

Newsletter

April 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)**



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

Rev Helen, Associate Minister

Services in April

April 2026	April 5th	April 12th	April 19th	April 26th
	White/ gold	White	White	White
	Easter Day	Easter 2	Easter 3	Easter 4
	Jeremiah 31.1-6	Exodus 14.10-end	Zephaniah 3.14-end	Genesis 7
	Acts 10.34- 43	Acts 2.14a, 22-32	Acts 2.14a, 36-41	Acts 2.42- end
	John 20.1-18	John 20.19- nd	Luke 24.13- 35	John 10.1-10

Boyton	HC 0900 HD			HC 0930 HD
Werrington		MP 0915 RL	HC 0915 MW	
St Giles		MP 1100 R Tru		HC 1100 HD
Virginstowe	HC 0915 MW		MP 1100 MH	
North Tamerton	HC 1700 HD	SOP 1000 JO		MS 1000 JO
St Mary Magdalene	HC 1030 HD NO Evensong	Family service 1030 DS Evensong 1730 JW	MP 1030 RTre Note Evensong with Bishop David at St Stephens 4pm & refreshments	HC 1030 MW

Midweek communion at St Mary Magdalene is on Wednesday

mornings at 9.30am



Services in May

May 2026	May 3rd	May 10th	May 17th	May 24th	May 31 st
	White East er 5	White East er 6	White Sunday after Ascensi on Day	Red Pentecost/ Whit Sunday	Gold/ white Trinity
	Genesi s 8.1- 19 Acts 7.55- end John 14.1- 14	Genesi s 8.20- 9.17 Acts 17.22- 31 John 14.15- 21	Ezikiel 36.24-28 Acts 1.6-14 John 17.1- 11	Acts 2.1-21 Numbers 11.24- 30 John 20.19-23	Isaiah 40.12-17, 27-end 2 Corinthia ns 13.11- end Matthew 28.16- end
Boyton	MP 0930 TS			HC 0930 HD	
Werrington		HC 0915 HD	MP 0915 RL		HC United Benefice Service 1030 HD
St Giles	MP 1100 R Tr		HC 1100 HD		
Virginstowe		MP 1100 MH		HC 1100 HD	
North Tamerton	MS 1000 JO	Sunday worshi p 1000 JO	HC 0930 HD		—

St Mary
Magdalene

Family
Service
1030
DS
Evenso
ng 1730
JW

HC
1030
HD

MP 1030
RTre

HC 1030
MW

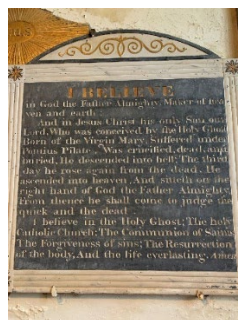
What has been going on in our church communities?

Easter

It was a joy to see increased numbers at our Lent Study Groups, Holy Week services and Easter services this year. The Lent course book, the Franciscans Lent Scapes was often challenging but also deep and rewarding. One study group participant commented that they felt they had journeyed through Lent in a way they never had before.



Maundy Thursday at St Giles



We renewed our baptism vows at our Easter services, and at St Mary's we also blessed the Easter Garden. It was also a joy to finish the Easter weekend with a wedding at St Denys, North Tamerton. Congratulations to Claire and Aaron, and we pray that their marriage will be filled with blessings.



United Service

Boyton hosted the Palm Sunday service, which fell on a fifth Sunday this year, and had the organ tuned in anticipation. All the churches participated and St Mary's choir and director of music also took part. The united services help bring our newly enlarged benefice together, and build new relationships and friendships (as much over coffee and cake as over worship). It is also a joy to worship in a full church.

The next United Service will be a communion service at Werrington on Trinity Sunday.

Werrington's Prize!

Werrington have won a heated seat cushion in a prize draw for those churches that had submitted their completed Energy Footprint Tool by the end of March. Well done Werrington! We all look forward to trying it out.

The Diocese is putting considerable resources into reducing our carbon footprint, across the diocese, in churches and in our own lives at home and work. The cushion is part of a move to heating the person rather than trying to heat the church.

Diocesan appointments

Revd Dr Helen Williams has been announced as the new Archdeacon Designate of Bodmin, and we look forward to her arrival later in the year.

The Revd James Treasure has been announced as the new Bishop of St Germans

We pray for them both as they prepare for this next step in their ministry, here in the Diocese of Truro.

You can find Diocesan news here including a piece about our very own Deanery Administrator Helen Uglow! [News - Truro Diocese : Truro Diocese](#)

iKnowChurch

We have subscribed to some church management software, called iKnowChurch. This will give us a shared diary (so for example church events, weddings, funerals), the capacity for people to enquire about occasional offices via A Church Near You and input all their details, a database so we can record for example PCC members, church officers etc and the capacity to send out emails and newsletters from the database communicating by groups we choose.

The shared diary will mean that if, for example, a member of the clergy is off we will still have diary events and contact details. We will be able to record safeguarding records fully and centrally. And we can hopefully avoid duplication of record keeping. Ultimately the system has the capability to be used for room or hall bookings, and taking payments. It is obviously though only as good as the information we put in! In the first instance you may see requests for data protection and privacy consents.

World Book Day

As in previous years, we took part in St Andrews' Bookshop's special world book day offer, giving away 50 books across our

churches. There are still some in the churches, so do help yourself or take one and give it to a friend.

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

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
- **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 Or training/DBS/Dashboard/Hub enquires to safeguardingqueries@truro.anglican.org

Safeguarding is everyone's concern.



Diary Dates

Coffee mornings in Boyton at 10am every Thursday, alternating between the Church Hall (9th and 23rd) and the Chapel Hall. Everyone welcome.

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

Taize There is NO Taize service in April.

