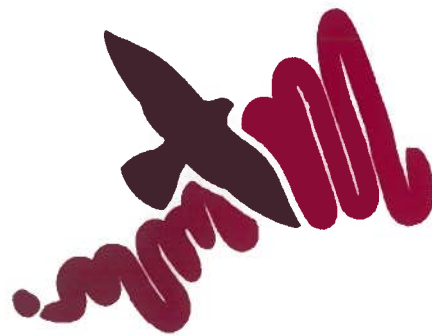


Newsletter

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

In this month's newsletter, we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Mother's Union, with an article from Pauline Darby. There is much to reflect on, in what family means, and our wider Christian family. The newsletter also continues Norman Cowling's history of bell ringing and our benefice churches.

You will see that we don't just look back, but there is plenty going on in all our churches.

Rev Sean, our strategic rural dean, has invited us to reflect on the way we do church across the deanery and challenges each of the churches to discuss how they see the way forward, at church meetings and more widely. There will be opportunities in your church for everyone to get involved in the discussion, and the prayers, but here are the questions 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 August

August 2026	August 2 nd	August 9th	August 16th	August 23rd	August 30th
	Green Trinity 9 Isaiah 55.1-5 Romans 9.1-5 Matthew 14.13-21	Green Trinity 10 1 Kings 19.9-18 Romans 10.5-15 Matthew 14.22-33	Green Trinity 11 Isaiah 56.1,6-8 Romans 11.1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15.10-28	Green Trinity 12 Isaiah 51.1- 6#Romans 12.1-8 Matthew 16.13-20	Green Trinity 13 Deanery Service 10.30 Laneast
Boyton	MP 0930 RL	HC 0900** HD			
Werrington			MP 0915 TS	HC 0915 HD	
St Giles	MP 1100 R Tr		HC 1100 HD		
Virginstowe		MW 1100 MH		HC 1100 HD	
North Tamerton	Sunday worship 1000 JO	Morning Service 1000 JO	HC 0930 HD		—
St Mary Magdalene	Family Service 1030 DS Evensong 1730 JW	HC 1030 HD	MP 1030 RTre	HC 1030 Baptism MW	

August 19th St Mary Magdalene midweek communion, Mothers Union attending (150th anniversary)

Midweek Communion, St Mary Magdalene 9.30am on

Wednesdays



What has been going on in our church communities?

Boyton's Pet Service

Boyton welcomed an unfamiliar congregation of four-legged friends for their pet service in July- impeccably behaved dogs, a guinea pig (so relaxed it slept for much of the proceedings) and photos of cats and an Alsatian, with their accompanying humans.



The service included hymns, a short reflection on what our pets bring to our lives, how pets serve and are a blessing to us, and the wonder of creation, prayer and blessing at the font for all the pets.

Everyone then enjoyed a delicious cream tea in the hall.



Thank you to all those who organised and publicised the event and prepared and served tea, and although not intended as a fund

raiser, the event raised £125 in generous donations to support the church's work.

Music at St Mary Magdalene- choir concert

July's Saturday lunchtime concert was given by St Mary's choir, directed by Dr Sean Sweeny, and accompanied by Josh Hughes. On a very hot day, Sean introduced the concert as "St Mary's choir unrobed". The concert opened with *Locus iste* by Anton Bruckner, "this place was made for God", a work written for dedication festivals and wholly appropriate coming up to St Mary's patronal festival.

Choristers Amber Newton and Andy Dunning sang solos, and the music included a version of the Lord's Prayer arranged by choir member Michael Sheet, Rutter's *Look at the World*, Billy Joel, finishing with the upbeat *Swinging with the Saints*.

In his concluding remarks Sean thanked the choir for the huge amount of hard work they put in behind the scenes to support the work of the church, emphasised the value of the fellowship afterwards over coffee and refreshments, and mused "We need all we can to cheer us up in a wicked world."

St Mary's thanks the family of Audrey Hughes, for their generosity in nominating St Mary's music for her funeral charity.

We read Georgina and Nick's banns at St Marys, and they were married at the beginning of August at Marystow Church, Tavistock.



Mothers Union

Pauline Darby's article elsewhere in this newsletter celebrates the Mother's Union as it marks 150 years..

Werrington and St Mary's MU Banners have gone to Truro as part of the exhibition in Truro Cathedral, Love in Every Stitch, on from 11-22 August.



Extracts from St Mary Magdalene's Mothers Union Banner, 1993

St Giles

St Giles celebrated the marriage of Gemma and Richard at the beginning of July, entirely fitting for a couple whose engagement took place in the church. We pray their marriage will be blessed.

The wedding was also the occasion for the organ to be brought back into service, having been out of action for some years. We look forward to hearing it more regularly.

St Giles thanks the family of Tony Howard, who generously nominated the church as their chosen charity for his funeral memorial collection.

LWL news

We are blessed in our local worship leaders across the benefice.

LWLs train on the Diocese's Sunday Plus course, and they also do safeguarding training. At least half our Sunday services are led by LWLs and church wardens, and without them our worship would look very different. They also bring richness and diversity to our worship.

