

OUR NEWS

OCTOBER 2026



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INDEPENDENT TM REVIEW NOTES GROWTH & LEARNING

An independent review of the diocese's Transforming Mission (TM) programme has highlighted a mixture of significant achievements, important lessons, and ongoing challenges for church growth across Cornwall.

Launched in 2017 and expanded in 2019, TM was an ambitious initiative funded through Strategic Development Funding (SDF). It aimed to stimulate church growth by investing in 'Resource Churches' across key Cornish towns including Falmouth, Camborne, Truro, St Austell, and Liskeard.

The review identifies substantial positive outcomes across the programme:

- A vibrant new church was successfully planted in Falmouth, creating new opportunities for worship and community engagement.
- Over 3,200 young people engaged with TM initiatives – significantly exceeding expectations.
- Innovative projects such as Camborne's weekly youth initiative (serving over 100 young people) and Liskeard's Soar programme supporting mental health and addiction have made a tangible difference locally.
- 24 new worshipping communities have been established, exceeding both original and revised targets.
- The programme significantly exceeded targets for training lay leaders, strengthening future ministry capacity.

- TM churches saw a 34% increase in attendance (2021–2024) compared to 7% across the wider diocese.

Additionally, the programme attracted skilled clergy and lay workers to Cornwall, strengthening the Church's long-term human resources in the region. Of the 47 posts, only three came from other diocesan roles.

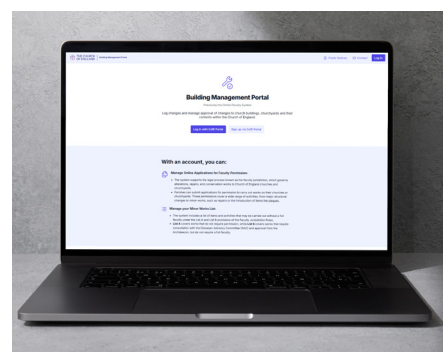
The review also highlights areas where there were challenges:

- Original targets proved overly ambitious, with most growth and conversion goals not achieved.
- Strategic alignment was lacking, with changes in diocesan leadership resulting in reduced support and integration of the programme.
- Limited buy-in from local churches led to resistance and reduced collaboration in some areas.
- The 'Cornish Resource Church' model remains unproven in this context but did lead to a revitalisation of Church.

The report concludes that while TM did not fully achieve its original vision, it has laid important foundations for future growth. It calls for more realistic planning, stronger leadership alignment, and better communication in future initiatives.

Importantly, the review encourages the diocese to celebrate the positive outcomes and build on emerging models of grassroots mission, pioneering ministry, and community engagement.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



BUILDINGS MANAGEMENT PORTAL HAS OPENED

The new Building Management Portal, a new national digital system for managing applications relating to works on churches, their contents, and churchyards, opens today, October 6.

The portal replaces the Online Faculty System which was closed to new faculties on September 30.

The new system is used for List A, List B, and faculty applications, and provides a clearer and more structured way for applicants, parishes, DAC teams, archdeacons, registrars, chancellors, and consultees to work through the application process.

The new portal will go live nationally on October 6 with local roll-out in our diocese set to take place in the coming weeks.

The legal process itself is not changing. The Building Management Portal provides a new digital route for managing the same permission framework, with clearer workflow stages, improved case visibility, and role-based access.

Existing and historic cases from the Online Faculty System are available on the Building Management Portal. You will need to register for new cases.

[FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)

CROSS OF ST PIRAN NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Nominations are being sought for the 2027 Cross of St Piran Awards. This is your opportunity to honour someone in your church, community or deanery that has shown extraordinary dedication, generosity and faithfulness.

All nominations should be made to your Strategic Rural Dean (or Deanery Chair) by November 13, 2026.

The annual Cross of St Piran Awards reflect the breadth and diversity of people across our diocese and you are encouraged to think creatively about those who have gone above and beyond expectations – whether through many years of faithful service or through a more recent contribution that has made a significant impact.

Please consider those who, for example:

- give generously of their time to support their church and wider community;
- work tirelessly to secure funding or care for and develop our church buildings;
- serve faithfully and creatively within small or rural churches; or
- have made an exceptional contribution over many years.
- speak up for creation care.

Successful recipients will be celebrated and presented with a commemorative scroll and silver pin at a special service at St Piran's Church, Perranzabuloe, on Saturday, March 6, 2027 at 11am.

NEW RESOURCES TO SUPPORT CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS

New resources aimed at supporting your churches to work with local schools have been launched.

The Church Detectives and Pentecost Pilgrims resources provide everything a church and school need to meet national curriculum standards and are part of a suite of workshops that include Advent Adventures, Harvest Heroes and Easter Explorers.

