



DIOCESE OF TRURO
DISCOVERING GOD'S KINGDOM
GROWING THE CHURCH

Trigg Major Deanery Newsletter

DIOCESE OF TRURO



Warmest congratulations to the happy couple



“The church was packed, standing room only - It was a beautiful sunny day, and many guests filled the parish church at St Breock for the wedding of Sean and Jules.

Bishop David welcomed everyone and married the very happy couple.

Surrounded by family and friends from across the diocese and their parishes they exchanged vows and began a new chapter in their lives.

Bishop Kelly (formerly Archdeacon of Bodmin) preached the sermon. She gave a very humorous address with a serious message about the importance of ‘having and holding’.

After the ceremony there was what might be the longest ‘confetti run’! Guests lined the footpath to the gate and beyond as Sean and Jules left the church. We send Sean and

Jules our warmest congratulations and many blessings.”

Revd Sean Clancy, Strategic Rural Dean of Trigg Major Deanery, and Revd Jules Williams, Rector of the Benefice of St Breoke and Egloshayle in Wadebridge, were married on Friday 29th May 2026

Report by Revd Olive Stevens



Welcome Revd Canon Olive Stevens - newly commissioned Assistant Rural Dean



Revd Olive writes:

It is both a surprise and a privilege to introduce myself as Assistant Rural Dean in Trigg Major Deanery! I am Olive, and I am looking forward to working alongside Sean, assisting him in his role as Strategic Rural Dean.

The role Of Assistant or Associate Strategic Rural is new to this Diocese and is still in experimental stage! I have previous experience of serving as Rural Dean in another deanery in Cornwall and so hopefully have some experience that could be helpful to Sean and to the Deanery as we shape the future for our mission and ministry.

As this is a new role, Sean and I will work out how best we can share the responsibility, Sean remains the SRD and I am

assistant!

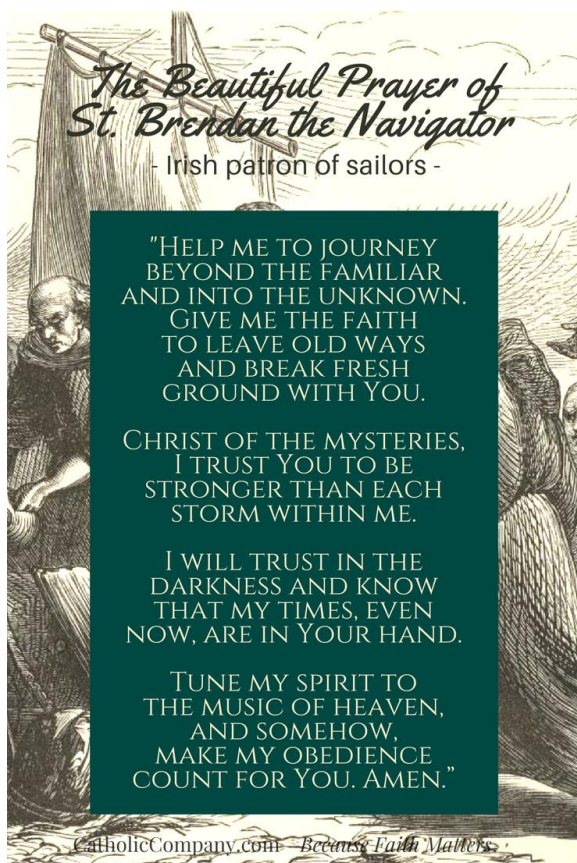
I have had the joy of getting to know some of the parishes across the deanery and I look forward to getting to know you better in the coming months. Although I have lived and worked in

Cornwall for many years Rural Ministry in this part of the county presents unique challenges for all of us. I hope to be able to support and encourage sharing resources, wisdom and good practice among our churches. A key part of my role is to listen to you, hearing hopes and concerns and to support Sean as he supports clergy, Church wardens, Lay ministers and worship leaders and congregations building strong relationships and living out our calling to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The writer to the Thessalonians writes:

*Encourage one another and
build each other up!*

And that's what we will do! My prayer echoes the prayer of St Brendan.



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Deanery Synod News – Lay Chair: Sarah Vinson

Following a period of unsettled weather, then a heat wave - we are now back to 'unseasonal wind' and rain - but we can still look at the beautiful world around us and give thanks.

