

# ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2025

## KENWYN CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

### **The church:**

We are fortunate to have a church building that is in generally sound condition, but as always in old churches it is the watertight integrity of the building that is of continual concern. The guttering that was completely renewed at the end of 2024 has proved very effective and the temporary repairs to the Choir Vestry roof soon afterwards have withstood some challenging weather. However it is evident that this roof is in poor condition and it is planned to renew it completely in 2026. As well as this, steeplejacks will be needed to attend to missing, loose or damaged slates in the tower bell chamber louvres, one of which fell during the year causing minor damage to the roof below and another of which appears about to fall onto the footpath near the west door (now taped off). Arrangements have been made for the gutters and other places where leaves and twigs gather to be professionally cleared on a regular basis. Redecoration of the North Transept was completed during the year after the causes of dampness in the north wall had been cured. A faulty water boiler in the vestry was replaced and the boiler in the servery repaired, and some lighting faults were rectified. During the year members of the congregation joined in deep cleaning of the church on several occasions and the inside and outside cleaning of the windows was progressed. We are grateful to all who faithfully help with upkeep of the church in whatever ways they can.

### **The organ:**

Routine tuning and maintenance took place during the year. The instrument continues to play well and sound good. The flat roof of the blower space is in poor condition and needs replacing, and at a recent visit the organ tuner suggested that the blower fan discs should be scaled and painted; it is planned to get contractors to carry out this work in 2026.

### **The Lychgate:**

The schoolroom remains in sound usable condition, though internal decoration will soon be required and the carpet is worn. The kitchen remains suitable for use as a servery for drinks and light refreshments but is not equipped and maintained to the current standard required for catering to the public; as in 2024 the refurbishment plan drawn up in 2023 remains held in abeyance until higher priority calls on funds have been met. The store beneath was cleared of flammable and surplus items during the year.

### **The churchyard:**

In response to the request we made in 2024 the churchyard was formally closed on 8 July 2025, and from that date responsibility for safety and maintenance passed to the local authority. Closure does not affect access to the land, its ownership or its consecrated status but there will be no further burials in the churchyard other than in some family graves and in plots reserved by faculty. After some initial confusion we were advised that there would be no change to Truro City Council's regularly strimming the churchyard but all other activity including the annual safety check of headstones and monuments and the management of trees would be conducted by Cornwall Council's contractor Cormac. Additional work may still be carried out using our own resources and we are grateful for the work of volunteers from the church and local community who meet monthly on Wednesday afternoons – or come informally at other times - to keep the churchyard tidy.

### **Health and Safety:**

Monthly checks of the Church and Lychgate fire extinguishers, emergency lighting, emergency torches and first aid kits have been conducted and PAT testing has continued. Out-dated items in the first aid kits were replaced. The H&S Plan and associated risk assessments have been brought up to date. Electricity and gas safety checks are in date. Some incidents were recorded and any necessary action taken.

### **Faculties:**

No faculties were requested or granted during the year.

David Lovelock & Maureen Woodhouse

## ST ALLEN CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

This is very brief this year:

The fabric of the church remains generally in good condition, as do the churchyards. The only additions have been pew cushions, the money for which was raised by donations. The additional amount raised from this appeal is to go towards improving the access to the church for disabled people. It is planned to carry out this work during 2026.

Despite still not having a religious leader, (we await the publication of the new Pastoral Scheme), we have been able to carry out a full scheme of services throughout the year thanks to the generous assistance given by local and retired clergy, and other ministers who have been willing to help us. Special thanks are extended to Andrew Harvey, Liz Rickard, Mary Ann Trethewey, and others who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of the church.

This year we hosted the Archdeacon's Visitation for Powder and two other Deaneries, and the Bishop of Truro led our Harvest Festival Service.

There have been no Health and safety or Safeguarding issues this year.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who has contributed to keeping our church so active and helping to maintain such a friendly atmosphere.

Adrian Hare and David Burgess (Churchwardens)

## **REPORT FROM KENWYN LOCAL MINISTER**

Well, I want to start with a thank you to all involved in Kenwyn, I think it has been a really good year!

