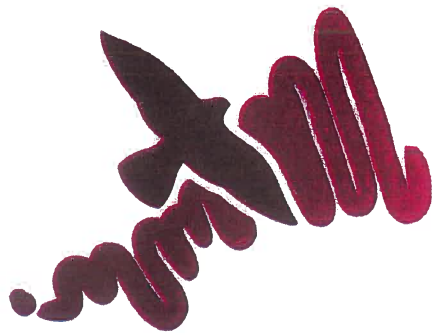


Newsletter

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

I know absolutely nothing about football; I am not a fan, yet even I have noticed that the World Cup is taking place in June. As I write this on a Saturday morning, football seems to be everywhere. As I ran back from Trebursye earlier (slowly, in the relatively cool early morning) two dog walkers were standing in the middle of the lane, deep in football conversation.

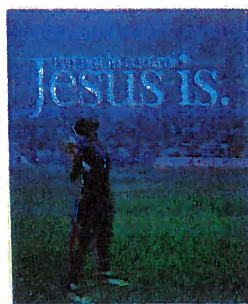
Did you know that football and Christian faith have a long connection in the UK? Top teams such as Aston Villa, Spurs and Manchester City started out as church teams. Every year just before the FA Cup Final begins, the fans in the stands sing out the hymn Abide with Me.

Many current footballers refer freely to their Christian faith as being a source of sustenance and inspiration to them, including Arsenal and England player Michelle Agyemang who thanked God as she accepted the BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year award in December 2025. Clubs will have a chaplain, whose role is to be a pastoral and spiritual safety net.

Why am I writing about football? You don't need me to make connections between faith and football, but it strikes me that part of our Christian lives, about making disciples, is to show how church, how faith is relevant to people in our communities, and I encourage you to look for those opportunities. Football fans have deep conversations about hope, disappointment, resilience, pride and belonging, and we can have all those conversations too, faith-filled conversations.

Enjoy the World Cup!

Rev Helen, Associate Minister



Services in June

June 2026	June 7th	June 14th	June 21st	June 28th
	Green	Green	Green	Green
	Trinity 1	Trinity 2	Trinity 3	Trinity 4
	Hosea 5.15-6.6	Exodus 19.2-8a	Jeremiah 20.7-13	Jeremiah 28.5-9
	Romans 4.13-end	Romans 5.1-8	Romans 6.1b-11	Romans 6.12-end
	Matthew 9.9-13, 18-26	Matthew 9.35-10.8	Matthew 10.24-39	Matthew 10.40-end

Boyton	MP 0930		HC 0930
	TS		HD
Werrington		HC 0915	MP 0915
		HD	RL
St Giles	HC 1100		MP 1100
	HD		R Tr
Virginstowe		MP1100	HC 1100
		MH	HD
North Tamerton	HC 0930	M Song 1000	MS 100
	HD	JO	JO
St Mary Magdalene	Family Service 1030 DS	HC 1030	MP 1030
		HD	DS
			MW
	Evensong 1730		
	JW		

Midweek Communion, St Mary Magdalene 9.30am on



Wednesdays

What has been going on in our church communities?

Coffee morning at St Denys, North Tamerton

St Denys hosted a coffee morning in the Victory Hall and raised over £200 for church funds. The event was well supported, there were plenty of raffle prizes, and no one seemed to want to go home.

St Denys is open every day, and as well as a community library in church, tea, coffee and water are on offer to visitors. The refreshments are particularly popular with walkers on the Tamara Coast to Coast Way, tracing the Tamar from sea to source.

Bishop David's visit

As part of his programme of Thy Kingdom Come visits across the Diocese, Bishop David joined St Mary's congregation for Morning Prayer, leading a time of open prayer as part of the worship. Bishop David then talked about the joys and challenges of parish life and took questions.

