

2025 Updated Revisions of Trigg Minor & Bodmin Deanery

This report presents the updated Deanery Plans, incorporating all recent revisions approved through the appropriate governance processes. To enhance clarity and transparency, an overview table at the beginning of the document outlines each change request, including the nature of the change, the date of approval, and links to the relevant section it affects. If no change requests have been authorised the table will be blank, and the main body of text will be unchanged.

Change requests have been noted alongside the original text and are clearly highlighted with a red underline for ease of reference with a link back to the change request table. Corresponding endnotes provide further context and justification if needed, ensuring a clear audit trail.

These updates reflect ongoing developments and alignment with strategic priorities.

Deanery update with approved change request

Change Request	Changes	Date Approved	Link to change in text

Deanery Plan

Trigg Minor and Bodmin

Version Number and Date	V2 - June 2025
Approved by Deanery Synod	27 July 2022
Strategic Rural Dean	Revd Jeffery Terry
Lay Chair	Vacant

Please see the accompanying guidance notes for help to complete the Deanery Plan (Note 1 refers to the title page)

PROCESS FOR THE CREATION OF THE DEANERY PLAN

Note

1.0 Consultation

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- Benefices engaged with the process in a variety of ways. Some used established forums such as wardens or ministers meetings. Others set up working groups to develop wider responses to the On the Way initiative.
- Surveys were distributed to gain congregational and community feedback. Some clusters were able to distribute these widely within their communities and thus produced detailed quantified analyses of the responses.
- Benefice responses were presented to the Rural Dean and Deanery Standing Committee.

DEANERY PLAN

Note

1.1 Vision & Mission Priorities

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- Growth in faith and church membership
- Greater collaboration within and between clusters
- Growth in mission initiatives, particularly amidst low income communities and between church and schools.

2.1 Who we are

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- There are 6 ministerial units, with 22 parishes and 34 churches spread across 188 square miles.
- The largest town is Bodmin, with Wadebridge, Camelford and Lostwithiel as smaller towns.
- Population is around 46,000 but rising across the deanery
- Church attendance across the demographics is in line with the diocesan average
- Deprivation rates are above national average, with some communities measured in the bottom 10% and 20%

2.2 What people say about us

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- Clusters devised surveys which were distributed to both parishioners, schools and the wider community
- Responses are held on the deanery virtual noticeboard: <https://padlet.com/smithrb6249/ar3csi5r6m9lmeir>

2.3 The issues we are facing

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- Declining congregations are due in part to the average ages of parishioners and more recently the effects of Covid restrictions, although some parishes are now showing signs of growth again.
- The missing generations of families have drifted away from the traditional church.
- The need to prioritise support for our mission in the areas not currently being addressed by our traditional models of ministry.
- Contemporary crises with costs of living and health
- Detailed answers can be found in the fruitfulness reports from each cluster

2.4 Our current fruitfulness & sustainability

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An account of fruitfulness in the clusters and parishes

Each of the 6 clusters of the deanery undertook a review of their work to help reveal the extent of their fruitfulness in ministry and mission. Uncovering this wide range of activity proved to be an encouraging exercise at a time when it is assumed that churches are in retreat.

The image of a tree inspired some of the clusters. Many of them described the deep roots that give them a treasured place within their communities. The reviews also identified the operational branches of church life that yield their fruit in due season. This summary draws from those reviews to address the key priorities for On the Way.

The Poor

All clusters report that they have poor and deprived areas within their communities and are working to support those communities. Several clusters have diverse groups of parishes, ranging from town churches to entirely rural churches, with little or no housing nearby. Areas of support include distribution of food, household items, community larder, lockdown activities and offering pre-loved clothes for free. Also support for foodbanks (food and volunteer time) and homeless charities (St Petroc's Society). Churches also hold cafes for the old and vulnerable and other social gatherings plus pastoral visits. Comment was made that many retired church members are time rich and money poor and are willing to offer their time when

opportunities are presented. A piano project allows anyone in a parish or school to learn to play the piano with no charge. One church offers morning communion followed by breakfast which has attracted homeless people. Another is researching the possibility of offering temporary refuge in the church for the homeless.