The most obvious main headline is that the Deanery plan (for Kenwyn to join Trinity benefice, and St Allen to join with St Clement's) remains un-landed, and we believe is at present awaiting the Church Commissioners to OK the six week consultation period. However, although the protracted implementation has been a frustrating and uncertain period, this time has also allowed a settling of opinions, people to consider the changes, and the arrangements of the plan to mould into a better fitting together. Thus I think the human relationships of the plan are in a much better place than had things happened as quickly as may have been initially hoped. This should place us all on a much better footing for long term Trinity benefice integration and co-operation as we focus on building God's kingdom here in the Truro area. And, this will still include ad hoc ongoing co-operation with St Allen and to a lesser degree St Clement.

How do you measure church health? Well, the best measure would be how much we are all becoming more Christ-like, but for that measure we will have to wait till we can see from heaven's perspective. The most obvious objective measures are people in pews, or finances, and both are up but the increases are gentle, though I hope will be sustained trajectories over the next good few years. But for me there are two other markers of church health which are less objective. The chatter and time people spend together after services around a cuppa and a biscuit, and the way we disagree with each other. There is a real hubbub of people after services spending time together, and I have noticed a real grace between people where there have been the inevitable human differences of opinions.

Another, important indicator of a healthy church is how well it is co-operating with the surrounding communities. And it is lovely to see the many community interactions that are happening. One of the most obvious is how we are part of KCA's (Kenwyn Community Association's) push to get better community co-operation. Along with KCA, the Truro Bowls Club, and Epiphany House, we are establishing a joint website, with links to each others' websites and activities, many of which are joint events. Some of these events include, games nights, concerts, coffee mornings, plant swaps and even an Easter Egg hunt, which KCA lead, based from and to the church, very much as a collaborative together event.

We are incredibly thankful to our Safeguarding officer who has lifted our Safeguarding Dashboard even higher in percentages of achieved targets. This has been hard work, and we are doing well, but as she will remind us there is no place for complacency in the area. Thank you to all who have completed training, followed guidance, raised concerns and liaised with our safeguarding officer and beyond, so that we help to keep this as safe as possible place for all.

KLT (or Kenwyn Leadership Team) are a super mix of people and skills, an ideal team of nine, (though we are always keen for new members). We were finding our roughly every second month meetings were getting a little busy for the time and so we have delegated sub-teams to run different areas of church life. We now have the 'Event Team' for social things, and have more obviously recognised the 'Fabric/Building Team', in addition to the 'Youth Team' who have been established for years. It has been great to welcome fresh blood into the teams. Looking forward we need to cover roles especially regarding Church Warden roles and Safeguarding once we lose our present officers as we move into Trinity. Thank you to all on KLT!!

Structurally, we are thankful to those who guided us into officially closing the churchyard (because our graveyard was full), and we are very thankful to the council for arrangements to clear fallen and unsafe trees! The tower has needed attention, especially making safe after the falling of some of the tower louvers both onto the vestry roof and less importantly the ground, (but it doesn't bear thinking about had these hit a person). We are very thankful for the generous work and money to finish the Tregavethan aisle, which now looks lovely, with new pew cushions anticipated. We remember previous year's work which levelled the floor and enabled the more café style back of the church which facilitates community time together. We look forward to the possible audiovision provision in the church, to enable modern benefits, but also keep the tradition environment (which is apparently helping the so called "Quiet revival" in our present world of so much change). Thank you to all those who support with maintaining the fabric of the building (including second Saturday Club, churchyard gardening, cleaning the church etc), as this building is the centre of our worship and a wider community centre too.

Sunday Morning services are generally well attended with numbers usually in the forties, there are a few families and our Sunday school (JAM@11) has some super teaching and the whole congregation loves the children sharing what they have been doing at the end of Sunday services. Our basic Sunday morning pattern is Service of the Word every first and third Sunday of the month, and Holy Communion every second and fourth Sunday, and we agreed that the fifth Sunday of a month would also be Holy Communion unless there was a good reason otherwise. I believe congregation numbers are a handful higher in communion services generally.

Sunday afternoon's have the same pattern as in previous years.