In the last few weeks - I have supported the open meeting hosted by South Petherwin as they explore the way forward for their church, supported the cake and plant sale at North Petherwin which Tremaine hosted as they raise funds towards the repairs to their church roof. Helen Uglow and I chose a lovely sunny morning to visit the churches at Laneast, St Clether and Trewen and enjoyed exploring the special spaces our rural churches are able to offer visitors. I am now helping with the Church Lunch at Tregadillett which takes place in the middle of the month. I also attended the Deanery Treasurer's meeting with Tim Smith when Sophie Eddy, our Diocesan Finance Director came to share some of the facts and figures behind the Diocesan budget and provide support and advice to the church treasurers who also attended.

As I suspect most if not all of the churches in our Deanery have held their APCMs - a reminder to let me know the name and contact details of your new Deanery Synod rep(s) as we start the new triennial for our Synod. Several churches have been in touch to advise they have been unable to appoint anyone to represent their church - this is disappointing and sad as the PCC/Deanery Synod/Diocesan Synod and General Synod form the key operational structure within the Church of England, and your church won't be represented beyond your PCC without an elected representative. If there is no representative - this also breaks the key communication chain so I will be getting in touch with churches without a representative and ask permission to use another contact perhaps the PCC secretary?

Please support your Church Warden(s) as they are invited to attend the annual Archdeacon's Visitation which this year is going to take place at Marhamchurch on Tuesday June 9th at 7.00pm. There is a legal requirement for churchwardens to be sworn in to their roles at this event and if they can't attend - alternative arrangements have to be made.

The next Deanery Synod meeting has been rescheduled to take place at Boyton Church Hall on Thursday June 25th - 7 for 7.30pm start - detailed agenda to follow.

Finally - with the new Synod - the lay chair, secretary and treasurer roles will need to be appointed so if you are interested in helping in any of these roles - please get in touch.

Local Worship Leaders Meeting – Revd Helen Davies & Revd Sean Clancy



On Thursday 18th June there is a LWL evening at Tregadillett Church (PL15 7EX) at 7pm - an opportunity for anyone involved in leading worship in any way, or interested in doing so, to come together, support one another and share experiences and ask questions. It has been a while since we had one - please do let people know.

SUNDAY, JUNE 21ST 2026 –

Revd Jess Lancaster's Farewell Service

Revd Jess Lancaster having completed her curacy with Moorland, Egloskerry and Lanstephan Benefice is to be licensed to the Benefice of Many Rivers in June.

We will celebrate this milestone in her Ministry for her at Evensong at Trewen (PL15 8QF) on June 21st at 3pm, when we will also be able to thank Jess for her service with us over the past few years.

There will be cake and refreshments after the service.

Do come and join us to make this a special occasion for Jess.





St Stephen's Concert Series

Spring Recital - 16th April

Thank you to James Rider, Lezant, for this article.

The Spring Recital in the St Stephen's Concert Series 2026 featured a truly international line-up: Geirþrúður Anna Gudmunðsdóttir, an Icelandic-American cellist, and Antoine Prémat, a Franco-Belgian pianist. Both are highly accomplished performers, having won numerous prizes and competitions around the world, and have played at some of the most prestigious concert venues.

After introducing the musicians, Rev Jess also drew attention to the third member of the team, namely "Betty" the church's grand piano. She explained that the piano needed to be played

regularly to ensure it remained in good condition, and she said that anyone who wanted come into the church to practise on Betty was welcome to do so.