To further the work there is a feeling that there could be more collaborative working across the deanery. Each cluster is striving to meet its own particular needs which include isolation, physical poverty, mental, emotional and spiritual health. Creating networks of care for older people are on several future plans. All projects seek to develop further opportunities to connect and support families while conscious of the key mission to spread the gospel.

Schools, children and youth

*We want **our** church to stay open as it's been part of **our** school for hundreds of years; where will we go for our services if it closes? We don't want it to be turned into houses; lots of people try really hard to save our church; what will we have left to show our own children?*

There are 25 (7 CofE) primary schools, 3 secondary schools and one further education college in our deanery. The largest worshipping community in many parishes is the local primary school. Some churches have very close weekly symbiotic links with their schools allowing both to grow and benefit from the experience. School staff are on the electoral roll and the PCC and members of the PCC are Governors of the school. In some cases the children feel comfortable with church and know the names of the church officers and they know the names of the children. The school forms a direct communication link with the community, particularly the missing generations.

Many churches have 'Open the Book teams', 'toddler groups', Eco Groups, creative care champions, outdoor church, Christingles and 'messy church'. Others have 'fresh Expressions' (Scout and Guides, Duke of Edinburgh awards, Hand and tower bell ringing, science clubs etc), international links to overseas schools and communion before confirmation. Where the activity is run by their own parish church the impact of the activity and growth on that church is greater than when it is done on a cross benefice grouping.

Discipleship

Throughout the Deanery, discipleship is grounded in the lived experience of the Christian faith; through worship, prayer, bible study and service to the community. It is evident that churches take advantage of their unique settings, history and diversity to grow discipleship in ways apposite to their situation. The range of worship is extensive. It occurs throughout the week, led by both ordained and lay ministers and encompasses the church buildings, indoor secular spaces and outdoor worship. Many churches make comment about the challenges of on-line and other worship during the pandemic and the joy at reaching those who may otherwise not have connected with faith.

Many clusters have links with their local schools and all use these and the opportunities afforded by baptism and other occasional offices to engage with children, young people and families. For many, this is the beginning of their walk with Jesus. Most clusters also report active house groups and/or study groups together with courses for explorers, such as the Alpha course. Again, addressing the challenges of the pandemic has enabled new opportunities to be explored, engaging with others in a different way.

Within the Deanery, discipleship is sustained and encouraged through the ministry of all, dependent on their gifts. The stipendiary Parish Priest within each cluster is an essential and pivotal part of ensuring that discipleship can continue to grow.

Community Life

In a survey sent out by one of our parishes to its community (which garnered over 70 responses) over 80% of the respondents indicated that the Church's links to the Community were important to them. Reports from all six clusters indicated that a considerable amount of outreach into the community is taking place and it is impossible to do justice to this in a brief summary. Reference to the reports of the clusters on the Deanery Padlet gives a more detailed view.

One common thread that appears across our Deanery is the setting up of social gatherings accompanied by provision of teas/coffees and food. An example is one parish which runs a weekly Community Café which enables 35 to 40 people to gather and share convivial conversation over a drink and light lunch; no charge is made for the food, but generous donations have raised several thousand pounds for future social ventures. Fund raising events ranging from traditional church fetes to a dog show and fashion show, provide not only a mechanism for raising money for the upkeep of the Church, but for the community as a whole to gather together in God's house for shared companionship.

Many of our churches have excellent acoustics and provide an ambience which is attractive to third party organisers of concerts and creative arts ventures, which once again raise the profile of the Church as a centre for Community life.

Outdoor services and services in unusual locations (like barns) increase the scope of the worshipping community of our churches, as well as providing "safe" environments during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Both our regular parishioners and the wider community in our towns and villages are very appreciative of the work being carried out by volunteers in our churches to support the community and broaden the reach of God's kingdom.

