

‘We will work together as a deanery to enable ourselves and others to worship God.’

## Deanery Plan Update - Rural Pioneer Priest

A key role that supports our new Rural Dean is that of the Rural Pioneer Priest who will be based in St Keverne but have a ministry across the whole Deanery. A Profile and Statement of Needs has been developed for this role, it will be advertised during March and short-listed applicants will be interviewed in April. Please pray that the person God wants in this role will respond to His call.

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## Deanery Candlemas Service

It was just lovely to see so many worshippers coming together from across the Deanery on 2<sup>nd</sup> February in Mullion Church to celebrate Candlemas. The church was almost full and the singing raised, not just the roof, but our spirits. So many of us worship in small congregations, sometimes with just a handful of people and there was something really prayerful and joyous about being in a larger group. Shane Griffiths presided over the service and Geoff Davis gave us a lively and humorous, but very thoughtful sermon. Towards the end of the Service we all turned to the font where candles from various parishes and homes were blessed, according to ancient tradition. With everyone holding lit candles and twilight descending “Shine Jesus Shine” had a particular resonance for many of us. Afterwards we shared a glass of wine and had an opportunity to chat, share and laugh even more. Let’s hope and prayer that as we move forward we will have many more opportunities like this to come together to “fill this land with the Father’s glory”.

## Advent Adventures leading to Easter Experience

The Children, Young People and Families Ministry and Mission Group identified early on that regaining links with our primary schools was to be a priority. During December we engaged with Wendron CofE school to run two morning workshops. We opened by talking about symbols used in Advent and revisiting the Nativity story. Then four adult volunteers each took a group of 8 children to take part in different activities.

The children made their own advent wreaths to take home, wrote heartfelt thank you cards to any lucky recipient, dressed up as Nativity figures in order to act out the story of Christmas and helped to assemble a crib scene whilst talking about how the main people in the Nativity story might be feeling and singing a few carols. All thirty children had a turn at each activity and there was an informal break for drinks and biscuits which enabled the children to explore the church.

And Wendron Church subsequently reported an increase in the number of children attending their Christmas Services - result!!!

So we are now planning similar workshops during Lent, this time working with Breage and Mullion Primary Schools as well as Wendron. It is really important as we roll out this work with our schools that people from the churches get involved. If you would be interested in helping out in anyway please contact Henrietta Sandford:

[henriettasandford@gmail.com](mailto:henriettasandford@gmail.com)

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### Pastoral letter from Geoff Davis

#### ‘COME TOGETHER’

Dear Friends,

Some of you may well remember this brilliant interactive Christian musical back in the 70's inspired and written by Jimmy and Carol Owens. It involved the whole Church in ministry to the Lord, to one another and to the world including Cornwall!

Hundreds of thousands of people were involved with it being translated into many different languages and in fact it is still being requested. My goodness don't we need something like that today in our Churches

where there is such a need for a sense of joy, celebration, expectancy, unity, faith, excitement, hope, answers and so on.....

I believe we got a little taster again of this when we gathered from across the Deanery to celebrate Candlemas at Saint Mellanus in Mullion. What joy it was to '**Come Together**' in a near full Church to worship our dear Lord Jesus the 'Light of the world'. 'Shine Jesus Shine' we sang and prayed at the top of our voices 'fill this land with your grace and mercy'.

Yes of course we need our local Church and I have loved officiating at so many of them in the past 6 months. Also, I thank God for all six benefices and again what joy when we '**Come Together**' as a Benefice to worship and enjoy fellowship. But then the third level is when our whole Deanery is '**Coming Together**' - an even greater booster in our journey of faith. I so hope and pray we can do more this year and beyond. Below are three dates to put before you as individuals and as Churches, Benefices and as the Kerrier Deanery!

1. The **Licensing of our Rural Dean Rev Heidi** on 16<sup>th</sup> March 5.30pm St Michael's Helston. Let's make the big effort to '**Come Together**' from across the Deanery to fill the Church including the balcony to affirm, encourage, pray and thank God for her and indeed Phil her husband and rejoice in all that is to come under her ministry as we move forward together. But also for the boost it WILL undoubtedly give us to be present that evening.
2. The **Easter Carolaire at Coverack Harbour on Easter Day** 3pm the 9<sup>th</sup> April.

I attended last year and what a boost it gave me. Over 200 I estimated gathered with St Mellanus Choir leading the singing and with the wonderful stirring brass band accompanying those triumphant Easter hymns. Great message from dear Rev Canon David Miller and led by my dear friend Rev Canon Gordon Smyth. This year wow it my privilege to be preaching and again Gordon, choir and brass band will be there. So let's '**Come Together**' from across the Deanery again and maybe double that number! What a witness that will be celebrating the Easter Joy that He is risen indeed together. Go to your local Church of course in the morning or Benefice service. Going twice won't hurt in fact it is good for us especially on Easter Day - I'm doing it all the time!

3. **Ascension Day** is on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May. What about ‘**Coming Together**’ again for another Deanery Celebration to mark our Lord’s glorious Ascension? It was 40 days after Christmas for Candlemas and it will be 40 days after Easter to mark the Ascension. Surely a great time to ‘**Come Together**’ again don’t you think? Let’s see whose first to come back to me to offer their Church and hospitality! If it happens I can already hear the gathered voices declaring in song ‘Lord enthroned in heavenly splendour!’ Let’s not forget that the Bible tells us so clearly in Hebrews 10v25 ‘Do not stop meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching.’

‘**Coming Together**’ is my hope and prayer as we all journey on in His service.

Every blessing  
Geoff  
Your Interim Minister

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## Future Mission and Ministry Call

The treasurers and church wardens from the Deanery met with Sophie Eddy (Director of Finance and Assets) and Ruth Marriott (Director of Change and Renewal) on 9<sup>th</sup> February to discuss the call for parish contributions to the Mission and Ministry Fund (MMF) for 2023. This Fund meets the cost of the clergy who minister in the Deanery and contributes to the cost of general support from the Diocese. It was recognised that the historic apportionment no longer relates to parish circumstances and ability to pay; a new, more realistic, apportionment was proposed, discussed and agreed. The MMF call needs to be paid in full in order to release other funds available for the ministry of the Deanery. In due course there will be an additional call from the Deanery to the parishes to enable the employment of other key members of the Deanery Team.