

Newsletter

November 2025

**The churches of Werrington, St Giles, Boyton, North Tamerton
and Virginstowe (the rural churches of the Benefice of St
Mary's and the Upper Tamar Parishes)**



As I write this introduction, we are entering the season of remembrance, All Saints and All Souls, Remembrance Day and the marking of eighty years since the end of the Second World War. There is something too about the clocks changing, the shorter days and cosying up at home, that encourages reflection and remembrance.

In my All Souls reflection, I thought about a leaf- so many of them lying in our gardens at the moment- its unique beauty, beauty which remains even after it has fallen from the tree on which it depended for life, is part in creation and its symbolism for God's eternal love.

Rev Helen, Associate Minister

November 2025

	November 2nd All Saints/ All Souls Gold/ white Daniel 7.1-3,15-18 Psalm 149 Ephesians 1.11-end Luke 6.20-31	November 9th Remembrance Sunday Red Isaiah 25.1-9 Psalm 46 Revelation 22.1-5 Matthew 5.1-12	November 16th 2nd Sunday before Advent Red Malachai 4.1-2a Psalm 98 2 Thessalonians 3.6-13 Luke 21.5-19	November 23rd Christ the King Red Jeremiah 23.1-6 Colossians 1.11-20 Luke 23.33-43	November 30th Advent Sunday Purple Isaiah 2.1-5 Psalm 12 Romans 13.11-end Matthew 24.36-44
Boyton		1050 United Service RL and Rev David Miller *	0930 HC MD		1030 H Benefic Service Mary's Launce
Werrington	0915 MP RL 1700 All Souls HD (purple)	1500 United Remembrance Service HD		0915 HC HD	
St Giles		1050 Remembrance and MP HD	1100 HC MD		
Virginstowe	1100 MP MH	1500 Messy Church and Act of Remembrance		1100 HC HD	
North Tamerton		0930 HC HD (<u>early start</u>) and Act of Remembrance led by JO	1000 MP JO	1000 Sunday Worship JO	

Advent Calendars and Christmas Giving

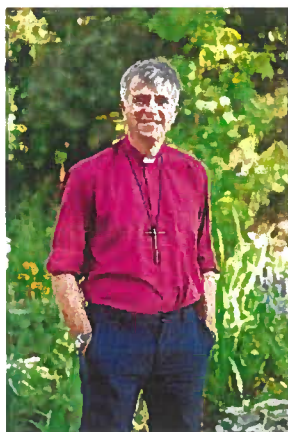
Do you buy Advent calendars for your family/ friends/ children/ grandchildren? Do look at the Real Advent Calendar, which includes fairtrade chocolate treats and a 24 page booklet with the Christmas story- chocolate and a Christian message! You can buy

online at www.realadvent.co.uk or get a group together in church, and buy a case at a discounted price. Or ring 01925 877004.



Are you looking for Christmas gift ideas, or to support local organisations and charities who provide much needed support to people in our communities? Explore the Cornish Christmas Giving catalogue here [Cornish Christmas Giving Catalogue - Truro Diocese : Truro Diocese](#)

Farewell to Bishop Hugh



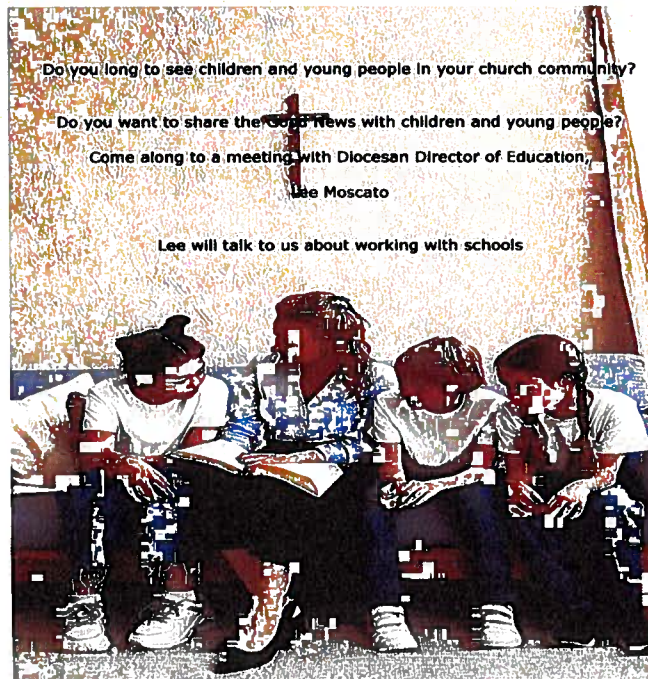
We will all be sad to see Bishop Hugh, Bishop of St Germans, leave us, but delight in his new appointment as Bishop of Worcester. We pray for his new ministry.

