

OUR NEWS

FEBRUARY 2026



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SAFEGUARDING CONFERENCE

The Victim and Survivor Journey took centre stage as St Erme Community Centre was packed for the annual diocesan Safeguarding Conference.

Under the theme Improving the Victim Survivor Journey: What must the Church do? conference attendees heard from keynote speaker Julian Whiting, a survivor of abuse in both boarding school and church settings, and an advocate for change. Alongside him, Revd Will Harwood, Priest in Charge of St John, Truro Benefice, member of General Synod, the Archbishops' Council and National Safeguarding Strategy Group, also a survivor, addressed the over 135 people present.

Julian, a retired police officer, spoke with honesty and compassion about safeguarding, justice, and cultural change; highlighting ways faith communities and organisations can become safer, more transparent, and better equipped to support those who have been harmed.

Both went on to join the Rt Revd David Williams, Bishop of Truro, and Justine Hosking, Independent Chair of the Diocesan Safeguarding Scrutiny Panel, in a question-and-answer panel session. All four responded to thoughtful and intelligent questions from conference attendees.

The event also enabled those there to spend time speaking together on the important subject and reflecting on how to make the Church safer.

Andy Earl, Head of Safeguarding and Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, said: "On behalf of the safeguarding team, I want to thank everyone who attended the conference. The event was really well attended and there were some really good interactions with people.



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SAFEGUARDING CONFERENCE

The afternoon scenarios session led by Mandy Wells went really well and you could see and hear how engaged people were. The team and I will now reflect on the feedback and any learning from the day."

Speaking after the event, Julian said: "It was an honour to speak at the Diocese of Truro's safeguarding conference. Andy Earl, Bishop David and the team made me feel welcome and included throughout. The atmosphere was uplifting, and I felt valued and heard. I commend the diocese for genuine survivor engagement, mutual learning and prayerful support - naming and celebrating Christ's healing work amid past suffering, for all involved."



**FREE PARISH TRAINING
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ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE TO BUILDINGS STRATEGY DRAFT

Diocesan Synod members gave an enthusiastic response to the diocese's draft buildings strategy when it was presented at Diocesan Synod on February 28.

The strategy sets out how the diocese will support PCCs in their stewardship of their church buildings. Its main objective is to ensure any support provided responds to what parishes have said they need.

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. £2million of this was allocated to support parishes in their stewardship of historic church buildings.

The paper has been through an extensive consultation process, and

the synod presentation was members' opportunity to give their views.

Patrick Newberry, member from Stoke Climsland, and founder of the Cornwall Buildings Group, said: "It is an excellent paper about helping people overcome the daunting process of looking after these buildings. Great paper, great ideas... It could do a lot to help people blow away the myths."

Revd Paul Salaman from St Austell said: "Great paper and it's clear where the intention of money being spent is. The work of Faye and Ben has been really good, but they are thinly spread resource. Is there some middle ground where there could be a network of fabric teams across the diocese supporting each other?"

[READ MORE](#)

FULL HOUSE FOR STRATEGIC RURAL DEANS

Diocese of Truro has announced all Strategic Rural Dean roles created to support its parishes and deaneries have now been filled.

After more than a year of vacancies, there will now be a dozen Strategic Rural Deans overseeing those working and worshipping in the diocese – after a commissioning on March 12.

The role of Strategic Rural Dean, introduced in November 2024, includes supporting clergy and helping deaneries to action their deanery plans. These plans enable every church to develop their vision for worshipping God while meeting the needs of their local community.

Archdeacon of Cornwall The Ven Clive Hogger, said: "Our Strategic Rural Deans offer locally-focussed oversight and leadership and play a key role in enabling the parishes and churches in their areas to grow together in becoming ever more fruitful and sustainable.

"They are a remarkable, diverse and gifted group of people who in turn are supported by their archdeacon and by a programme of learning and

equipping and who meet together regularly to encourage each other and to pray.

"This feels like a significant moment in the life of the Diocese of Truro as we seek to step ever more into our shared calling from God to honour Him and to serve the people of Cornwall, the Isles of Scilly, and a tiny part of Devon."

Isaac McNish, Head of Ministry at Diocese of Truro, said: "Strategic Rural Deans are a vital part of the Oversight-Local pattern of ministry within the Diocese of Truro. They are leaders of mission across groups of benefices, helping clergy and local leaders to collaborate more deeply, share wisdom, and support one another in serving their communities.

"To have all 12 in post is a hopeful sign of a Church discerning together where God is already at work and joining in that mission with confidence, generosity, and hope."

[THE FULL LIST OF STRATEGIC RURAL DEANS AVAILABLE HERE](#)

CROSS OF ST PIRAN AWARDS THIS WEEKEND

People from across the diocese will receive the Cross of St Piran on March 7 in recognition of their selfless work in churches, communities, and schools.

