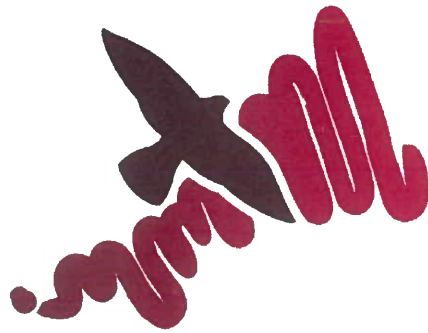


Newsletter

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

May is Christianity Month! Originally the initiative of Chris Briggs, a Methodist Presbyterian, Christianity Month is;

- A vision; something that is God given;
 - A vehicle; that can be used by God to deliver good news about what Christ and the Christian faith has done, and does, to transform the world; and
 - A voice for each of us as advocates and ambassadors for Christ.
- This initiative makes May a month of celebration and intentional mission, sharing the Good News of Jesus in word and action. Each of us can do this as an individual, but it may be something your church would like to do next year as a church community. We have been invited to pick up the May is Christianity Month initiative by Churches Together in Launceston.

May also brings Thy Kingdom Come, a global prayer initiative.



There are prayer journals, novenas and "pray for 5" cards in each of our churches. Do help yourself, and take copies for anyone you think may find them helpful.

There are prayer resources in many of our churches, books, prayer candles and quiet to sit in these prayer-soaked spaces in God's presence. Some of our churches will also have prayer stations set up, new ideas to help you pray.

Here are a couple of ideas, once you have chosen the five people you are going to pray come to Christ.

Try praying only using your hands

Sit with your hands open as if holding one of the five people. Take time to rest in God's presence in silence. When you are ready simply offer them up to God by slowly lifting your hands upwards. Waiting again until you are ready to release them into God's hands. Then close your hands together and after a short while place them on your knees. Repeat with each of your five.

Write down the first name of your five people

Alongside each letter write down what you desire the Lord to do in their lives. Here is an example for the name Jean:

J - **Just** to hear that you love her Lord

E - **Envelop** her in a sense of your presence

A - Let her be **aware** of her need of you

N - Be **near** to her Lord

On Ascension Day, the start of Thy Kingdom Come, there will be a Holy Communion service at St Mary Magdalene, starting at 5.30pm.

We also have TKC morning and evening prayer booklets. Ask Rev Helen if you would like to use one.

And why not join together with some Christian friends, over coffee and cake, and pray together. You never know, you might want to do it again!

Rev Helen, Associate Minister

Services in May

May 2026	May 3rd White Easter 5 Genesis 8.1-19 Acts 7.55-end John 14.1-14	May 10th White Easter 6 Genesis 8.20-9.17 Acts 17.22-31 John 14.15-21	May 17th White Sunday after Ascension Day Ezekiel 36.24-28 Acts 1.6-14 John 17.1-11	May 24th Red Pentecost/Whit Sunday Acts 2.1-21 Numbers 11.24-30 John 20.19-23	May 31st Gold/white Trinity Isaiah 40.12-17, 27-end 2 Corinthians 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 RTr		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 Evenson g 1730 JW	HC 1030 HD	MP 1030 RTre	HC 1030 MW	

Thursday 14 May Ascension Day, Holy Communion at St Mary
Magdalene 5.30pm

What has been going on in our church communities?

Who's Who

A huge thank you to all those who lead services across the benefice.

Our local worship leaders are Tim Smith (Boyton), Raye Luckhurst (Werrington), Demelza Hardy (Virginstowe) and Rob Tremain, Sue Tierney and Don Sharp (St Mary Magdalene).

In addition some of our church wardens lead worship, in particular James Oldham at St Denys who ensures the church has at least three services a month and also manages to play the organ.

Reader James Wonnacott also helps us by taking services across the benefice, as do Rev Mary Williamson (each month) and Rev Olive. Rev Mary and Rev Olive both hold "PTO" or permission to officiate, which means that they have the Bishop's permission to lead right across the diocese.

If you feel you might be called to help lead worship, whether reading, leading prayers, in our music or leading services, do talk to a church warden, worship leader or Rev Helen.

Tamar Guild of Ringers visit to St Denys

The Tamar Guild of Ringers visited St Denys for their annual meeting, service led by Reader, James Wonnacott, tea and to ring, for the first time since 1953.

The visit was organised by St Denys' tower captain Ernie Hicks, and was well attended and much enjoyed. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the renovation and rehunging of the bells, following a huge fund raising effort. The bells were blessed by Bishop Hugh in November 2024, before they were rehung.

Thank you to church warden Susan Turnock for the photos.



Tamar Guild of Ringers visit

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. In the meantime Archdeacon Clive continues to look after us.

The Revd James Treasure has been announced as the new Bishop of St Germans. He has now been consecrated as a Bishop at St Pauls, London, and will be welcomed to the diocese at a

service at Truro Cathedral on Sunday 10 May at 4.30pm. All are welcome at that service.

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

In Their Footsteps, The Story of Gospel Music

Werrington churchwarden Sally Hayden plays the double bass in local band Notorious (just one of her musical activities), and the band and local singers presented a wonderful evening's entertainment at Yeolmbridge Chapel, the story of gospel music in song.

