

Newsletter

January 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)**



**DIOCESE
OF TRURO**



Personally, I am not a great fan of “the new year” and can usually be found fast asleep well before midnight, hoping uncharitably not to be woken by other people’s fireworks and festivities.

I can see though that a time when many people enjoy a break from work or everyday routine, is a good opportunity to step back and

take stock, in a way that can be difficult amidst the busyness of
"business as usual".

2026 will bring change. On the world stage, war, violence and intolerance dominate the headlines. At home, there is much political uncertainty, and uncertainty generates anxiety, even among our relatively small communities.

In the church, we will have a female Archbishop of Canterbury for the first time. Locally, we will have a new rural dean. Our new deanery administrator starts her first full year in post, and our churches will continue getting to know each other better, praying and worshipping together and sharing our faith.

In her new year message, Archbishop-Elect Sarah Mullaly, a former chief nursing officer, said she strives "to carry the care and compassion that shaped my vocation as a nurse into everything that I do. As I look to the new year, and my new role as Archbishop of Canterbury, I do so in this same spirit of service, promising to uphold and support those in need, from all walks of life. The role of the church should be a healing presence in our nation, bringing people together at times of often intense division, caring deeply for those who need our help. Happy New Year."

I hope that our church communities can also be a healing presence locally, and I invite you all to come along and support the Churches Together in Launceston united service, for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It will be at St Mary's at 5.30pm on Sunday 25th January.

A happy new year to you all.

Rev Helen, Associate Minister

January Services across the Benefice

| January 2026 | January 4 th | January 11 th | January 18 th | January 25 th |
|--------------|--|---|---|---|
| | White Epiphany <i>Isaiah</i> 60.1-6 <i>Ephesians</i> 3.1-12 <i>Matthew</i> 2.1-12 | Gold or white The Baptism of Christ <i>Isaiah</i> 42.1-9 <i>Acts</i> 10.34-43 <i>Matthew</i> 3.13-end | White Second Sunday after Epiphany <i>Isaiah</i> 49.1- 7 1 <i>Corinthians</i> 1.1-9 <i>John</i> 1.29- 42 | White The conversion of Paul <i>Jeremiah</i> 1.4-10 <i>Acts</i> 9.1- 22 <i>Matthew</i> 19.27-end |

| | | | | |
|-------------------|--|-------------------------------|---------------|--|
| Boyton | MP 0930 TS | | | HC 0930 HD |
| Werrington | | HC 0915 HD | 0915 MP RL | |
| St Giles | | MP 1100 RT | HC 1100 HD | |
| Virginstowe | MP 1100 MH | Messy Church 1500 SP & DH | | HC 1100 HD |
| North Tamerton | SoP 1000 JO | Morning Service 1000 JO | HC 0930 HD | |
| St Mary Magdalene | Family Service 1030 DS NO Evensong | HC 1030 HD | MP 1030 DS | HC 1030 MW Time 1730 TBC Churches Together United Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity |

Midweek communion at St Mary Magdalene is on Wednesday

mornings at 9.30am



Meet Helen Uglow, Deanery Administrator



Last year, Trigg Major Deanery appointed our first deanery administrator, Helen Uglow.

Helen worships at St Paternus, North Petherwin, where she is currently churchwarden and a Local Worship Leader, PCC member and acting secretary so she knows her way around a church!

Well known in her local community, Helen is involved with the family farm which includes running a B&B business with her husband, John. They have three children, the eldest of whom, William, joins the local ringing teams and plays very occasionally for services if possible, when he returns from the Midlands for holidays. Helen enjoys spending time with her grandchildren.

Helen's role is a brand new one, and she is busy making it her own. Other deaneries in the diocese have administrators, but no two have the same job description. Helen's role, which arises out of our Trigg Major Deanery Plan, focuses on communications. She has been learning about how parish, benefice and deanery fit together and work together (or not), getting to know the clergy team, and has made a start on a deanery newsletter. She has been updating all our A Church Near You websites (which should be a great resource- do have a look) and asking lots of questions to establish how she can be of most help to all our churches, the clergy, and members of the public who want to engage with a church, for example to enquire about a wedding or baptism.

Helen's contact details are in this newsletter and on ACNY, and if you see her at meetings or events, do introduce yourself.

Welcome, Helen!



18th-25th January 2026

Churches Together in Launceston join together to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, with a service involving many of our denominations.

Sunday 25th January at 5.30pm

St Mary Magdalene, Launceston

Guest speaker Sophie Gilbert of Alpha UK on John 1.45 "a simple invitation".

Advent Study Course- not yet over!

