



DIOCESE OF TRURO
DISCOVERING GOD'S KINGDOM
GROWING THE CHURCH

Trigg Major Deanery Newsletter

DIOCESE OF TRURO



Welcome Revd Sean Clancy,

Recently Commissioned as Strategic Rural Dean



Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you.

It is a real privilege to introduce myself as the new Strategic Rural Dean for the Trigg Major Deanery. My name is Revd Sean, and I am very much looking forward to getting to know the clergy, churchwardens, and congregations better across the deanery in the months ahead.

Rural ministry is both a gift and a challenge. Our communities are rich in faith, tradition, and service, and our churches continue to play a vital role in the life of our villages and towns. As Strategic Rural Dean, my hope is to support and encourage our churches as we work together in mission, share resources and wisdom, and respond faithfully to the needs of our communities.

A key part of my role will be listening— hearing your hopes, concerns, and ideas for the future of the church in this area. I am eager to build strong relationships across the deanery and to explore how we can collaborate creatively, sustain ministry, and nurture discipleship in every parish.

Please do feel free to introduce yourselves if we meet at services, deanery events, or in the course of visiting parishes. I look forward to walking this journey of faith together.

With every blessing,

Revd Sean
Strategic Rural Dean, Trigg Major Deanery

Welcome Revd Canon Olive Stevens - newly commissioned Assistant Rural Dean



Revd Olive writes:

“I was ordained in Truro Cathedral on the 5th July 2003
I served my title at St Martin and St Meriadoc in Camborne
I was commissioned as Rural Dean of Carnmarth North in 2008

I served as a team Vicar in the Redruth Team Ministry and later licensed as Rector of Camborne in 2014.

I came to live in South Petherwin in October 2023

I have been commissioned as Assistant Rural Dean in Trigg Major.”

Perhaps little did Revd Olive know what ‘retirement’ had in store? We look forward to hearing more in the next edition of the Deanery Newsletter, as Revd Olive has kindly agreed to producing a letter for it.



Thy Kingdom Come ‘God with us.’ 14th -24th May 2026

It seems appropriate to mention the initiative ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ at this point, in particular ‘The Spirit of Listening.’ (Please see page 14 of ‘God With Us,’ and the Prayer Journal- these booklets will be appearing in churches over the coming days).

Welcome Sean and Olive as you take up your roles within Trigg Major Deanery, an area covering 21 churches in North Cornwall.

Dear Lord,

We give thanks that Sean and Olive, and all our clergy, have been listening to your calling. Now we in turn, pray that we can promise to encourage and support them to the best of our abilities, using the gifts we have been given.

Amen

Clergy Contact Details:

Strategic Rural Dean

Revd Sean Clancy: Tel: 07792780596

Email: revseanclancy@gmail.com

Assistant Rural Dean

Revd Canon Olive Stevens: Tel: 07480576525

Email: olivestevens5@gmail.com

Revd Helen Davies: Tel 07802732494

Email: reverendhelandavies@gmail.com

Revd Jess Lancaster: Tel 01566 782119

Email: reverendjesslancaster@gmail.com

Revd Antony Naylor: Email: revdantonymaylor@gmail.com

Revd Tina Parry: Tel: 07577417924

Email: tina.trurodiocese@outlook.com

Revd Mary Williamson: Tel 07495 291930.

Email: mary878williamson@btinternet.com

Lay Reader: Dr Brian Davies

Email: bhd@hotmail.co.uk

Lay Reader: James Wonnacott

Email: J1@jameswonnacott.co.uk

Deanery Synod News – Lay Chair: Sarah Vinson



An Evening at St Martin Church, Lewannick with David Scott, (Scott & Company. Chartered Surveyors and Church Architecture), held on Thursday 26/03/26, article by Bridget Pentreath (Deanery Representative for Lezant).

“Ten people from churches across the deanery, attended the evening meeting with David, who was extremely welcoming, making cups of tea and serving lovely cakes (kindly made by Caroline Latham). Lewannick church was chosen as the venue for this meeting because of the work they have completed, with the installation of toilet and kitchen facilities and a meeting room.