The next Sunday Plus course is online, over 8 weeks, starting in September. If you think this might be ministry you are called to, or just want to ask questions or talk it through, do contact Rev Helen.

iKnowChurch (Church Organiser)

As you know, we have subscribed to some church management software, called iKnowChurch. This will give us a shared diary, 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. Please respond!

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. This month church are hosting 13th and 27th August.

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.

Sunday 9th August 4pm Archdeacon Designate of Bodmin, Revd Dr Helen Williams will be licensed during Evensong at Truro

Cathedral. Her formal welcome and installation will be on Sunday 4th October.

Saturday 15th August from 7pm Virginstowe's Summer Supper at Crow's Nest. Contact Sonia and Mike on 01409 211296.

Sunday 16th August 6pm Taize service at St Thomas Church, a quiet reflective service based on the chants of the Taize community

Wednesday 19th August 7pm bereavement group at St Thomas, an opportunity for anyone looking for support with loss.

Friday 21st August wedding at Werrington

Sunday 23rd August 12.45pm Boyton's Barbeque. Call Rachel Ellacott on 07960 534290 or Jenny Smith on 01566 785326 to book.

Sunday 23rd August baptisms at St Mary Magdalene both morning and afternoon

Saturday 5th September 10.30-2pm North Tamerton, Sausage and apple brunch

Saturday 5th September 5pm Welcome service for Rev Dr Kapembwa Kondolo, at Central. Rev Kapembwa is successor to Circuit Superintendent Rev David Miller, and is his first UK appointment. His "patch" includes Boyton. All are welcome at the service.

Saturday 5th September 7.30-10.30pm Boyton Church Dance, at St Giles Coronation Hall

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 07480 576525.

September 18th Concert Our Atlantic Roots 7.30pm

October 24th Concert, Tamar Valley Voices (a folksy/ shanty group) 7.30pm

October 31st Concert, Callington Community Gospel Choir 7.30pm



WHAT HAPPENED IN THE WORLD IN 1876

In 1876 our world was a very different place... Queen Victoria was on the throne... there was much difference socially and financially, as indeed as we have now, so let's have a quick look into history various events which occurred in 1876:

Internationally, Alexander Graham Bell received a patent for the telephone, The USA hosted its first official World's Fair, Robert Koch established the germ theory of disease... the Ottoman Empire experienced revolts leading to a massive outrage, a massive cyclone hit British India causing 2000,000 deaths.

Here at home Queen Victoria was created Empress of India from 1877, the Elementary Education Act prevented the employment of children under 10 years old and imposed compulsory school attendance for children 5-13... George Eliot published Daniel Deronda, Nigel Gresley (railway engineer and designer) died, Robert D'Oyly Carte died...

There's such a great deal of information revealed in the history of 1876 and tucked away in August of that year Mary Sumner founded the organisation we know as **THE MOTHERS' UNION...**

So, who was Mary Sumner?

Mary Sumner, the wife of a rector in Hampshire, formed a group to support mothers from all backgrounds in bringing up their children. After delivering a speech in 1885 to the Portsmouth Church Congress, she inspired many women present to go back to their parishes and set up similar groups.

Over time, the groups that met as Mothers' Union became embedded in their communities. They forged strong links with local people and the Anglican Church. They worked to support one another and give a voice to disadvantaged women while addressing wider societal issues. Driven by Mary Sumner's passion for the role of women in bringing about a better society, the groups proved very popular.

By 1892, membership had reached 60,000 in 28 dioceses, which was to grow to 169,000 members by the turn of the century. In 1893, annual general meetings were organised, and, in 1896, Mothers' Union Central Council was formed.

Our work covers three core pillars

We make a meaningful difference in the lives of millions worldwide through our unique, faith-based and community-led approach to tackling poverty, injustice and violence. We understand that these challenges are deeply interconnected and as such, our response is holistic, while confronting the systemic causes and consequences of marginalisation and oppression.

We use an Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) approach to unlock local potential. Rather than imposing external solutions, we help communities recognise, value and build on their existing strengths. This model fosters self-sufficiency, replaces dependency with dignity, and ensures that solutions are driven and sustained by local people. The result has not just transformed lives, but communities have been strengthened from within, capable of sustaining change long into the future.

Ending injustice

We are committed to challenging the deep-rooted injustices that prevent individuals, particularly women and girls, from reaching their full potential. Our work focuses on promoting gender equality, advocating for human rights and addressing systemic inequalities that fuel discrimination and marginalisation. Our members stand at the forefront of change: campaigning for access to education, amplifying the voices of people who are not being heard and

equipping communities to challenge harmful practices. Guided by faith and grounded in dignity, we strive to create a world where justice is not a privilege, but a right shared by all.

Ending violence

We believe that every person has the right to live in safety, free from violence, fear and harm. Across our global movement, we work tirelessly to end violence in all its forms, especially gender-based and domestic violence. We promote peace by fostering healthy relationships within families and communities, supporting survivors and challenging harmful cultural norms. From community education and advocacy to practical support and safe spaces, our members are at the heart of this mission. Empowered by faith and compassion, we walk alongside individuals and families, helping to build stronger, safer communities where dignity and respect prevail.

