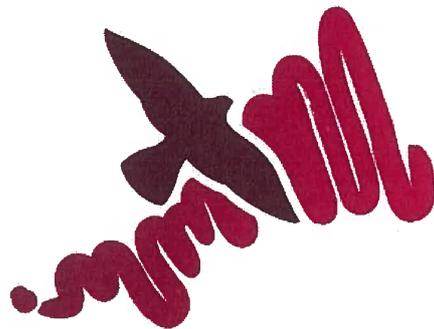


# Newsletter

March 2026

**The churches of St Mary Magdalene,  
Werrington, St Giles, Boyton, North  
Tamerton and Virginstowe (the Benefice of  
St Mary's and the Upper Tamar Parishes)**



**DIOCESE  
OF TRURO**

Welcome to our March newsletter, with details of March services, diary dates for events across the Benefice, prayer resources, news about what has been going on and more.

As I write this introduction, I am just back from the Diocese' half yearly safeguarding conference. There was much to reflect on (see elsewhere in this newsletter), but in his concluding remarks Bishop David said he wants this to be a diocese where all people are afforded 100% kindness and dignity, and there is a zero-tolerance approach to bad behaviour. There is both an invitation and a challenge to us all in that.

Rev Helen, Associate Minister

<b>March 2026</b>	<b>March 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>March 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>March 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>March 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>March 29<sup>th</sup></b>
	Purple Lent 2	Purple Lent 3	Purple Mothering Sunday	Purple Lent 5	Red Palm Sunday
	<i>Genesis</i> 12.1-4a <i>Romans</i> 4.1-5, 13-17 <i>John</i> 3.1-17	<i>Exodus</i> 17.1-7 <i>Romans</i> 5.1-11 <i>John</i> 4.5-42	<i>1 Samuel</i> 1.20-end 2 <i>Corinthians</i> 1.3-7 <i>John</i> 19.25b-27	<i>Ezekiel</i> 37.1-14 <i>Romans</i> 8.6-11 <i>John</i> 11.1-45	**

Boyton	MP 0930 TS			HC 0930 HD	UNITED BENEFICE LAY LED SERVICE 1030
Werrington		HC 0915 HD***	0915 MP RL***		
St Giles		1100 MP RTru	HC 1100 HD		
Virginstowe	MP 1100 MH			HC 1100 HD	
North Tamerton	"Evensong" 1000 JO	HC 1000 MW	MP 1000 JO		—
St Mary Magdalene	Family Service 1030 DS	HC 1030 HD	MP 1030 DS	HC 1030	

Evensong  
1730  
JW

Rev  
Simon  
Cade

\*\* Palm Sunday Readings:

Liturgy of the Palms: Psalm 118.19-24, Matthew 21.1-11

Liturgy of the Passion: Isaiah 50.4-9a, Philippians 2.5-11, Matthew 27.11-54 [or Matthew 26.14-end 27]

\*\*\*Banns

Midweek communion at St Mary Magdalene is on Wednesday



mornings at 9.30am

## Trigg Major Deanery

### A Lent course on 'Landscapes of Penance, Peace & Reconciliation' (it's not too late!)

This year we are using the Franciscans' materials for our Lent Course, across the Deanery. We hope there will be a time and place that suits everyone.

“Lent is often described as a season of repentance — but many people hear “repentance” as shame, pressure, or spiritual self-improvement. This course begins somewhere else.

It begins with landscape: the places that shape our imagination, our history, our wounds, and our hope. It begins with the conviction that God meets us not only in ideas, but in the real terrain of human life — in dust and ice, in oceans and cities, in stories of conflict and courage, in communities longing to heal. And it begins with the HeartEdge instinct that transformation happens best when we learn to see abundance even in hard places, and to practise compassion, culture, congregation, and commerce for the sake of the common good.

