



THE FRIENDS OF TRURO CATHEDRAL

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year,
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown"
And he replied:
"Go into the darkness and put your hand
Into the hand of God.
That shall be to you
Better than light and safer than a known way."

Minnie Louise Haskins

From The Bishop of Truro

'Living the building'

I am an unapologetic fan of our Cathedral! In a way that's inevitable as some of the most significant things in my clerical career (if there is such a thing) have happened there. Before Covid struck it's where I've celebrated the great festivals of Easter and Christmas. It's where I presided at my first ordinations. And one of the highlights of my life to date was undoubtedly having our wonderful Truro Cathedral Choir sing the words 'Do not be afraid' over me on the day I was welcomed to the Diocese: such fitting words set to Philip Stopford's wonderful music.

But while our Cathedral has great personal significance for me, it means something for us all too – and it means something because of the things it says and the stories it tells.

It tells the story, in the baptistery windows, of Henry Martyn, a great son of Cornwall, a dedicated Christian priest and a considerable scholar. He was responsible for translating the New Testament into both Persian and Urdu, amongst other things. He died having achieved so much aged only 31. Henry Martyn speaks to me of the good Cornish tradition of looking beyond these shores, which we've been doing for millennia. And he also embodies the Christian duty of looking outwards to our neighbours and loving them sacrificially in the name of Christ.



I love too the windows either side of the west end, telling the story of mining and fishing, two iconic Cornish trades. That reminds of the need to recognise and take seriously the particularities of the place we find ourselves. Cornwall is indeed a very distinctive place with its own particular language, culture and heritage. And that includes, of course, a very distinctive Christian

culture.

I love the way the Cathedral sits within the city. To look at it, you'd never know it was a later addition! It seems to belong so well. There are numerous places around Truro where you catch a distant glimpse of it and it always seems to 'fit' so very well.



And that too is significant. I'm struck by the way people with no particular connection to the place call it 'Cornwall's cathedral'. It's a recognition of that sense of 'fit' and of pride in its belonging not just to 'the church' in any narrow sense. For me that's summed up in the Cathedral's strapline: 'Sacred Space; Common Ground'. I rejoice in that sense of the Cathedral being a space open to all that speaks of the presence of God: a place where the human and the holy meet.

It really does feel like it's a place for 'One and all' – and it's evident that it feels like that to many others. Another highlight event I've not yet mentioned is the Young Farmers' Carol Service. I love that feeling of what seems like the whole of the Cornish farming community coming together in their Cathedral to celebrate the Christmas story. Again there's a great sense of 'fit' here. They wouldn't think of going anywhere else, and nor should they.

And all this challenges me – and I believe it calls us all – to take the Cathedral's message and its stories to heart: to learn its lessons and 'live the building'.

In terms of what I've written above, it calls us to look outwards, beyond ourselves, generously and lovingly. It calls us to take Cornish history, heritage and culture seriously; to take Cornwall's particular strengths and its particular challenges with all due seriousness, and to recognise what a special place this is. And as the building 'fits' in the city, bridging the gap between the sacred and the secular, the human and the divine – well, so should we. We should not be misfits but those who, in who we are, and in all we do or say, enable people to connect with the living God. Indeed that is our task even more than it is the Cathedral's.

This great Cathedral has so much to say to us and so much to teach us. As it points so clearly to our God so may we take our cue from it and 'live the building' ourselves - that through us others in their turn might find that in their lives too the human and the holy meet.

Rt. Rev. Philip Mounstephen, Bishop of Truro

**Friends of Truro Cathedral AGM
Sunday May 23rd 2021**

NOTICE Unfortunately our Autumn Meeting could not take place.
The Bishop of Truro would have been our Speaker and he has very kindly agreed to now speak at our AGM.

Treasurer's Report – 9 months to 30th September 2020

As you can see in the enclosed accounts, income and funds are massively down on last year, as a result of Covid 19.

Fortunately, members' subs have held up and should be very similar to last year by the end of 2020. We donated £38,000 to Chapter in April/May to help with their desperate financial position. This has reduced our funds to £10,783, but holding this amount enables us to comply with our constitution which dictates that we should maintain a minimum contingency of £10,000. Let's hope for a better year in 2021.

Martin Welton, Treasurer

Friends of Truro Cathedral Fund Raising report

I do hope that 2020 has not been too trying for you despite the fact that we have had to endure months of lockdown for our own safety and well being.



Since my contribution to The Annual Report it has not, unfortunately, been possible due to covid-19 to organise any social or fundraising events. We are, however, hoping that life will get back to normal in the Spring/Summer of 2021.

In April this year the planned outing to Buckfast Abbey had to be postponed and it is hoped that it can be rearranged for September / October 2021.

We have not been able to hold any Beetle Drives and The Film Club has not been able to show any films but again we are hoping that both of these popular activities will start in September 2021.

Coffee mornings at the moment are suspended, please check our website in the Spring as to when they are likely to recommence.

At the time of writing I am not able to gain access to the office and cannot listen to any telephone messages but should you wish to contact us our email addresses are below.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our Members for their continued support and for being a Friend and to wish them a very happy and safe Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Friends website: www.friendsoftrurocathedral.org.uk

Should you need to contact us please email us on:

info@friendsoftrurocathedral.org.uk / events@friendsoftrurocathedral.org.uk
membership@friendsoftrurocathedral.org.uk

Angela Hare
Chair Fundraising Team
November 2020

EVERY FRIEND SHOULD FIND A FRIEND TO BECOME A FRIEND



Don't Quit

When things go wrong as they sometimes will
When the road you're trudging seems all up hill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high
And you want to smile but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest, if you must, but don't you quit.
Life is queer, with its twists and turns,
As everyone of us sometimes learns,
And many a failure turns about
When he might have won had he stuck it out;
Don't give up though the pace seems slow –
You may succeed with another blow.
Success is failure turned inside out –
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
And you never can tell how close you are,
It may be near when it seems so far;
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit –
It's when things seem worst that you must not quit.



Christmas is coming
(Nativity in Truro Cathedral)