

OUR NEWS

NOVEMBER 2025



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CHILDREN'S HARVEST POETRY IMPRESSES JUDGES

The winners of a Diocese of Truro poetry competition have been revealed.

Judges and organisers were excited by the quality and number of entries to the competition.

After reading scores of creative poems, the judges were finally able to pick the winners – and hand out lots of well deserved 'Highly Commended' stickers.

Winners: **Felicity**, Duloe Church of England School, **Tyack**, St Issey Church of England School, **Elowen**, Grade Ruan Church of England School, **Meghan**, St. Catherine's Church of England School.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

NEW LAY GENERAL SYNOD REPRESENTATIVE



Following an election to fill a casual vacancy, Diana Favell has been elected as a lay member of General Synod.

She will serve until July 2026 when the current General Synod term ends.

There will be elections in 2026 for all six General Synod members.

Find out more about the General Synod [here](#).



**CORNISH
CHRISTMAS GIVING
CATALOGUE OUT
NOW - PAGE 3**

BISHOP HUGH'S KEY DATES AS HE MOVES FROM DIOCESE

AS BISHOP HUGH COMES TO THE END OF HIS TIME AS BISHOP OF ST GERMAN'S AND LOOKS FORWARD TO BECOMING BISHOP OF WORCESTER, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF KEY DATES WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST:



Dec 24: Bishop Hugh will join the service of Nine Lessons and Carols, Truro Cathedral. This will mark Bishop Hugh's last day in the diocese.

Jan 17: Bishop Hugh's installation service, Worcester Cathedral, 2pm.

Bishop Hugh would love to see as many people as possible attending and we will provide more information once it is available.

Nov 28: Bishop Hugh will legally become Bishop of Worcester at a service in London. Open for people to attend at 5pm in St Mary le Bow Church.

Dec 7: Bid farewell to Bishop Hugh, when he preaches at Evensong, Truro Cathedral, 4pm, open to everyone.

HAVE YOUR SAY - HOW CAN WE BEST SUPPORT PARISHES WITH CHURCH BUILDINGS?



In 2023, the Diocese of Truro committed £22 million taken from Diocesan reserves over the next ten years to support parish and deanery plans; investing in the life and mission of the church in Cornwall.

As part of the [Asset Strategy](#), £2 million of this is to be used to support parishes in the stewardship of historic church buildings.

We would like to hear from as many of you in parishes regarding what would help most.

Sadly, we cannot offer everything that might help and need to prioritise - so we are asking for your input into how best to allocate this resource to make the greatest difference in a lasting way.

Please click on this link to complete a very short survey: <https://forms.office.com/e/MqefA25cMR>

If you are not able to use this link, please contact Kate Cortez on kate.cortez@trurodiocese.org.uk or 01872 360023.

Please respond by 5pm on 26 November.

More information about this work:

In our diocese we have 305 churches. The responsibility for each of these rests with the respective PCC and clergy - with a significant reliance upon the goodwill of volunteers to support

both fundraising and maintenance.

In 2023 PCCs spent an estimated £3 million on repairing and maintaining these buildings, a figure taken from parish accounts, so this does not begin to reflect the actual time and resources expended by parishes.

Anecdotal evidence is, whilst loved, these buildings consume much of the energy and funding available which might also serve for mission and ministry. And the fundamental challenge is that these wonderful buildings are mostly very old and often in need of major, unaffordable repairs just to stand still, let alone adapt for the future of its community.

Recently, thanks to grants from the national Church of England, the diocese has been able to fund a Church Buildings Development Officer, a role which directly supports parishes to plan, fund and implement works to the fabric of their buildings; and a Cut Carbon Support Officer for churches, who helps churches get warmer and cheaper to run whilst cutting emissions.

In addition, funding has meant the diocese could give out £136k in minor repairs and improvement grants in the past year; and another £35k in quick

wins for carbon cutting and energy saving measures.

It is hoped we will be able to access more external funding to continue these and we know, from take up and feedback, these measures are really helping parishes.

The challenge is that £2 million of Diocese of Truro funds will not go far if it is all given out in grants, it might cover five roofs, which would be great for five churches, but not the other 300.

We hope that we can use the money to support lasting change in as many churches as possible, not just in a few places. We can see work in other dioceses that makes us think this is possible.