**South Petherwin** Wednesdays, after 11am communion at St Paternus, starting Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> Feb at Rev Olive's, and thereafter at Rev Sean's

**Virginstowe**      Tuesday evenings 7pm at Crow's Nest EX21 5EA starting  
24th February, with Rev Helen

**On zoom**      contact Rev Mary ([mary878williamson@btinternet.com](mailto:mary878williamson@btinternet.com))  
for zoom link, Wednesday afternoons at 2pm starting 25<sup>th</sup> February

**St Nonna's Church Altarnun, Roger's Diary**

A course based on the book of Jonah, by Patrick Coghlan. Starts Thursday  
19<sup>th</sup> Feb at 10.45, in church. All course materials and refreshments provided.

**Moorland Egloskerry and Lanstephan Benefice Lenten Prayer/ Morning  
Prayer 10am on Wednesday mornings**

25 February	Davidstow
4 March	Egloskerry
11 March	Laneast
18 March	North Petherwin
25 March	St Clether
1 April	Tremaine or Trewen (check with Rev Tina)

**St Mary Magdalene, Launceston**

***Faure's Requiem in Lent***

*Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 10.30am*

***Introit and Kyrie***

*Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 5.30pm*

***Offertorium***

*Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30am*

***Sanctus***

*Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30am*

## *Libera me*

*Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 10.30am*

## *Agnus Dei*

*Performed by the Parish Choir*

## **ALL WELCOME**

### **Guide me, O thou great Redeemer**

Almost sixty years ago I started playing hymns in church in Wales and I realised from an early age the joy that singing brings and the wonder of worship and all that it offers. At this penitential time of Lent we pause in the midst of our troubled world to focus on the sacrifice of others and, most notably, the significant sacrifice of the Crucifixion. For centuries composers and writers have created works to mark seasons in our churches and you will note, for example, St Mary Magdalene's performance of movements from Fauré's Requiem this month, publicised in this edition. Fauré was moved to compose this splendid work between the death of his parents in the 1880's and, more recently, John Rutter dedicated his Requiem to his father who died in 1984. Music expresses emotion in so many ways and we are so lucky to be able to access it and participate in it.

In my professional world I have faced many challenges but none more so than choosing hymns for church! We all have our favourites and in a recent study of hymn choices throughout the nation the chosen repertoire was very wide indeed. In truth, most hymn books have over five hundred hymns but generally we use a small proportion of them. I have met as many people who like 'Shine Jesus shine' as those who detest it and this might, in part, reflect our

age or our preferred style of worship. But there are practical considerations too: as we grow older our ability to breathe comfortably and to reach the higher notes weakens. Music resources in churches vary too. A competent choir and/or worship band can offer a strong lead but if the organ is wheezing, the sound system is faltering or it is very cold we face challenge, all of which inhibits our singing.

But does it really matter? Everybody can sing to a greater or lesser extent and we should consider where we are on the spectrum! Do we enhance or inhibit? If we struggle we can say the words rather than sing them or think them to ourselves. So often the hymn tune dominates the reason for our choices but the text is key, even in the politically correct world in which we live. During this season's sporting events or on BBC's Songs of Praise, for example, we hear loud and enthusiastic singing, not all of which is good but it is certainly hearty and displays corporate activity at its best, often to encourage and enthuse opposing sides in the case of sport (make what you will of that in a church context).

So, as we move through Lent, in the words of some seasonal hymns: 'Be still my soul'; 'Lord Jesus think on me'; 'My song is love unknown' and, after some physiotherapy, 'Dance then wherever you may be' because 'God is working His purpose out'.



Sean Sweeney

**O RADIANT DAWN ST MARTIN'S VOICES AT ST PETROC'S  
BODMIN**

As part of our Courageous Churches Event at St Petroc's Bodmin we are delighted to announce that St Martin's Voices – the top class choral voices of St Martin-in-the-Fields with their musical director Andrew Earis- will be giving a concert on the evening of Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £15 – with concessions and can be booked at  
[www.stmartinsoices.com/on-tour](http://www.stmartinsoices.com/on-tour)

Please would you consider advertising this event in your church and community. And I attach a poster and a 'tile' that could be used to accompany publicity.

