

Trigg Major Deanery Newsletter

DIOCESE OF TRURO

*With
+ For
THOSE IN NEED*

Welcome to the Second Edition – February 2026



From Beautiful Crib Scenes

(Laneast Church)

to Candlemas.

Snowdrops, sometimes known as Candlemas Bells, are a joy for all and remind us Spring is on the way.



Dear Friends,

We are delighted to bring you the second edition of our deanery newsletter. As you all know, it has been a very busy time since we issued the first edition. There has been so much happening across the deanery with wonderful services taking place over the Christmas period - Carols by Candlelight, Nine Lessons and Carols, Christingles, Crib Services, Services of Light, Patronal Festivals to name a few.

In addition to all the various services, there have been Christmas Tree Festivals, Craft Fayres, Christmas Wreath Making, Coffee Mornings, Book and Cake Stalls..... January was very much a time to rest and recharge.

We are delighted to include two very interesting articles in this edition - a local history article about the origins of the name, 'Trigg Major' courtesy of Rob Tremain, and an item featuring that much loved visitor to our gardens, the robin, courtesy of Alice Horn. Our thanks to both for these fascinating additions.

Jan/Feb 26

Happy Reading 'one and all.'

A Prayer for Candlemas Day

2nd February 2026

“Light of the World”



Lord of Light,

On Candlemas day, we remember the moment Your Son was presented in the Temple,
a promise fulfilled, a light revealed to all nations.

Shine Your brightness into the shadows of our hearts, and into all our churches
that we may walk in Your truth and share Your warmth with others.

As candles glow before us,
may they remind us that Your love never fades,
and that even the smallest flame can guide the lost home.

Bless our homes, our families, and our journeys ahead,
that we may carry Your light into every place we go, and in all the plans we make to grow your
kingdom on earth. Amen.

Trigg Major Deanery (TMD)

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News from the DIT Team – by Revd Helen Davies- Chair

What is the DIT?

The DIT or deanery implementation team is a group of clergy and lay people across all three benefices, tasked with overseeing the implementation of the Deanery Plan. The plan was prepared while Rev Peter Knight was with us, and you can access the plan on the Diocese of Truro website. There are plans for every deanery in the Diocese, and all focus on being fruitful and sustainable.

In 2026 the DIT is focussing on: -

- Enabling and empowering lay ministry,
- Growing our children and young people's ministry.
- Mission.
- Finance – please see the Deanery Treasurer's Report

Deanery Synod - Lay Chair: Sarah Vinson:

TRIGG MAJOR DEANERY SYNOD NEXT MEETING:

GUEST SPEAKER -ARCHDEACON CLIVE HOGGER, ARCHDEACON OF CORNWALL

AT

CHURCH OF CHRIST THE CORNERSTONE, TREGADILLETT LEP

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 12TH -7.30PM

(PRECEDED BY REFRESHMENTS & FELLOWSHIP AT 7PM)

**THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING – A WARM INVITATION IS EXTENDED TO EVERYONE-
PLEASE COME ALONG IF YOU CAN TO WHAT PROMISES TO BE A VERY
INFORMATIVE MEETING.**

The voluntary role of Deanery Secretary is still vacant - If anyone would like to know more about the role of Deanery Synod secretary, please contact Sarah:
sarahevinson@hotmail.com

Lay Leadership and Local Worship Leaders (LWLs).

Revd Helen Davies and Revd Sean Clancy have been providing training sessions for LWLs. The evening meetings have been well attended and are always very useful and helpful. A date will be given in due course for the next meeting. In the meantime, Revd Helen and Revd Sean would like to thank all LWLs and Churchwardens for their continued help with services.

Revd Helen writes: *“One of our Deanery objectives is to enable and support the flourishing ministry of all our lay leadership. Some of our services are led by LWLs or local worship leaders, who do formal training and then are licensed by the Diocese, and other services are led by church wardens.”*

“It is a big commitment to lead worship, so please support all our lay leaders with your prayers. If you think you may be called to this ministry, talk to a LWL about what they do, or a member of the clergy team, or come along to a LWL training evening. They take place a couple of times a year and are open to everyone interested.”

