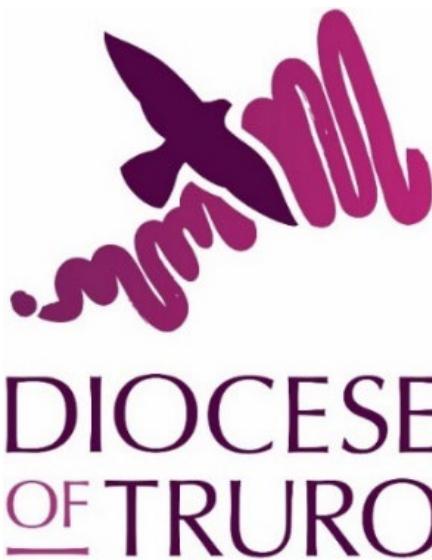


Newsletter

February 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)



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

On 1 February the Bishop's Pastoral Order came into effect, altering the benefice name to the Benefice of St Mary's and Upper Tamar Parishes. It feels as though we have been living with the pastoral reorganisation for a very long time, but now the work really begins as we learn to work together as a benefice of six churches sharing our mission. At the same time the Chapter (clergy and readers) are finding our way in how best to share information across the town churches and the deanery. See details of Ash Wednesday services and Lent courses across the deanery in this newsletter and watch out for the new deanery newsletter.

Rev Helen, Associate Minister

February 2026	February 1 st	Februar y 8 th	Februar y 15 th	Februar y 22 nd
	White Presentation on of Christ in the Temple	Green 2 nd Sunday before Lent	Green Sunday next before Lent	Purple 1 st Sunday of Lent
				Genesis
	<i>Malachi</i> 3.1-5	<i>Genesis</i> 1.1-2.3	<i>Exodus</i> 24.12- end	2.15-17 Genesis
	<i>Hebrews</i> 2.14-end	<i>Romans</i> 8.18-25	<i>2 Peter</i> 1.16- end	3.1-7 <i>Romans</i>
	<i>Luke</i> 2.22- 40	<i>Matthe</i> w 6.25- end	<i>Matthe</i> w 17.1- 9	5.12-19 <i>Matthe</i> w 4.1- 11

Boyton	—	MP 0930 TS	HC 0930 HD
Werrington	0915 MP RL	HC 0915 HD	
St Giles	HC 1100 HD	MP 1100 RT	
Virginstowe		MP 1100 MH	HC 1100 HD
North Tamerton	HC 0930 HD	Sunday worship 1000 JO	MP 1000 JO
St Mary Magdalene	Family Service 1030 DS Evensong 1730 JW	HC 1030 HD	MP 1030 RT
			HC 1030 MW

Midweek communion at St Mary Magdalene is on Wednesday



mornings at 9.30am



Services across Trigg Major Deanery

18th February 2026

10am St Mary Magdalene, Launceston

11am St Paternus, South Petherwin

6pm St Bridget's, Virginstowe

7pm St Stephen's, Launceston

7pm St Nonna's, Altarnun

Trigg Major Deanery

A Lent course on 'Landscapes of Penance, Peace & Reconciliation'

This year we are using the Franciscans' materials for our Lent Course, across the Deanery. We hope there will be a time and place that suits everyone.

"Lent is often described as a season of repentance — but many people hear "repentance" as shame, pressure, or spiritual self-improvement. This course begins somewhere else.

It begins with landscape: the places that shape our imagination, our history, our wounds, and our hope. It begins with the conviction that God meets us not only in ideas, but in the real terrain of human life — in dust and ice, in oceans and cities, in stories of conflict and courage, in communities longing to heal. And it begins with the HeartEdge instinct that transformation happens best when we learn to see abundance even in hard places, and to practise compassion, culture, congregation, and commerce for the sake of the common good.

South Petherwin Wednesdays, after 11am communion at St Paternus, starting Wednesday 25th Feb at Rev Olive's, and thereafter at Rev Sean's

Virginstowe Tuesday evenings 7pm at Crow's Nest EX21 5EA starting 24th February, with Rev Helen

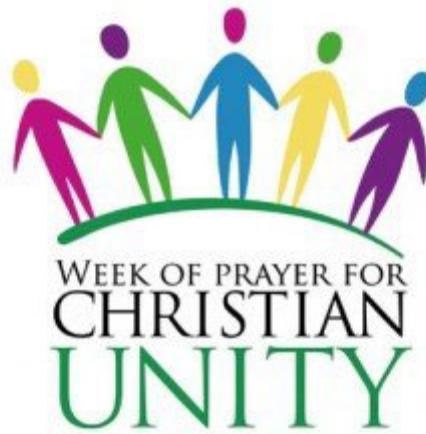
On zoom contact Rev Mary (mary878williamson@btinternet.com) for zoom link, Wednesday afternoons at 2pm starting 25th February

St Nonna's Church Altarnun, Roger's Diary

A course based on the book of Jonah, by Patrick Coghlan. Starts Thursday 19th Feb at 10.45, in church. All course materials and refreshments provided.