- First Sunday pm - T-Time/messy church every first Sunday (about 40 people involved),
- Second Sunday pm - Taize (about 10-17 attend, importantly some of these people otherwise have little church attendance at all to my knowledge),
- Third Sunday pm - Choral Evensong is beautiful and draws many who don't otherwise attend Kenwyn. (normally about 40-50 people. Some of these don't otherwise attend church at all, whilst others do attend elsewhere.)
- Fourth Sunday pm - Jam@4 (fairly small and in fact smaller than in the past and attended by 1 – 2 families, but is well worth doing, though we are trying to grow this work).
- Any fifth Sunday pm tends to be a concert or prayer time.

The involvement of young people, obviously includes the T-Time/messy church, ABC (toddler group) JAM@11, and JAM@4 but also includes school work. We do school assemblies in St Mary's, and less regularly in Shortlanesend and Bosvigo schools. St Mary's school have had their Harvest, Easter and Christmas services with us. Shortlanesend school held their Carol service with us. We continue to run sessions for St Mary's school for reception, year 2 and year 6 leavers.

Wednesday midweek Communion Service – This had been going really well, and at one point, we were starting to think of whether we would move the service from the Tregavethan aisle into the chancel due to lack of room. However, with recent illness, difficult weather, and transport issues number have fallen again into single figures.

Bible study group/s – We don't have home groups as such at present, but after Communion on Wednesday mornings we have a Bible study group. This has included a Lent group, spending time working through psalms, looking at Jonah, and a few other topics/areas. This has been appreciated and I think helping people to grow, and with new people stepping forward to help lead in the future.

The work into the local care homes has been really significant this year. It has been lovely to see not just numbers attending grow but also interaction with the message of what is presented. We have tweaked our service to make it a little more appropriate for those in a care home setting. But the basic format is a hymn/song, a Bible passage and short homily, prayer and short Communion Service. These services are led by myself with someone from our congregation and our Local Pastoral Minister (LPM) is increasingly leading things. Often we are asked to see people individually after the service by the home, and usually will pray and share with them. Our LPM has been going into one of the homes and supporting people. We have good relationship with the homes, and they are keen for us to continue bringing Easter, Harvest and Christmas services, with a group of singers to them.

Our LPM is being recommissioned soon having received permission from the diocese, and although there has not been a huge need for community visiting her visits have been greatly appreciated by people.

I won't be able to mention all areas of all we do, many of those areas will be covered in other reports, However, I personally, and as a church, must acknowledge the work and huge contribution by the the whole PCC members team, those involved in admin, choir, the tower, Stitchers and knitters flower arrangers, Wednesday Fellowship welcomers, church cleaning teams and churchyard teams, and those who support the church both from within the congregation and those from outside! Thank you!

And, exactly like I said last year - whatever happens in the next year, it has been an amazing privilege to be Local Minister at Kenwyn, and may God continue his ministry here through you as a super congregation.

Rev Andy Boorne (Local Minister for Kenwyn Church)

## **SAFEGUARDING AND RESPONSIBLE CARING IN THE PARISH**

At Kenwyn with St Allen, safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do. The Parish Safeguarding Officer keeps the online Safeguarding dashboard up to date on behalf of the parish and we are currently at level 3.

The PCC follows the House of Bishops' guidance in relation to Safeguarding. This covers safer recruitment processes and promoting a safer environment and culture within our church community. We try to keep recruitment requirements proportionate but thorough and aim to provide a good induction process and ongoing support to our volunteers.

The Safeguarding Officer attends leadership team meetings for both churches and is a member of the PCC. Safeguarding in the parish is a standing PCC agenda item. The diocesan Safeguarding bulletin is shared with all PCC members Safeguarding information can be found on the boards in both churches and on Safeguarding Sunday there were intercessions on a Safeguarding theme for St Allen and also at Kenwyn the following week. The PSO attends regular training within the diocese which has focussed this year on supporting survivors of abuse .

It is important that everyone in our congregations helps to support making our community safe and welcoming and knows what to do if they have a safeguarding concern. Please read the information shared and take advantage of the free online training which can be found through <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>

Mary Ann Trethewey (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

## **REPORT ON CHILDREN & FAMILIES WORK**

Thanks to the many volunteers, the Children and Family work has continued and grown this year. The team is strong and volunteers bring their Christian knowledge, skills and commitment.

