

# OUR NEWS

## JANUARY 2026



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Litter picking, growing food and eco-friendly transport were just some of the suggestions voiced by children across the diocese when they met to discuss how to improve the fate of our planet.

Around 15 primary school pupils, who are part of church school eco committees or councils, met at the Diocese of Truro's Speak Up event at Old Cathedral School. Others also joined the day-long session online.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

## DIOCESAN SYNOD NEXT MONTH

Members of Diocesan Synod will meet in February for the first meeting of 2026.

The opening worship will be led by Local Worship Leaders before Bishop David will give his Presidential Address.

Among the items on the agenda for discussion are an update on the Diocesan Plan for Change and Renewal, an update on the Growing Younger initiative and an annual report on

safeguarding. The main agenda item will be a consultation on the church buildings strategy.

Diocesan Synod meetings are hybrid. Members of the public are welcome to attend as observers but are not permitted to contribute or vote.

More information is available on the diocesan website [here](#).

## SAVE THE DATE: THY KINGDOM COME

This year's Thy Kingdom Come is all about the presence of God.

The God who is with us in the everyday – in the joys and sorrows of life (and everything in between) and the One who, through His spirit, longs to reveal Himself to those who do not yet know Him.

From the story of Ruth to the story of Gideon, from the story of Elijah to the story of the early church who waited for the promised Holy Spirit to come – over the 11 days we will explore a different Bible story each day, which demonstrates God's transformative presence, power and love at work in the lives of people and places.

Our hope is that as we pray for our five people, they will also experience the life-changing love of God and choose to follow Him.

For more information and resources visit [Thy Kingdom Come](#)

**RECOGNISE** **RESPOND** **RECORD** **REPORT**

## IMPROVING THE VICTIM SURVIVOR JOURNEY: WHAT MUST THE CHURCH DO?

**SAFEGUARDING CONFERENCE**

**ST ERME COMMUNITY CENTRE, TRISPEN**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

**10AM - 2.30PM**

**BOOK HERE**

# DEANERY LIFE



We are sharing stories about the people and the many vital roles they play in the life of our diocese.

## REVD JONATHAN HUFF

The Revd Jonathan Huff strongly believes 'God does not call the equipped but equips the called' – and he can see the Holy Spirit working alongside him through life.

As an oversight minister, Jonathan covers three churches in the St Austell area: Holy Trinity in St Austell, All Saints in Pentewan and St Levan in Porthpean. Each congregation serving its community in its own unique way.

"I have a real mix bag of traditions, styles, preferences, and approaches to doing life and community together." He says. "Oversight ministry in this context looks like nurturing leaders within each community who understand this, recognising their own characteristics but being willing to work with me to integrate these into the larger whole.

"I am supported by a team – some employed, many volunteers – so, oversight ministry also means investing primarily in a small core who can then take responsibility for various



areas of ministry and leadership themselves."

Jonathan says his role has many positives, such as being surrounded by a good team, seeing the Holy Spirit work through the congregations in different ways. Another is the privilege of ministering in a spiritually mature community in which people recognise mission and ministry is God's call on all believers, not just the parish priest or the employed few.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

## REBECCA GILES

Rebecca Giles works in multiple roles for East Wivelshire deanery and says the things she does are 'a really good fit' with her skills set.

She is Kit Hill Area Administrator, East Wivelshire Deanery Administrator and Communications Champion. She supports 11 local churches and assists the Strategic Rural Dean with administration across 32 churches in the deanery.

She explains: "My responsibilities include coordinating policy and communications, maintaining directories, producing newsletters, and managing the deanery website and social media to ensure clear and consistent information."

She also helps the Deanery Implementation Team with its communications strategy, provides practical guidance to ministers and volunteers, and promotes community events with creative outreach.

She says: "Recently, I produced a collective programme of activities across the Callington cluster for December's Christmas services and events, encouraging people to share in the celebrations across the benefice.

"I also coordinated the Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Callington, which featured around 20 trees sponsored by local businesses and organisations."