There will be a farewell service in Truro Cathedral on 7th December at 4pm.

On 24th December Bishop Hugh will participate in the Nine Lessons and Carols Service at the Cathedral, his last service here.

His installation at Worcester Cathedral will be on January 17th 2026 at 2pm.

Everyone is welcome at all these services.



Do you long to see children and young people in your church community?

Do you want to share the good news with children and young people?

Come along to a meeting with Diocesan Director of Education,

Lee Moscato

Lee will talk to us about working with schools

Do you want to see children and young people in your church community?

Come along to St Thomas Hall, Launceston at 7pm on Monday 24th November

All are welcome. Please join us and invite people in your church to come along too.

Trigg Major Deanery

Advent Study Course

We will study the York Course, Praise Him: Songs of Praise in the New Testament. Rev Helen has the course booklets.

The zoom group led by Rev Mary will meet on Wednesday afternoons 2-3.30pm starting 26th November, and 3, 10 and 17 December. If you want the zoom link contact Rev mary or Rev Helen.

St Denys' Christmas Tree Festival

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
5th December	6th December	7th December
12pm - 8pm	10am - 8pm	10am - 4pm

Santa Visiting
Saturday 1pm



Christingle
Sunday 4.30pm

Categories

- ★ Best funny tree
- ★ Best small tree
- ★ Best traditional tree
- ★ Overall Winner

Refreshments Available + our annual wreath sale

Setting up Thursday 4th 12pm - 8pm

To enter a tree or trees please contact:
Sharon 01409 271473 / Susan 01409 271483

What has been going on in our church communities?

As you know, the pastoral reorganisation of the former parish of Launceston was completed in May, creating three new parishes in the town, and each one attached to a rural benefice. For us, there was an outstanding question about the name of the enlarged benefice, and our acting Archdeacon took the name The Benefice of St Mary's and Upper Tamar Parishes to the diocese' Mission and Pastoral Committee last month.

In practical terms, the changes bring us together with St Mary Magdalene, and in the coming months and years we will get to know each other's church communities better and work together. Our rural churches have a long history of collaboration and shared working, and St Mary's will bring new things into the mix.

Our fifth Sunday service will be a united benefice service, our first for the enlarged benefice, at St Mary's at 1030 on Sunday 30th November. You may want to make arrangements to share transport, for those who don't drive, and to cut down on parking costs (the multi storey car park by the Town Hall is I think free on Sundays).



This was included in last month's newsletter but is worth repeating.

Bridget Pentreath at Lezant and Rose Stammer at St Thomas, both members of the deanery implementation team, are looking to capture all the children and young people activity across the deanery, to see how best we can support and encourage that work, and how we can replicate the things that work (such as Virginstowe's Messy Church). Deanery Synod in October focussed on work with children and young people, and how each church can do "just one

thing” to engage children and young people. People involved in Messy Church, Kids Café, Sunday School and Open the Book (including Sonia Pearce who runs Virginstowe’s Messy Church) talked about the work they do, and their enthusiasm and generosity in sharing experiences and ideas was infectious.

See elsewhere in this newsletter details of Lee Moscato’s talk on 24 November. Please do support it and encourage others to come along.

Rev’d Mary Williamson no longer has a landline, so if you need to contact her, please use her mobile number 07495 291930.

Called to Local Worship Leader ministry?

One of our Deanery objectives is to enable and support the flourishing ministry of all our lay leadership.

Some of our services are led by LWLs or local worship leaders, who do formal training and then are licensed by the Diocese, and other services are led by church wardens.

It is a big commitment to lead worship, so please support all our lay leaders with your prayers. If you think you may be called to this ministry, talk to a LWL about what they do, or a member of the clergy team, or come along to a LWL training evening. They take place a couple of times a year and are open to everyone interested.

We expect a new LWL training course to run locally in the spring.

Diary Dates

Coffee mornings in Boyton at 10am every Thursday, alternating between the Church Hall and the Chapel Hall. Everyone welcome.

Monday Oct 13th to Sunday Nov 2nd Mars; War and Peace, Luke Jerram's art installation at Truro cathedral, together with the Threads of Gold embroidery exhibition. There are lots of events around the Mars installation, details here [Truro Cathedral - Mars: War and Peace](#)

Sunday Nov 2nd 1700 All Souls Service at Werrington. An opportunity to remember those we have lost.

Wednesday Nov 12th 1930 Boyton PCC in the Church Hall

Saturday Nov 15th 1030-1230 Virginstowe coffee morning, in church

Wednesday Nov 19th 1430 Mother's Union, meeting at St Mary's, Launceston.