David gave a very interesting and informative talk about the processes involved when planning a project. He advised anyone involved in a project to seek advice from The Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC), and to publicise what is being planned widely to the congregation and parish. David highlighted how helpful and encouraging the Diocese is when projects are being undertaken. The evening concluded with a tour of the church. The opportunity to see the completed works demonstrated to those present what can be achieved.

Our thanks to David for such an interesting and helpful talk.”

TRIGG MAJOR DEANERY TREASURER’S UPDATE -Tim Smith, Deanery Treasurer.

Finance continues to be a high priority for the Deanery, and much work is taking place 'behind the scenes. I hope to give a more detailed update after Easter. In the meantime, if there are any queries regarding church finances, please let me know.

I am pleased to report that church treasurers are working together to investigate the advantages of 'joint procurement' and this is showing possible savings on items such as lightning conductor and fire extinguisher checks – please come to the meeting with examples of this and any other savings that could be made.

I can be contacted via email:

tim.smith@queensacre.net

The next Deanery Treasurers meeting is due to take place at 6.00pm on Wednesday 6 May at St Thomas’ Church Hall, Launceston.

Dr Sean Sweeney, Director of Music has kindly forwarded the following article:

‘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

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"

Congratulations to Caroline Stone, Tremaine Church, for being amongst those awarded the St Piran's Cross, this year.

We welcome the Bishop of Truro to the Benefice on April 19th to 4pm Evensong at St Stephens Church, Launceston.

The Cross of St Piran will be presented to Caroline at this service.

ALL WELCOME

A more detailed article will follow regarding this wonderful achievement following the presentation having been made.

Some very unexpected and welcome correspondence was received after the last edition of the Trigg Major Deanery Newsletter was sent out:

"In your last issue, we noted an article 'St. Piran's Day,' with a verse from a hymn written by Canon Miles Brown - he was our "vicar "who officiated at our wedding 58 years ago on the 21st of March 1968!! He was a lovely genuine man, Sam always found him interesting when we visited, he also had an amazing collection of clocks, one of which he made!! "

Congratulations Sam & Maggie (Colwill) on your 58th wedding anniversary and thank you for sharing these very special memories with us regarding Canon Brown.



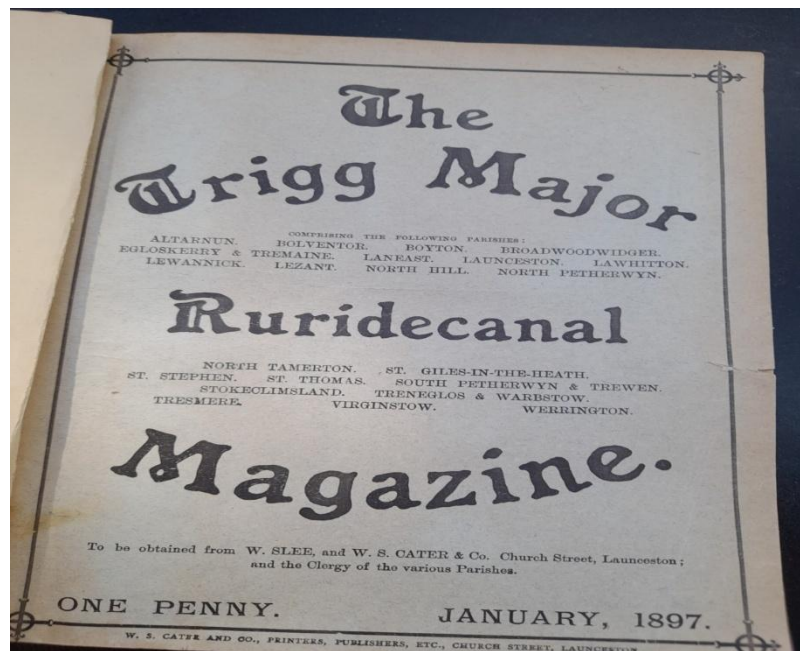
An early Trigg Major Deanery Newsletter.....

