

# OUR NEWS

## AUGUST 2025



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## BISHOP HUGH TO BECOME BISHOP OF WORCESTER

The Rt Revd Hugh Nelson will be leaving his post as the Bishop of St Germans at the end of the year to become the new Bishop of Worcester.

The announcement was made by Downing Street on July 29 following approval of his nomination by HM The King.

Bishop Hugh says: "I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity I've been offered to serve the Lord and His church in the Diocese of Worcester.

"As you can imagine though, it will be a bitter-sweet move, as it means leaving all of you wonderful, faithful, brilliant people and the glory of God's creation that is Cornwall, and it means not being able to serve with Bishop David, who is such a gift to this diocese."

Bishop Hugh added: "In the Diocese of Truro, we have a clear vision for a fruitful and sustainable future, with so many faithful and godly people serving their church and their communities, often in creative and sacrificial ways. And with a new focus on children and young people, and Bishop David leading you on, you can be full of hope for the future.

"I will not be starting in Worcester until the New Year, so there's lots of time for me to say the things I want to say to you all. Please do pray for my family and I, as we certainly shall for you."

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)



**2-PAGE CELEBRATION OF LAY MINISTRY SERVICE ON CENTRE PAGES**

### PARISH TRAINING OFFERS

During August and September there are a number of **FREE** parish training offers available.

#### AT A GLANCE

August 4: Safeguarding Leadership training  
August 11: Safeguarding Leadership training  
Sept 11: Creation Care Network Gathering  
Sept 13: PCC Treasurer training  
Sept 23: PCC Treasurer Cashbook training  
Sept 27: Churchwarden training

If you are interested in any or all of the above, you can find out more and book by visiting the diocesan website [here](#).

If there is particular training you require and it is not currently available, do let us know [here](#).

# TEA, CAKE AND A ROYAL THANK YOU!

Tea, cake and a special thank you were given to youth leaders across the country in acknowledgement for all they do – including two people from Cornwall.

About 100 children, youth and families' ministers from across the Church of England, all nominated by their bishops, attended the event on July 8.

The afternoon saw people networking, being treated to refreshments and listening to inspiring talks from speakers. It was also revealed during the morning that the King had sent a personal message to all.

Becky Lines, TM Children's and Families' Leader from Camborne, and Hannah Levett, Youth Lead & All Age Worship Coordinator from Liskeard, were invited to Lambeth Palace in London.

The two were recognised for all the hard work they do within the diocese as part of Recognise Week, created by the Church of England to celebrate all those involved in the children's and young people ministry within the church.

Hannah, said: "It was a joy to be invited to Lambeth Palace and be recognised for my youth ministry."

"I loved getting to network with people doing the same around the country and to celebrate together, with inspiration and encouragement."

She said she will be bringing the celebration and "thank you" to the rest of her team and volunteers in all the youth, children's and families' ministries at St Martin's.

Becky has worked in the diocese for many years and has been involved in a number of initiatives including Wild



Church, Teatimes for Families, summer holiday clubs and more.

She said: "As you go through the gates of Lambeth Palace you are struck by the history that envelops you, just being there was fantastic."

"The joyous event that was laid on to celebrate children, youth and family ministry was very well named as 'Regonise'. It was not just a thank you party to acknowledge everything that is seen to be happening. It recognised what happens when we're alone. The emails, shopping, planning and preparation, risk assessments, the events that no one turns up to, the late nights and early mornings. It was this that made me emotional, they do know!"



## REBECCA TALKS ABOUT BENEFITS OF STUDYING

The Diocese of Truro's Ministry Development and Inclusion Officer features on the Church Mission Society's website.

Rebecca Evans, who has worked in the diocese for 14 years, is currently studying for a Certificate in Theology, Ministry and Mission with an African Christianity focus.

She has been interviewed about how studying at CMS is helping her with her work in the diocese.

Rebecca also talks about the **podcasts** she hosts for the Diocese of Truro and how she uses them to discuss different topics people in the Church of England may be interested in.

Rebecca says being featured on the website was a nice surprise but also 'a little daunting too'.

Bishop Hugh saw the interview and wrote on his Facebook page: "This excellent article with the wonderful Rebecca Evans is a very good insight into the church in Cornwall and how, together, we're engaging in the missional opportunities and challenges."

"Well worth a read."

Rebecca is now nearly at the end of her one-year course and is enjoying all it has to offer, including spending time focusing on the distinctive nature of rural churches.

"The course is very challenging and is stretching me a lot," she said, "but the content is fascinating. There are also other people from around the world studying with me."