1900 Bereavement Group, St Thomas Hall. Support for anyone who is finding loss and grief difficult, however long ago.

Friday 14th Nov 1930 Our Atlantic Roots, an "evening of uplifting indie-folk and roots music" at St Paternus Church, South Petherwin. Tickets www.ouratlanticroots.com/tour or Rev Olive on 07480 576525

Sunday Nov 16th 1800 Taize, a quiet, reflective service based on the music of the Taizé Community, with live music. St Thomas, Launceston.

Friday Nov 21st 1130-1230 Visiting ringers at Werrington

Saturday Nov 22nd Diocesan Synod meets in Truro. Please pray for Synod's work.

Monday Nov 24th 1900 Lee Moscato, Diocesan Director of Education will be talking about ministry with children and young people in schools. St Thomas Hall, Launceston

Tuesday Nov 25th 1900 Advent study course begins- see details elsewhere. The online group will meet on Wednesday afternoons on zoom beginning Wednesday 26th Nov 1400-1530

St Mary Magdalene festival of Christmas Trees and Nativity Cribs Friday 28th November to Saturday 13th December.

Messy Church meets at St Bridget's Church, Virginstowe on the second Sunday of each month (except August) at 3pm. All are welcome for bible stories, crafts and games.



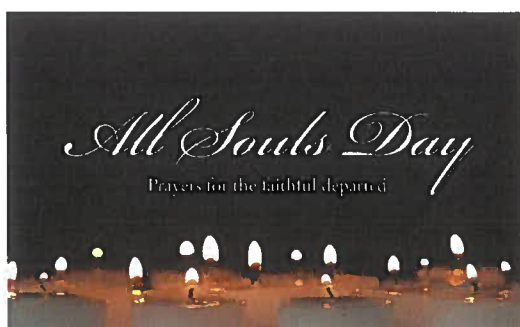
Contact details

Priest in charge	Father Michael Dobson
	07414 862876
	Mike.w.dobson@gmail.com
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

All Souls

We are holding an All Souls Service this year, at Werrington.

The service is an opportunity to remember, and grieve, those we have lost (however recent or long ago that loss is). We will invite the families of those for whom we have taken funerals over the last year, but you may know people who would find the service helpful. Do please share details with them and invite them.



A history of bells- Part 2



During the eighteenth century the standard of behaviour got even worse with ringers smoking, cursing and having beer on tap in the tower! Many churches I have visited have a plaque on the wall "Ringers who are drunk, curse or swear will by the grace of God, pay sixpence to the Rector"

At one point the Rector at Mortenhoe in North Devon was locked out of the tower as he tried to bring the ringers under control. A vicar in Leicestershire went to court to establish his authority over the ringers, and he had them imprisoned.

In 1813 a Mr Nashe wrote, recorded on a church wall, "I hereby give fifty pounds to the above ringers to ring a muffled and doleful peal on his wedding anniversary and on my death a joyful peal to commemorate my happy release from domestic tyranny and wretchedness!

In the nineteenth century a police force was established and things improved. Ringers were employed by local squires and landowners, and they were all but ordered to attend one service a Sunday, or put their livelihoods and home at risk. Any fit and able man would learn to ring the bells.

Towers were originally built for defensive and warning purposes, most frequently probably reporting fires. Like churches, towers are all different in size, shape and construction. Mr RH Dove of Leeds (with whom I had the pleasure of ringing, on one of his tours of the

south west) writes that Cornwall has around 150 church bell towers, Devon around 370 and Somerset slightly fewer. Across the UK there are around 5,500 bell towers, but not all of them will have a ring able peal.

More bells history next month.

Norman Cowling, Boyton Tower Captain



A Church Near You- Prayer resources

We now have a prayer resources page for each of our 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.

This month we pray for...

The victims and survivors of abuse, and all who work locally, in the Diocese and nationally to make our churches safe spaces.

Sarah Mullally, appointed the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Peace, in Gaza, Ukraine, South Sudan and all places of conflict.

Our brothers and sisters in Christ members of other denominations and members of Churches Together in Launceston, and the CTL committee, that new volunteers come forward.

Those who have lost their lives through violence, and the emergency services and responders, remembering especially the LNER train attack.

All who serve in the Benefice, particularly our lay leaders, church wardens and all who lead worship.

All who are sick, in pain, recovering from treatment or troubled, praying particularly for those known to us, including Adrian and Eric. We lift before the Lord all of those whom we hold in our hearts and our own personal prayers.

We give thanks for the lives of those we have lost. and all the faithful departed 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

