

WHAT IS ON THE WAY?

On the Way is a process of listening, praying, dreaming and planning for every deanery in the Diocese of Truro. Over a period of between six to nine months, On the Way helps deaneries work towards a plan for fruitfulness and sustainability in a rapidly changing world.

On the Way encourages and supports local churches, working together in their deaneries, to face the reality of the challenges in front of us, which include smaller congregations, a loss of contact with children and young people, leaders facing overly demanding workloads and difficult church finances. It does so confident that everything we need is available in the Lord and that the future is not a problem to be solved, but a gift to be discovered.

How does it work?

Local churches know their communities and their contexts well, and plans for the future of mission and ministry should reflect these local situations. Deanery plans, therefore, will not be imposed from above, nor do we expect them to fit into a standard model. There is no such thing as “One size fits all” and instead the priorities, vision, models of church and distribution of ministry should be decided upon locally.

Led by the Rural Dean, an On the Way team is set up in each deanery. Made up of people from the local churches and supported by two advisors from outside the deanery, this team spend time listening carefully to each parish and benefice, to the wider community and to the Holy Spirit. Together they ask questions about what God is asking the church to be and to do, develop vision for the deanery, from which a clear plan is prepared.

Through all their work they give time to prayer and to exploring Scripture together. They listen carefully to the existing church communities, as well as to those that the church is often less well connected with - young people, poorer communities, those who have given up on church or who find it irrelevant to their lives.

Fruitfulness and sustainability

While every plan will be locally discerned and will be distinct and different, the Bishops have given two words that provide us all with a vision of the future we are seeking; **fruitful and sustainable**. For each element, there are six themes that deaneries are asked to think



about, and the final plan needs to reflect engagement with each of them.

Fruitful means that churches need to pay attention to their mission to poorer communities; to children, young people and schools; to creation care; to the global church; to deepening discipleship; and to the quality of community life within each church.

Sustainable means that churches need to have plans in place for bringing people to a new faith; to growing the faith of those who are already Christians; to patterns of leadership that are life-giving rather than exhausting; to enabling a wide variety of callings, both within and beyond the church; to paying their way financially; and to their church buildings.

The images on the next page show each of the six elements that make up **fruitfulness and sustainability**.

Rules for the Road

As you do this work, there are three simple Rules for the Road that we ask everyone to follow. They are:

1. Walk together on the way - by which we mean that you are invited to use this process as the way to make decisions about mission and ministry.
2. Pray for 25% of the time that you're together for anything to do with On the Way
3. Every time to meet ask 'Who's not here and what might they say if they were?'

What happens at the end?

After the time of listening, the On the Way team develop a deanery plan. This describes the deanery vision and how the local churches will work towards fruitfulness and sustainability. For each deanery, the final plan will look different. For some it will involve significant change, for others the change will be minimal.

During this period of the process, the team will share the emerging plan with the church communities and after six to nine months the final version is formally presented to the Bishops for comment and blessing. Once this has happened, it goes to Deanery Synod for a vote. If approved, the deanery moves to a new process as the plan is put into action.

How will I be involved?

The process will be led by a small team, led by the Rural Dean and Lay Chair, who you should contact if you would like to find out more about being involved.

Every parish and/or benefice will be invited to take part in On the Way. How this happens will vary between deaneries. You are strongly encouraged to share your thoughts, hopes, anxieties and dreams for your deanery. Please contact your Rural Dean or Lay Chair to find out how you can do that.

Want to find out more?

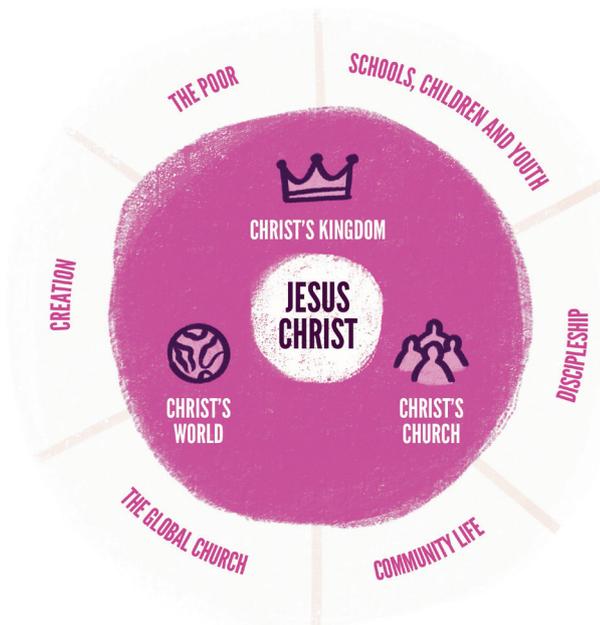
Visit the diocesan website here: <https://trurodiocese.org.uk/resources/ministry/on-the-way/>

Want to tell the bishops something?

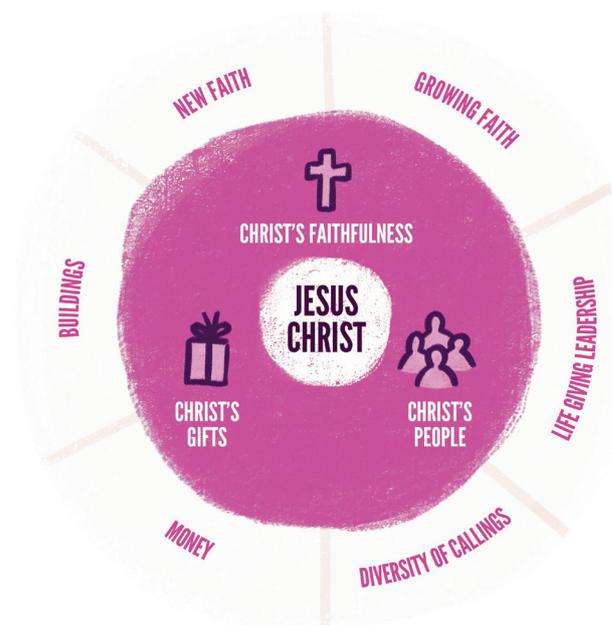
Send an online postcard via <https://bit.ly/Postcardsontheway>

Get in touch

Email us at ontheway@truro.anglican.org



OUR CALLING TO FRUITFULNESS...



OUR CALLING TO SUSTAINABILITY...

GET IN CONTACT

T 01872 274351
E info@truro.anglican.org
www.trurodiocese.org.uk

Church House, Woodlands Court,
Truro Business Park, Threemilestone,
Truro, TR4 9NH