The Voices will also be joining us for the HeartEdge day on Wednesday March 4<sup>th</sup> at St Petroc's to showcase Great Sacred Music with Sam Wells as one of the innovative mission tools on display during the day.

More information about Great Sacred Music can be found in the other attachment.

Tickets can be booked <https://tickets.myknowchurch.co.uk/gb/MzQ5NC03/t>

Any queries please contact Andrew or Sian Yates at [heartedge@smif.org](mailto:heartedge@smif.org)

## **An invitation from Bishop David- Chrism Mass**

**THE RT REVD DAVID WILLIAMS**  
**BISHOP OF TRURO**

The Bishops' Office  
The Old Cathedral School  
Cathedral Close  
Truro TR1 2FQ

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Email: [office@trurodiocese.org.uk](mailto:office@trurodiocese.org.uk)  
Website: [www.trurodiocese.org.uk](http://www.trurodiocese.org.uk)

18 February 2026

To all licensed and PTO Clergy in the Diocese of Truro  
Dear friends,

### **Chrism Eucharist 2026**

I write to warmly invite you to the Chrism Eucharist which will take place on **Maundy Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 10.30am** in Truro Cathedral. This annual service gives us the opportunity to reflect on our own call to ordained ministry in the light of the events of Holy Week. This year I am delighted that The Very Revd Simon Robinson, will preach at the service.

This is a very important part of our shared life and ministry, and I do hope as many of you as possible will be present. We have welcomed a good number of priests to the diocese since last year, and as well as re-affirming your own vows, this is an opportunity to meet and welcome them.

During the Eucharist we will offer anointing to all those present, as a sign of the grace upon which we all depend in ministry and which is freely given to us in Christ, and as ever oils will be blessed for use throughout the year. After the service Holy Oils will be available for you to collect for use in your parish. Please ensure that you bring suitable vessels with

you. If you are able to drop-off labelled vessels in the North Transept at the start of the service we can ensure they are filled for you to collect at the end.

Refreshments will be available after the service and I would encourage you all to stay on and enjoy fellowship together.

If you wish to robe please wear whatever robes you are most comfortable in (the liturgical colour is white), robing in the choir vestry in the crypt.

It is right that we reflect in this way on our own calling to ordained ministry, but we should not do so in an exclusive way. I know many lay people, if not constrained by other commitments, appreciate the opportunity to reaffirm their own commitment to ministry and indeed to receive anointing for themselves if they so wish. Do therefore invite others to join us and if you would like to ask representatives from your congregations to accompany you to support you in your ministry then please do so; they would also be very welcome. Finally, please let people know about this service so that they can pray for and with us even if they cannot be there themselves.

I look forward very much to seeing you in the Cathedral on Maundy Thursday.  
Every blessing

## **What has been going on in our church communities?**

### **St Denys Pancake Brunch**

North Tamerton hosted their annual pancake brunch on 21 February. They offer two pancakes and a hot drink, with a massive choice of savoury and sweet pancake fillings, plus a raffle, to raise funds to support St Denys.

The brunch was very well attended, with a steady stream of more than 60 hungry visitors through the morning and lunchtime. Here are some of the front of house team, and of course the kitchen was also very busy. The tables seemed to be full throughout, with everyone enjoying the generous catering and delicious choice of fillings. The event raised £451.



Joshua and Sharon Ravenscroft and Sue Griffin, hard at work at St Denys' Pancake Brunch

### **Rural Dean appointed**

Since Rev Peter Knight retired in 2022, we have been without a permanent rural dean, but now we have two! At Deanery Synod, Archdeacon Clive commissioned Rev Sean Clancy strategic rural dean, and Rev Olive Stevens assistant rural dean. Contact Rev Sean for all things rural dean related.

Revd Mary Williamson no longer has a landline, so if you need to contact her, please use her mobile number 07495 291930.

### **Safeguarding**

A reminder that our safeguarding officer in the rural churches is Sheila Annesley 01409 211859.

The safeguarding officer in St Mary Magdalene is currently Rev Helen 07802 732494 or 01566 771115.