The ABC (Adult Babies and Children) group, which meets every Thursday afternoon during term time, continued with a rota of helpers. The work of the helpers is much appreciated and there are five who help regularly. The group meets in the Church and there are 13 families registered. The format of the sessions includes play with toys, craft activities, a story, singing, action songs and dancing. The session ends with a prayer.

The Sunday School, (Jesus And Me at 11) continued. The children are taken to the Lychgate at the beginning of the morning service for prayers, a bible story and a craft activity. They return with the leaders towards the end of the service and show the congregation what they have been making and learning. Two families take part regularly and others join from time to time. There are three leaders who plan and arrange the activities. The teaching usually follows the lectionary.

JAM at 4 (Jesus And Me at 4) caters for young people, age 9 upwards who are usually accompanied by their parents. It meets once a month. There is a craft activity and a discussion time, followed by tea and toast. Discussion time and prayers are led by Rev Andy. Two to three families attend. Although the group is small it is much appreciated by parents.

Visits have been made to Truro Nursery School on behalf of Church outreach work. Occasionally the nursery School teachers bring small groups into the Church.

The Nursery School staff brought 45 children to the Church at Christmas. The children listened to the Christmas story round the crib and dressed up in nativity costumes to act out the story. They enjoyed visiting the windows to look at the nativity figures. The children also made decorations for the Nursery School tree for the Kenwyn Christmas Tree Festival.

Links with St Mary's school have developed further this year. Our Minister takes assemblies regularly and the Kenwyn with St Allen representative, (Chair of Governors) has coordinated various events including: the children decorating their Christmas trees for Kenwyn's Christmas Tree Festival; a visit by Year Six celebrating their transition to Secondary School. There were many activities for the children to explore - to discuss how they felt about the future, and prayers. Two cohorts of Yr 2 children visited to learn about Christmas and also the Easter story. Help was provided with making Christingles at the school with Year 3. The school events, Harvest and the Carol Service, were well supported by parents.

Shortlanesend School held their Carol Service at Kenwyn.

The monthly Tea Time/Messy Church services continue for families. There is an activity session (Messy Church) at 4pm leading into a service based on a Bible theme. Families then enjoy a shared tea together. Numbers have steadily grown with attendance between 30 to 50. Kenwyn is very grateful to the pianists who play the songs for the service and to those who help with the activities and refreshments.

At Christmas a Christingle service was held in Kenwyn Church (attendance over 70).

There is close collaboration between St Allen and Kenwyn. Mary Ann and I work together on young people's projects and share ideas, equipment, and hold meetings so that joint projects can take place - examples include the Christingle service at St Allen, the St Allen Easter Egg Hunt and a Creation Care event in Summer 2025 when the children built a Bug Hotel. In turn Mary Ann attends and helps at Kenwyn.

There was also the usual, (very popular), Christmas Eve Crib Service at Kenwyn where the children 'dressed up' and the Christmas story was narrated. Over 200 attended this Christmas Eve Crib service. Many thanks to the Stitchers and Knitters group who renovated and made new costumes.

Trails in Kenwyn churchyard were set up for children and parents to follow. These took place at Easter and Christmas and feedback has been very positive.

Other events included an art competition; a Sunday School Christmas card for charity; a picnic; an Easter Egg Hunt in conjunction with the Kenwyn Community Association; Creation Care - building a Bug House in the Churchyard.

Kenwyn anticipates growing collaboration between the four Churches involved in the Trinity Scheme. The Children and Family Lead attended meetings with the youth leaders who work across the four churches in Truro. Events which involve Trinity are advertised widely by Kenwyn. We also plan to keep our strong links with St Allen.

Safeguarding is always uppermost in planning the work with children and families. Risk assessments are written for all activities.

Many thanks to the numerous people who have given their time to the Children and Family work over the past year. As in the past, a number of services and events were joint ventures between Kenwyn and St Allen. A great deal of the planning and support takes place through collaboration with the Safeguarding Officer who supports both Churches. There is a strong team which meets to organise the planning and execution of the Children and Family work. They meet regularly to discuss new events and safety issues, They, and our congregation, pray regularly for the children and families. Everyone is immensely grateful to our Minister and his wife for their prayers, constant encouragement and practical help.

