his family to leave the farm after many dedicated years of hard work and skillful husbandry. How on earth could this be happening?

Well, on Saturday I began an exploratory fact finding mission at the Royal Cornwall Showground in Wadebridge where the Cornish Winter Fair was taking place. This was my first visit to the Fair so, pulling my woolly hat around my ears to keep out the icy wind, I made my way from the packed car park to the barn buildings, not quite sure what to expect.

What a warm welcome I received inside the barn and what an amazing array of people, animals, produce and services confronted me! Far too many to explore in one day, but I soon cut to the chase in my purpose of sounding out farmers and their families about what I had witnessed on the television.

Their news was disturbing; many farmers were now struggling to make a living because of the low returns on milk and livestock and several farmers have already left the land for good. There are official bodies working to help such as the NFU but most of the farmers believe that the loudest voices in Government circles appear to be those of supermarkets and developers with ever covetous eyes on land for building projects.

On the positive side, I was impressed by the farmers and their families and their determination to carry on despite the hardships they face. One farmer was still working despite undergoing regular chemotherapy. The 137th Wadebridge Prime Stock Show was exhibiting livestock in top condition; sheep, cattle, pigs, horses all standing quietly, despite adults and children milling around, somewhat subdued by the sheer size of the magnificent bulls! One farmer's daughter proudly told me that she had reared the huge bull with its beautiful black, curly coat from the time of its birth. I was encouraged to try my hand at milking the model cow, although negotiating sitting on the tiny milking stool presented an almost surmountable obstacle at first! I found the milking action surprisingly simple and retired with a sense of achievement, even though I had been told that very few cows are milked by hand now. I was given a range of interesting leaflets showing how to support Britain's Dairy Farmers during this milk price crisis. (See *This Is Dairy Farming.com*)

The produce too was astounding in quality and size; turnips, carrots, pumpkins, cauliflowers, onions, tomatoes and other fruit and vegetables. Lots of competitions for bread and preserves had drawn entries from around the county. The whole atmosphere of the fair was one of creativity, care, friendliness and working together in the spirit of pride in crafts and skills.

So, how can we protect this valuable heritage of land, animals, agricultural expertise and practical skills? How can we support the farmers in their efforts? Some answers are obvious; buy local produce, find out more online about what farmers are doing and how to get involved, find out more about the facts and issues involved and choose how to respond.

Some questions go much deeper and involve our principles and beliefs. Farmers are close to nature and the land and see the drama of life and death at close quarters from sunrise to sunset. Many have a deep personal faith, embedded in their way of life. I felt privileged to share some thoughts with them today and ashamed to admit to my previous ignorance of the importance of their role as custodians of the land, its livestock and produce. We neglect these valuable assets at our peril. They cannot be replaced once they are gone. Let us stand by our British farmers in prayer and resolve to live by the principles of loving guardianship of land, people and livestock and pray for God's blessing upon us all as we do so.

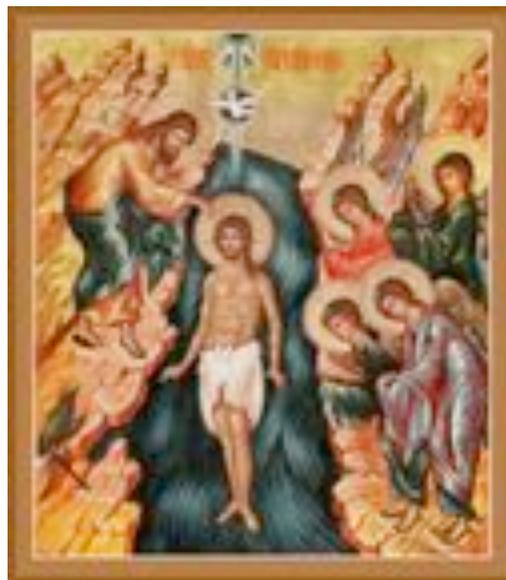
Dianne Harmer Truro

Next Cornish Fair in Truro Lemon Quay 2 December

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Truro Cathedral

The Great Blessing of the Waters
The Orthodox celebration of the Baptism of Christ