"I would definitely encourage others to explore studying with CMS. It is a significant time commitment over a year, so I think to get the most out of it, it is important to make sufficient space for it."

## GROWING YOUNGER RESOURCES AVAILABLE

As mentioned in last month's edition, the Growing Younger work has now been launched and resources are starting to be loaded onto the diocesan **website**.

This section will be expanded over the coming months but if there is something you think should be there, or a resource you use, please do let us know at [growingyounger@truro.anglican.org](mailto:growingyounger@truro.anglican.org)





# CELEBRATE OF LAY MINISTRY AT CATHEDRAL

Lay Ministry is an important part of the life of this diocese. This month, the Rt Revd David Williams, Bishop of Truro commissioned 17 new people into lay ministry at a service in Truro Cathedral.

Those present saw three new Local Pastoral Ministers, 11 Local Worship Leaders, two Local Lay Leaders and a Local Pioneer Leader welcomed.

These people have been in training for many months and the commissioning was the final step in this process. The lay ministers are now fully equipped, commissioned and able to serve in their local parishes and communities.

Sheri Sturgess, who was

commissioned as Local Lay Leader, said: "It was a really excellent service. It was good to see so many people from across the diocese being commissioned in their different roles. It was special."

Isaac McNish, Head of Ministry at The Diocese of Truro, said: "We are deeply thankful for all those who have been newly commissioned. Their prayerful dedication and willingness to serve - whether by leading worship,

offering pastoral care, or nurturing worshipping communities - already has a profound impact. Through their ministry, the love of Christ is being made visible and tangible in the lives of many across our diocese."

If anyone is interested in exploring their vocation or finding out more about these roles, please get in touch with the ministry team by emailing [ministry@truro.anglican.org](mailto:ministry@truro.anglican.org).









# RELYING ON GOD IN LOCAL LAY LEADERSHIP

The road to ministry can have many turns on the way, as Sheri Sturgess has discovered as she reflects on her own particular journey.

She has been a Christian all her life, and a worshipper at St Martin's Church in Liskeard for the last 35 years or so. It was here she became the first administrator in the newly formed church office in 1994.

She says: "Soon after that, a post came up in the Diocese of Truro – which I was encouraged to apply for. I was appointed as the Stewardship Advisor, and a few years later became the Diocesan Secretary. This was a role I held until 2010, working in the old Diocesan House at Kenwyn.

"After leaving that post, I had some more time available and decided to broaden my theological knowledge by studying for the Certificate of Theology, on a two-year course with SWMTC. I had no particular aim in mind – it was just for fun – but maybe not so much when an essay was due in."

At this time, Sheri was also a Local Worship Leader at St Martin's church, taking an active part in leading café services. When the vicar announced his retirement, she realised there was a need to fill the sermon spot and asked for permission to preach.

After undertaking Reader ministry training, in 2017 she was licensed as a Reader for Liskeard and St Keyne. She still holds this post today, taking services, preaching and teaching as well as taking occasional funerals across the benefice.

But God still had more in store for her.

## SENS KERNEWЕК

Sheri says: "I was at the Readers Day in February 2024, when Bishop Hugh was talking about **Sens Kernewek** course. This suddenly sparked my interest. It sounded like just the sort of course for me – I knew I would love it! But I was busy with lots of other things – did I really need to spend time on this?"

Yet the idea of joining this course carried on niggling away at her.



"Sometimes I find this is how God talks to me, how God gets my attention.

"I loved the course, it was brilliant. It is a group of people who meet and learn from each other. Bishop Hugh, Revd Jane Vaughan-Wilson and Sally Piper led the course. They are all excellent facilitators. But it was a participatory course – a group in which we were all learning and discerning together."

The aim of the Sens Kernewek course is to enable people to discern their call and hopefully lead them to be commissioned as Local Lay Leaders.

During the recent transition, Sheri had been taking regular services at Dobwalls United Church, part of the parish of Liskeard, in her role as Reader.

As Sheri was praying about where the Sens Kernewek course should take her in the future, she started to feel God was directing her to become part of the leadership team at Dobwalls, and a link between the church there and St Martins Church in Liskeard. Conversations with Revd Mark Wade confirmed this as the route to follow.

Sheri continues to trust God with what lies ahead. When she looks back at all she has done, she can see how he has always been leading her into new areas of ministry.

