

AUGUST 2015



The newly elected President of the Methodist Conference Reverend Steve Wild, has urged the Church to 'take God seriously' and put evangelism back on the agenda.

I'm thrilled to be serving this year with Dr Jill Barber, a woman full of Christ and exceptionally gifted as our Vice President. We share the theme together of "Mission and Heritage".

I wish to thank the Cornwall District who I am privileged to serve as their chair, for their love and support and putting up with me. Cornwall's a beautiful part of the country and the people are beautiful.

I am grateful to my Bishop, the Bishop of Truro, Tim Thornton. He is a real brother to me, He is more than generous in the way he has encouraged me to pray with him, to mission with him and to enable us to work as Christians together in the Duchy.

In his inaugural address at the Conference in Southport, the Revd Steve Wild challenged each Methodist church in Britain to aim to bring just one person to faith in the coming year, saying: "Let's take God seriously. I want to help us in the task of evangelism, to put mission on the agenda and give our churches an aim to win a person for Christ."

"We cannot sit back in complacency," he added. "We have a massive Kingdom of God task. I'm wanting this year to challenge each church to bring one person to faith - to make one new member this next year, let's make bringing people to faith the main point, we don't do it alone. The unconditional love of Jesus is our motivation."

He told those gathered at the Conference that John Wesley only had ten guineas to his name when he died. Wesley's 'Will' directed that four of these guineas should pay four unemployed men to carry his coffin and the remainder be distributed among his poorest preachers.

"What else did he leave behind?" Steve asked. "He changed lives, hundreds of them, Christian communities dotted all over this country and in other parts of the world, fellowships seeking to take God seriously. Oh that we may all draw to the foot of the cross and experience this powerful love and make this our legacy one of transformed lives and communities!"

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

An Invitation to all Churches Together Groups in Cornwall



Following the Churches Together in Cornwall "Declaration of Intent" workshops last November in St Austell, I am inviting members of Churches Together local groups to bring at least 2 representatives to their local area Conference.

Bishop Tim, Chair of Churches Together in Cornwall

The Day Conferences will take place on:
Saturday, 19 September in Shire Hall Bodmin - 10am start
Thursday, 24 September in Truro Methodist Church - 10am start

The conferences aim to bring together representatives from all the CT groups in Cornwall, to support their work, build their capacity in terms of governance and support their social action and outreach.

A pasty lunch will be provided

Please RSVP by Monday, 7th September by booking a place on:

Bodmin - Sat 19th September
<https://v1.bookwhen.com/8a7eg/201509190000/pfn>

Truro - Thu 24th September -
<https://v1.bookwhen.com/8a7eg/201509240000/z73>

email: Lois Wild
lois.wild@transformation-cornwall.org.uk
or telephone Church House 01872 274351 Ext 205

NEW RUSSIAN ORTHODOX DEACON IN CORNWALL



It has been announced that Mr Pavel Kviakevic from Penzance is to be ordained as a deacon of the Russian Orthodox Church. This will take place on 28th August by Archbishop Elissey in his London Cathedral.

Subsequently Pavel will serve under the direction of Father Benedict Ramsden at Newton Abbot in Devon and Laity Moor in Cornwall. Pavel is one of many immigrants from the Baltic States who came to Cornwall a few years ago. He is married to Danuta and they have two young children. Both Orthodox communities wish him well.

Currently, the Russian tradition in Cornwall is being served by Fr. George Robinson from Australia, who converted to Orthodoxy in Moscow where he met his wife Olga. Their two sons serve and sing in the Cornish Church on the second Sunday of the month.

The Greek Orthodoxy community led by Fr. Nikitas Lantsbery continues to thrive and be a great credit to him and his wife Mary.

Primrose Peacock



A group of 21 YMCA Retired of UK folk mixed with some 2015 Landevennec pilgrims visited Sclerder Abbey for the day, mid July.

Members of the Chemin Neuf Community, Sr Jacqueline, Jean Lavelle and his wife Desiree, brilliantly hosted the group. We heard about the beginnings of the Chemin Neuf Community in Lyon, France in 1973 and how it promotes ecumenical worship.

We visited the garden and orchards, we ate together and worshipped together in the chapel.

It was a wonderful day and we felt the Holy Spirit was with us all. Our thoughts and prayers continue for these three Christians fulfilling God's plan.

We will return.



These few words do not come in any official sense from the Universities Chaplaincy but are merely a reflection on the past twelve months from one of the team of chaplains who assist and support the full time Multifaith Chaplain and team leader Rebecca (Becky) Barber seen above in our photograph beside the notice board at the entrance to the Penryn Campus (formerly known as Tremough Campus) which is an expanding site of student accommodation, research and other facilities. The Chaplaincy, at present situated in one of the student blocks, has an office, a place for quiet and confidential meetings, with an outside terrace.