## FOUNDATION GOVERNOR'S REPORT

### St Marys 2025

It is such a joy to be involved with St Mary's school. The children and staff are so enthusiastic but also caring towards each other and generous in their support for others. There have been many changes and improvements over the years, but the school retains that 'family' ethos with an emphasis on positive mental health, resilience and emotional well-being. Have a look at their website [www.st-marys-truro.cornwall.sch.uk](http://www.st-marys-truro.cornwall.sch.uk) to see the exciting and inspiring things they do.

The school is actively involved in the local community. Highlights this year included a Choir Club, led by Andrew Wyatt and the cathedral's choral scholars, which culminated in a performance in the cathedral; Cornish dancing workshops, and participation in the St Piran's Day Parade in Truro; involvement in Truro in Bloom. Designs by two of our children were chosen to be used for the Bishops' Christmas cards and of course St Mary's hold their regular end of term services at Kenwyn church. The school advertises church events in their newsletter and Facebook page.

It's been a busy year for the governors too. At the beginning of February Mrs Stevenson was appointed as substantive (permanent) Head teacher, Ms Rundle as Assistant Head teacher and Ms Vowles as SenCo giving us a strong senior leadership team of enthusiastic and experienced teachers keen to take the school forward. We had an Ofsted inspection over two days in June, and the school was judged Good in all areas.

We recruited four new governors, two parents and two coopted, making up a full set of governors for the academic year 2025-26. I have been Chair and safeguarding governor since Sept 2024 and Andy is currently Early Years and Wellbeing governor.

The children have lots of opportunities to learn about spirituality at school both indoors and out. They have a Spiritual Garden and Ribbon Wall of Reflection in the grounds and areas within the building where they can focus on their thoughts and concerns and be still.

Links with the church are well established. Rev Andy takes regular assemblies, and activity mornings across the school year give opportunities for children to become familiar with the church building and meet members of the congregation. Trust Class Year 2 visited Kenwyn Church to explore the meaning of Easter. They took part in thoughtful discussions, prayer-writing, and beautiful artwork—reflecting on the themes of hope, forgiveness, and new life.

In July Courage class Year 6 came to mark their transition to senior school with activities reflecting on their experiences so far and hopes for the future and strategies to cope with the challenges of moving on.

Trust class Y2 came up for an activity morning based on the Nativity in November. Maureen and I attended the Infant nativity dress rehearsal the following week.

We organised a Christingle activity for Hope class year 3 in school on 11<sup>th</sup> and the whole school came to Kenwyn for their Carol Service on 16<sup>th</sup> December.

Thank you, Rev Andy, Maureen and all the other volunteers who have supported these important activities. There is still no firm date for academisation, but Rainbow Multi Academy Trust have been supportive with the interview processes and through Ofsted. Our choir joined choirs from the whole Rainbow community to celebrate the annual Christmas Carol Concert at the Cathedral, so it feels as though we are a part already and we look forward to exciting things to come.

Mary Ann Trethewey

### REPORT FROM THE CHOIR

The choir has continued to sing on Sunday mornings at the alternating Sung Eucharist and Sunday Worship services in both of which music plays an important part. We were fortunate to gain some new tenors in the past year but otherwise numbers have started to fall away, and although there are sufficient voices to lead the congregation in hymns and the mass settings, sadly there are now seldom enough to be able to offer an anthem. Anyone with a good singing voice who is able to commit to regular practices on Thursday evenings as well as Sunday services, and would like to help sustain Kenwyn Church's long standing commitment to musical excellence in its worship, is encouraged to contact our organist Angela Gilbert.

Though the regular choir is in numerical decline, we are fortunate that for the monthly Choral Evensong services it is augmented by experienced singers from other choirs, some of whom travel considerable distances to take part both in practices and services, and we are fortunate to have Philip Davey, the organist at Truro Methodist Church, to play, which allows Angela to direct. The same augmented choir also leads the singing at the annual Carol Service, and for all these services the seating is now arranged in the traditional antiphonal arrangement in the Chancel. The number of people attending Choral Evensong and the refreshments that follow remains encouraging, particularly as the service brings into the church a congregation distinctly different from that of a Sunday morning. In May the choir also travelled to Penryn to sing Choral Evensong in St Gluvius Church.