TRIGG MAJOR DEANERY TREASURER’S REPORT – 23 JANUARY 2026

Our Deanery of Trigg Major faces an existential financial crisis. The Deanery Financial Plan has failed and the Deanery has been shown to be incapable of funding three full-time stipendiary priests.

The Budget for 2025 assumed the employment of three priests at a cost of £160,000. Total costs including benefice charges of £43,000 were budgeted at £216,000. This was to be paid for by MMF contributions of £181,000 and diocesan subsidies of £35,000.

We now have the actual MMF contributions for 2025. The total MMF call was set at £223,000 less diocesan subsidies of £41,000 to give a net call of £182,000. Contributions received by the diocese were £108,000 or 59% of the total. The diocesan average was 80%.

Altarnun, Boyton, Tregadillett, Laneast and Trewen paid in full. Lewannick paid nothing and St Mary’s 3.5%.

This year, 2026, the MMF has been set at £229,000 with no diocesan subsidy so that PCCs gain a full understanding of the true cost of the clergy. But the ongoing position is clearly unsustainable, and urgent consideration must be given to the introduction of a slimmer operation.

Tim Smith, Treasurer,

Any queries regarding church finances, please contact Tim Smith:

tim.smith@queensacre.net



Trigg Major

The History Behind This Great Name and 'The Cornish Hundreds.'

kindly submitted by Rob Tremain.

"The hundreds of Cornwall (Cornish: Keverangow Kernow) were administrative divisions or Shires (hundreds) into which Cornwall was divided between c. 925 and 1894, when they were replaced with local government districts. Hundreds acted as judicial and financial units, managing land (originally 100 hides, or enough for 100 families) for assessment and control..."

"The Cornish Hundreds are of pre-Norman in origin and came from Celtic petty kingdoms. Originally six in number, the eastern pair of Trigg and Wivelshire later became sub divided, with Trigg becoming Trigg, Lesnewth and Stratton, and Wivelshire being divided in to East and West

The Hundred of Trigg is mentioned by name during the 7th century, as "Pagus Tricurius", "land of three war hosts". The same name, Trigg, is used for the ecclesiastical deaneries of Trigg Major and Trigg Minor which between them cover a wider area (but not identical to the historical boundaries). Since 1874 they have been within the Archdeaconry of Bodmin, and since 1876 within the Diocese of Truro."



Rob has sent in a picture of 'The Trigg Major Church Lamp.' It is interesting to note this lamp was considered to be equivalent to '300 Candle Power'-a very relevant submission at Candlemas time. Thank you, Rob.

If anyone has seen a Trigg Major Lamp, or knows anything about it, please do let us know. Contact details are at the back of this newsletter.

In the next edition, we hope to share more history regarding our deanery, and demonstrate something that we all know to be true - there is 'nothing as constant as change'

St Piran's Day 05/03/26

'Hymn to the Cornish Saints' – Rev Canon Miles Brown



"All these Cornish shores are holy,
Here the saints in prayer did dwell,
Raising font and altar lowly
Preaching far with staff and bell –
Piran, Petroc, Paul Aurelian,
Euny, Samson, Winwaloe"

The day is named after one of the patron saints of Cornwall, St Piran, who is also the patron saint of tin miners. It is a day when we can give thanks for all the wonderful things about this county, its tranquil churches loved by so many, its coastline, moorland, farmland and parks....

We can also take the opportunity of St Piran's Day to express our deep gratitude to our St Piran Cross holders, who by using the gifts they have been given, have helped in numerous ways to help keep 'these Cornish shores holy.' The crosses are awarded for many different reasons including lay service to churches, young people's contribution to church life, community involvement, contribution to church music and so the list goes on. We are truly blessed to have these people in our midst. If you are reading this and know of anyone who has been presented with a 'St Piran's Cross,' please can you make sure they see this article – it does not matter how many times they are sent it as we simply cannot thank them enough.

Churches Together Launceston (CTL) – Street Pastors

CTL have been providing a Street Pastor service within Launceston for several years. It is held in high regard by the police, and the hospitality industry. Volunteers are urgently needed to maintain this service. If you would like to know more, please contact Mike Stearn at the 'Christian Bookshop, Westgate Street, Launceston.'

Warm congratulations to St Clether, who have been awarded the A Rocha Eco Church Bronze Award in recognition of the care, commitment, and practical steps they have taken to look after God's creation. When all that has been done is set out, it becomes clear just how much has been achieved, an award richly deserved. Very well done to everyone involved.