Others, like me, are recruited by the Multifaith Chaplain and approved by the Chaplaincy Advisory Group. We meet as a small team on a regular basis and recent meetings have been working to ensure that those of us who are volunteers do our very best to be more than nominal and to give an agreed amount of time to be present on campuses – Penryn and Falmouth – on a reasonably regular basis, to attend team meetings and be present at appropriate University events.

So what has been my experience as one who is far removed in age from the majority of students? First, and I have repeated this (age again?) at one or two of our team meetings; since I spend an afternoon each week in the Stannary (refectory) I have benefited from being in an environment full of young people at another important stage in their life, full for the most part with enthusiasm if not a little apprehension about their studies and looming examinations. For many a new place, some even a new country, and for all the possibility of new friendships.

Do students and staff come flooding to me for words of wisdom and spiritual enlightenment as I sit at one of the tables and drink my coffee? – no. Do I accost peaceful diners with questions about being saved? – no. Does my rasson (cassock) put some off? – who knows. Nevertheless during the past year there have been approaches, conversations and one or two referrals during which meetings a variety of issues have been talked about on the initiative of the student or staff member. These issues may relate to areas not directly concerned with faith but the pastoral direction of Chaplaincy is towards the whole person without any conditions or preconceived judgements.

Of course by far the great bulk of the Chaplaincy work is undertaken by Becky, whose involvement is in all areas of University life, emphasising the place of chaplaincy within it. Those few of us who are volunteers give modest help and resource. What we should all as Christians be grateful for in these present times is the fact that we have a strong and enthusiastic presence in an important place of higher education in our County.

Fr.Nikitas, Orthodox Chaplain.

UK Anglicans are in serious decline, say researchers



Decline: analysis of the British Social Attitudes survey has suggested that "generational displacement" is taking place: each generation is less religious than the next so as older generations die the overall population becomes less religious.

THE decline in the proportion of British people who identify as Anglican has accelerated in the past decade, new analysis from NatCen statisticians suggests.

The proportion who say they are Anglican in the British Social Attitudes survey has fallen from 40 per cent in 1983 to 17 per cent in 2014. In the past decade, the proportion has fallen by two-fifths: from 28 per cent in 2004.

The researchers say that the survey results suggest that the number of Anglicans has fallen by as many as 4.5 million over the past ten years, from about 13 million to 8.5 million.

The biggest group remains those who say they have no religion: 49 per cent, up from 43 per cent in 2004 and 31 per cent in 1983.

Other Christian denominations have remained stable over the past 30 years. Roman Catholics make up eight per cent of the sample, down from ten per cent in 1983. The "Other Christian" sector has remained static at 17 per cent.

The proportion who identify as Muslim has grown from about 0.5 per cent in 1983 to five per cent in 2014.

The 2014 survey consisted of 2878 interviews with a "representative, random sample of adults in Britain". Naomi Jones, head of social attitudes at NatCen Social Research, said: "One explanation for this might be that the numbers of Catholic and non-Christian people in Britain may have been supplemented by migrants with strong religious beliefs.

"Another explanation could be that, in the past, religion played a more prominent role in people's identity. We know from recent NatCen research that people are less likely than in previous years to see being Christian as an important component of being British.

"Therefore, fewer British people may feel that the Church of England is an important part of their identity nowadays."

A Church of England spokesperson said: "The comprehensive 2011 Census showed that almost 60 per cent of people in the UK identified as Christian. The Church of England continues to be an active presence in every community, supporting foodbanks, debt-advice centres, clubs for children and young people, and many more activities along with regular Christian worship.

"The Church is currently consulting on a process of both renewal and reform led by the Archbishops which seeks to join in with the work of God in growing his Church."

[The Training Centre](#)

There is now the opportunity to follow a degree level course in theology in Cornwall starting this September at the Training Centre in Pool.

About the course: The course is the Nazarene Theological College's (NTC), Certificate in Applied Theology (see <http://nazarene.ac.uk>) –effectively the first year of a degree level course. The aim is to build up to a full BA degree that you can take in modules. Each module is 22 hours and you will need to do private study and have access to the internet. The course is validated by Manchester University.

Who can do it? Anyone especially those in leadership (small groups, youth, ladies/men's groups etc), those who preach and you do not need to be super clever – you will be helped all the way!