If you have a concern and cannot reach a safeguarding officer contact the Diocesan safeguarding team on 01872 274351 or [safeguardingconcerns@truro.anglican.org](mailto:safeguardingconcerns@truro.anglican.org)

If you have immediate concerns about the safety of someone please contact the police or Cornwall Council's children or adult social care service.

## NEED TO RAISE A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN?

- **URGENT** - Immediate risk of harm? - Contact the Police on 999
- **URGENT CHILD SAFEGUARDING** - Contact Social Care MARU on 0300 1231116 or email: [multiagencyreferralunit@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:multiagencyreferralunit@cornwall.gov.uk)
- **URGENT ADULT SAFEGUARDING** - Contact Adult Social Care on 0300 1234 131 or 01208 251300 (out of hours)
- **NON URGENT** - Email non urgent concerns to [safeguardingconcerns@truro.anglican.org](mailto:safeguardingconcerns@truro.anglican.org) Or training/DBS/Dashboard/Hub enquires to [safeguardingqueries@truro.anglican.org](mailto:safeguardingqueries@truro.anglican.org)

Safeguarding is everyone's concern.



## Diary Dates

**Coffee mornings in Boyton at 10am** every Thursday, alternating between the Church Hall (12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>) and the Chapel Hall. Everyone welcome.

**Saturday Feb 28th 1pm Organ** recital by Joshua Hughes, Assistant Organist, at St Mary Magdalene. Refreshments and retiring collection support St Mary's music.

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February Diocesan Synod, St Erme, Truro** Open to everyone.

**Tuesday 3 March 7pm** Lent Study Group, Crow's Nest, Virginstowe

**The first Wednesday of each month** men's breakfast at Trethorne, organised by Harry Wellington at GF Gubbin and particularly useful for men on their own or who have lost a loved one, but all welcome. Call 01566 785340 to book.

**Wednesday 4 March 2pm** Lent Study Group on zoom

**Wednesday 4 March 7pm** Churches Together in Launceston meeting at the Presbytery, St Cuthbert Mayne. All welcome

**Saturday 7 March 10am-noon** Marie Curie coffee morning in Boyton Church Hall, with stalls and raffle

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 6pm** Taize, a quiet, reflective service based on the music of the Taizé Community, with live music. St Thomas, Launceston.

**Wednesday 18 March 2.30pm** Mothers Union meet at St Mary's

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 7pm** Bereavement Group, St Thomas Hall. Support for anyone who is finding loss and grief difficult, however long ago.

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 7pm** St Mary Magdalene PCC

**Friday 27 March 2.30pm** North Tamerton APCM

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 11am** Kids Café at St Marys. Crafty fun and breakfast for children.

**Save the date!** 18<sup>th</sup> April In their Footsteps, the story of gospel music, a concert raising funds for Werrington Church.

**Save the date!** 14<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> May, Thy Kingdom Come, global prayer initiative

### Contact details

Priest in charge      Father Michael Dobson

Associate minister      Revd Helen Davies  
(part time)                      07802 732494

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

Deanery Administrator    Helen Uglow (for enquiries about baptisms, weddings and funerals, and deanery communications)

07835 923786 and [getintouch.triggmajordeanery@gmail.com](mailto:getintouch.triggmajordeanery@gmail.com)



### A history of bells...

Towers are usually constructed on the west end of a church building. Some variations include late Saxon and early Norman churches were often built in the form of a cross. At Tawstock, near Barnstaple, the tower is in the centre of a two aisle church, standing on four stone arches and with no actual walls until you get to roof level. You therefore ring at roof level, and to get to the ringing chamber you enter via a door in the outer wall, up a spiral staircase, out on a balcony over the side chapel, and through a tunnel in the inner wall! Here there are 8 bells, weighing three and a half tons, swinging at the same time and causing the walls to shake. With your back to the wall, a nervous feeling is

experienced. Other Saxon churches have the tower in the chancel, choir stalls moved left and right to allow ringing. At Brean in Somerset, the bells are rung from inside the church porch. The congregation have to wait for a gap in the ringing, or enter via the priests' door.