During the year choir members also joined with those of other choirs to take part in events in the Cathedral including a "Come and Sing" choral evensong in July and the Truro Diocesan Choral Union Festival in October. Apart from singing, social events included occasional lunches, hot cross buns and a cream tea.

A choir is usually available to sing at weddings and funerals but sadly this option is now rarely taken up. Please tell your friends and relations that on such occasions a real choir is so much more appropriate and uplifting than "canned" music!

David Lovelock.

## **REPORT FROM THE BELLRINGERS**

The Kenwyn Bells have been put to good use throughout 2025. We have hosted visits from ringing parties from other parts of the county and country, the Cornwall Youth team, and also visitors from other local towers who regularly attend practice nights in addition to the usual holiday visitors.

Of particular note a quarter peal was rung on 14 September lasting 47 minutes, and a full peal of 3 hours earlier in the year on 29 March.

Training and recruitment continue to be a challenge. Training is addressed at the regular practice night on Thursdays, with the band willing to try new activities to keep up its level of skill and experience. The tower has also hosted a recent district meeting which concentrated on a specific learning activity. It is hoped that similar meetings can take place more frequently.

During 2025 a number of silent ringing sessions were arranged to give the opportunity for practice with the bells tied up and therefore muted. The simulator is currently undergoing an inspection and overhaul to ensure that it remains available for practice,

Individual members of the band have had a productive year, for example Jenna Calcroft who has attended competitions with the youth team and regular attends tower practices and service ringing where her skills have increased considerably. I have attended the Millfield residential school which has expanded my knowledge and confidence in learning ringing techniques.

We are very grateful for the core group of experienced ringers that attend regularly and provide their continued essential support.

I would very much like to explore options for recruiting new members although I recognise that logistical issues must be addressed before any recruitment drive can take place. I will continue to think about this.

Since taking on the role of acting (and now full time) tower captain I have looked at the question of maintenance of the bells and the belfry generally. As detailed in the Tower captain's report for the November 2021 AGM, the tower structure and the bell chamber underwent a fairly extensive overhaul in the period up to July 2021. At the last AGM and because of my inexperience in bell maintenance I suggested that a biannual inspection by Taylors the bell hangers be carried out which would identify any serious issues and at the same time provide an appropriate baseline for more routine maintenance on my part. This led to an inspection by Simon Adams from Taylors who was in the area on other business and kindly agreed to carry out an inspection free of charge which took place over the summer.

The written report from this remains outstanding but I was present at the inspection which found the bells and running gear in good condition apart from two matters. The more minor of these matters was the slider arrangements on the front 6 bells, the running of which could be improved. This does not affect functioning of the bells and I am still considering the extent of any maintenance that should be carried out.

The second item was the clapper staple for the number two bell. The work carried out in 2021 involved the replacement of the clappers for all eight bells. The replacement clapper staples are in effect round pegs in square holes, which allows the potential for the clapper to move outside its backward/forward path.

Despite tightening of the staple on number two, it still worked loose and the only permanent remedy seemed to be to replace the staple with a square one. Taylors have now completed this work coming in below their estimate of £150. The clapper is now replaced.

I continue to make regular inspections every four to six weeks.

Alan Perry (Tower Captain)

## **REPORT FROM FLOWER ARRANGERS AT ST ALLEN**

2025 has come and gone at such a pace it's hard to keep up.

Carol, our flower arranger for (I'm sure) over 40 years, sadly passed away in the summer. We miss her dreadfully, not only as a flower arranger but also as a dear friend. We had so many laughs together whilst arranging and one of her favourite sayings when all our flowers were going astray was "Don't worry, we're the only ones who will notice!" Very comforting but probably not true!

Dear Mac, who has been so good to us, our treasurer, chauffeur, amazing cleaner of all our mess and general encourager has quite rightly retired, and very missed he is.

Pauline and I have found a good routine and manage to keep the arrangements going with help at festivals from other members of the congregation which has enabled us to fill the church with flowers, and at harvest, fruit and veg that was given to two charities .

None of this would be possible without the continued support from members of the church who are so generous to us throughout the year: and of course, the ladies who every week give us the coffee money, a huge thank you to them all.