We need your help (please respond to the survey) to complete the picture, we need to know what is right for Cornwall. We have a steering group with clergy, wardens, architects, funders, DAC members and heritage advisors, this group will help us with next steps and a strategy.

We plan to take a Diocesan Buildings Strategy to Diocesan Synod next year, please help us by responding to the survey and keep an eye out for the draft strategy in 2026.



OUT NOW! CORNISH CHRISTMAS GIVING CATALOGUE 2025

Diocese of Truro is pleased to reveal this year's Cornish Christmas Giving Catalogue which sees eight local charities featured for the first time.

The Cornish Christmas Giving Catalogue 2025 comprises of 20 local groups and charities which provide much-needed support to people in the community – whether that be to provide assistance, support, activities, beds or more.

This festive season we have some new additions to the catalogue including:

West Cornwall Woman's Aid

Georgia's Voice

Wild

YMCA Cornwall

Carefree Cornwall

Hearing Loss Cornwall

Beach Guardian

Coachhouse Food Hub

Everyone is welcome to download a copy of the catalogue [here](#), and read what representatives from the charities would like help with this year.

People can donate as much or as little as they would like. Items listed range from £5, for things such as art supplies, up to £90 for therapy sessions.

Rt Revd David Williams, Bishop of Truro, and Clinton Cameron Sealy Jnr., Operations Director at Transformation Cornwall, have contributed to the introduction pages too.

Rosey Sanders, Operations and Project Assistant at Diocese of Truro, is thrilled the diocese is able to produce this catalogue for a third year.

She said: "We know from previous experience, the people of Cornwall's wonderful generosity will continue as they think of others less fortunate at Christmas time."

Paul Phillips, Social Responsibility Officer at Diocese of Truro, said: "We understand being able to help practically can be a struggle for various reasons, so by creating the 2025 Cornwall Christmas Giving Catalogue, we hope you find a connection to one or more of the featured charities and support them this Christmas and, perhaps, beyond."

HOW IT WORKS

Select one (or more) of the organisations in the catalogue and decide how much you wish to donate, then either order by post or online.

The deadline for postal orders is December 18 and the deadline for online orders is December 23.

Donations will still be accepted up to January 2025.

For more information or to request a printed catalogue email cornish.christmasgiving@trurodiocese.org.uk or call 01872 274351.

View the catalogue online [here](#).



HOW ROSIE BECAME A PARISH YOUTH MINISTER

Rosie Blyth had a decision to make. She was 18, had finished school and a whole world of possibilities lay before her.

Should she follow her friends to university and study her desired degree in history and politics at Southampton, or should she take a gap year?

"I wasn't sure what to do with the rest of my life," says Rosie, now 22 years, "When I had finished my A Levels, I went to an event online run by South West Youth Ministry (SWYM). That's where I heard about 'Be Transformed' gap year."

This choice began the path towards her current role in the Diocese of Truro as St Austell Parish's Youth Minister.

Rosie's parents became Christians after moving to California, America, when she was just two years old.

Rosie says: "I have grown up in church and throughout my teenage years I've encountered God. When I was 13, I made the decision to get baptised.

"I hadn't really fully committed at that age though as I wouldn't call myself a Christian at school. It wasn't until lockdown, when I was 17, that I started to read my bible and pray for my world more."

It was in her gap year that she found herself becoming closer to God.

"I had never experienced being around so many young adults – who were my course mates – with a faith," she explains. "During this year, I studied theology and was also encouraged to look deeper into my own faith.

"I also worked in the church and took part in youth and children's work."

After this gap year, in 2022, Rosie decided to continue with SWYM and her placement at St Austell Parish and join the degree programme studying at Moorlands College.

She says: "I was working with the church for 24 hours a week and then studying for the rest of the week."



When she finished her studies, she was invited to stay as the youth minister in

St Austell and started her role at the beginning of September. She is certain this is right where God wants her.

She says: "Growing up, I never had a 'I want to do this with my life' idea.

"But I now believe God was calling me to youth ministry."

Rosie loves working in her new role.

"The best part is actually getting to spend time with young people and see the way they are growing, as well as laughing and having fun with them," she says. "Being a teenager is an exciting time in your life. As a youth minister, you really see that in them. It is great because I get to see what they are like when they are out of school. Watching relationships growing between them, and being able to facilitate that, is a joy."

