Newsletter

November 2026

The churches of St Mary Magdalene, Launceston, 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 November newsletter, with details of services, diary dates for events across the Benefice, prayer resources, news about what has been going on and more.

As I write, our church communities have been busy celebrating harvest, teddy bears and making music, and now as the days draw in, we enter the season of remembrance and look towards Advent.

Our harvest celebrations are very different in each of the churches, reflecting our different traditions, but all share joy and praise, a concern for those in need, particularly supporting the local foodbanks, bringing community together, and this year particularly, praying for the farming community in all the challenges they face- climate change, financial, working conditions and isolation, and government policy.

For the first time, we held a teddy bear service at Werrington, celebrating National Teddy Day (who knew?!) and creation, and concluding with bears abseiling down the church tower, and receiving their certificates, and an excellent tea. Alongside the excited young people were plenty of older attendees and their bears. The service was well received and we plan to run it again, and perhaps also a teddy bears picnic in the churchyard.

I hope you find the newsletter interesting and informative. And contributions are always very welcome.

Rev Helen, Associate Minister



St Mary Magdalene, Remembrance 2026

November 2026 Services	**Nov 1st White/ gold All Saints** Revelation 7.9-end 1 John 3.1-3 Matthew 5.1-12	**Nov 8th Green Remembrance Sunday** Wisdom of Solomon 6.17-20 I Thessalonians 4.13-end Matthew 25.1-13	**Nov 15th Red 2nd before Advent** Zephaniah 1.7, 12-end 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11 Matthew 25.14-30	**Nov 22nd Red Christ the King** Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24 Ephesians 1.15-end Matthew 25.31-end	**Nov 29th Purple Advent** Isaiah 64.1-9 1 Corinthians 1.3-9 Mark 13.24-37
Boyton	MP 0930 TS	HC 1045 HD			Bring and share benefice lunch with +David
Werrington	All Souls 1800 HD	Remembrance 1500 RL	HC 0915 HD	MP 0915 RL	
St Giles		Remembrance 1050 RTru	HC 1100 HD		Advent Carol Service 1500 + David
Virginstowe	MP 1100 MH			HC 0900 HD	HC 1100 + David
North Tamerton	HC 0930 MW	Remembrance 1000 JO	MS 1000 JO		
St Mary Magdalene	Family Service 1030 DS Evensong 1730 JW	Said HC 0900 HD	MP 1030 RTre	HC 1030 MW	Advent Carol Service 1730

Midweek Communion, St Mary Magdalene 9.30am on

 Wednesdays 

Bilingual Cornish / English Harvest service at St Mary Magdalene 18th October

St Mary Magdalene celebrated harvest in Cornish.

The choir had put in a huge amount of work, and sang the Gloria from the Oferen an Dasserghyans (Mass of the Resurrection), which was celebrated at Truro Cathedral for the first time in June. The next step would be to hold an all-Cornish service. This would be continuing a tradition. Rob Tremain found a flyer and liturgy for a service in Cornish at St Mary Magdalene in 1938!

Many thanks to Jane Kneebone, and to Sharron for the preparation. Thank you also to our former Rural Dean, Revd Canon Dr Lynda Barley, who preached at St Mary's harvest evensong.

Remembrance Services



9am St Mary Magdalene, Said Communion

10am North Tamerton, Morning Prayer and Act of Remembrance

1045am Boyton, United remembrance service with the Methodists

1050am St Giles, Morning Prayer and Act of Remembrance

3pm Werrington, United remembrance service

Bishop David is visiting!

On Advent Sunday, a fifth Sunday, there will be a benefice communion at Virginstowe at 11am, an Advent carol service at St Giles at 3pm, and a bring and share lunch in Boyton's hall. This is Bishop David's long-planned visit to the two parishes in Truro Diocese, but geographically in Devon. Do come along to share in the worship, and meet Bishop David.

You may want to car share, particularly to Virginstowe.

At 5.30pm St Mary Magdalene have their Advent carol service.

If you are going to the lunch, it would be really helpful if you could let your churchwarden know what you plan to bring. Delicious as sausage rolls are, thirty plates of sausage rolls would be a blessing too far!



Can you help with St Mary Magdalene's Tree Festival?

This year the tree festival, a joyous event which brings many hundreds of people through the church, opens on 27 November.

The organisers need help with stewarding, donations of mulled wine and mince pies for the opening night, and cakes throughout the two week festival.