We hope 2026 will be another wonderful year for making our church beautiful with flowers

Pat Harvey

### **REPORT FROM FLOWER ARRANGERS AT KENWYN**

The year ended with another Christmas Tree Festival from the 12<sup>th</sup> until 14<sup>th</sup> December. The church looked very festive with all the many twinkling lights and tree decorations. Again it was decided to leave the trees up until after the Christmas period which meant we did not have to order or pay for any flowers.

We decorated the church for Easter with the Easter lilies in memory of loved ones. Thanks to the flower ladies who were able to help. The next big celebration was harvest and following that, Christmas. Thank you to all who helped in arranging flowers and for providing greenery and also to the tea ladies. Also I would like to say thank you to all who made donations to the flower fund.

We only two weddings booked and yet again they did not use the church flower arrangers. Most now use a wedding planner that plans the whole wedding including the flowers. Due to the cost of flowers some wedding parties are happy to just have the church Sunday flowers. We have one wedding booked to date and will soon be contacting the parties with regard to flower arranging.

The flower fund had an opening balance in January of £467.37 and during the year we had an income of £445.00 into the account. The funds raised were from Easter lilies, and donations given by the congregation. We would like to say yet again a very big thank you to all who very kindly donate on a regular basis. The donations amounted to £115. We are very grateful for these donations.

Again this year we shall not have flowers or greenery in Church over the period of Lent to enable us to keep costs down.

The expenditure for 2025 which is the cost of flowers, oasis and special flowers for celebrations (Easter, Harvest etc.) amounted to £498.34. The income balance was £912.37 which leaves a start figure for year 2026 of £404.03.

Due to Lloyds Bank now charging a monthly fee it was decided to close the Kenwyn Flower Arrangers account, and the balance of £404,03 was paid into the church account.

The volunteer arrangers still cover the cost of flowers when it is their turn on the rota which is very much appreciated. Also thanks to other church members who provide and donate greenery/foilage A very special thank you to the members of the congregation, who regularly give donations to the flower fund. I do not know what we would do without you.

If there is anyone in the congregation who would be interested in joining us – Kenwyn Church Flower Arrangers, I would be delighted to welcome you.

Val Sanders

### **REPORT FROM WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP**

This past year again highlights what a great group we are! Our proven pattern does not change very much, mixing subjects and new speakers to add to our enjoyment and fellowship.

Our journey took us around the World. Here is just a snapshot. Rev Andy gave us a taste of his overseas "Charity Expeditions". Closer by, we again travelled, with Roger Radcliffe, further along the St Agnes Coastline (part 4 of 7), moving a little inland this time to understand the importance of the many mines in the area during the 19th century. That era was also to the forefront when learning much more about Passmore Edwards, a "Blackwater Boy", who became a great benefactor to Cornwall using his wealth from his publishing business in London. His name is on the Truro Library outside wall. Look up, it is in big letters!

We also were entertained by Michael Bunney with an interesting talk about Cornwall in the Middle Ages and from a "new boy", Andrew Mills, Head Gardener at Burncoose Nurseries telling us the tricks of the trade to win a Gold at Chelsea Flower Show. Both those speakers are keen to come back with some more stories! We had an in-house production of Poems, arranged by Joan and Musical Memories from Keith. As usual the very reliable Bob produced a well-attended annual Christmas Carols & Readings afternoon. Followed by a bring and share refreshments.

Away from the Lychgate, we ventured to Epiphany House for a cream tea. A joint effort of Di and Debbie. Not a crumb to be seen or a spoon to be licked. Unfortunately, our hastily arranged visit to Trelissick was only attended by a handful, but despite this it was enjoyable looking across the valley whilst enjoying, yes you have guessed, another pot of tea. Whilst on the topic of food, I must thank and congratulate our own café staff on the rota, providing a varied mixture of cakes and biscuits. Lynda and Di, our raffle girls excelled themselves with brilliant results which overjoyed Barbara our trusty treasurer. Thank you to everyone who contributed. Sometimes the draw was longer than the speaker! What would we do without Helen setting out the room and not forgetting, with her Henry hovering up the crumbs at the end.

It is good to see that our attendances were again increasing to pre -covid levels, with new faces joining the stalwarts. We continue to see this, not just a Church group but one that embraces others in our community to enjoy meeting a friendly group who succeed year after year with the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday firmly in our diaries. We hope our open doors will entice some from the Trinity cluster to join us". Keith asked if could stand down from his role but was persuaded to take on a further year!