## MEMBER SOUGHT FOR CHURCH USES COMMITTEE

This is a specialist body that considers the care and use of church buildings, mainly where they are no longer open for worship. It is a consultative body that advises the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee on proposals for the wider community use of specific church buildings. Currently it oversees the care of three churches, so only meets three times a year online, for up to an hour and there is only a small amount of pre-reading required.

We seek a new member, lay or ordained, who has experience in the care of church buildings, whether it be pastoral or practical, ideally where there has been a journey of change.

If you would like to find out more or submit an expression of interest, please contact [kate.cortez@truro.anglican.org](mailto:kate.cortez@truro.anglican.org).

Please note, we always seek to encourage people from across our church life in the diocese to participate in the many different governance bodies involved in overseeing the work of the Diocese of Truro. If you would like to get involved, contact Kate as above.

## FAREWELL TO GENEROUS GIVING'S JENNY WREFORD

This month the diocese will be saying a fond farewell to Jenny Wreford who has been part of the Generous Giving team for the last four and a half years.

People from parishes throughout East Cornwall will know Jenny well, as she has travelled all over the area to get to know as many of you as she can. She has worked tirelessly to spread the message of God's generosity to us and how we can respond as generous disciples, and well as helping many parishes with the day to day practical aspects of giving.

She has been a wonderful colleague and will be very much missed. Her faithfulness, wisdom and commitment have been a great inspiration.

If you worked with Jenny previously and need some advice or support in Generosity and Giving please do not hesitate to contact either Christine Salaman or Michael Weatherall or email [stewardship@truro.anglican.org](mailto:stewardship@truro.anglican.org)

# PUPILS CELEBRATED IN FIRST ECO-SERVICE

A service celebrating the the environmentally friendly work of school children across Cornwall has taken place

Scores of pupils, from a range of Church of England primary schools and community schools gathered with the Rt Revd Hugh Nelson, Bishop of St Germans, and the national lead of Eco Schools England for a celebration and presentation event.

During the service the children were thanked for their work helping to save the planet by cherishing creation, cutting carbon and speaking up. They were presented with a framed certificate to display in their school as part of the **Eco-Schools Awards** scheme where they have been working towards their 'Green Flag' award.

Some pupils also helped to create the service by choosing readings, songs and prayers.

Adam Flint, National Manager of Eco Schools England, spoke to the children via video link.



Bishop Hugh also spoke to the children during the service. He said: "Thank you for cherishing creation, cutting carbon and speaking up – Please, please, please will you do more of it."

The pupils were given an acorn to think about how a great oak tree comes from a small acorn. They were also asked to write something they were thankful for on a paper leaf to hang on a tree at the front.

Clare Green, Diocese of Truro Schools' Creation Care Officer, said at the service: "I have such hope for our planet because what you do is amazing. My hope is



the amazing work you do will grow to flourish, just like the oak tree does from an acorn."

If you want to know more about how your church can work with schools, contact **Clare Green**.

**READ MORE HERE**

## HALOS HELPING TO CUT CARBON IN CHURCHES

Churchgoers in Penzance won't need to worry about feeling chilly during services this autumn thanks to new Halo heaters.

The Herschel Halo radiant heaters, costing more than £69,000, have been installed in St Mary's ready for the cooler months – and will help cut the church's carbon footprint too.

Church members raised £43,187 towards the cost of the halo infrared heaters and then given £36,527 from the Demonstrator Project – comprising of £21,286 Archbishop's Council and £15,241 Benefact Trust.

These halo heaters, which have candle-style bulbs to create a chandelier effect,

will help church officials make a saving on energy costs and help towards their goal of reducing carbon.

Ben Wood, Cut Carbon Support Officer (Churches), said: "It's fantastic to see such an impressive achievement from St Mary's Penzance. This has been a major undertaking both in time and resources, but they are committed both to keeping the congregation warm and ensuring the church is Net Zero in line with the Church of England's target of achieving Net Zero by 2030.

**READ MORE HERE**

**READ THE LATEST CREATION CARE NEWSLETTER HERE**

## CREATION CARE NETWORK USEFUL LINKS

The next Creation Care Network gathering is on Thursday, September 11, 10am). 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**

**CLICK HERE TO LISTEN**

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](https://www.creationcareworkshops.org.uk/resources/education/creation-care-for-schools/creation-care-workshops/)  
[trurodiocese.org.uk/resources/education/creation-care-for-schools/creation-care-workshops/](https://www.creationcareworkshops.org.uk/resources/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 301388 EMAIL [CLARE.GREEN@TRURO.ANGLICAN.ORG](mailto:CLARE.GREEN@TRURO.ANGLICAN.ORG)

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