Please contact Sharron musketeer.wormald@gmail.com, Graham graham@lutra.co.uk or Sue suetierney003@gmail.com

What has been going on across the benefice

The short answer is lots! Including…

Werrington held a Teddy Service to mark National Teddy Day. After the service there was a splendid tea, and many of the bears abseiled down the church tower, receiving a certificate for their achievement. This was great fun. (Rev Helen's bear Priscilla was the first one down). Many thanks to our abseiling team, Michael and Kathryn.

Werrington also held a productive churchyard day, with perfect weather and very well-attended.

Virginstowe have been fund raising for a new carpet in the chancel. Mike and Sonia hosted a soup and pudding lunch with delicious food and good fellowship. The new carpet has now been fitted.

North Tamerton followed their harvest festival with a harvest supper in the Victory Hall. They also hosted a concert which raised £660 to be split between Bude Cancer Support and the church, with the church wonderfully decorated in pink for Breast Cancer Now's Wear Pink campaign.

As well as the organ recitals, St Mary Magdalene hosted folk singers Steve Knightley and Daniel Salvatore. St Mary's plans a programme of concerts next year.

Safeguarding

A reminder that our safeguarding officer in the rural churches is Sheila Annesley 07341 921927 . Please note Sheila's new number, now she no longer has a landline.

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.

St Mary Magdalene- church for young people

St Mary's is the only one of our benefice churches which has a regular Sunday School, led by Sue Tierney and Sharron Wormald.

St Mary's also run a monthly Kids Café, every 4th Saturday from 11.15am with breakfast, crafts, colouring, puzzles, fun and the opportunity to make new friends. All are welcome. Contact Sue Tierney for more information suetierney003@gmail.com

Diary Dates

Coffee mornings in Boyton at 10am every Thursday, alternating between the Church Hall on the 12th and 26th, 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.

Wednesday 11th November 7pm bereavement group at St Thomas, an opportunity for anyone looking for support with loss.

Sunday 15th November 6pm Taize service at St Thomas Church, a quiet reflective service based on the chants of the Taize community

Tuesday 17th November 7pm St Mary Magdalene PCC

Wednesday 18th November 7pm The Advent Study Course begins in Virginstowe. The book, Walking with Angels, is available in the Christian Bookshop. All are welcome and if you would like to go but need a lift, let Rev Helen or Mike or Sonia know, and we will try and arrange that. If you plan to come, try and read the introduction and first section in advance, but don't worry if you cannot. There are no tests!

Thursday 19th November time and venue to be confirmed quarterly church wardens meeting.

Wednesday 25th November 7pm St Thomas Church Hall, meeting of deanery treasurers, but anyone interested is welcome.

Sunday 29th November Advent Sunday Bishop David is visiting Virginstowe and St Giles with a bring and share lunch at Boyton. All are welcome. See the service and lunch details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Sunday 29th November 5.30pm St Mary Magdalene, Advent Carol Service

Saturday 5 December 11am-2pm Soup and Roll Brunch at North Tamerton. Delicious homemade soups, £4 for soup and roll, £2.50 for cake. There will also be craft stalls and a raffle.

Saturday 5 December 4pm Christingle Service, St Mary Magdalene

Save the date! Saturday 5th December, An Evening with the Barrel Seagals, an all-female shanty crew from Bude. Tickets from Rachel 07960 534290 or Vanessa 01566 785326

St Mary Magdalene is recruiting!

Do you have a bit of time to polish brass in St Mary's?

Or perhaps you could help with fundraising, selling items on eBay and Vinted for church funds?

If this might be you, do contact Rev Helen or one of the churchwardens.

Werrington is also recruiting

Nick Hayden, the PCC secretary, is moving to New Zealand with his family. Nick has been PCC secretary for several years.

If you think this is a role you could fill, contact church wardens Sally or Raye for the job description.

Werrington's PCC usually meets 3 or 4 times a year.