Thy Kingdom Come

Our worship during the period of Thy Kingdom Come, the global prayer initiative to "pray for five", praying for people we know to come to Christ, included prayers and other TKC resources, and as well as prayer journals and novenas, we had prayer stations in some of our churches. St Mary Magdalene also had a children's prayer station in the children's area in church.

Who's Who- our churchwardens

All our churches have now concluded their APCMs, and we are blessed in having a full team of church wardens across the benefice.

Church wardens carry weighty responsibilities. This description is taken from the Diocese of Litchfield's website;

Churchwardens have important legal responsibilities, but the office also has a vital spiritual, pastoral and mission dimension – the duty is to be foremost among the laity in the life and mission of the Church in the parish.

The churchwardens' main duties are summarised in Canon E1 paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Canons of the Church of England. Under those paragraphs, once churchwardens take up their office, they:

- are the officers of the bishop (not the incumbent or PCC);
- must be the foremost in representing the laity and co-operating with the incumbent;
- must use their best endeavours by example and precept to encourage the parishioners in the practice of true religion and to promote unity and peace among them ;
- must discharge the duties assigned to them by law and custom. (Examples of this are their duties in relation to the offerings or collections in the church, and the duties imposed on them by Part 3 [49 & 50] of the Care of Church and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 2018 in relation to the church building and the land and articles belonging to it);
- must maintain order and decency in the church and churchyard, especially during the time of divine service; and
- hold the title to the movable goods of the church, must keep an inventory of those goods and keep it up to date, and must hand over the goods to their successors, who must check the inventory.

Each year church wardens are sworn in by the Archdeacon and also given the Archdeacon's Charge. This year our church wardens will be sworn in alongside Stratton Deanery church wardens, on Tuesday June 9th at Marhamchurch at 7pm. Do come along and support your churchwardens. Our churchwardens are;

North Tamerton: James Oldham and Susan Turnock, assisted by Diane Turnock

Boyton: Tim Smith and Pauline Frost

Werrington: Sally Hayden and Raye Luckhurst

St Giles: Rob and Sue Trusler

Virginstowe: Mike Hancock

St Mary Magdalene: Brenda Mitchell and Sean Sweeney

Huge thanks to all of them, and to Andy Dunning for his service at St Mary's.

Organ recital

Director of music, Dr Sean Sweeney, gave an organ recital at St Mary's on Saturday 23 May. The varied programme, designed to show off the capabilities of the organ, opened with Carillon by Herbert Murrill, included the "spikey" Postlude by Welshman, William Matthias, with its "exciting rhythmic passages", the beautiful arrangement of Be Thou My Vision, Prelude on Slane arranged by John G Barr, Sean's mother's favourite organ piece (ask him which that is!) and concluded with Theodore Dubois' Toccata in the French style.

The June recital will be given by Josh Hughes.

Entry is free, there is an opportunity for fellowship over refreshments, and donations support St Mary's.

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 (11th and 25th) 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.

June 12th-14th Festival of Flowers at St Mary Magdalene. As well as the flower displays, there will be refreshments, and musical entertainment.

Saturday 13th June Coffee morning at Virginstowe Church 10.30-12.30, for fellowship and refreshments

Thursday 18th June 7pm 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.

Saturday 20th June Boyton Summer Supper 7.30pm in Boyton Hall. To book or for further information call Rachael Ellacott 01566 773096

Sunday 21st June 6pm Taize service at St Thomas Church, a quiet reflective service based on the chants of the Taize community

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

June 25th- 29th Launceston Camera Club Exhibition at St Mary Magdalene

Saturday 27th June 1pm Organ recital by Joshua Hughes at St Mary Magdalene, with refreshments

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.

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), and a Cornish bi-lingual communion service at St Mary Magdalene.