Tuesday April 14th 7.30pm Boyton's APCM

Wednesday 15 April 2.30pm Mothers Union meet at St Mary's

Wednesday 15th April 7pm Bereavement Group, St Thomas Hall. Support for anyone who is finding loss and grief difficult, however long ago.

Saturday 18th April In their Footsteps, the story of gospel music, a concert raising funds for Werrington Church.

Sunday 19th April 4pm Bishop David will preach at Evensong at St Stephens, Launceston. He will also present the St Piran Cross to Caroline Stone in recognition of her work within the church.

Saturday 25th April 11am Kids Café at St Marys. Crafty fun and breakfast for children.

Saturday 25th April 7.30-10.30pm Charity Dance in St Giles Coronation Hall, in aid of Eye Defects

Tuesday 28th April time TBC St Giles APCM

Thursday 30th April 7pm Werrington's APCM

Saturday 2nd May Tamar Guild of Ringers visit to St Denys, North Tamerton including their AGM and a brief service at 3pm, followed by tea

Saturday 9th May Boyton Church dance at Coronation Hall, St Giles

Sunday 10th May 1130am St Mary Magdalene's APCM, followed by a Bring and Share lunch

Saturday 16th May 10.30-1pm Coffee morning at Victory Hall, North Tamerton

Save the date! 14th-24th 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

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

07835 923786 and getintouch.triggmajordeanery@gmail.com



This year's Thy Kingdom Come is all about the presence of God through His spirit.

The God who is with us in the everyday – in the joys and sorrows of life (and everything in between) and the One who, through His spirit, longs to reveal Himself to those who do not yet know Him.

From the story of Ruth to the story of Gideon, from the story of Elijah to the story of the early church who waited for the promised Holy Spirit to come- over the 11 days we will explore a different Bible story each day, which demonstrates God's transformative presence, power and love at work in the lives of people and places.

Our hope is that as we pray for our five people, they will also experience the life-changing love of God and choose to follow Him.

Watch out for details of events in our May newsletter.

Music at St Mary Magdalene in April

Easter Day Hallelujah Chorus, and Widor's Toccata (Symphonie V)

12th April Now the green blade riseth, arr Lindley and Postlude,
William Mathias

19th April O taste and see, Vaughan Williams and Pastorale in F,
JS Bach

26th April A new commandment, Shephard and Fantasia in G
Minor, JS Bach



A history of bells...

Heading up through a tower, you will find the first floor. Boyton for example is empty apart from the ropes coming down from the bell chamber above. In Werrington, as well as the ropes, this floor holds the clock, its apparatus and winding mechanism. The top floor is known as the Bell Chamber, where will be found a frame in either metal or wood, which holds the bells in such a manner that they can swing through 360 degrees. A wooden “stay” acts as a safety device to prevent the bell doing more than one rotation. Depending on the size of the tower they may all fit on one level, or in two or more levels. Bradstone, near to Lifton, is a typical example where around the turn of the 19th/ 20th century the original five bells were complemented by the addition of a 6th, a small bell in a frame fitted over the other five. Each bell has its own “headstock” to which is fitted a wooden wheel onto which the rope is tied. When the rope is pulled it makes the bell swing. Inside

each bell is a metal clapper which strikes the inside of the bell to make the sound.

To get onto the roof of the tower there is either a stone spiral staircase or a ladder to climb and balance on while, using two hands, lifting up a heavy trapdoor to allow an awkward climb onto the roof. Other towers have what appears to be a shed-like structure in one corner. A staircase will lead you to a door, onto a flat roof. Ashwater and Tetcott churches are two local examples of this, but unfortunately these are always at risk to the elements, and despite all endeavours, the ingress of water around its frames can result in dampness right through the walls and timbers. Looking at Ashwater tower from outside the main entrance and you can identify the damp stonework on the north wall. Several years ago I was invited to ring for a wedding at St Michael de Rupe Church at Brentor. With over an inch of water on the tower floor, we rang wearing wellington boots and leggings. Happily, on a more recent visit, the roof had been repaired!

Maintenance of towers and bells in the past and to the present day is an expensive concern. There are several church towers now in such a vulnerable state that ringing is no longer permitted. South Hill, near Callington, has recently been in the local paper having had their 5 bells removed, repaired at Loughborough and returned with new fittings. The frames have been strengthened. The work has cost £30,000. It was over fifty years ago when the bells were last rung as a peal and even now only tolling the bell is permitted. Davidstowe's bells have not rung for over fifty years, and at Lewannick they have a structural defect as well as the tower roof being supported off the bell frames to prevent total inward

collapse. North Hill is another church within our deanery where the bells are currently un-ringable. Milton Abbot recently spent £106,000 repairing bell chamber structures as well as the bell frames, fittings and an overhaul, so the bells are now in full use again.

And congratulations to St Denys, North Tamerton who raised over £60,000 to bring the bells back into use, the last overhaul there being in 1905/6. [See details of the Tamar Guild of Ringers' visit to St Denys in May, elsewhere in this newsletter].

To be continued...

Norman Cowling, Boyton Tower Captain



St Denys' bells March 2024, their blessing in November 2024, and ringing for a wedding on Easter Day 2026



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 reverendhelendavies@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.

James Teasure, to be Bishop of St Germans, and Helen Williams, Archdeacon designate of Bodmin, as they prepare for their arrival and ministry among us.

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.

Our Deanery Team, Chair Sarah Vinson, Treasurer Tim Smith and administrator Helen Uglow, and we give thanks for their faithful service.

Couples preparing for marriage in our benefice churches, and Claire and Aaron, married at St Denys over Easter.

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.

For skill, sympathy and resilience for all who care for the sick, and wisdom for those who carry out medical research.

We give thanks for the lives of those we have lost and all the faithful departed including Roger Williams 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