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 November

Sunday 1st November All Saints

Choral Evensong (5.30pm)

Hymns:	NEH 197, 341, 484	Psalm: 150
Responses:	Smith (Exeter 1986)	
Canticles:	Ireland in F (Exeter 1986)	
Anthem:	Holy is the true light – Harris (BB164)	
Postlude:	Improvisation – George Oldroyd	

Sunday 8th November Remembrance Sunday

Said Holy Communion (9.00am)

Sunday 15th November Second Sunday before Advent

Morning Prayer (10.30am)

Hymns: NEH 449, 129, 286, 377
Anthem: Lord give me faith – Robson (Exeter 1992)
Postlude: Prelude in F – C V Stanford

Sunday 22nd November Christ the King

Holy Communion (10.30am)

Hymns: NEH 334, 282, 338, 457
Setting: Mass of St Thomas - Thorne
Anthem: Let all the world – Vaughan Williams (F219)
Postlude: Toccata in D minor – Max Reger

Sunday 29th November Advent Sunday

Advent Carol Service (5.30pm)



Music at St Mary Magdalene

September's organ recital was given by Robin Stubbs, organist, choral conductor and music educator. Robin said how much he missed the "lovely choir and amazing organ", having been Director of Music for 12 years. He explained how the very dry and hot weather has been affecting organs badly over the summer, but what a "really good servant to music making in this church" St Mary's organ is.

Robin's programme, designed to showcase the organ, opened with Flor Peeters' Festal Voluntary, and the varied programme concluded with the "dramatic and showy" Dancing Toccata by Christopher Steel.

October's recital was given by Dr Sean Sweeney, playing a largely British programme. He opened with the "rhythmic energy" of a

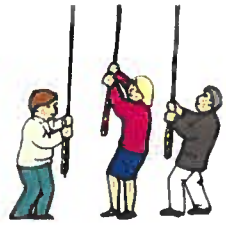
Fanfare written by William Mathias, a child prodigy who through his lifetime had written virtually every type of music for every type of instrument.

One of the pieces was Nocturne by Dom Sebastian Wolff, of Buckfast Abbey, which Sean dedicated to William, lost at the tragically young age of 27.

After the lunchtime concerts there is an opportunity to enjoy fellowship over coffee and cake.

Thanks to Robin and Sean for sharing their skills and the joy of St Mary Magdalene's splendid organ.

A history of bells…



Bells across the benefice

Boyton- continued.

The lower part of Boyton's un-buttressed tower dates for the 14th century, and the slate plaque on the west side of the tower tells us that it was fully completed to 60 feet tall after 1692, following the legacy on death of William Symons of Bradridge. In 1717 the curate recorded 4 bells of unknown origin but by 1820 they were in a poor state and in 1836 they were taken to John Taylor's Bell Foundry in the city of Oxford, melted down and recast into the current set of 5. A new oak wood frame was fitted, and the bells are still in this frame today, rot-free from damp as it is not inserted into any internal walls. We remain one of only 3 churches in Cornwall having a working set of 5 bells.

In 1897 the church employed the Box Foundry in St Thomas, Launceston (the building still visible today, look through the alley

between the Co Op Funeral Parlour and the old Railway Pub). They made improvements to the floors, altering the roof from flat to inverted and making a chimney into the north wall of the tower. This was used to provide a flue for the heating system which is still used today with our current oil-fired boiler. Boyton must be the only tower with a chimney pot on its battlements like a dwelling house!

In 1961 the bells were again in need of renovation and after a doorstep appeal by Rev Fulcher-Medcraft, who gave the first £50, and parishioners' donations of £1,000 were given to cover the cost of removal, transport to Taylors Bell Foundry in Loughborough. Old wood headstocks were replaced with metal, new wheels and bearings, the bells were retuned, new ropes fitted and the bells were back in use in 1962. Up to 30 locals of all age groups learned to ring bells over the next few years, which increased the evening congregation.

To be continued... Next month more on Norman's "home" parish.

Norman Cowling, Boyton Tower Captain

(Info taken from Kellys Directory 1883, and Boyton old records)



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...

Rev Sean our strategic rural dean, Rev Olive our assistant rural dean, and Rev Steve our deanery project support officer.

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

Warmth and light for the people of Ukraine as they go into winter, still at war.

All who are sick, in pain, recovering from treatment or surgery or troubled, praying particularly for Pauline, Shirley and 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. That they might find comfort and transformation.

For children and young people to hear God's word, in church, at school and in their everyday encounters. And the staff and pupils of the schools in our benefice.

For our benefice safeguarding officers, and the diocesan safeguarding team in the very difficult work they do.

