

# MINISTRY MATTERS FROM OUR DIOCESE



Welcome to Ministry Matters from the Diocese of Truro ministry team

Updating you on diocesan ministry news, together with information and links to internal and external learning opportunities

## CHRISTMAS RESOURCES

The Church of England's Advent and Christmas theme for 2025 is Joy! The national resources offered this year are designed to help all ages to be drawn into the joy of the first Christmas.

At the heart of this year's offering are three publications:

- To help schools and churches share the joy of Christmas with children and families, they've published a picture book **'The Grumpy Owl and the Joy of Christmas'** by Jonathan Maltz and Christopher Poch. This is available from Church House Publishing [here](#).
- O' Come Emmanuel** is a **daily Advent companion** exploring the ancient biblical names and images for the coming Messiah familiar to most people from the hymn, 'O come, O come Emmanuel'.
- Twelve Joys of Christmas: Meditations for Christmas and the new year.** Available in **paperback** or digitally on the **Everday Faith app**.

If you'd like some guidance on the resources available and how to use them, you can watch a short helpful video [here](#).

There are a number of upcoming **webinars** to help you prepare.



**Sharing The Joy of Christmas with children, young people and families.**  
Watch the recording [here](#).

**Digital Giving at Christmas,**  
Digital Labs, 14 October, 12pm

**Church websites at Christmas,**  
Digital Labs, 22 October, 2pm

**Livestreaming and recording church services at Christmas,** Digital Labs,  
28 October, 2pm

**Messy meet-up - Advent & Christmas,** Messy Church, 4 November, 12pm or 6 November, 7.30pm

**Preaching the Christmas Story,**  
College of Preachers, 15 November,  
10.30am

**LiCC** is launching 'Small Wonder', an Advent devotional journey with accompanying sermon guides and videos designed to help your church reflect on the wonder of the incarnation. Join their lunchtime session on 13 October to learn about this resource.

### CELEBRATION OF LICENSED LAY MINISTRY

**Saturday 11 October 2025  
Truro Cathedral, 11.30am**

All welcome as we give thanks to God for the opportunities to minister in His name.

The service will be led by Bishop David and Bishop Hugh.

Refreshments will be available after the service.

### CELEBRATION OF RETIRED CLERGY

**Monday 20 October 2025  
Chapter House, Truro Cathedral,  
12.30pm**

Retired clergy are invited to attend a celebration of, and thanksgiving for their ministry.

The celebration will begin at 12.30pm. There will be a variety of contributions with ample opportunity to meet colleagues, have discussions and consider how we might work together for our mutual flourishing as priests in the Diocese and in the Church of God.

#### **PLEASE BOOK A PLACE HERE**

Or contact the ministry team:  
[ministry@trurodiocese.org.uk](mailto:ministry@trurodiocese.org.uk)  
01872 360035

# CMD PROGRAMME

## Understanding Christianity Resource for Schools

Wednesday 8 October,  
1pm-3pm, online

Led by teachers, Felicity Henchley &  
Nicki Bonell

This session is designed for Clergy and anyone who wants to gain an understanding of how RE is taught in schools. Understanding Christianity is a whole school approach. Pupils from 4-14 years explore the significant theological concepts within Christianity as part of developing their wider religious, theological and cultural literacy.

Join this session for an overview of this fantastic teaching resource with details about how it teaches Christianity to children across the different age ranges.

[BOOK HERE](#)

## The Gospel According to Matthew

Tuesday 21 October,

10.30am-1.30pm, Epiphany House

Led by the Revd Dr Robert Evans

The Gospel of Matthew will figure regularly for a year in the Sunday lectionary.

This session is an opportunity to look at it as whole – its structure, its themes, and its distinctive portrayal of Jesus. We'll give some attention to the historical circumstances of his first readers, in order to think about how we move from the message then to the message for us now.

[BOOK HERE](#)

## Bishops' Study Day

### Growing Younger

Tuesday 4 November,  
9.30am-4.30pm,

The Pavilion Centre Wadebridge

This Bishops' Study Day will be an opportunity to share, pray and dream together about Growing Younger, our vision that every child and young person in the Diocese of Truro will have access to a community meeting in Jesus' name, a place where they can belong, explore faith, and grow in discipleship.

We will be joined by Emma Buchan, Head of the Churches and Networks support team within the Vision and Strategy team, Church House Westminster.

Emma has recently been advising us on the designs of Growing Younger. She brings both personal passion and wider perspective to inspire us for the journey ahead.

[BOOK HERE](#)

## Bishops' Study Day Dates for 2026

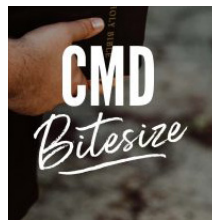
Wednesday 6 May 2026

Tuesday 3 November 2026

Catch-up on our

**CMD Bitesize**  
podcasts [here](#).

In one of our most recent podcast Rebecca Evans, Ministry Development and Inclusion Officer, talks to Bishop Hugh Nelson and Becky Lines, from Transforming Mission Camborne, about the Growing Younger plans for engaging with children and young people in churches across the diocese.



# TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2026

## Sens Kernewek 2026

Sens Kernewek is a community of women and men exploring a call to local church ministry. It is designed to be a group in which we learn together and discern together. The content of our learning and the way we learn will be coherent with the model of leadership we are working towards in Sens Kernewek.



For more information or an application form contact the [ministry team](#).

## CMS Certificate in Pioneer Mission 2026

Are you:

- someone who starts things?
  - pioneering something?
  - looking to develop your understanding of mission for your context?
  - excited about sharing ideas with fellow pioneers?
- ....then this course may be for you.

For more information or an application form contact

**Lindsey Morgan Lundie, Pioneer Network Facilitator**



# EXTERNAL OPPORTUNITIES

## Parenting for Faith

Parenting as a Church Leader  
October, 9, online

[More info here](#)

## Care for the Family

Tweens and Teens

October, 22, Falmouth

[More info here](#)

## Engage Worship

Worship and Neurodiversity

November, 4, online

[More info here](#)

## College of Preachers

Preaching the Women of the Gospels

November, 17, online

Preaching in Lent

January, 26, online

[More info here](#)

## Church Times

O Come Emmanuel : Exploring the  
Advent prayers and songs of  
expectation

November, 22, online

[More info here](#)

## Thrive Worldwide

Dealing with conflict

in a church team

January, 13, online

Thriving in Ministry

March, 3, online

[More info here](#)

## Church Support Hub

Various past webinar recordings

[Available to watch here](#)

# BEYOND THE WALLS

90 MIN WEBINARS TO HELP INSPIRE AND  
SUPPORT PIONEERING MISSION BEYOND THE  
WALLS OF THE TIME HONOURED CHURCH

[BOOK HERE](#) [WWW.BEYONDTHEWALLS.ONLINE](http://WWW.BEYONDTHEWALLS.ONLINE)

## WEBINAR #9 14 OCT 1PM

SPORTS MINISTRY:  
PLAY SPORTS, TALK LIFE.

Natalie Burfitt will be talking about Sportily, the progress of this organisation and the ways that she enables the delivery team to be pioneering in their thinking and practice.



# MINISTRY MATTERS OCTOBER 2025

## REVISED CLERGY HANDBOOK

The clergy handbook has recently been updated and now includes:

- a new section on safeguarding
- an increase in time off for partners to attend ante-natal care appointments
- an increase in paid paternity leave from 2 to 4 weeks
- a new fostering policy
- new wording on our expectation of rest days (anticipating forthcoming legislative changes following General Synod agreement on this) and weekly working hours (to reflect existing practice and

- messaging)
- new section on bereavement and compassionate leave including introduction of paid parental bereavement leave
- new menopause policy
- new death in service (i.e. in office) policy, formalising current practice and increased benefits
- inclusion of our clergy housing policy and special agreements policy

If you have any queries or comments on the handbook, email [Louise Court](#), Director of HR or call 01872 247217.

## SICK LEAVE

A reminder that if you take any days off sick, do please fill out the self-certificate sick leave form (for absences of 7 days or less) and send to your Archdeacon and HR (Louise Court). If you are off for more than 7 days you will need to get a fit note from your GP or hospital.

This is not bureaucracy but part of supporting your health and wellbeing, and that of all our clergy, so please help us to help you. We also need the information for the clergy payroll team's records.

If you are not well enough to work, for whatever reason, please don't!

## CLERGY PENSION

If you are in a stipendiary role you will hopefully be aware that Synod met last July, and agreed a number of significant improvements to the Church of England Funded Pension Scheme for the Clergy in line with a proposal from the Archbishops' Council. Many thousands of members will see their pensions improved but it will take time to do that. The first step is for Synod to agree the necessary amendments to the CEFPS Rules in February. The changes will then be implemented in stages, and it may take over a year. In the meantime the CofE Pension Team have put together a live Q&A for members [here](#) which they will update as progress is made.

## FRAUDULENT TEXT MESSAGES

Church of England Central Services have received reports of fraudulent text messages being sent to clergy claiming that they must submit their HLC return online or their stipend will be stopped. Please be aware:

- They do not send text messages regarding HLC returns or stipend payments.

- Clergy must not click on any links sent via text message purporting to be from People System Support.
- Clergy should always log in directly to their People System account.

If you think you've received such a text message please report it to the **central team**

## MESSY CHURCH GRANT

The Church of England is offering a support package to CofE Churches in areas of deprivation wanting to start a new Messy Church. Microgrants of £250 are available to purchase resources for your new Messy Church, a bundle of Messy Church books worth over £50, training and ongoing support in the form of an online learning community of Messy Church leaders ministering in areas of deprivation.

If you are unsure whether your church is in an area of deprivation, there is a really helpful lookup tool on the Church Urban Fund [webpage here](#). To qualify for a Messy Microgrant your church needs to be in the 25% most deprived parishes in the country.

[More information here.](#)

## CATHEDRAL VOLUNTEER VACANCIES

Truro Cathedral currently has the following vacancies:

- Cathedral Welcomers
- Cathedral Chaplains
- Cathedral Inventory Project Team Volunteers
- Cathedral Cash Collection volunteers

All the role descriptions are on the [website here](#). If you or someone you know would be interested in one of these roles please contact [Susie Merelie](#) by email.

## CONTACT US

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