Officiants

Father Benedict Ramsden and Father Nikitas Lantsbery

Wednesday 20 January 2016
7.30 pm

A warm invitation to all

Churches Together in England
Making connections

Looe & District Churches Together

**St Nicholas' Church
West Looe**

Taizé Service

**Advent Sunday
29th November
at 6pm**

**Celebrating the promise of
light at Advent**

All are welcome

Looe and District Churches Together

« Come and see »
Jn 1, 39

SCLERDER ABBEY

QUIET DAY
25 November 2015

“Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed” Luke 5,16

Jesus took time regularly to talk and listen to His Father in a lonely place.

He shows us the importance of coming before God our Father.

In our busy life, it can be difficult to spare time to be in His presence.

So an organized quiet day might help us to open our heart to our Lord.



Timetable :

- 9.45 Welcome and Coffee
- 10.00 Introduction to an Ignatian Prayer
Time for personal prayer and reflection
- 11.30 Testimony about prayer in our daily life
- 12.15 Eucharist
- 1.00 Lunch
- 2.00pm NET FOR GOD : An International Network for Christian Unity and for peace in the world : introduction to the latest theme, film (30mn) and sharing group.
- 3.00 Tea Break and Time of Prayer
- 4.00 End

Drinks provided throughout the day as well as a simple lunch.

There is no charge but a donation towards the cost of food would be appreciated.

Registration :
Desirée Kim-Lim
Tel : 01503 272 238
sclerder@chemin-neuf.org

Next quiet days :

Wed. 24 February
Wed 11 May

Thank you for your prayers and messages of support for SAT-7's team in Egypt following the action by the Censorship Police on 10 October.

19th November 2015 - This remains a matter of great concern and your ongoing prayers are much needed. We are still waiting to hear from Egypt's Public Prosecutor if the case will go to court or be dismissed. Foreign diplomats and parliamentarians who know and are supportive of SAT-7 have raised the issue with the Egyptian authorities, at the highest level.

In the meantime, SAT-7 Egypt's normal activities remain severely disrupted. There are no live shows running and very few programmes are being recorded. Police have kept custody of confiscated equipment worth more than £65,000 and we do not know when - or even if - it will be returned. This includes video cameras, studio lights and all the computers used for editing. SAT-7 Egypt Director Farid Samir was temporarily detained, then released, but potentially still faces charges associated with seemingly baseless licensing issues.

Last week I had the great pleasure to see Farid in person at SAT-7's international meetings in Cyprus. He was able to testify to the grace and provision of God through his ordeal. I was very moved by a conversation he recounted between himself and his 10-year-old daughter shortly after his arrest. Farid said:

"I called my wife to let her know that I'm OK. She said, 'We're praying for you', then she passed the phone to my daughter, who said, 'We're praying for you daddy and we want to give you this verse from Joshua 1:9: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.'"

"It was very good timing. When I was taken to the jail I suddenly found that I had nothing; no phone, no Bible, no Internet, no TV. I started to miss my Bible; I was trying to remember verses, and this verse from my daughter was like a message from God. It meant a lot to me."

There have been other encouragements in the midst of this distressing situation, not least the support and solidarity shown by SAT-7's staff and viewers. It was very humbling to hear that SAT-7 staff in Egypt, who work extremely hard for below-market wages, have started a collection to help cover legal expenses for the studio and for Farid. One man even donated his monthly mortgage payment! They have so far raised £2,600.

The audience in Egypt have continued to send messages of support via social media. To show their solidarity, many viewers have changed their Facebook profile pictures to the SAT-7 logo. If you would like to show your support for SAT-7 in this way, download our logo [here](#). Please continue to uphold Farid and his family at this stressful time. Pray also that this matter will be dropped and that all the confiscated equipment will be returned quickly.

Yours in Christ - Rachel Fadipe - Executive Director - SAT-7 Trust (UK)