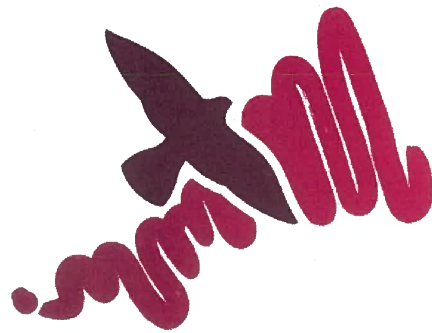


Newsletter

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

It is impossible to capture all of the energy, creativity and faithfulness of the abundance of faith-led activity that takes place inside and outside our church communities each month, even in the smallest communities. It is a joy to try and celebrate some of that activity in our monthly newsletter.

As I write, the deanery synod met a few days ago, and heard a presentation from our Strategic Rural Dean, Rev Sean. The diocese calls us to be fruitful and sustainable as church communities, and deanery synod keeps under review what that means for us here in Trigg Major Deanery, in our context. It would be easy to be downcast sometimes, but as this newsletter shows, The Church is very much alive here. Rev Sean challenged each of the churches to discuss how they see the way forward, at church meetings and more widely. He invited us to discuss;

- What we think is the best way forward;
- How we can best support each other across the deanery to flourish;
- What we are willing to give up? And to take on?
- How we can better reach out to our communities; and
- What is our prayer, here, in this place?

I look forward to the discussions.

Rev Helen, Associate Minister

Services in July

| July 2026 | July 5th | July 12th | July 19th | July 26th |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| | Green | Green | Green | Green |
| Rev Helen holds 29 June-13 July | Trinity 5 | Trinity 6 | Trinity 7 | Trinity 7 |
| | | | Wisdom of Solomon | James the Apostle |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Zechariah 9.9-12 | Isaiah 55.10- 13 | 12.13, 16- 19 | Acts 11.27- 12.3 |
| Romans 7.15-25a | Romans 8.1- 11 | Isaiah 44.6-8 | 2 |
| Matthew 11.16-19, 25-end | Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23 | Romans 8.12-25 | Corinthians 4.7-15 |
| | | Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43 | Matthew 20.20-28 |
| | | | St Mary's Patronal Festival |
| | | | Song of Solomon 3.1-4 |
| | | | 2 |
| | | | Corinthians 5.14-17 |
| | | | John 20.1-2, 11-18 |

| | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Boyton | | | HC 0930 HD | Pet Service 1430 HD |
| Werrington | HC 0915 MW | MP 0915 RL | | |
| St Giles | | MP 1100 R Tru | HC 1100 HD | |
| Virginstowe | MP 1100 Sue T | | | HC 0930 HD |
| North Tamerton | SOP 1000 JO | MS 1000 JO | | HC 1000 MW |
| St Mary Magdalene | Family Service DS 1030 | Holy Communion 1030 MW | MP 1030 DS | HC 1030 Patronal HD |
| | Evensong 1730 JW | | | |

Midweek Communion, St Mary Magdalene 9.30am on



Wednesdays

What has been going on in our church communities?

Boyton's Summer Supper

Boyton's summer supper, hosted by the church in the church hall, is always one of The village social events of the summer.

This year's supper was very well attended, and raised over £1000 for church funds, so successful in every sense!

Thank you to all those involved, who work so hard to make events a success.

Organ recital

Assistant Organist Joshua Hughes gave June's recital at St Mary's, playing a programme which opened with Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D Minor BWV 565, incorporated compositions by Thalben-Ball and Franck, and concluded in rousing style with the Introduction-Minuet-Priere-Toccata from the Suite Gothique by Leon Boellmann.

Entry is free, there is an opportunity for fellowship over refreshments, and donations support St Mary's music. As well as the music, the recitals bring people into church, and offer hospitality and fellowship both before and afterwards.

July's concert is on Saturday 18 July at 1pm, given by St Mary Magdalene's Choir.

Virginstowe

Virginstowe held a churchyard day, with volunteers arriving with tools and energy to make a start on tidying the churchyard.

They also held a coffee morning in church, raising funds for church, with visitors enjoying warm hospitality and delicious cakes with their coffee.

