

# OUR NEWS

## APRIL 2025



DIOCESE  
OF TRURO

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## RECOGNITION FOR THEIR COMMUNITY WORK

There were celebrations at St Piran's Church in Perranzabuloe as 20 people from across the diocese were recognised for their work in churches, communities, and schools.

The annual Cross of St Piran Awards took place over two services with Bishop Hugh Nelson presiding and presenting recipients with their crosses. In his **sermon**, he told those present: "...the award that you are about to receive is a recognition that you, in different ways, are people who have chosen to give to the world; you have shared who you are and what you have with those who need you; you have chosen to live from the abundance of God's goodness, rather than the scarcity that the world tells us we are surrounded by."

Each year in October, Rural Deans, working with the Bishops' Office, reach out into their deaneries seeking nominations for the awards. If you know of someone who deserves a Cross of St Piran do look out for their year's nomination forms.

The Bishop's Award was presented to Sheila Waring for her work with the Mothers' Union (MU). Sheila, who is also a Local Worship Leader in Stratton Deanery, has been Diocesan President of the MU for the last seven years.

The Deanery Awards went to 14 people



in 11 deaneries: Judith Ayers from East Wivelshire, Annette Buchanan from Kerrier Deanery, Ruth Beretta and Philip Gilbert from Carnmarth North Deanery, Jacqui Bennett from Carnmarth South Deanery, Robert Corney from Stratton Deanery, Tony Cruddas from Powder Deanery, Viv Farmer from Pydar Deanery, Ian Gordon from West Wivelshire Deanery, Ellen McConnell from Trigg Minor and Bodmin Deanery, Stephen Rivers and Edwina Sleeman from St Austell Deanery and Rob Tremain from Trigg Major Deanery.

There were also six awards to people in church schools (see citations below):

Fiona Harvey, Antony School, Abigail Jessop, The Bishops' Church of England Learning Academy, Hayley Pitman, Sarah Wilkins, Headteacher of St Meriadow School, Jon-Joe Wilson, St Dominic Church of England Primary School, Brenda Wright, St Issey School.





# ECO-WARRIORS FLOOD TRURO CATHEDRAL!

Eco-warriors flooded into Truro for the first ever Eco-Schools Activity Day at Truro Cathedral.

Over 130 Eco-School warriors aged between three and 11 representing 20 church and community schools across the county, along with 40 teachers and volunteers, took part in 17 workshops during the successful event.

The youngsters attending are all eco-committee members from key stage 1 and key stage two. The event was an opportunity for them to meet together and share the amazing work they are undertaking in their schools.

Clare Green, Schools Creation Care Officer, said: "It was wonderful to see such passionate and confident young people gathered together sharing their projects and ideas. They clearly demonstrated the enthusiasm and desire of their schools to protect the environment. Thank you to all the wonderful organisations and volunteers who provided such incredible learning experiences. I am so proud of our students."

The event had experts and representatives from SW Water, Surfers Against Sewage, Cornwall Council, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Suez, Falmouth University, Truro Parks, Geothermal Engineering and Cornwall Community Flood Forum leading interactive workshops focussing on fashion and sustainability, marine plastic pollution, marine coastal erosion, attracting pollinators, waste recycling, eco-anxiety, caring for school grounds, energy, water and global citizenship, and learning marine animal names in Cornish.

Ben Lillie, Diocesan Environment Officer, said: "It was such a privilege to join in with the Education team's Eco-Schools Activity Day. The children in our church schools are incredible ambassadors for Creation Care. They engaged in the many creative workshops with energy, honesty and enthusiasm.



"Climate Justice can often feel a bit overwhelming, but with these children leading the way, there is still so much hope!"

Lee Moscato, Diocesan Director of Education, said: "It was a joy to bring young leaders from schools across the diocese together to acknowledge their work, celebrate their successes, encourage their continued commitment and add to their knowledge in this area. The pupils in our schools see that God's creation is to be cherished and at the event we heard of all that these schools were already doing to make a difference. We saw that in our schools, pupils are being the change they want to see in our world and this event was all about shining a light on and from these incredible young people and the adults in school who enable them."

The day provided an ideal opportunity for pupils and teachers to evidence step five of their Eco-Schools journey (Informing and Involving) as well as networking with like-minded young people from across the diocese.

Nicola Bonell, teacher at St Mary's School in Penzance, said: "The eco conference was well organised and inspiring for both adults and children. The children loved all the activities as they were engaging and age appropriate. They left Truro Cathedral totally buzzing, armed with bird feeders, bug hotels, bee bombs and seeds. They now have lots of ideas for future projects that will make a big difference. It was a brilliant day!"





# QUICK WIN FOR ST BREACA

A Net Zero Quick Wins grant has taken the chill off for visitors to St Breaca Church in the centre of Breage. The church, which houses famous medieval wall paintings described by Pevsner as “of the highest importance”, was providing a beautiful but chilly setting for congregation members and art enthusiasts.

Following a visit and advice from Ben Wood, the Diocesan Cut Carbon Support Officer, the church was able to purchase new mobile infra-red heaters and a carpet using the grant.

Trefor Bowen, St Breaca’s churchwarden and organist, said: “Everyone likes the new heaters! We’ve had nothing but positive comments; they take the chill off very quickly. Also, they have four settings at the touch of a button, so you don’t have to have them on full power and can turn them down if they get too hot.”

He also praised the fact that they are portable and can be used in the coffee area at the back of the church when not being used for a service or elsewhere. He added: “They’re especially useful as I can use them when playing the organ to warm my freezing fingers!”