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 June

Organ Concert

Joshua Hughes

Saturday 27th June 1pm-1.45
Free entry, with refreshments

Sundays

7 June Choral Evensong, Litany to the Holy Spirit, Hurford and
Imperial March, Elgar

14 June, Cantate Domino, Pitoni and Toccata in D Minor BWV 565,
Bach

21 June, O Sing Joyfully, Batten and Fugue in D Minor BWV 565,
Bach

28 June, A Gaelic Blessing, Rutter and Fugue (Carillon de
Soissons), Durufle



Music at St Mary Magdalene

Concert Programme 2026

Saturday 27th June 2026

Josh Hughes

Saturday 18th July 2026

St Mary's Parish Choir

Saturday 5th September 2026

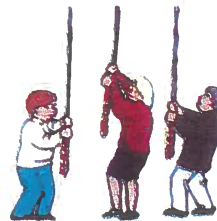
Robin Stubbs

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 ringers are visiting Boyton on 17th June, and Werrington on 20th June.

A team rang for the May wedding at St Martin of Tours, Werrington. It was a joy to hear, but the team worked really hard on a blisteringly hot day! They will next be ringing for the wedding at St Giles.

Virginstowe

The church is described as early English style, seating 100 people, and rebuilt in 1852 at a cost of £560. In 1883 the parish was sized

at 1274 acres with a population of 181. It has a single bell gable cot at its west end, dating from 1664. Its registers date back to 1730, when the Rev Sam Pascoe was the Rector, his residence the gift of the Lord Chancellor.

Mrs Hawkes was the lady of the manor and the principal landowners were Messrs Thomas Harris at Tillislow Barton and Thomas Veale at Middlecott. Other senior farmers were John Cole at Town Farm, John Fry at Bradford, Tom Vickery at Bradford, John Norsworthy at Tillislow and Sam Perkin at Crows Nest.

The blacksmith was named Francis Rowland and was with Miss Betsy Rowland at the Hare & Hounds pub.

St Giles on the Heath

According to Kellys in 1831 St Giles was a parish of 3044 acres with a population of 357. The church was classed as a curacy with Rev Edward Ruddell as incumbent since 1830, and its registers date back to 1653. According to Boyton's history, Rev Edward Ruddell was at Boyton from 1826, so perhaps with the Northcott Hamlet and St Giles this may have been an early example of sharing a vicar.

The church is described as in the "early English style" around the sixteenth century, and it was rebuilt in 1877 at a cost of £1,055. In 1830 the church patrons were listed as Lords Lothian and Valletort, and Lady Suffield. The Rector of Sydenham is also mentioned.

By 1881 the population had decreased to 275, the church incumbent since 1863 was Rev Charles Taylor, now with the vicarage which was the gift of the Duke of Bedford as Lord of the Manor, with other landowners, Lady Molesworth and a Rev William

Harvey. In 1881 Miss Jane Chubb ran the Arscott Arms at Chapmanswell.

The bell tower is described as being short in height with a pyramidal roof containing 5 bells. Four were cast in 1740 and the 5th in 1793. The bell frame holds bells 1+3+5 on its lower frame with bells 2+4 in another frame on top, almost into the roof.

By the early 1990s the bells were in need of some repair, and action by church members raised the funds for local bell hangar Peter Bazley, having his workshop in Tavistock, to remove the bells. Ringers at the time were Mr and Mrs Gerry and family, Tony Knight, Frank Thomas and William Tucker. Mrs Gerry tells me that the tenor bell was taken on a pallet to the July 1996 Launceston Agricultural Show where donations were taken for the bell and frame overhaul. The bells remain in use, still with their old fittings.

To be continued...

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.

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 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 Methodist brothers and sisters, amidst all the changes in the Launceston Circuit.

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

Couples preparing for marriage in our benefice churches, and Sharon and Graham, married at Werrington at the end of May, and Gemma and Richard marrying at St Giles in July.

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, Robbie Olver, 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





COME VISIT OUR



FESTIVAL of FLOWERS

at
ST. MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH
LAUNCESTON

12th, 13th & 14th JUNE 2026

FREE ENTRY
ALL WELCOME
REFRESHMENTS