Festival of Flowers at St Marys

Launceston U3A organised a Festival of Flowers over three days in June, bringing a steady flow of visitors into church to enjoy the displays, as well as tea and cakes. U3A bring an energetic band of volunteers into the church, and are very much friends and

supporters of the church's work albeit not Sunday morning worshippers.

The church looked beautiful. Just ahead of the festival, Launceston in Bloom very generously planted up an existing trough and a couple of other large planters, in the (previously rather sad looking) area just outside the choir vestry. We are very grateful to them.

Huge thanks to Launceston U3A and Launceston in Bloom. The event raised £1200 to be split between St Mary Magdalene and two other local charities, but as importantly, brought people into the church.

As I write this report, St Mary's is hosting Launceston Camera Club's annual exhibition of members' work- well worth a visit.



St Giles

The church has been without an organ for some considerable time. We use CDs for regular worship, and have brought in a keyboard for funerals, but the organ is finally under repair. Parts of it were sent away to Holland, have now arrived back in the country, and we are hopeful that the organ will be back in voice ready for July's wedding.

LWL evening

Local worship leaders and others involved in or interested in leading worship from many of our churches joined colleagues from across the deanery for an evening of support and encouragement, sharing ideas (what works, what doesn't, what do people hope for?). Rev Mary spoke about her ministry in care homes, the very different types of care the local homes offer, and how accordingly the worship is tailored to residents' needs and abilities.

If you might like to be involved, do contact Rev Mary.

Similarly, if you feel a calling to lead worship, do talk to a member of the clergy team. We are blessed in our local worship leaders, but there is always space for more!

Congratulations!

And finally, many congratulations to Rev Sean, our strategic rural dean, and Rev Jules on their marriage. There are some lovely photos in the deanery newsletter (on A Church Near You if you haven't seen it) but here are some less conventional ones, including Sean and Jules thanking us for our wedding gift.



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.

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 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 4 July wedding at St Giles.

Wednesday 15 July Mothers Union Summer Tea (by invitation)

Saturday 18th July St Mary Magdalene Choir Concert 1pm start, free admission with refreshments and fellowship

Sunday 19th July 6pm Taize service at St Thomas Church, a quiet reflective service based on the chants of the Taize community

Tuesday 21 July 7pm St Mary Magdalene PCC meeting

St Paternus, South Petherwin are fundraising

St Paternus are fundraising for dry rot treatment and urgent replacement guttering. There are a number of events. Further information from Rev Olive (contact details on the back page).

July 11th garden party 2-4pm

July 17th Concert Champagne Cornwall 7.30pm

August 15th cream tea 2-4pm

September 8th lottery draw in church 2pm (lottery tickets on sale now)

September 18th Concert Our Atlantic Roots 7.30pm

Save the date!

Boyton Bell Ringers Coach Outing

Saturday 11th July

Visiting 5 churches with an afternoon in Dartmouth

Details from Norman Cowling 01566 775381 (evenings)

Pet Service, Sunday 26th July 2.30pm at Boyton Church. Bring your pets for a blessing and enjoy a cream tea afterwards.

Saturday August 1st Dancing at St Giles to the Texans Band, who are celebrating 60 years of their music. 7.30pm at Coronation Hall, proceeds to charity

Virginstowe's Summer Supper Party on Saturday 15th August from 7pm, Crows Nest

St Denys, North Tamerton's Sausage and Apple Brunch, Saturday 5th September 10.30am-2pm

And later in the year, a teddy bear's service at Werrington (you are never too old to enjoy a teddy bear), a dog walk in Werrington Park and a Cornish bi-lingual communion service at St Mary Magdalene.

St Mary Magdalene is recruiting!

St Mary's are looking for both a treasurer and a parish safeguarding officer.

These roles are subject to safer recruitment. If you are interested, or to chat through what is involved, contact church warden Dr Sean Sweeney
sean.sweeney01@btinternet.com or 07732 586978

The Diocese offers training and support for both roles.