Ben said: “The church’s heating system in the nave was ineffective and expensive to run. They decided to concentrate the



congregation into the bright Godolphin Chapel during cold winter days and use the Net Zero Quick Wins to buy the thick carpet, creating a thermal barrier between cold stone and the soles of the congregations’ shoes, which can make a real difference to how cold one can feel. The localised infra-red heating is providing warmth to worshippers without the church having to pay to inefficiently heat the entire cavernous church.”

The Net Zero Quick Wins fund is available for churches with a Bronze Eco Church/A Rocha award and who can also make the case that the improvements it funds will reduce their carbon emissions. Contact Ben Wood [ben.wood@truro.anglican.org](mailto:ben.wood@truro.anglican.org) for details.

## CURIOSITY, MUTUALITY & A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

When Revd Laura Bushell Hawke was appointed Priest in Charge of the proposed new Kernow Gateway Benefice in March 2024, the church officers had never met together. Starting her first year with the three watchwords of Unity, Stability, and Joy, Revd Laura began holding regular meetings with all the Churchwardens, providing a platform for news and ideas to be shared. Regular meetings with everyone involved in Sunday services also began, offering support to Local Worship Leaders as the churches embraced Lay Led Worship.

Revd Laura, who is Oversight Minister for the Benefice of Saltash (St Nicholas & St Faith and St Stephen’s by Saltash) and the Benefice of Landrake with St Erney & Botus Fleming and the parish of Landulph, realised that in order for the churches to work together more effectively, they needed to understand the strengths and challenges of each parish. The PCC Tonight material from

CPAS provided the perfect platform for this. Organizing the 12 modules across four Saturday mornings in winter allowed PCC members to come together. The first two sessions were attended by representatives from every PCC, though the numbers were low. By the third session, which focused on the Multi-Parish Benefice material, attendance had grown to 28 people from across the five PCCs.

Revd Laura says: “The sessions have made a difference in how we see and communicate with each other. The opportunities identified to help one another will make a difference to the smaller village churches and enrich the larger town churches. At the beginning, I had difficulty getting the different churches to engage in the group exercises, but by the final session, I had trouble stopping them from talking so we could move on!”

[READ MORE HERE](#)

## PARISH TRAINING OFFERS

During April there are a number of **FREE** parish training offers available.

### AT A GLANCE

April 7: Safeguarding Leadership training  
 April 10: Creation Care Network Gathering  
 April 14: Safeguarding Leadership training  
 April 15: Communications drop-in  
 April 15: Data Protection Training  
 April 23: Safeguarding Leadership Training  
 April 23: Churchwarden training  
 April 30: Safeguarding Leadership 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](#).



## REVD PAUL ZAPHIRIOU

It is with great sadness that we announce that Revd Paul Zaphiriou, Strategic Rural Dean of St Austell, has died.

Paul moved to Cornwall in 2021 and played a significant part in the life of this diocese during his time here.

Paul had been privately dealing with ill health for some months before he passed away on Tuesday, March 18, 2025.

We pray for those who mourn Paul, and our thoughts are especially with his wife Bonnie, daughters, grandchildren and wider family and friends. The family have requested privacy at this time.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

READ THE  
LATEST  
CREATION CARE  
NEWSLETTER  
HERE



Ben Lillie

## CREATION CARE NETWORK USEFUL LINKS

The next Creation Care Network gathering is on Thursday, April 10, 7pm). 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

## LOCAL & LAY TRAINING DAY

A joint training day for Local Lay Leaders, Local Pastoral Ministers, Local Lay Pioneers and Local Worship Leaders will take place on Saturday, April 26 at St Erme Community Centre. This will be a time to come together with other commissioned lay leaders across the diocese to worship, pray, learn, and grow together, as well as to network.

An email has gone out to everyone in the key groups inviting them to the event. If you have not received this email please do get in touch with Lydia Remick or Sarah Welply.

New for this year, there will be two keynote speakers, Revd Laura Bushell-Hawke and Niky Dix.

In the morning, Revd Laura will help us recognise ourselves as leaders in our worshipping communities and how we can use that role effectively. Then, Niky Dix aims to provide a supportive space with reflective questions and activities to help us recharge, sustain our well-being, and flourish in our ministries.

Revd Laura is Oversight Minister in South East Cornwall with responsibility for six churches. Before training to be a priest Laura had a career as a trainer and experience with the subject of leadership.



She is currently delivering the sessions on group skills and leadership for the Foundations in Christian Ministry course for the diocese.

Niky Dix is an accredited coach and educator passionate about helping teams and volunteers understand what they need to thrive in their calling. With a background in leading a charity that provided community coaching in a Christian context, she specialises in group coaching and well-being for those serving in ministry. Her recent MSc research explored the well-being of Christian and ministry leaders in a group coaching context, offering an opportunity for participants to examine the tension between serving others and maintaining personal health and resilience.

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.creationcare.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 301398 EMAIL [CLARE.GREEN@TRURO.ANGLICAN.ORG](mailto:CLARE.GREEN@TRURO.ANGLICAN.ORG)



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THE POSTER



## NEW PODCAST! SCHOOLS' CREATION CARE WORKSHOPS

The latest CMD bitesize podcast from the diocese focuses on the School Creation Care Workshops and how churches can get involved. Rebecca Evans talks to Schools Creation Care Officer, Clare Green.

You can listen to these and all our podcasts [here](#).

## DATE FOR BISHOP DAVID'S INSTALLATION SERVICE

It has been announced that the welcome service for the Rt Revd David Williams, the bishop elect of Truro, will take place on Saturday, May 17 in Truro Cathedral at 11am.

More details will follow shortly on how you can attend or watch online.