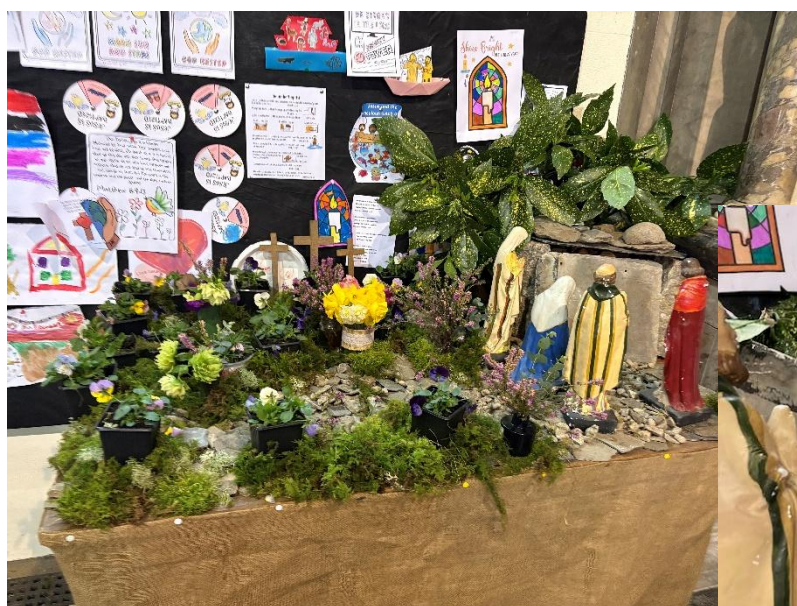
Geirþrúður introduced the music by saying that the pieces they had chosen were not simply works for cello with a piano accompaniment but were pieces which gave equal expression to both instruments. The first piece was a work by Sibelius, Four Pieces, op 76, originally written for violin and piano but later arranged for cello. The opening movements evoked the landscape of Sibelius' native Finland, before progressing to a deeper theme with an almost religious feel, and finishing with a lively dance in which both cello and piano were able to shine. Both players showed themselves to be completely in tune with the music and with each other, both through the movements of their bodies and their facial expressions, with Geirþrúður seeming to be so lost in the music that her eyes often appeared shut.

The next piece was Beethoven's Sonata no 3, op 69, which Geirþrúður described as one of the pinnacles of the repertoire for cello and piano. The first two movements both contained quieter melodic passages interspersed with vigorous sections in which both cello and piano were able to display their virtuosity. The third movement opened with a beautiful lyrical *adagio* but quickly transitioned to a very lively tempo requiring great dexterity from both performers.

It was perhaps that last movement which demonstrated the prophetic nature of what Rev Jess had said when introducing the concert, because, after the interval, Antoine explained that the vigorous playing demanded of him by Beethoven's score had proved the undoing of "Betty" and he feared for her health and well-being if he continued with the rest of the programme. So there was a quick programme change for the second half of the concert, and Geirþrúður treated the audience to a virtuosic rendition of one of Bach's Suites for unaccompanied cello. This reviewer was so enraptured by this that he failed to make a note of the identity of the piece, but all those in the church were surely in awe not only of the beauty of the music but also of the skill of the performer.

Easter Gardens within Trigg Major Deanery

Many of us reading this will have grown up being familiar with miniature gardens being assembled in our churches at Easter. Perhaps we remember getting involved and hunting for the right sized stones for the tomb or helping to make the crosses? Perhaps we remember a particular person who gently guided and helped us understand what the garden symbolised? It is perhaps a little sad that only three out of our twenty-one churches in the deanery, made an Easter Garden this year. There are many genuine reasons why the Easter Gardens have declined in our churches, - we simply cannot do everything that we used to do. The good news is that at least two or three more churches are considering doing one next year.



Don Sharpe from St Mary's Launceston, has been involved for many years with the Easter Garden.



Don says, "I am afraid I can't tell you about the history of the the Easter Garden at St Marys. I got involved when I took over the Sunday School in 2001. I remember Emma Childs doing the Easter Garden 2 years before, when she was curate, so I assume that it has been a tradition at St Marys. There had been a permanent structure, which was destroyed in the fire in the hall. Fortunately, the figures had survived. As a result, we had to start from scratch, which meant finding stones from the garden to build a cave. People went around collecting moss as the main greenery and we sent the children around the churchyard to collect stones to make the path. Originally, seasonal flowers were put into small jars and put into the garden. Later we used live flowers in pots, some from gardens. The children have always been heavily involved in its building. After doing the garden for 10 years it seemed to have become my job permanently even though I was no longer taking Sunday School."

For anyone who has not seen the Easter Garden at St Marys – please do make a point of seeing it next year. It is an impressively large version, and so many must have had so much pleasure and excitement over the years being involved.



Easter Gardens can be all shapes and sizes and Trewen's wonderfully neat garden is also a very striking focal point.

Thank you, 'Team Trewen', for sending in this photo of their garden. This miniature garden clearly shows the parts of the Easter story – the three crosses, and the tomb beautifully visible to all, with the moss symbolising new life.

Each garden is unique and very special and tells the Easter Story so clearly – they are such a valuable learning resource. Some churches will have indoor and outdoor Easter Gardens.