At Talland, near West Looe, the tower is built on a rock face and linked to the church by a porch. The tower floor is stoned out to allow water emitting from the rock to freely run in a drain out its door. Other churches, such as Lawhitton, have the tower built on a north or a south wall.

In Cornwall we have two bell towers, at Illogan and Gwennap, both near Redruth, which are stood in the graveyard, totally unattached to the church.

When you look at a tower it might have straight sided walls, while others have a wider base using a number of stone buttresses from the base to any mid point in the height. This is used to help its stability in height and the weight of the bells it holds. At Probus, near Truro, we have the highest tower in Cornwall at 125 feet, finished with battlements and a total of 40 pinnacles. St Denys, North Tamerton is considered the tallest un-buttressed tower in Cornwall.

Towers all have different roofs. Some are almost flat, covered in lead, with a slight slope for drainage. Others have spires, some triangular slate covered tops, others an inverted slate roof with a lead valley.

But how do we get up to the ringing chamber and roofs? Again every church has its own system. Most churches have ground floor

ringing, like all the churches in our Benefice. Tall towers often have ringing part way up the tower so to get to it can be a simple set of wooden stairs. Others climb up a spiral stone staircase built into part of the tower wall, continuing up to the bells and roof access. Having to walk up 60 stone spiral steps is not unusual in tall towers, just to ring. In some recent church alterations the PCC have moved the ringers up 12 feet onto a new landing, then used the tower floor for a kitchen and/ or toilets, and at Callington on a £5,000 children's play area.

To be continued...

Norman Cowling, Boyton Tower Captain



## **A Church Near You- Prayer resources**

We have a prayer resources page for each of our rural churches, on the A Church Near You website. It includes the Diocese daily prayers diary. Do pass on prayer resources you think others might find useful.

If you would like to be part of our WhatsApp prayer group, please contact Revd Helen on 07802 732494 or [reverendhelandavies@gmail.com](mailto:reverendhelandavies@gmail.com) with your mobile number.

### **This month we pray for...**

The victims and survivors of abuse, and all who work locally, in the Diocese and nationally to make our churches safe spaces.

Sarah Mullally, the Archbishop of Canterbury as she steps into that post.

Peace, in The Middle East, Ukraine, South Sudan, Venezuela, and all places of conflict.

Our brothers and sisters in Christ members of other denominations and members of Churches Together in Launceston, praying for support for ecumenical working across the Deanery.

All who serve in the Benefice, particularly our lay leaders, church wardens and all who lead worship, and our Deanery officers, strategic rural Dean Rev Sean and assistant rural dean Rev Olive.

Couples preparing for marriage in our benefice churches.

All who are sick, in pain, recovering from treatment or troubled, praying particularly for those known to us. We lift before the Lord all of those whom we hold in our hearts and our own personal prayers.

We give thanks for the lives of those we have lost and all the faithful departed including Maxine Towl, George Avery and Christine Gunn and we pray for all who mourn the passing of a loved one.

### **Bishop David's prayer for the Diocese**

Gracious and Holy God, You are our Father, our shelter and strength. In this land of wise waters and ancient faith, may your kingdom come afresh in this Diocese of Truro. Give us grace each day to walk the pilgrim path with humility.

Lord Jesus Christ, Shepherd of the flock and servant of all, forgive what is past, renew what is broken, and make us vessels of mercy and peace.

Holy Spirit, Breath of God and fire of love, dwell in this place and stir up your gifts within us. Guide this diocese in truth, bind us together across generations and parishes, and send us out as bearers of hope and healing.

For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory

Amen



# "IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS"

THE STORY OF GOSPEL MUSIC

SATURDAY 18TH APRIL 2026

YEOLMBRIDGE CHAPEL

(AT LADYCROSS)

AT 7PM

Music by local band

'NOTORIOUS'  
& Singers

Songs by:

*Eric Clapton*

*Rosetta Tharpe*

*Elvis Presley*

Free Entry

Donations for:

Yeolmbridge Chapel

& Werrington Church