The evening was well attended, and raised over £500, to be split between Werrington Church and the chapel. It was both entertaining and informative. The performers would be pleased to present the programme in other local churches. Thank you to Sally for organising it, and all the performers and those who laid on an abundance of refreshments.

At St Marys, assistant organist Joshua Hughes gave an organ concert of varied music on Saturday 24th April, with donations going to St Mary's music funds.



iKnowChurch (Church Organiser)

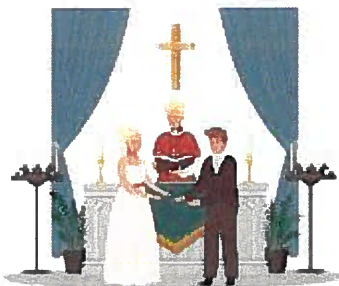
As you know, we have subscribed to some church management software, called iKnowChurch. This will give us a shared diary (so for example church events, weddings, funerals), the capacity for people to enquire about occasional offices via A Church Near You and input all their details, a database so we 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 diary, and the capacity to use the software to send out newsletters and notices are likely to be particularly helpful.

As we gather contact details for all the churches, you may receive a privacy notice and request to sign up.

Congratulations!

Congratulations and happy birthday (belatedly) to Rev Mary, who recently celebrated a significant birthday.

And congratulations to our strategic rural dean Rev Sean Clancy, who will marry Rev Jules Williams, Rector of Wadebridge, on 29th May. We wish them both every happiness, and a marriage full of blessings.



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.

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 (14th and 28th) and the Chapel Hall. Everyone welcome.

Bloke's Breakfast 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.

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 7.30-10.30pm, music from Texans

Sunday 10th May 1130am St Mary Magdalene's APCM immediately after the service

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

Sunday 17th May 6pm Taize service at St Thomas Church, a quiet reflective service based on the chants of the Taize community

14th-24th May, Thy Kingdom Come, global prayer initiative

Saturday 23rd May Organ Concert, Dr Sean Sweeney 1-1.45pm St Mary Magdalene. Free entry. Refreshments

Saturday 23rd May Coronation Hall, St Giles 7.30-10.30pm, dance for St Thomas Church. Music from Simon.

Sunday 24th May Virginstowe's APCM around noon, after the morning service

Sunday 31st May, Trinity Sunday, United Benefice Service at Werrington at 10.30. If you are driving, why not see if anyone from your church needs a lift?

Thursday 18th June Tregadillett. An evening for worship leaders, church wardens leading worship, and anyone interested

in getting involved in leading, leading intercessions etc. An opportunity to share experiences and ask questions.

Save the date Saturday 20th June Boyton Summer Supper

Thursday June 25th 7 for 7.30pm Deanery Synod at Boyton Church Hall

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.

Music at St Mary Magdalene in May

Organ Concert

Dr Sean Sweeney

Saturday 23 May 1pm-1.45

Free entry, with refreshments

Sundays

3 May Choral Evensong, O Sing Joyfully, Batten and March in D, Guilmant

10 May Beati Quorum Via, Stanford and Norwegian Dance, Grieg

17 May Rejoice in the Lord always, anon and Toccata in E, Bach

24 May If ye love me, Tallis, Introduction-Choral, Leon Boellmann

Trinity Sunday, 31 May (Werrington)

A history of bells...



Bells across the benefice

St Denys, North Tamerton

With a size of 5,400 acres and a population of 403 in 1801, 517 in 1842 and 469 in 1883, the church is described as dating from the

late 14th and early 15th century. In 1831 it was classed as a curacy with its incumbent a Rev CP Coffin, while its patron was a Rev RP Coffin and others. It was described as seating 262, and the church registers date back to 1556. By 1883 the Rev Richard C Smith was rector, and the major landowner in the parish, Major Holt of Ogbeare Hall.

Kellys Directory of 1883 states that in 1830 the tower held 5 bells, from Taylors Bellfounders of Oxford. By 1883 there were 6 bells though there is no information about the addition of the 6th, but tower captain Ernie Hicks tells me that local knowledge suggests it came across the Tamar from Tetcott. A search of Tetcott's history tells us that they had 3 bells in 1553. In the early nineteenth century however Kellys says that the bells were in a poor condition, and the Bishop of Exeter granted permission for them to dispose of the bells to raise money to defray the general church repair expenses, so one went to North Tamerton. Ernie tells me that around 1901 a new bell was cast by Mears and Stainbank; was this the one that came from Tetcott?

Around 1905 bell hangars Stokes of Exeter did work on the bell frame which is still in use today, and as we know, in 2024 Taylors of Loughborough removed the bells for a complete overhaul. Tetcott today has a single bell, and that is supposed to be one of the 3 removed from Luffincott Church in 1967/8.

As a matter of interest, in 1883 North Tamerton had a pub, the Sibbald Arms, at Dolsdon on the main Bude road.

To be continued... (learn about Virginstowe next month).

Norman Cowling, Boyton Tower Captain

(Info taken from History of Cornwall 1842 and Kellys Directory 1883)



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.

Those exploring baptism.

Couples preparing for marriage in our benefice churches, and Sharon and Graham, marrying at Werrington this month.

All who are sick, in pain, recovering from treatment or surgery 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, Bradley Johnson, Robert Olver and Tony Howard 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



St Denys' Coffee Morning

At North Tamerton Victory
Hall

Saturday 16th May
10 am - Noon