We give thanks for the lives of those we have lost and all the faithful departed including Iris Greenaway, Pat Callow, Lorraine Nash, Jean Mathieson and Mel Statton 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 in pink for Breast Cancer Now



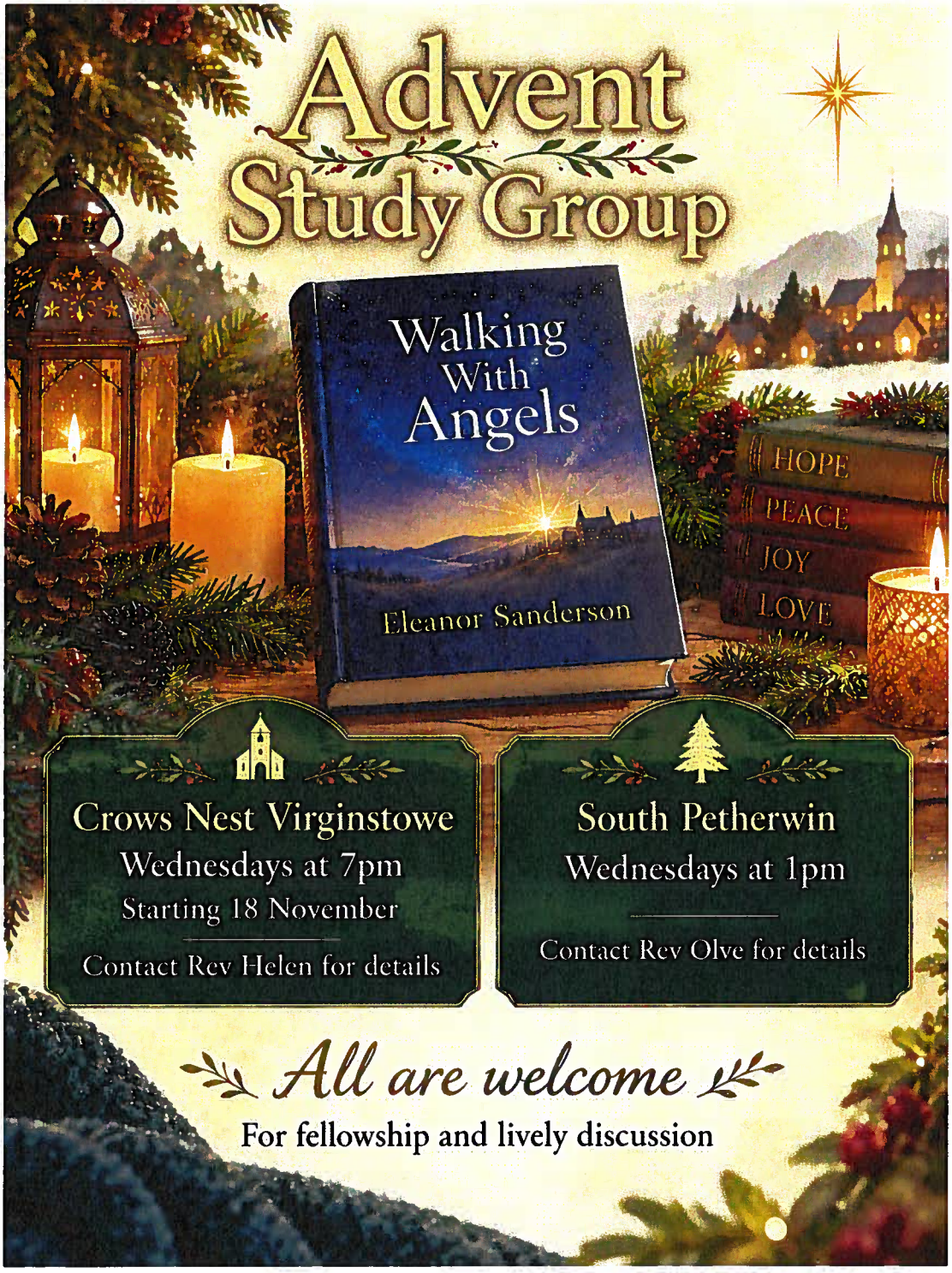








Werrington teddies and churchyard day, Boyton's Harvest decorations


Advent
Study Group
Walking With Angels
Eleanor Sanderson
HOPE
PEACE
JOY
LOVE
Crows Nest Virginstowe
Wednesdays at 7pm
Starting 18 November
Contact Rev Helen for details
South Petherwin
Wednesdays at 1pm
Contact Rev Olve for details
All are welcome
For fellowship and lively discussion