If any other church would like to explore the Eco Church scheme, please feel free to have a chat with Tina, or take a look at the A Rocha Eco Church website, which explains how the scheme works and how to get started.



Creation Care

Great News from St.Clether Church.

(Submitted by Revd Tina Parry

Priest-in-Charge

Moorlands, Egloskerry with Lanstephan Benefice).

Congratulations to all involved and thank you for the encouraging news.

Creation Care continued....



A special thanks to Alice Horn for sending in this very interesting article.

Robins, Britain's favourite bird, is known to us as the gardener's friend, being so confident in our presence, but how did they get red breasts?

Maybe it is as an ancient Christmas legend tells us, where the fire was burning low in the stable where Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus were resting on that first, cold Christmas night in Judea. Chilly breezes would have chilled their tired bodies and no doubt, Mary would have been concerned for her precious new-born boy. The Heavenly Father was caring for them and wouldn't allow harm to

come to them, so He sent a little brown bird to help them. The bird flew into the stable and perched on a log near the fire. He flapped his wings and fanned the fire until it blazed once again. The little bird's breast became redder and redder, yet he did not leave until he was sure the fire would keep the Holy Family warm and dry throughout the night. The robin's breast has remained red ever since and is a constant sign of his devotion to the new-born King.

Male and female robins have red breasts, though not young birds. They sing all year, even at night next to streetlights, and being extremely territorial, they will be quick to drive away intruders. They fiercely attack other males and competitors in 'their' territory and may attack other small birds without being provoked. They will even attack their own reflection if they come upon it. The RSPB say there are 6,700,000 territories and their habitat could be anywhere in these isles. Rather quaintly they belong to the Old World flycatcher family of birds. Apart from

being relatively unafraid of humans, being drawn to us when we are digging in our gardens where they will be searching for earthworms, they will also approach large wild animals, such as wild boar, which also disturb the ground, possibly bringing food to the surface for the robin.

Some say it got its red breast from the blood of Christ at his crucifixion while singing in His ear to comfort him in his pain, and in Wales it is known as 'brou-rhuddyn' meaning 'scorched breast' through delivering water through the fires of purgatory to tormented souls there.

The Victorians began to put robins on Christmas cards and postmen wore bright red uniforms and were nicknamed 'robins.'

For hundreds of years the robin has been a symbol of good luck, rebirth and happiness and some see the robin as a messenger for lost loved ones ('When robins appear, loved ones are near'). In Norse mythology the robin is the protector from storms and lightning. In Celtic folklore the robin is known as the Oak King of Summer. Twice, in 1960 and 2015 the robin has been unofficially voted, our National Bird and I am sure it is as popular as ever.

[Diocese of Truro Creation Care Network](#)



"Here you will find a mix of training, news, updates and practical support for Kernow Green Church Award and Eco Church to equip and encourage us in our essential mission to Cherish Creation, Cut Carbon, Speak Up."

There are many interesting newsletters available on the link above, and everyone is welcome to subscribe and receive these, free of charge. We are aware that some churches do subscribe and receive newsletters, but overall, the coverage could be patchy? There are also Nature Notes (eg [Ladybirds: Tiny Heroes in Polka-Dot Armour](#)) and Nature Notes could be used for a variety of purposes, so please do share with your congregations and church visitors.

As you know, each church is responsible for its own 'Creation Care' policy, and in an ideal world we will discuss the subject at each PCC meeting, and have a '[Creation Care](#)' [Champion](#)? Some may be achieving this, and some of us may not. We know many are interested in Creation Care, so if anyone is doing anything that could be shared across the deanery, please let us know in order that we can share any good news stories?

Also, if you would like to send in a short article about your favourite flower, bird or tree, please send to Helen Uglow on getintouch.triggmajordeanery@gmail.com



Recent January Happenings:

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18th -25th January 2026

Churches Together in Launceston (CTL) joined together to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, with a service involving many of our denominations.

The service took place on Sunday 25th January at 5.30pm St Mary Magdalene, Launceston with guest speaker Sophie Gilbert of Alpha UK who focussed on

John 1.45 “a simple invitation”.