The Crafty Church Team started an outdoor Easter Garden at St Paternus Church, North Petherwin a few years ago, and it has become a new tradition. The church now regularly has two gardens -one at the front of the South Ailse, and one in the churchyard beside the South Door. The beauty of an outdoor Easter Garden is that it can be seen by those in the churchyard, who are perhaps visiting family graves or just out for a walk, but who might not go inside a

church? It is also very special when Revd Tina 'gets down with the children' and blesses it on the Easter Saturday Sundown service.



The indoor garden has been made for many years and has its own special tray as a base, which is used every year – we often wonder who made this tiered tray that we still use. This year, after taking down the Easter Garden, we then let the area become a focal point for ‘Thy Kingdom Come.’

If anyone would like to do an Easter Garden next year, please do get in touch. If enough are interested, we could consider holding a workshop early in 2027 to share some helpful tips?

St Piran

‘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”

Within each edition of the Deanery Newsletter to date, we have featured information from recipients of the Cross of St Piran and likewise we are continuing this in our 4th Edition. The following report is about Tremaine Church - the ‘home church’ of two recipients of the St Piran Cross, Verna Jones and Caroline Stone.



St Winwaloe, Tremaine Church

Tremaine St Piran Cross recipients, Caroline Stone and Verna Jones are busy raising money for a re-roofing project needed for this very special Parish Church.

Caroline Stone, Churchwarden and wearer of many other hats, has recently organised a very successful plant and cake sales event, and was recently awarded the St Piran Cross in April 2026



Caroline with The Right Revd Bishop of Truro, David Williams at St Stephen's Church, having just been awarded the Cross of St Piran on 19th April 2026, at a very special 'Evensong service.'

The service, led by James Wonnacot, was a happy occasion. St Mary's Choir were in attendance, and together with Assisting Organist, Josh Hughes, made for great singing. There was much laughter and also cake!

Caroline running the Plant Stall at North Petherwin Parish Hall. Several contributed cakes for the cake stall and many of the plants had been grown by Caroline, The event raised the magnificent sum of over £500.



'Verna's Walk and Talk'

Verna Jones is currently embarking on a fundraising plan for Tremaine Church and is walking up to a mile a weekday throughout the month of June.

Verna explains, "This is a social walk, and many friends have offered to join me, including visiting places of interest. My late cousin Audrey Jones loved Tremaine Church and called it The Stable Church. "

Verna is now into her second week of this ambitious plan. Her first week was a 'taster week' and Verna has given us an outline of what she has already achieved. Verna says, "the week came alive with walks and meeting friends old and new, and of course, walking with family members too."

01/06/26: Monday was wet, but I always cover this by well-trying farm walks (and the spare weekend days to make up lost time).

02/06/26: Tuesday: late afternoon farm walk



03/06/26: Wednesday: Bude Canal: Sally Felton from Tremaine Joined me and my sister, Shirley. (left)

04/06/26: Thursday: Willow Tree Cafe plus woodland walk with close friend Janet Guest, (below).



05/06/26: Friday: Walked up from the village garage with Shirley, my sister. Family Birthday celebration followed!

Looking to next week:

Monday 8th - Hallworthy woods (flat pathway) . just off main road Camelford to Launceston

Tuesday 9th -Marhamchurch Village: Meeting the church (EX23 0HY) at 5.45pm approx. -short walk and then going to The Visitation Service at 7pm

Wednesday 10th -hoping to walk with Neighbours

Thursday 11th - looking to walk around Week St Mary area: (open to all-contact Verna)

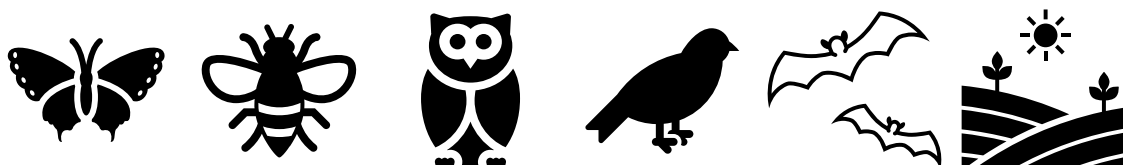
Friday 12th: Walking with Penny, my niece.

For more information, please contact Verna who will get back to you as soon as her walking allows vernauk@aol.com

For those who don't know, Verna is 87.

Donations to support Verna can be given to her directly, or to Caroline Stone (Tremaine Churchwarden) or sent to the church via the parish giving website:

parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/tremaine-st-winwaloe-plymouth



Diocesan Environmental Strategy: Creation Care



Dr Sharon Willoughby, Diocesan Environment Officer.