The Global Church

From early in the Bronze age, Cornwall has had worldwide connections along the ancient trade routes to Asia, China, Africa, and Europe. Our place names and our saints' names can be found in the Mediterranean, Iberia, Normandy, and Britany. Our miners took our place names to Africa, the Americas, Australasia, and Asia, setting up Christian communities at the behest of John Wesley and Henry Martyn.

Across the Deanery we have churches actively supporting individuals and communities in these places, either through site-specific charity community initiatives or supporting individuals, or the broader Christian charities. Other churches have chosen to follow their saints or place name and form companion parishes, finding the place name through apple or google maps and contacting the churches there.

Each of these benefits from internet communication with even the remotest places allowing practical Christian help, shared experiences, and values, shared online services, school links, exchange visits, helping us and them in our global world. Within our Deanery there are churches which live stream

and record services to increase the reach of our churches to a global audience; this is particularly appreciated by families and friends unable to attend funeral services in person.

Creation

Implicit in all our Cluster Fruitfulness findings is gratitude for being able to live in an especially beautiful and favoured corner of God's Kingdom. This attracts many visitors, some of whom seek and find spiritual refreshment in our Churches and their surroundings, especially around the North coast.

Several Parishes provide outdoor benches for people to relax and reflect. A number selectively cut their churchyards with areas set aside for wildlife, an example of the growing awareness of the need to nurture and look after the environment as the current trustees, with a Christian duty towards our Creator and future generations. A few Parishes have adopted the Green Church Kernow Scheme or the Living Churchyard project. Others have information boards about the birds and other creatures to be seen in the vicinity and/or put up bird and bug boxes. Some open Churchyards are maintained by volunteers while two use Community Payback (Service) personnel for this.

To counter climate change several Parishes have switched to LED lighting or an electricity supplier providing power sourced from renewables to counter climate change. One church hall has solar power and battery storage.

We have examples of cooperation between Church and other organisations committed to environmental protection. Most Parishes hold Harvest Festival services, and a few have days to show off snowdrops or crocuses. Most also hold occasional outdoor services to emphasise the link between worship and nature.

Implications of the first phase review

Deep roots draw from resources that can only be tapped after many years, perhaps centuries of presence in communities. They deserve to be protected in order to maintain their unique flow of energies since they cannot be easily replicated. The operational means of churches and clusters may need to be pruned or supported where new growth might emerge. The fruit coming from what is already successful deserves support since its fruit is often perennially appealing.

Church buildings often host activities that are fruitful, but it is also noted that many successful initiatives take place outside of these. The parable of the sower reminds us that swift growth is not necessarily a healthy sign. Well-tended good soil is the ideal habitat for fruitfulness. Stability and confidence allow churches to step out in faith to grasp opportunity, particularly after a major crisis such as the pandemic.

Sustainability

New faith

- Interaction with schools remains strong in many parts of the deanery. Assemblies and church visits are returning following the pandemic. Mission initiative is an emerging feature. The growth in faith experience amongst children and families is evident.
- A pioneer ministry in low income areas is yielding growth in informal networks of faith and mission.
- There is increasing involvement of families in creative worship events
- The pandemic spawned a wide range of social media faith-sharing content as well as the streaming of worship
- Youth initiatives are beginning to recover lost ground

Growing faith

- There are a range of discipleship, prayer and bible study groups across the deanery. New ministries are being recognised.
- The presentation of faith in schools continues to be expressed through collective worship and the RE curriculum with the support of clergy and lay people
- There are activities to support the elderly through loneliness and ill health, and with bereavement.
- Online communities provide discipleship content

Leadership

- There is a growing collaboration across benefices and within the deanery
- A committed and enthusiastic standing committee has been established to facilitate the design and implementation of the deanery plan

Diversity of calling

- Churches have witnessed the growth of teams for ministry and mission. These have incorporated clergy, lay volunteers and staff.