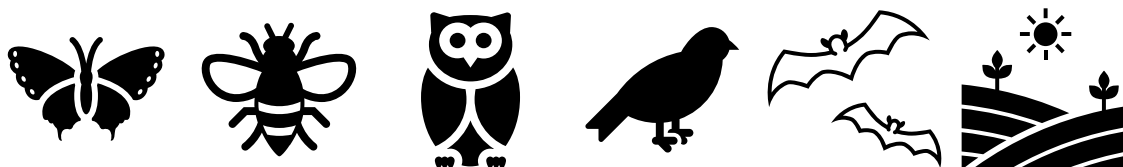
Rob Tremain, awarded the St Piran's cross a few years ago, has kindly supplied a photo of his St Piran's cross and the cover page of an early deanery newsletter, 'The Trigg Major Ruridecanal Magazine' dated January 1897. It is an interesting document. If you study the parishes within Trigg Major at that time, you will see it illustrates the saying 'there is nothing so constant as change'

In addition, The Diocese of Truro was still relatively new to all, having only been established in 1876. Sometimes it can feel as though we are 'the generation of change' but those who came before us have also got their story to tell.

The word 'ruridecanal,' apart from being tricky to pronounce, apparently means 'of or relating to a rural dean.'

Thank you Rob for allowing us to see this very early edition and to note the cost was 'one penny.'





Diocesan Environmental Strategy: Creation Care



Dr Sharon Willoughby, Diocesan Environment Officer.

I joined the team at the Diocese of Truro in August 2025, so I'm still relatively new to the role of Diocesan Environment Officer. I live in St Just in Penwith, with my husband and cat, where I attend St Just Parish Church. Before joining the Diocese, I worked in Botanic Gardens for 25 years, in education and community engagement, at Kew Gardens in London and the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne. I'm passionate about the natural world, and keen to find simple ways, that help us all to feel more connected to creation and actively working together towards a sustainable future.

As Diocesan Environment Officer, I can support you, your PCC or congregation in several ways:

- **Creation Care Champions:** We have a network of 110+ volunteers, right across the Diocese, who help their churches progress on their Creation Care journey. If this is something you are interested in and maybe feel alone in this work - please join us - the network is a great source of ideas, fellowship and support for all.
- **Eco Church:** Registering with A Rocha is easy, and many churches find they already meet Bronze Eco Church Award level. I can help you complete the survey, down the phone, online or in person.
- **Living Churchyards, visits and talks:** I'm happy to offer advice or meet with PCCs and congregations about nature in your Churchyard.
- If you are interested in participating in '[Churches Count on Nature](#)' Week this year (6 - 14 June 2026) registrations are now open. This programme sets out simple materials for congregations or schools to count the nature on their patch. Can be an easy and fun way to get together as a community in your Churchyard. Let me know if you are thinking of participating and need support with the materials.

Always happy to make time to chat and work out next steps.

Contact me at Sharon.willoughby@trurodiocese.org.uk.

Our thanks to Sharon for this article and we hope that the weather is on our side in the summer for a possible visit from Sharon. If any church PCC would like Sharon to visit their churchyard, please contact Helen, who will co-ordinate this for you.

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

A special thanks to Maggie Colwill, St Thomas Church, Launceston for sending this very interesting article:

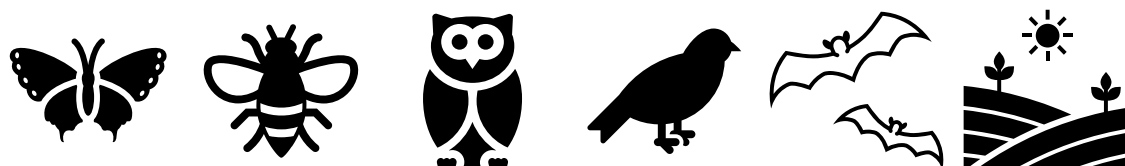


‘Lilium Longiflorum’ often called the Longi Lily or Easter Lily

“Easter. Such a memorable time of the year, a date on the calendar we all look forward to for many different reasons! For the church worshippers, The Celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. New beginnings, rebirth, new life and the arrival of Spring! After 40days of Lent, we can now bring flowers once again into our beautiful churches, to help with our celebrations. On Easter Sunday, the altar flowers represent to me, all the above! My favourite being, Lilium Longiflorum, the Longi lily or Easter Lily as it’s commonly known. This beautiful flower never fails to depict to me, the triumphant celebration of The Easter Story! The lily stands majestically in our arrangements, symbolising,