Barbara our Treasurer reported that finances were in order with the meeting cash donations covering the speakers' fees plus an unrestricted donation to the Church. Barbara was thanked and will continue another year.

Bob compiled, from members choices, a wide-ranging programme for 2026. He closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance and support over the last year. Of course, refreshments followed.

Keith Wellington

## **DEANERY SYNOD MEETINGS**

There are usually three meetings of the Powder Deanery Synod each year, each hosted by a different church. Kenwyn with St Allen Parish has three elected Deanery Synod representatives: Jane Cameron, Anthea Lovelock and David Lovelock. Other visitors from constituent congregations are warmly invited to attend the Synod meetings, and our parish is normally well represented.

### **The first meeting of 2025 was held in Kenwyn Parish Church on 26th February.**

Three main topics were discussed. Firstly, Erica Payne (the leader of Lowest Income Community Fund work in the Deanery) gave an update on the Dockyard Project. The forthcoming opening of "The Living Room" in River Street was a major focus and Erica invited anyone to drop in when it opened in March. She also asked people to pray for the work and to contribute financially if they felt led to do that.

Secondly, Joff Phipps introduced "Another Way", a project set up under the Transforming Mission umbrella to serve those on the fringes of faith, or looking at other faiths, who would not normally have a connection with Christianity or the Church of England. He explained that Another Way hosted a "Kres" (peace) service in the Cathedral once a month, a Surfing Group with 35 members meeting at 8am on a Sunday, and a Sunday service in Epiphany House with about 60 people attending at least once a month. They had also been leading pilgrimage walks and helping people to consider Celtic Christianity.

Lastly, Robert Perry proposed a motion for Diocesan Synod to

(i) call upon the Church Commissioners and Archbishops Council to undertake everything necessary to effect a redistribution of financial resources directly to Diocesan Stipend Funds to reflect the value of contributions made by Diocesan Boards of Finance to the Church of England Funded Pension Scheme since it was established by the settlement of 1997 (£2.6 billion);

and

(ii) call upon Diocesan Boards of Finance to manage the funds redistributed as a result of the above to support parish ministry in the ways discerned locally to be most effective in enabling growth and sustaining the Church of England's commitment to be a Christian presence in every community.

The motion was passed with 28 in favour, 28, none against and 3 abstentions.

As in each meeting during the year, the agenda included an update on the implementation of the Deanery Plan and the "On The Way" process.

### **The second meeting was held in Gerrans Church on 7th May.**

The main business consisted of a presentation by Matthew Richards, Headteacher at Gerrans School, about how our churches could support and serve children and young people. The meeting also heard from some young people from within our Deanery, and a video was shown. This was followed by small group discussions focusing on:

- How much have things changed from when you were a teenager?
- How has church changed since you were a teenager?
- What are we doing to meet the needs of children and young people in our area?

Afterwards, representatives summarised developments in each of the Deanery Mission Areas.

### **The third meeting was held in the new Lifehouse at All Saints Highertown on 12th November.**

Tony Cruddas, Lifehouse Project manager, introduced the new building and its purpose.

This was followed by Isaac McNish (Church House) giving a presentation on "Growing Younger", a Diocesan plan with two objectives:

- For every child and young person in the Diocese of Truro to have access to a community that meets in Jesus' name, to do Jesus' work in which they can be at home and explore faith.
- To achieve a tenfold increase in the number of young disciples in our churches over the next decade.

He explained that churches of every size, tradition and setting were invited to join in: this meant that for **many** there would be training, resourcing, and networking to support existing work and to grow new initiatives across the diocese, for **some** there would be training and support to raise 50 lay leaders equipped to work with schools, families, and churches to build networks and confidence as we nurture journeys into faith, and for **a few** there would be significant investment in six deanery-based projects, co-created with local leaders with a focus on key transition points in young people's school journeys.

After an update on upcoming changes to the MMF regime, the meeting concluded with confirmation that vacancies for representatives on the Diocesan Synod had been filled without the need for an election, and that the vacant post of Deanery Treasurer had been filled.

David Lovelock (Deanery Synod Representative)