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

Music at St Mary Magdalene in July

Choir Concert

Saturday 18th July 1pm

Free entry, with refreshments



Music at St Mary Magdalene

Concert Programme 2026

Saturday 18th July 2026

St Mary's Parish Choir

Saturday 5th September 2026

Robin Stubbs

Saturday 10th October 2026

Sean Sweeney

Admission Free with retiring collection

Refreshments and All Welcome

A history of bells...



Bells across the benefice

This month Boyton Bellringers have arranged a day's outing- details elsewhere in this newsletter if you want to join the trip.

And the bells will ring for Richard and Gemma's wedding at St Giles on 4 July.

Werrington

According to Kellys Directory, the first church was erected around the 12th century and rebuilt in 1530. The early building was situated on the Werrington Park Estate, close to the mansion, but as we know its then-occupant, Sir William Morice, had the church demolished, allegedly to extend his bowling green. Some of the stonework went into the current building, in a very different style, on its present site. Various comments made at the time considered that the design and its three towers, the two smaller ones being dwarf copies with no useful purpose, were an extravagance. The new church was consecrated on 7 September 1743. Around 1891/2 its current chancel and organ loft were added at a cost of £2,500. The registers date from 1651.

In 1831 Werrington is recorded with an acreage of 5070 and population of 661. The incumbent was Rev J Braddon, the patron the Earl of Buckinghamshire and the church had two bells dated 1769 from Penningtons Foundry.

In 1883 the incumbent was Rev Edward King and patron Mr JC Williams Esq, with the other landowners being Edward Coode Esq and the Duke of Bedford.

The current set of 8 bells was donated by Edward Coode and dedicated to individual family members engraved on their casting by Taylors of Oxford. These were installed in 1898 in a metal frame which required large steel H girders across the interior tower walls for support. Access up the tower is via a stone spiral staircase and once arriving in the bell chamber it is quite an effort for even a slim/fit person to move around the bells and clock mechanism. The bells are considered to be one of the best sounding in Cornwall and apart from routine maintenance have not been overhauled since 1898, so they require considerable effort to ring. However in 1898 a team of ringers completed a full peal of 5040 changes, lasting 3 hours 9 minutes, without stopping.

In April 1994 it was found that a part of a steel H girder where it was resting on the stonework was rusted. New metal was inserted by Arthur Fidler, a bell hangar with workshops in the Torpoint area.

Back in 1883, Werrington had the Fullers Arms at Langdon, where Charles Rogers was in charge, and Thomas Brimaombe ran the Blacksmiths Arms at Yeolmbridge.

To be continued...

Norman Cowling, Boyton Tower Captain

(Info taken from a booklet by the late Joan Rendle 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.

Many charities also produce daily or regular free prayer resources, including wild goose's daily thought (Iona), The Bible Society, Tear Fund, Open Doors and Christian Aid. We also have prayer resources in our churches.

This month we pray for...

The victims and survivors of the earthquakes in Venezuela, a country already devastated after years of poor government.

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

Our clergy and readers, those being ordained in Truro Cathedral at Petertide and Caroline Stone as she completes her reader training.

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

Those exploring baptism and wanting to bring their children to baptism.

Couples preparing for marriage in our benefice churches, Gemma and Richard marrying at St Giles in July and Charlotte and Myles marrying at Werrington in August.

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.

The work of Launceston Memory Café and all who volunteer there.

Those who struggle with the heat.

We give thanks for the lives of those we have lost and all the faithful departed including Tony Howard, Audrey Hughes and Bernie Werren, 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



Champagne Cornwall Chorus

Join for us for

A night of Music

**In aid of 'Save The Church'
Project for essential repairs
and maintenance of this
beautiful church.**

Friday 17th July 2026

Doors open: 7pm Starts: 7.30pm

**Venue: St Paternus Church,
South Petherwin, Launceston, PL15 7JB**

Tickets – adults £10 Under 16's free entry

**Tickets available from
Olive Stevens (07480 576525) Julie Barlow (07899 803196)**

Tickets can also be purchased on the door.

Refreshments available- donations appreciated

Raffle prizes to be won.



St Mary's Chapel, Par. For more information on how to book or join, visit us at:
www.champagnecornwall.co.uk or call 07971 631986