Moorland Egloskerry and Lanstephan Benefice Lenten Prayer/ Morning Prayer 10am on Wednesday mornings

25 February	Davidstow
4 March	Egloskerry
11 March	Laneast
18 March	North Petherwin
25 March	St Clether
1 April	Tremaine or Trewen (check with Rev Tina)



18th-25th January 2026

Most of the local churches were represented at our ecumenical service for the WPCU, hosted by St Mary Magdalene, and we enjoyed singing and worshipping together, and celebrating all we have in common. The Catholic, Methodist, Anglican and Launceston Community Church took part in leading. As folk stayed chatting for ages afterwards, over tea and cake, they seemed to enjoy themselves.

What has been going on in our church communities?

Organ recital

Dr Sean Sweeney, Director of Music at St Mary Magdalene, gave an organ recital with a wide range of music which showed off the capabilities of St Mary's organ.

He opened with a powerful processional written by the late Dom Sebastian Wolff who for many years was part of the community of Buckfast Abbey, included an arrangement of Amazing Grace and concluded with Louis Vierne's Carillon de Westminster- the distinctive sound of Big Ben clearly identifiable.

The very enjoyable recital was followed by refreshments, and a retiring collection supports St Mary's music ministry. February's recital will be given by Assistant Organist, Joshua Hughes.



Dr Sweeney, and St Mary's organ

Midweek communion at St Mary's

After a break in December, midweek communion is on Wednesday mornings at 9.30am. It is usually, but not always, BCP.

A chance for quiet reflection, in the Lady Chapel.

Funeral ministry

For many of those who attend funerals in our churches, that will be the only time they come into church. That makes it all the more important both that they receive a warm welcome, and that we do all we can to help them through the liturgy and an unfamiliar experience.

Below are a couple of photos taken by Raymond and Ingrid Stacey, gravediggers who also have an amazing and quiet ministry, of a recent funeral at St Giles in the Heath.



St Mary Magdalene's PCC had planned to do the Foundation and Basic Safeguarding training modules together at their last meeting, but IT problems made this impossible. It is perhaps no surprise that the PCC still found plenty to talk about! A reminder that Sheila Annesley is safeguarding officer for the rural churches, and Rev Helen temporary safeguarding officer at St Mary's. If you have a safeguarding concern and cannot reach a safeguarding officer, contact the Diocesan safeguarding team (details on posters in all our churches, and also on the A Church Near You websites).

The PCC also discussed hosting a regular drop in coffee morning, a form of outreach.

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

Diary Dates

Coffee mornings in Boyton at 10am every Thursday, alternating between the Church Hall (12th and 26th) and the Chapel Hall. Everyone welcome.

Tuesday 12th Feb 7 for 7.30pm Deanery Synod at Tregadillett. Open to everyone. The speaker will be Archdeacon Clive Hogger

ASH WEDNESDAY see details elsewhere in this newsletter

7pm Bereavement Group, St Thomas Hall. Support for anyone who is finding loss and grief difficult, however long ago.

Thursday 19th Feb 7pm Werrington PCC at Ham Mill

Saturday 21st Feb Pancake Brunch Victory Hall, North Tamerton

Saturday 21st Feb Dance St Giles Coronation Hall, cancer charity fundraiser

Sunday Feb 22nd 6pm Taize, a quiet, reflective service based on the music of the Taizé Community, with live music. St Thomas, Launceston.

Saturday January 28th 11am Kids Café at St Marys. Crafty fun and breakfast for children.

Saturday Feb 28th 1pm Organ recital by Joshua Hughes, Assistant Organist, at St Mary Magdalene. Refreshments and retiring collection support St Mary's music.

Save the date! 18th April In their Footsteps, the story of gospel music, a concert raising funds for Werrington Church.



A BIG THANK YOU

Messy Church has been a feature of Virginstowe Church for twelve years and has seen extraordinary levels of participation among the children in the parish. As the age profile in the village changes, and the children who have grown up with Messy Church move into their teens, Christingle was the last Messy Church. This has been the most amazing ministry with children and young people, led by Sonia Pearce with the help of Demelza Hardy and others in the church community.

A huge thank you to Sonia, Demelza and their team, and we pray about what comes next in this ministry.

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



A history of bells...

The size of the Church and its Tower were all dependent on the cost of the initial church building and any subsequent extensions during its lifetime. In rural areas squires and landowners were often seeking bragging rights; “my tower is taller than yours!”. A deviation to this is where towers were built in a line of defence, to communicate danger. If you look at the local OS map you will see that the towers at Kelly (near Lifton), Bradstone, Lezant and North Hill are all in a straight line!

Towers also vary in their construction materials. A lot of Cornish towers are of three stages in solid granite blocks. Boyton however, with little money, is built of Polyphant stone which may have been sourced locally. It is considered that the size of the floor-pan inside the tower is actually doubles underground to increase the tower's

stability. Towers were built from inside, using tree trunks across the walls to act as scaffolding. The ends of the timbers were placed in such a manner that they could be removed and hoisted up to the next work level. The holes in the internal walls are still evident in most towers.

To be continued...

Norman Cowling, Boyton Tower Captain



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.

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, the Archbishop of Canterbury as she steps into that post.

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

Our brothers and sisters in Christ members of other denominations and members of Churches Together in Launceston, as we join in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

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

Couples preparing for marriage in our benefice churches.

All who are sick, in pain, recovering from treatment 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.

We give thanks for the lives of those we have lost and all the faithful departed including Violet Duke, Maxine Towl, George Avery and Christine Gunn 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