Produced by Clare Green, the diocesan School's Creation Care Officer and Flourish Link Officer, the packs include a guide for churches on how to run the workshops, template emails to schools about the workshop, flyers for teachers, risk assessments, a powerpoint presentation for pupils, activities for groups, and planning information.

There are also videos on how to run the Creation Care Workshops.

Clare says: "Running a workshop is an excellent way to build lasting links with your local primary school. Our materials are especially built to cover learning objectives from the Cornwall Agreed Syllabus for RE which is followed by all Cornish schools. Adding "Church Detectives" aimed at Foundation Stage and KS1 and "Pentecost Pilgrims" aimed at KS2 means that there are materials available for all primary age groups and all times of year. I do hope you enjoy using them."

[ACCESS THE RESOURCES HERE](#)

INTERPRETIVE CENTRE PROJECT WINS NICK CAHILL AWARD

St Just in Roseland Interpretive Centre Project has been crowned winner of the Nick Cahill Award 2026.

Nick Cahill Awards celebrates excellence in design and craftsmanship, and the official presentation took place at Holy Communion at St Just in Roseland in early August.

Paul Holden, Chair of Truro's Diocesan Advisory Committee and chair of the judging panel, said the award can now be seen in the visitor centre.

Judges praised **St Just in the Roseland Interpretive Centre Project** as making 'a positive contribution to the visitor experience' and noted 'The King James



Bible interpretation panel warrants special mention for its impact and originality'. They were also impressed with the building's 'modest physical and environmental impact' and low carbon initiatives.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

ANNUAL LICENSED LAY MINISTERS SERVICE

The Annual Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers) service took place on Saturday at Truro Cathedral.

The Bishop of Truro, the Rt Revd David Williams presided, and the new Bishop of St Germans, the Rt Revd James Treasure preached. Bishop James has taken over as the Warden of Readers.

During the service, two new Readers were licensed and authorised and two new Pioneers. A third Reader, who had moved into the diocese was welcomed.





ARCHDEACON INSTALLED AT TRURO CATHEDRAL

The Revd Dr Helen Williams has been installed as the new Archdeacon of Bodmin at a service on Truro Cathedral on Sunday.

We welcomed the Revd Dr Helen Williams at Truro Cathedral on Sunday when she was installed as the next Archdeacon of Bodmin.

The Evensong service was led by the Interim Dean of Truro, Revd Canon Ali Hogger Gadsby and the Bishop of Truro, the Rt Revd David Williams. The

Archdeacon of Cornwall, the Venerable Clive Hogger and the Bishop of St Germans, the Rt Revd James Treasure were also present along with the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, Colonel Sir Edward Bolitho.

During the service, Helen preached to those present with the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi as her theme.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

MORE SUPPORT FOR PARISHES & SCHOOLS

The diocesan team has welcomed Josh Matthews and Claire Collins.

Claire has joined the education team, replacing Clare Kendle as the new Governance and Operations Officer, and Josh has joined the Generous Giving team replacing Michael Weatherill who left in early summer. Josh's role is mainly funded by the national church.



Contact information for the Church House team is available on the diocesan website [here](#).

FREE MENTAL HEALTH APP TO SUPPORT PARISHIONERS

Concerned about the mental health and wellbeing of his parishioners, St Austell Deanery vicar Revd Canon Chris McQuillen-Wright has created an app to help people reach out for support.

Chris' idea is the EzraHub, a free app designed to be a self-supporting aid to monitor personal wellbeing. Unlike some other apps, EzraHub offers the option of a phone call from him if things get tough.

Chris started drawing up plans for the app around Covid when he noticed people's wellbeing dropping in his community.

EzraHub asks a series of daily questions such as 'how much have you eaten today?', then scores answers to help users become aware of their needs – whether that be movement, food or reaching out for support. It also offers bible verses and mindfulness resources. The app is overseen by himself and a

clinical psychologist who is also able to signpost users to further help and services if needed.

The app reaches people across the globe with currently over 250 users.

Chris said: "The app is not promising to solve people's problems but promises to stand by them while they are going through them.

"We reach out at exactly the moment someone needs us but is unsure about talking that first step.

"We are filling the gap between therapy sessions or providing support for those who can't access therapy at all."

He added: "EzraHub is a church without walls, instantly accessible and encouraging."

EzraHub allows people to opt in and out whenever they want and is run thanks to grants and gift funding.

[ACCESS IT HERE](#)

GENERAL SYNOD ELECTIONS

Elections for General Synod are now underway.

Six clergy have put themselves forward for the three House of Clergy positions and ten laity have been nominated for the three House of Laity seats.

Hustings have been held for those eligible to vote to hear direct from the candidates. Election addresses are available to read on the diocesan website [here](#).