During Advent, two groups studied the York Course, Praise Him: Songs of Praise in the New Testament. Rev Helen still has some course booklets.

The zoom group led by Rev Mary will be meeting on the 7th and 14th January and all are welcome to join in, whether or not you have done the earlier sessions.

Contact Rev Helen for the course booklet, and Rev Mary or Rev Helen for the zoom link.

What has been going on in our church communities?

Many, many visitors came to St Marys and St Denys during their tree festivals. The festivals are a wonderful opportunity to welcome people in, who would never usually set foot in a church. St Denys' festival runs alternate years, and they had a record number of trees and raised £889.32. St Marys also had a record number of trees and cribs, and raised £5,000 to be divided between Launceston Foodbank and St Marys Church as a warm space.

The festivals are a delight, and it is good to see people enjoying them so much, but they are also a huge amount of work for the organisers, volunteers, stewards and people providing refreshments. At St Marys in particular we are grateful to the many people outside the regular church community who gave their time so generously.

It was a joy for all the churches to come together to worship at the lay led service at St Marys in November, a first step as the churches of the benefice begin to get to know each other. We have held our first benefice church wardens meeting- a quarterly event- and will be having lunch together as we get to know each other.

It was also a joy to engage with local schools over the Christmas season, including school carol services at St Marys, well attended Christingle services at St Denys led by Rev Olive , concluding their tree festival, and at St Marys led by Rev Jess, and going into St Giles School to do Christingle with the whole school from age 2 through to 11. A big thank you to the team at St Giles who made 100 Christingles!

We also saw good numbers at all our services.



Trees and advent candles at St Denys, and Steph and Sonia sharing hospitality at Virginstowe's coffee morning.

A plea for readers in Boyton. The Little Red Bus, a community bus serving our local communities, offers a shopping round trip into Launceston on alternate Fridays for just £5 return, but the service is underused. So the message is use it or lose it!

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

And finally, a message from Rev Peter and Christine Knight, who celebrated a big wedding anniversary, a big birthday for Peter and a significant ministry anniversary last year “Greetings to one and all!”.

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 if there are enough candidates.

Diary Dates

Coffee mornings in Boyton at 10am every Thursday, alternating between the Church Hall and the Chapel Hall. Everyone welcome. In January the church coffee mornings are the 8th and 22nd.

Tuesday 13th January 1215 benefice church wardens lunch, Launceston Golf Club

Wednesday 21st January 2pm Mother’s Union meeting, St Mary Magdalene Choir Vestry

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

Wednesday 21st January 7pm St Mary Magdalene PCC
MEETING AT WBW'S OFFICES All are welcome. Most of the meeting will be taken up with safeguarding training together

Sunday January 21st 1800 Taize, a quiet, reflective service based on the music of the Taizé Community, with live music. St Thomas, Launceston.

Saturday January 24th 11am Kids Café at St Marys. Crafty fun and breakfast for children.

Saturday January 24th 1pm Organ recital by Dr Sean Sweeny, Director of Music, at St Mary Magdalene. Refreshments and retiring collection support St Mary's music.

Sunday January 25th 5.30pm Churches Together in Launceston united service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Do come along and enjoy worshipping with the other Christian denominations.

Thursday February 12th 7 for 7.30pm Deanery Synod at Lewannick. Lewannick carried out extensive works during Covid adding a kitchen and disabled facilities, and historic building surveyor David Scott will share his expertise on how to make your church more user friendly. All are welcome at Deanery Synods.



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

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

TIME BY LUXMURALIS

An immersive light and sound show at Truro Cathedral 12-17 January

"Time" promises to be an extraordinary exploration of humanity's relationship with the concept of time, offering audiences an unforgettable journey through history, science, and imagination.

Visitors will journey through a series of captivating installations that portray humans as seen through different eras, exploring the fascinating theories of relativity, and the text of H.G. Wells' "The Time Machine."

Find a link to view the installation on You Tube, and to book, here

[Truro Cathedral - Time by Luxmuralis](#)

A history of bells...



The next instalment of the bells history and stories will be in next month's issue, but in the meantime thank you to all our campanologists.

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 Elect of Canterbury.

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, and Mike and Tracey, married at Werrington in December.

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 Pam Sluggett and Violet Duke and we pray for all who mourn the passing of a loved one.

Lord, be with us in this new year and help us always to be positive in our thinking and our outlook as we face new challenges in our lives and those whose lives we share. Grant us peace of heart and mind, knowing that you are always there for us. Amen (a prayer from Rev Stuart Wilson, one of the Holsworthy Market chaplaincy team)

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