Rosie is excited about the future as she sees more and more people wanting to learn about the Christian faith. She is encouraged seeing young people bringing friends along to Youth Alpha to find out more.

"There is an interest and hunger," she says. "We've also had several young adults come along to church in recent months, really searching for meaning, also engaging in Alpha."

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

MEMBER SOUGHT FOR MISSION AND PASTORAL COMMITTEE

This committee is a consultative body that scrutinises proposals for pastoral reorganisation, usually arising from deanery plans, before they are recommended to the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee.

The committee meetings take place four or five times a year, usually hybrid with in-person attendance in Truro or the option to attend by Zoom.

The meetings are usually not more than two hours long, depending on the number of matters to be discussed and there is only a small amount of pre-reading required.

We seek a new member, lay or ordained, who has experience in parish life. Experience of engagement with deanery plans would be helpful.

MEMBER SOUGHT FOR GLEBE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

This committee is responsible for the oversight of the management and development of the Glebe portfolio (land owned by the Diocese of Truro). The committee meets four times a year, usually hybrid with in-person attendance in Truro or the option to attend by Zoom. The meetings are usually not more than three hours long, depending on the number of matters to be discussed.

Having recently adopted a commercial assets strategy, in order to increase income generated from Glebe to support clergy stipends, we seek an individual who has experience in relation to commercial property.

PLEASE NOTE: These two roles (for Mission and Pastoral Committee and Glebe Management Committee) are not remunerated, but volunteers are encouraged to reclaim all necessary expenses of office. This includes things like travel, stationery and childcare to attend meetings.

If you would like to find out more or submit an expression of interest for either of these roles, contact kate.Cortez@truro.anglican.org

CELEBRATION SERVICE WELCOMES NEW LICENSED LAY MINISTERS



A celebration service welcomed four new Licensed Lay Ministers (LLM) to the diocese at the cathedral in Truro.

Rt Revd David Williams, Bishop of Truro and The Rt Revd Hugh Nelson, Bishop of St Germans, were at the service which saw the licensing of Claire Thomson, Ian Thompson, Mary Wren and Richard Westcott.

During the service Bishop David invited the new LLMs, many of whom are also known as Readers, to take up his challenge to each recruit five others to become LLMs.

Bishop Hugh preached, and the licenses were issued in his name.

Jim Seth, Diocese of Truro's Chaplain to Readers (Licensed Lay Ministers), said: "Bishop David presided, and Bishop Hugh preached asking us to look at what our real blessings are."

Mary Wren, who was licensed at the service, said: "It was a very special celebration to share with friends from the Roseland Benefice, Spiritus Theological College staff, Bishops David and Hugh and all the Readers. It was a blessing to be standing with the LLMs after our two years training together, now being sent on our way to serve God

in the Diocese."

Isaac McNish, Diocese of Truro Head of Ministry, said: "The Licensed Lay Ministry service was a time of real joy and gratitude. As new ministers were licensed and others renewed their commitment, it was a reminder of the depth of calling and service across our diocese."

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

OPPORTUNITY FOR A FREE ECO CHURCH PLAQUE

The Diocese of Truro is in a position to offer churches a free Eco Church plaque if they attain their award between October and December 2025.

People are being encouraged to proceed with their Eco Church Audits.

Creation Care Champions may well surprise themselves and achieve a Bronze award quite easily.

The plaque is a way to celebrate the church's commitment to caring for

creation and to inspire others in the community to engage with creation care.

Those who will be achieving an Eco Church award before the end of the year and would like a free plaque are being urged to get in touch with Rosey Sanders rosey.sanders@trurodiocese.org.uk

READ THE LATEST CREATION CARE NEWSLETTER HERE

CREATION CARE NETWORK USEFUL LINKS

The next Creation Care Network gathering is on November 13, from 10am-12pm.

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**

CLICK HERE TO LISTEN

Encouraging links between churches & their local schools

SCHOOL CREATION CARE WORKSHOPS

CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE POSTER

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](#)
trurodiocese.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 301388 EMAIL CLARE.GREEN@TRURO.ANGLICAN.ORG

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