She says: "In recent months I was asked to join the Deanery Implementation Team and it felt like a good place to get better acquainted to the 32 churches and hopefully share some of my skill set."

[READ REBECCA'S STORY HERE](#)

## ANN BRADBURY

From creating newsletters to finding donkeys, being Deanery Administrator and DiT Secretary is a varied and interesting role for Ann Bradbury.

Ann has lived in Cornwall for 26 years after relocating from Staffordshire. Church has always been part of her life and she is also churchwarden and organist at St Wynallow Church.

Becoming Deanery Administrator, with DiT (Deanery Implementation Team) and CIC Secretary duties included, was a natural step for her when she was appointed in 2023.

She says: "The role came at a perfect time when my life was changing – God definitely had a plan for me."

Ann says the role is constantly evolving and is very busy. It was a new position when she started and so with Rural Dean, Revd Heidi Huntley also arriving at the same time, they were able to work together and make the role work for the deanery.

Ann is the main point of contact for general enquiries and is involved



in safeguarding, completing DBS checks, creating a monthly newsletter, and more. She tracks safeguarding training across the deanery for Churchwardens/PCCs and helps to organise any face-to-face training sessions and assists those carrying out online training.

She also is the first port of call for those wanting to get married in a church in the deanery by assisting with the required initial checks.

[READ ANN'S STORY HERE](#)

# HISTORIC BELLS RING AGAIN

Historic bells have started to ring again after 50 years of silence thanks to £30,000 in grants and fundraising.

The bells were removed from St Sampson's, South Hill, in November 2021 due to safety concerns.

Four years of fundraising and support from grant funders means they have now been restored and reinstated in the church tower.

A crowd gathered to welcome them back when they arrived on a lorry from Taylors Bellfoundry, Loughborough. The driver was reported to comment: "There was a certain amount of pressure as I unloaded them. I don't normally have an audience for my deliveries."

Just six days later the bells sounded again – inviting people to church. The restoration was thanks to the support of grant funders including The National

Lottery Heritage Fund, Church Care, Aurelius Trust, The Elmgrant Trust, The Sharpe Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation, individual donors, local fundraisers, and fundraising events – helping to reach the target of £30,000.

The ring of five bells at St Sampson's Church comprises four cast in 1698 by John Pennington and John Stadler, and a tenor bell cast in 1831 by William and Charles Pannell. Each bell is embellished with the names of local people from their era, serving as a unique testament to the community's history and heritage.

A neighbour said: "We are very excited to hear them again."

[READ MORE HERE](#)



## 'OUTSTANDING' AWARD FOR CHURCHYARD

A team of volunteers tending to a churchyard in the diocese has been recognised by the Royal Horticultural Society and South West in Bloom for its outstanding achievements in 2025.

David and Jean Glasson care for Illogan's five-acre churchyard and lead a small band of volunteers.

Royal Horticultural Society officials, with South West in Bloom, have given Saint Illogan Parish Churchyard a Level Five – outstanding, for 2025 'It's Your Neighbourhood' award.

A small group of volunteers meet every Thursday from 10am – 12pm to help in the churchyard. David said they are always looking for more volunteers. People are welcome to turn up on a Thursday morning to help.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

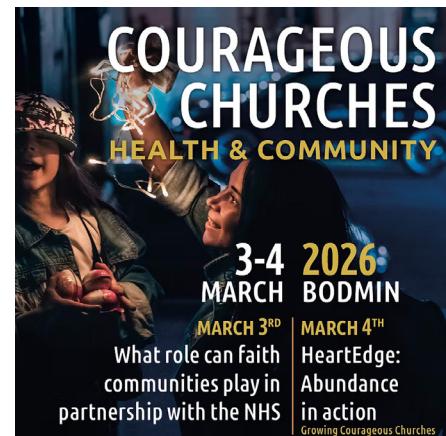
## I LOVE PHILLACK CHURCH

After living in Australia for more than 50 years, Eileen West has travelled across the globe to Cornwall where the local church community have welcomed her in.