Money

- The deanery has historically paid above-average MMF contributions.
- There is mixed capacity to pay full ministry costs. Some clusters are gaining confidence in meeting their full payments. Others need further assistance to raise their contributions.
- There is an increasing understanding of the church 'business model' with encouragement of giving, fundraising and enterprise

Buildings

- Church buildings are widely valued for their place within their communities.
- They provide a strong witness to faith.
- The profile of history and heritage is being raised in various ways.
- Some churches may need to be closed if their communities no longer wish to support their maintenance.

3.1 What God is doing

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- Prayerful reflection has revealed much that is fruitful and blessed by God
- A growing spirit of unity has emerged
- A growing sense of vision is building

3.2 What God has been saying *On the Way*

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- The parishes and clusters have felt a much stronger call to collaborate in their mission and ministries.
- Creative approaches to families, young people and the elderly can stimulate new faith.

4.1 Becoming more fruitful and sustainable

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Fruitfulness

The poor

Outcomes:

- Widening support for the cost of living crisis
- Strengthening of community and mutual support
- Partnerships with agencies in health and wellbeing

Schools & YP

Outcomes:

- All schools in the deanery will be matched with and supported by a church
- The growth of young people active in the life of their churches

Discipleship

Outcomes:

- Increase in prayer, study and service
- Parents and children inspired to grow together in faith
- Materials and experiences provided in church for visitors and community to explore faith
- Continued growth in diverse ministries

Community Life

Outcomes:

- Church leaders and PCCs are increasingly responsive to their communities
- Improved communication and advertising of work of church in community
- Joint ventures with social clubs, support agencies etc

Global Church	Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Growth and renewal of church links to overseas projects and mission agencies
Creation	Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Net zero plans implemented and creation-care champions active• More living churchyards created
<i>Sustainability</i>	
New faith	Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Growth of congregations by 15%pa in the small churches and schools project• Contextual faith communities emerging in low income areas• Creative evangelistic events across the deanery
Growing faith	Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stronger bonds with schools• Greater involvement of children in our services in order to draw more families into worship in our churches• Young people coming to faith and being involved in mission and ministry• Older people attending church and discipleship activities
Leadership	Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Growth in cluster leadership across Lostwithiel, Wadebridge, North Cornwall and Camelside• Potential collaboration between Bodmin and Camel-Allen• Growth in collective projects with schools, youth and families.
Diversity of calling	Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New forms of lay ministry incorporated into teams, including enterprise-based staff
Money	Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase in revenue generation from members, stakeholders and visitors• Expanding grant-support programme
Buildings	Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greater use by the community• Improved conservation and visitor experience• Effective funding and maintenance plans

4.2 Our plans I - How we expect to change

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- Greater collaboration in ministry and mission between clusters
- Improving links with schools and involvement of children in worship
- Greater variety in forms of worship
- Targeted plans for growth in congregations over coming years

4.3 Our plans II - Specific actions & projects

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1. Primary schools and rural churches project

To potentially include the following parishes:

- Bradoc (the exemplar)
- St. Winnow
- Lostwithiel
- Lanlivery
- Cardinham
- Nanstallon
- Lanivet
- St. Mabyn
- St. Tudy
- Blisland
- St. Breward
- Lanteglos/Camelford
- Delabole
- St. Teath
- St. Kew
- Port Isaac
- St. Minver
- Wadebridge

LICF funding for school-led relief of deprivation.

2. Strengthened mission to low-income urban communities in Camelford and Bodmin
 - Continued support of Pioneer Minister in Bodmin
 - Appointment of 50% pioneer minister post in Camel-Allen
 - Appointment of parish nurse serving both
 - Subsidy of incumbency posts
3. Deanery initiatives amongst youth, children and families
 - Development of Grace Project in Wadebridge and across deanery
 - Development of youth work from Bodmin into the deanery
 - Collaborative work with the St. Minver youth initiative
4. Deanery initiatives amongst the elderly
5. A collaborative strategy for church buildings