Commitment: 12 modules in all to gain your certificate (see <http://nazarene.ac.uk/certificate-in-theology/>). For each module there will be 3 teaching weekends – Friday evening and 9am-4pm on Saturday. Attendance is *mandatory*. There will also be a couple of informal tutorials when you can compare notes etc.

Cost: Each module costs £225 plus the cost of some text books. If you are unsure you can "Audit" the module by attending but not doing essays. The cost would be £90 per module but would not count towards a certificate.

What to do next: Make a note of the study days in your diary – 11/12 September, 23/24 October and 20/21 November. Visit <http://nazarene.ac.uk> to book.

Any questions? Contact Nigel Argall by leaving a message at the Training Centre (director@thetrainingcentre.org) 01209 217977 or ring Nigel direct for an informal chat about the course (01736 850937).

Please note that we will not be able to respond to communications between July 17th and August 3rd.

Welby preaches God, Jesus, sin and salvation to The Times



Journalists who work for *'The Times'* have a habit of tearing strips off the Archbishop of Canterbury. One day they berate him for [loving big government more than Jesus](#); and another for [preaching more about foodbanks than God](#). So crass, misleading and partial are some 'Comment' pieces that earlier this year [a comprehensive rebuttal was made](#), with this exhortation: "*The Times* owes Justin Welby an apology. Either that, or a conciliatory invitation to write an extended piece on the miraculous nature of Jesus Christ."

No apology was forthcoming; nor, apparently, any invitation to write an extended piece on the "miraculous nature of Jesus Christ." The irruption of God into the world just isn't news, you see. So Justin Welby did what Jesus tended to do: he went to Times Towers and spoke to some of his critics face-to-face. It's so much more Christian than carping behind people's backs and spreading manifest untruths about the Church. And he didn't mention big government or foodbanks once: he spoke with humility and passion about God, Jesus, sin and salvation. And he did so with such clarity and conviction that it might be an example to us all:

"I'm a Christian because Jesus Christ found me and called me, around 40 years ago. I'm a Christian because it makes sense to me, because Jesus rose from the dead, he conquered death and sin and suffering. I'm a Christian because in Jesus I see the God who didn't say, 'This is how you lot have got to behave and I'm going to watch you and judge you,' but came alongside us and lived in the middle of the absolute foulest mess and himself died unjustly young in great agony and bore all that was wrong in this world on his shoulders.

"I'm a Christian because in my own experience I've run away and he's met me and yet not been angry with me; when I've failed he's picked me up and healed and strengthened me.
"That's why I'm a Christian. And that's why, whatever happens, whatever stupid mistakes, I know that even at the end of it all, even if everything else fails, God doesn't, and he will not fail even to the end of my life."

While *The Times* has a tendency to pontificate infallibly, Justin Welby talks movingly about his inadequacies and failings. While *The Times* looks at the Church through the distorting prism of temporal politics, Justin Welby tells them to forget the Church and to follow Christ. This Archbishop is preoccupied with prayer, reconciliation, evangelism and witness. He is passionate about doing mission and the "inescapable reality" of Jesus in his life. All *The Times* sees is foodbanks and Wonga, interspersed with sexuality and gender. That is the inescapable reality of media obsessions and Church caricature.

Archbishop Justin told News UK staff (which also includes *The Sun*, *Sunday Times* and the *TLS*) that he found being a Christian "a reasonable thing to be" because "the best answer to where was Jesus's body after the crucifixion is that he rose from the dead". Reason is a good place for the Christian to start when speaking to journalists – even Christian journalists who prefer to lecture the rest of us with their righteous shoulds and oughts. They may become irritated or inflamed, but the truth of the facts tends to have that effect on those who are so persuaded of the truth of their facts that there is nothing more to discuss – if, that is, they deem you worth talking to at all.

The Archbishop spent most of time talking about "the person and presence of Jesus". But you won't read about that in *The Times*. He explained that "Christian faith doesn't hide us from the cruelties of life. Jesus himself faced every aspect of the cruelty of life that is possible. It's just in it he is there in it in the middle of the mess with us." You won't read about that in *The Times*, either.

He then challenged his audience: "Christ is the light who draws close to us whatever life can bring to us. All of us will experience bereavement, again and again many of us, all of us will experience death. What is the company? Who is the person that will be with us at those last moments?"

But you won't read about that in *The Times*, either. Or perhaps you will, but you'll find it couched in a trite column as '[Justin Welby's holy disorder](#)', leading with chatter about the oil industry and fat-cat salaries, juxtaposed with nuggets of tittle-tattle about George Osborne and Bach. If all that *Times'* journalist can glean from Justin Welby is the snarl of 'holy disorder', the derangement is theirs. And that is why the Archbishop visited them with the gospel truth. It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.