Ending poverty

We believe that poverty is not inevitable, and that lasting change begins within communities. In 2024, our members supported over 2,700,000 people across 35 provinces through practical, locally led programmes focused on economic empowerment, education, and resilience.

Christian faith is at the heart of all we do at Mothers' Union. We believe that prayer and worship can be transformational and make a huge difference in the lives of individuals and communities. We work in partnership with churches to serve God in local communities, support clergy and congregation with practical help, pastoral support and with our faith and worship resources. We have a network of Diocesan Chaplains supporting the faith of our members as well as acting as a link between the Church and Mothers' Union. Our Central Chaplain supports both members and staff as well as being our advocate within the wider Anglican Communion.

This year, 2026, is our 150th anniversary...worldwide we have over 4 million members in 80 countries, our local branch is Launceston

and Werrington, the only branch in our deanery of Trigg Major. A few years ago a former Archbishop of Canterbury called the Mothers' Union the fourth emergency service... also a few years ago I, as President of Truro Mothers' Union at the time and part of a diocesan group from Truro Diocese visiting South Africa, heard a local priest of a parish say to me "Ah the Mothers' Union, the engine of my parish"!!!

To return now to the beginning of this article, many things have happened since 1876. The Mother's Union is still here, you can support this fine organisation if you wish by support, not also by becoming a member but also by prayer, prayer and love for families around the world, of whatever creed, whatever age you are, female or male, prayer is at the heart of what we do.

I leave you with The Mothers' Union Prayer,

Loving Lord, We thank you for your love so freely given to us all.
We pray for families around the world.

Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life.



Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world.

In Jesus' name, Amen

**Blessings, Pauline Darby, Branch Leader,
Launceston and Werrington Branch**

Save the date!

Watch out for these events 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 service at St Mary Magdalene.

St Mary Magdalene is recruiting!

St Mary's are looking for a treasurer.

This role is 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.

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

The Choir take their annual holiday in August, but the postludes are

2nd August (Evensong) Fugue in C Minor BWV 546, JS Bach

9th August Sortie in Eb, Lefebure-Wely

16th August Toccato, Malcolm McKelvey

23rd August Berechiach's Bagatelle, Richard Lloyd



Music at St Mary Magdalene
Concert Programme 2026

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

Thank you to Jo Thomas for these photos of the recent bellringer's trip to Buckfastleigh, Dartington, Halwell and Kingswear, including visiting Dartmouth and a ferry ride.

The photos show Halwell Church, Dartmouth Church and all the ringers (save Norman Cowling).



And the bells will ring for Charlotte and Myles' wedding at Werrington on 21 August.

St Mary Magdalene, Part 1

St Mary's granite tower stands 74' high but its construction around 1380, mentioned in various books of its existence and was possibly attached to an earlier Norman church. The construction of the current St Mary's began in 1511 and took around 13 years. Originally the tower was probably used as both a lookout for danger of invasion from across the River Tamar and later, with a single bell, to warn residents of fire or problems. A single bell was also rung at 8pm daily, advising the curfew. Initially the town council paid the sexton for his services until 1876, when financial economies forced benefactors to fund it right up to the 1980s.

In the 16th century it is recorded that the base of the tower was used by the town council to house the "great weighing engine" used by those trading in wool, animals and other goods for sale, as being close to the square market. A tax was taken for its use, this was paid to the curate. In 1842 it was moved to the cattle market in Race Hill. For a period of time the tower was also used as the prison, as were the rooms in the Southgate Arch.

To be continued...

Norman Cowling, Boyton Tower Captain

(Info taken from Kellys Directory 1883, the notes of former bellringer the late Roy Sanders and reference books in Launceston Library, with apologies to those more knowledgeable at St Mary's for anything that is wrong)



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. Truro Diocese publish prayers on their website. We also have prayer resources in our churches.

This month we pray for...

The victims and survivors of the earthquakes in Venezuela, victims of Ebola in DRC, victims of the Middle East conflict and the continuing work in Myanmar after the 2025 earthquake.

The Diocesan leadership team and Rev Dr Helen Williams, Archdeacon designate of Bodmin, as she prepares for her arrival and ministry among us.

All who lead in our churches, worship leaders, church wardens, PCC officers and members and those who toil away in faith, unseen and unsung.

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. Those being baptised in the benefice this month.

Couples preparing for marriage in our benefice churches, including 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 people who come into our churches to pray, bringing their worries and needs.

Those who struggle with the heat.

We give thanks for the lives of those we have lost and all the faithful departed including Maureen Prout, 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' SAUSAGE & APPLE BRUNCH

*Sausage dishes including :
Casseroles and Bakes, £4 each*

*Apple Desserts
including : Crumbles
and Pies, £4 each*

*Saturday 5th September
11 am - 2 pm
Victory Hall, North Tamerton*