Voting takes place in early October with results due in mid-October. Once the winning candidates have been elected, we will introduce them in the next edition of this newsletter.

FREE PARISH TRAINING
CLICK HERE

PILGRIMAGES PROVING POPULAR

A pilgrimage route in the diocese could be experiencing a boost in popularity after a churchwarden revealed they ran out of passports.

St Petroc's in Padstow normally has to use up surplus passports – a card pilgrims get stamped when reaching rest stops, often churches, along the way – from the year before. But this year, Churchwarden Sue Norfolk has already had to order three more packs of 100.

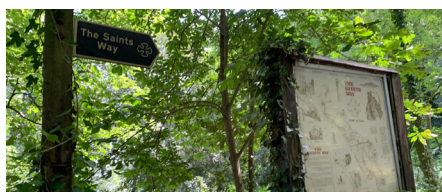
The Saints' Way crosses mid-Cornwall from coast to coast covering approximately 30 miles from Padstow to Fowey.

Sue said: "We don't know how many people go through the church, so we rely on how many passports we give out."

"At the beginning of the year we looked at how many passports we had left over, and this year we didn't have any."

"We order passports for us and for Little St Petroc Minor Church, in Little Petherick. This is the third lot of 100 passports we have had to order this year."

"I think pilgrimages are getting popular. I met somebody a few weeks ago who asked for a passport and stamp – they had recently walked a pilgrimage in Japan."



Saint's Way is an ancient route which was used by Celtic and medieval pilgrims to cross Cornwall on their way to Santiago de Compostella in Northern Spain. It goes through farmland, past pre-historic remains, over ancient bridges and pathways.

Sue said: "The Saints Way is very well used. It is a nice walk, and you can do it in a day if you start early. I walked it many years ago for charity. We did it in two days."

Sue added, last year a group planning to walk through Cornwall and across Spain, using Saints Way, were provided with accommodation and breakfast in St Petroc's church hall.

People are also invited into the church to have a look around and find out more about Christianity.

Walkers wanting accommodation are advised to give at least a week's notice.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT PILGRIMAGES HERE

SIGN UP FOR THE LIVING CHURCHYARDS PROJECT

Churches are being encouraged to sign up to join the Cornwall Living Churchyards project.

Living Churchyards can provide an important refuge for a diversity of wildlife as well as a pleasant, reflective sanctuary for our local community. This project aims to strike a balance. A churchyard managed with sympathy and understanding for wildlife can

look well cared for and be attractive to people as well as plants and animals. The Living Churchyards project is about positive community led management, recognising that small changes can make an enormous difference.

If you are interested in your churchyard being a 'living churchyard' get your PCC secretary or incumbent to sign up [here](#).

FIND OUT MORE HERE

CREATION CARE NETWORK USEFUL LINKS

The next Creation Care Network gathering is on October 8 at 7pm.

All are via the Zoom [link](#).

+ **CREATION CARE WEB PAGE**
+ **REGISTER FOR THE KERNOW GREEN CHURCH AWARD**

+ **BECOME A CREATION CARE CHAMPION**
+ **SIGN UP TO RECEIVE CREATION CARE UPDATES**
+ **CREATION CARE FACEBOOK GROUP**

READ THE LATEST CREATION CARE NEWSLETTER HERE

DATES FOR THE DIARY

November 15: Safeguarding Sunday

November 25 - December 10: 16 Days of Activism

November 28: Diocesan Synod

December 15: 150th anniversary of the Diocese of Truro.

2027

February 3: Annual Safeguarding Conference

February 22 - 26: General Synod

February 27: Diocesan Synod

Encouraging links between churches & their local schools

SCHOOL CREATION CARE WORKSHOPS

Are you passionate about Creation Care?
Would you like to forge links with your local school?
Would you like to work with children in your church?

The Creation Care Resources are a set of resources designed for churches that wish to engage with their local schools. Many churches and churchyards provide an amazing resource for young people to experience the wonder of nature and learn about the world around them.

Download the free pack from our website [Creation Care Workshops](#)
trurodiocese.org.uk/resource/education/creation-care-for-schools/creation-care-workshops/

All you need to organise and run Creation Care Workshops for Schools in your church

MORE INFO OR HELP - CALL 01872 301380 EMAIL CLARE.GREEN@TRURO.ANGLICAN.ORG

CREATION CARE

DIOCESE OF TRURO EDUCATION

NEW PODCASTS

There are two new podcasts to catch up on. In the first, Rebecca Evans talks to pioneer Jonny Baker, director at the Church Mission Society, about his latest book *Fringe Dweller*, and in the second podcast, Rebecca talks to Ben Wood, the diocese's cut carbon support officer, and Rosey Sanders, projects assistant for Creation Care about environmental stewardship.

CLICK HERE TO LISTEN



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PODCASTS