We are hoping Sharon will join us for a Trigg Major Deanery Creation Care Day on Thursday 16th July 2026. We have not yet been able to finalise all the details, so please 'save the date' and we will contact again with more details nearer the time.

Does anybody know which three churches the pictures below are from? The first to respond with all three correct answers to getintouch.triggmajordeanery@gmail.com wins a small prize.



Swallows about to leave the nest for the first time:

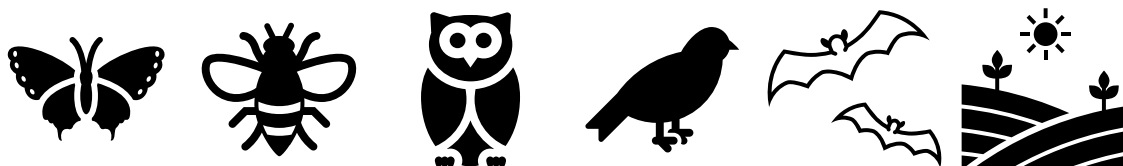


This photo was taken Sunday 7th June – there were actually 5 young swallows ‘crammed’ into the nest. It was a tight fit and so today we are very pleased to see they have ‘flown the nest.’ They already seem to be competent fliers.

Apparently swallows like to nest close to doorways or where there is constant human activity, as this wards off predator birds such as magpies and hawks.

As soon as dawn breaks, they can be heard ‘chattering away’ especially if the outside door to the ‘lean to’ where the farm dog sleeps, has been shut. They become useful ‘alarm clocks’ even if earlier than perhaps desired. (Editor)

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



Future Dates: Upcoming Events/Meetings: June/July 2026

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

14/06/26 -Sunday – 10am Crafty Church, North Petherwin Church PL15 8LR - early Father’s Day walk- all are welcome -We shall walk through the woods and across the fields (Public footpath) to the Willow Tree Café. Please wear suitable footwear and bring some money for refreshments at the Café.

18/06/26 – Thursday 7pm - Local Worship Training Evening – Tregadillett Church PL15 7EX

21/06/26 -Rev’d Jess’ Farewell to Moorlands Benefice. Evensong 3pm Trewen PL15 8QF

22/06/26 – Monday Deanery Implementation Team (DIT) Meeting -members have been advised.

25/06/26 – Thursday 7pm for 7.30pm -Deanery Synod meeting -Boyton Church Hall (PL15 9RG)

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).

01/06/26 – 30/06/26 – ‘Verna’s Walk and Talk’ as featured on page 10

July 2026

05/07/26 -Sunday -8am-2pm Big Breakfast at Roughtor Farm PL32 9QG for St Clether Church

11/07/26 -Saturday ‘Churchyard Garden Party’ 2-4pm SOUTH Petherwin PL15 7JB

16/07/26 – Thursday -Trigg Major Deanery Creation Care Day 10.30 – 3.30pm approx – details to follow

17/07/26- Friday ‘Champagne Cornwall Chorus’ 7pm SOUTH Petherwin PL15 7JB

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

21/07/26 -Tuesday - Deanery Implementation Team (DIT) Meeting -members have been advised

22/07/26 – Wednesday – ‘Quiet Day’ at St Clether Church PL15 8QJ 10am – 2pm (Moorlands).

26/07/26 – Sunday ‘Side by Side Choir’ 6.30pm North Petherwin PL15 8LR

Advance Notices

August 2026

15/08/26 -Saturday ‘Cream Teas’ 2-4pm SOUTH Petherwin PL15 JB

September 2026

18/09/26 – Friday ‘Our Atlantic Roots Concert, 7.30pm SOUTH Petherwin PL15 7JB



For Information: Parish Training Days

See the brochure here:

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

Diocesan News - Welcome Miranda



The diocese has appointed a new Church Buildings Support Officer, Miranda Bird, who started in June 2026, replacing Faye Edwardes, who left to take up a national role.

Miranda will support parishes by providing specialist advice on the management, care and development of their church buildings including elements such as community use alongside worship. She will also support parishes to access funding to repair and develop their buildings, including support to complete funding applications.

Please Get Involved with the Deanery Newsletter.

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

Photos of events especially welcome but please make sure you have the permission of any people in the photo for it to be included in the newsletter.

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.