rebirth, hope, purity and innocence. The creamy white flower signifies, purity and innocence, the trumpet shaped bloom, represents the angels call to ‘New Life’ and resurrection! Very often these beautiful flowers are available at our local florists, or supermarkets. Longi lilies are long lasting, with strong straight stems and given a long drink of water before arranging, will last during our Easter celebrations and well beyond. I love to use driftwood within the arrangement, a cross made with twigs , used within to add height, representing Jesus on the cross, or chunky “mocks” ... roots of trees , I use to represent the tomb/ rocks, which were rolled away in the Garden of Gethsemane , which it is allegedly said Lilium Longiflorum grew.!

Happy Easter, enjoy!”



March/ April 26

Future Dates: Upcoming Events/Meetings: April/May 2026

02/04/26 – Maundy Thursday -please see [A Church Near You](#), under News and Notices for details of all Holy Week and Easter services.

03/04/26 - Churches Together in Launceston (CTL)- Good Friday Walk of Witness 9am, starting at Launceston Central Methodist Church.

04/04/26- Easter Market at Davidstow Church 10am – 2pm: PL32 9XT

04/04/26- Easter Saturday Sundown Service

05/04/26- Easter Sunday – please see [A Church Near You](#) for full list of services.

05/04/26 – Easter Coffee Morning, St Clether PL15 8QJ from 10am -egg race, egg hunt....

11/04/26 – Saturday -Information and Consultation Afternoon from 1pm, with presentation in the Village Hall, South Petherwin at 2pm, PL15 7JB - Please see poster on [A Church Near You](#)

14/04/26 – 1.30pm to 3.30pm ‘Café Central’ is back on Tuesdays and Thursdays, St Martin’s Church, Lewannick PL15 7QG (Community Café).

16/04/26 – 7.30pm A Spring Recital, St Stephen’s Church Launceston PL15 8HL with masterclasses on offer at 2.30pm – please see ‘A Church Near You’ for further information

19/04/26 – 4pm Evensong at St Stephens, Launceston with The Rt Revd David Williams, Bishop of Truro. Caroline Stone is to be awarded the St Piran’s Cross.

23/04/26 – St George’s Day

25/04/26 -Saturday 1pm Organ Concert with Josh Hughes, St Marys, Launceston

28/04/26 – Tuesday 10.30am, Morning Prayer at Tremaine for St Winwaloe’s Day PL15 8SA

May 2026

10/05/26 – 4.30pm-Rev James Treasure’s formal welcome service to Diocese as the new Bishop of St Germans – All welcome - Truro Cathedral.

14/05/26 - Ascension Day

14 -24 May 2026 – Thy Kingdom Come 2026: ‘God with Us.’ – more details to follow

Advance Notices

June 2026

09/06/26 – Tuesday 7pm Archdeacons’ Visitation, Marhamchurch Church EX23 0HY

13/06/26 -Saturday, 1pm Flower Festival Organ Concert with Sean Sweeney, St Mary’s Launceston

27/06/26-Saturday 7.30pm Concert with Callington Community Gospel Choir at North Petherwin Church PL15 8LR. (Donations for Tremaine Church- please be as generous as possible -roof project).

July 2026

18/07/26 -Saturday 1pm St Mary’s Choir Concert



For Information: Parish Training Days

See the brochure here:

<https://trurodiocese.org.uk/whats-on/parish-training-2026/>

Please Get Involved:

If you have any future events to publicise across the deanery, or information about events you have held, please contact getintouch.triggmajordeanery@gmail.com

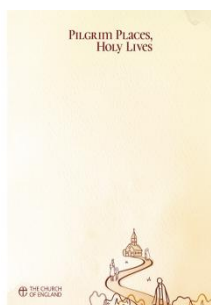
or ring 07835 913786

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 provide and distribute information – it is greatly appreciated.

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

As summer draws closer:

Please look out for the 'Thy Kingdom Come' booklets in churches over the coming weeks.



Also, this summer, the Church of England offers a new reflection campaign centred around pilgrimage. More details to follow.

In the meantime, depending on when you are reading this, have a glorious Easter.