A Wild Mizzle at Pentecost 24th May 2015.



Cornish weather can be tiresome. On Pentecost Sunday afternoon the sun shone in Penzance and St. Ives. Most places away from the north coast were at least dry, if cloudy but the sea mist rolled in near Redruth and dumped thick mizzle into Gwennap Pit.

The ecumenical congregation was ironically larger than in some previous hot Pentecosts, providing a surprise for the West Cornwall contingency, including the Salvation Army band. A splendid array of umbrellas answered a previous weather warning. It was also Wesley Day for Methodists, so this and the imminent departure of The Rev. Steve Wild to become President of the Methodist Conference for 2015-6 was the main focus.

"Bishop Tim", Steve Wild's sparring partner opened the event with a general welcome with prayers and led parts of the service, which almost conquered the weather thanks to 'plastic'. Mr Rodder, who had attended the 'Pit' services for 25 years, spoke briefly, before Mr Tony Jasper 'went out into the community,' where selected persons read extracts from the life of John Wesley and his immediate family. Mr David Smith the Churches Together in Cornwall Ecumenical Officer and enthusiastic overseer of the Giving Shop in Penzance read the Gospel for the day.

In his address Rev Steve took the subject of God's power breaking out into people's lives and compared it with the energy of fire, which he has recently witnessed in London. He told the congregation that they must have energy and enthusiasm after the manner of the Booth family, founders of the Salvation Army. A recent visit to Portugal where with Bishop Alfredo, he had visited a tiny Methodist Chapel, which had created a great impression. He pointed out how the fire of God can burn away rubbish and equip the church for witness and mission. *"Listen to each other, learn from others. Equip your church for witness with an ecumenical outlook"* He concluded with a prayer for indwelling.

The address was followed by the Presentation of Gifts to Rev Steve. Sixteen Superintendents from Methodist Circuits throughout Cornwall, brought symbolic items and read short explanations of their meaning, before the band drew breath for the last of a long series of relevant hymns.

Fortunately the pit grass had been recently trimmed and the walls tidied so even those of us who are disabled were able to make a straightforward exit, switch on the headlights and point homeward.

Primrose Peacock

The Orthodox Pentecost in Cornwall 31-05-2015.

Although there was no one from most of the countries mentioned in Acts **Ch. v2-9** the Pentecost services, (also called Sunday of the Holy Trinity) in the Greek Orthodox Church of the Archangel Michael and St.Piran, near Penryn was packed. The congregation represented at least twelve nationalities. The concelebrating clergy were British, South African and Australian. The Nicene Creed and Lord's Prayer were recited in five languages.

The sermon was brief and to the point, directed towards the Pentecost Ikon. However it was a very long stand for the majority of the congregation. Orthros (Morning Prayer) was followed by Divine Liturgy (Eucharist) and then the Vespers (Evening Prayer) The Pentecost Vespers is the only time when the entire congregation (unless aged or infirm) kneels in the body of the church for three long prayers.

The little church, formerly a Methodist Chapel has recently been redecorated inside and out. It is externally smart and distinctive. Inside, its multiple ikons embody an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity, quite distinctive from some other places of worship. There is no instrumental music in Orthodoxy. The gentle light of candles and incense of a more delicate scent than that used in Western Churches differentiate **from noise and fog** in large buildings. We were celebrating the Holy Spirit of God coming amongst us quietly.

A feast followed the services. The rain had ceased but the grass was still very wet **so tables were placed** in the nave and narthex and a huge variety of finger foods appeared. Homemade Syrian bread, Cornish buns and cakes, Greek baklava, cheeses and salads satisfied everyone. I sat with a young woman from The Ukraine. We talked about St. Cyril and St. Methodius who brought Christianity from Byzantium to Kiev then the capital of Rus. She now lives with her family in Praa Sands.

The inspiration and organisation of Greek Orthodoxy in Cornwall, combined with the acquisition and re-ordering of the building is largely attributed to many years of dedicated, diligent and devoted **voluntary** hard work by one man, supported by his wife and a few helpers. Christianity in Cornwall owes Fr. Nikitas Lantsbery big debt of gratitude.

Primrose Peacock.

"Each Sunday morning my wife and I drive by religious buildings, each bearing various names which promote the doctrinal stand that they take. And although many do hold sound teaching on key matters, that's not the purpose of our drive. We're looking for a place where Christ has promised to be in the midst, where He is the reason for the Christians to come together, where He is central, not a doctrine or a human. And thanks be to our Lord Jesus Christ, we've found a place where He has never missed a meeting." Rick Morse