Eileen was not afraid to move into a new community because she knew wherever there was a church, she would have a place – and she wasn't wrong, thanks to the congregation at Phillack church.

"I always find I have been made welcome in the church."

Eileen is now becoming involved with the PCC and also volunteers with the local Rec Youth Group. Eileen says: "I love Phillack church. I also love the music and the organ. It is lovely to go there, to feel close to Jesus and sense his presence."



The workshops will centre round health topics such as 'The nature and impact of Parish Nursing' and 'Community Health and Wellbeing Worker projects in Cornwall'.

Paul Holley said: "The intertwining of faith and health has been at the heart of the Church's ministry from the beginning. What we can demonstrate in Bodmin is how this work can be renewed in partnership with the NHS amidst significant health inequalities.

"With the aid of parish nurses and NHS-funded Community Health and Wellbeing Workers, we are making a major difference to the quality of people's lives."

[READ MORE HERE](#)

## HEALTH & FAITH CONFERENCE THIS MARCH

How faith communities can work with the NHS will be one of the topics at a conference being planned for Bodmin in spring.

Members of The Bodmin Way and HeartEdge are inviting a number of key speakers to take part in the event, which is due to take place on March 3 and 4, 2026, at St Petroc's Church in Bodmin.

The two-day conference will be chaired by Revd Paul Holley, Team Rector of the Bodmin Team Ministry and chair of Bodmin Way, former founder and coordinator of the Anglican Health Network.

Speakers include:

- Dr Ian Smith – former Executive Director of the Office of the Director-General of the World Health Organisation.
- Dr Sally Smith – former Senior Adviser at the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS for community engagement on HIV with a focus on faith-based organisations.
- Bishop of Truro, the Rt Revd David Williams.
- Revd Dr Sam Wells, vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields.

# OVER 1,000 PUPILS ENJOY ECO SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

More than 1,000 children taking part in Eco Schools across the diocese have racked up some impressive stats while helping the environment over the last 12 months.

The primary school pupils, who have secured a green flag award for their eco school work, should be proud of what they have accomplished in 2025 for the planet.

An impact report has revealed that over the past 12 months 1,700 school children have attended an Eco School with a green flag award, 219 of whom took part in a litter pick. The pupils have also helped to plant 514 trees, and 131 children have grown produce.

In the last year, 356 natural habitats have been created and/or maintained, 220 kilograms of waste has been diverted from landfills and 36 energy-saving devices installed or maintained.

The Eco Schools initiative has also seen 163 external collaborators and 221 young people helping with the 5R's projects – Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle.

Clare Green, Schools' Creation Care Officer at Truro Diocese, said: "It's great to see just how many of our children are passionate about Creation Care, well done to all those schools who have been participating in eco projects.

## BRINGING CREATION CARE TO YOUR COMMUNITY

Dr Sharon Willoughby, Diocesan Environment Officer, is available to offer support visits and talks. Sharon is happy to meet online or in person with you, your PCC or congregation to



"It's even more incredible to think that these figures only include the schools that achieved their green flag in 2025, many more of our schools are working hard on similar projects either through the Eco Schools programme or in other ways.

"What an impact our young people are having."

Find out your church or school can get involved [here](#).

## NEW FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR CHURCH BUILDINGS

The Government has announced a new funding package for arts and culture, including places of worship.

In recognition of the important role religious heritage buildings play in the UK's national story, a new £92 million fund called the Places of Worship Renewal Fund will replace the £23 million Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme and bring these important buildings into line with other heritage assets. It will give them access to the same level of financial support from the government as historic houses, monuments and other heritage sites.

The full announcement puts this in a wider context of places that provide free access to heritage and cultural sites, a sense of place. It also emphasises the need to direct financial support to those who need it most.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

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/](http://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 301308 EMAIL CLARE.GREEN@TRURO.ANGLICAN.ORG



## CREATION CARE NETWORK USEFUL LINKS

The next Creation Care Network gathering is on February 12, from 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](#)
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