We were welcomed by Fr John Deeny, St Cuthbert Mayne. The readings were as follows:

Isaiah 58, 6-11 read by Andrew Baker, Methodist Lay Preacher

Ephesians 4, 1-13 read by Revd Olive Stevens, Many Rivers Benefice

Gospel Reading: John 12, 31 -36 read by Sarah Vinson Trigg Major Deanery Lay Chair

Prayers were led by Pastor Mervyn Bate, Launceston Community Church with the final blessing led by Revd Oseias Da Silva, Launceston Methodist Circuit

Mike Stearn gave a short talk on Launceston Street Pastors

It was a very uplifting and encouraging service from start to finish, beginning with the bells, and followed by great hymn singing and a wonderful choice of anthem, ‘Look at the World,’ by John Rutter, sung by St Marys Choir, directed by Dr Sean Sweeney.

Our thanks to CTL, for all the organisation this must have taken, and to St Mary Magdelene Church and Revd Helen Davies for hosting this service and to those who supplied the refreshments after service -it was lovely to see so many of the churches worshipping together, and people staying and chatting.

Future Dates: Upcoming Events/Meetings: February and March 2026

02/02/26 – Candlemas Day

04/02/26 -World Cancer Day – please see ‘[Awareness Days](#)’ Diocesan Website

12/02/26 -Deanery Synod Meeting 7pm for 7.30pm at Tregadillett – All welcome

17/02/26 -Pancake Party @ St Paternus, SOUTH Petherwin 2-4pm

18/02/26 – Ash Wednesday- the beginning of Lent

11.00 am – St Paternus, SOUTH Petherwin- Eucharist and Ashing

7pm - St Stephens, Launceston -Imposition of Ashes

28/02/26 – Organ Concert, St Mary’s Church 1pm – 1.45pm. Free entry and refreshments.

01/03/26 – St David’s Day

05/03/26 – St Piran’s Day and World Book Day

Jan/Feb 26

15/03/26 -Mothering Sunday

17/03/26 -St Patrick's Day

29/03/26 – Palm Sunday

Advance Notices

02/04/26 – Maundy Thursday

03/04/26 - Churches Together in Launceston (CTL)- Good Friday Walk of Witness 9am

05/04/26- Easter Sunday

23/04/26 – St George's Day

14 -24 May 2026 – Thy Kingdom Come 2026: 'God with Us.'

Please Get Involved:

If you have any future events to publicise across the deanery, or information about events you have held, please let Helen/Sarah know by March 16th 2026 on getintouch.triggmajordeanery@gmail.com or ring 07835 913786

Details can be included in future newsletters or issued immediately via the Deanery Representative Network if the event is between editions. Thank you to all involved who help distribute information for us – it is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for reading, and we look forward to hearing from you- we welcome all articles and feedback – this Newsletter can be found on [A Church Near You](#), along with other Deanery and local information, so please do visit your church's page.

Looking ahead to Lent



A single Lent study course is planned to run across the deanery. It is the Franciscans Lent course on Landscapes of Penance, Peace and Reconciliation.

The course will run in person in Virginstowe on Tuesday evenings led by Revd Helen Davies, on zoom with

Revd Mary Williamson, and in person at South Petherwin on Wednesdays led by

Revd Sean and Revd Olive, after their Wednesday morning Eucharist (which starts at 11am). More details to follow soon – please do join whichever suits you best.

We would like to conclude with a section from Revd Tina Parry's Benefice letter (Moorland, Egloskerry with Lanstephan) about Lent, entitled:

'From the Vicarage.'

.....“Lent often has a reputation for hair-shirts and joylessness, for giving things up in a way that feels grim, but that’s not really how Lent begins, or how it is meant to be lived.”

“Lent begins by remembering Jesus entering the wilderness, but just before he does, he stands in the waters of baptism and hears words spoken over him that will carry him through everything that follows: ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’ Love bade him welcome before he had done anything, proved anything, or endured anything. It is with those words still echoing in his ears that he goes into the wilderness. Lent is not about earning God’s love or striving to become acceptable. It is about walking with Jesus, trusting that we are already known, loved and held.”

“And as we step into Lent, perhaps we are invited simply to listen again for those words spoken at Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan as if they were spoken to us too, ‘You are my son. You are my daughter. With you I am well pleased. Love bids you welcome. With my love and prayers, Tina”