Each year the Cross of St Piran Award service is held to thank people who go above and beyond. This year, as well as the usual deanery and bishop awards, there will also be awards for work in Creation Care and schools.

More than 30 people will receive the accolade for their efforts in creation care, care of church buildings, local leadership, long service, support for community initiatives and schools work and more.

The Cross of St Piran will be presented to them in a special service with the Bishop of Truro, The Rt Revd David Williams, in St Piran's Church, Perranzabuloe.

Bishop David said: "I am so much looking forward to the Cross of St Piran awards and highlighting the role these unsung heroes play in the Church in Cornwall."

"These are ordinary men and women doing extraordinary things, often unrecognised and unacknowledged. These individuals have between them made a significant contribution to the Church in Cornwall."

AWARD WINNERS

Ley Adewole – Carnmarth South
 Vivien Benjamin – East Wivelshire
 Sandy Cheshire – Stratton
 Roger Clode – St Austell
 Jane Darlington – Powder
 Penny Ellis – Penwith
 Wendy Francis – Penwith
 Mary Gilbert – Kerrier
 Katie May – Trigg Minor and Bodmin
 Julia Mackenzie – Powder
 Michael Rowe – St Austell
 Maureen Rundle – Pydar
 Caroline Stone – Trigg Major
 Mike Sturgess – West Wivelshire
 Susan Truscott – Powder
 David Woodhouse – North Carnmarth

CREATION CARE AWARD WINNERS

Andrew and Sally Prince – Powder



Simon and Caroline Norris – East Wivelshire

CHURCH SCHOOLS AWARD WINNERS

Nicola Bonell – St Mary's Church of England Nursery Primary School

Nelly Hammonds – St Tudy Church of England Primary School

Dave Hannah – Duloe Church of England Primary Academy

Suzie Hartshorn – St Nicolas Church of England Primary, St Barnabas Mat

Beth Horwell – Bishop Bronescombe Church of England Primary (Rainbow Academy Trust)

Patrick – St Mary's Church of England Nursery Primary School

Kirsteen Mims – St Mellion Church of England Primary School – St Barnabas – MAT School

Tom Riggs – St Barnabas MAT

Louise Roseveare – St Issey Church of England School, Rainbow MAT

Emma Seager – King Charles Church of England School

Mary Ann Trethewey – St Mary's Church of England School

You can find out more about this year's recipients on the Diocese of Truro website where we will be sharing their stories over the coming weeks.

STRONGER SAFEGUARDING SUPPORT AS ROLE GROWS

Even stronger safeguarding support is being offered to parishes as Mandy Wells has evolved her role from providing safeguarding training, to now supporting parishes as Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Officer – Parish Support and Training.

Mandy, who has a wealth of experience thanks to her background in the health sector, is able to assist those in the Diocese of Truro's parishes with any questions, calls for training or assistance.

Mandy has been the diocese's safeguarding trainer for eight years – delivering training and inductions for parish safeguarding officers.

She will continue the training but will also be offering support to parish safeguarding officers when and where needed.

Mandy said: "Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility."

"I am part of the Diocese of Truro's safeguarding team and my role within that is to build relationships in the parish around safeguarding."

READ MORE HERE

JOIN THE COMMUNITY AREA PARTNERSHIP

People from churches across the diocese are being invited to join their Community Area Partnership (CAP) group, coordinated by Cornwall Council.

There are 12 partnerships in the county and the aim is to bring people and communities together in order to hear about issues affecting the area.

In the past, the CAP members have met with Cornwall councillors and town and parish councils, NHS representatives, police, Voluntary Sector Forum members, and Cornwall Council officials.

Paul Phillips, Diocese of Truro's Social Responsibility Officer, believes church members are an important part of local communities and so is encouraging them to bring their experiences along to the partnerships too.

READ MORE HERE

HAVE YOU COMPLETED YOUR ENERGY FOOTPRINT TOOLKIT?

People across the diocese are being given an extra incentive to complete the Energy Footprint Toolkit (EFT) for their church building – a carbon-cutting heated cushion.

The EFT is an essential part of the Church of England's shared journey to Net Zero 2030 and helps to create baseline data from which the Diocese of Truro can chart national church progress.

It was created to measure the carbon footprints of all in-scope buildings within the Church of England. This will enable the General Synod to monitor progress towards the target of net zero emissions by 2030.

Diocese of Truro's Building, Environment and Land (BEL) team members are offering the chance for those completing their EFT to win a Munich heat cushion – if the toolkit is submitted, and the questions 100% completed, before the end of March.

GRANT FUNDS CHURCH IMPROVEMENTS

A church in the diocese can now open its doors to everyone thanks to the installation of a new wheelchair ramp.

After securing thousands of pounds from the Diocese of Truro's Minor Repairs and Improvements grant, a ramp has now been installed inside the entrance to St Mawgan Church – and it is already in use.

People are being invited to go along to the church and see the ramp for themselves. The church is open every day usually from 9am, until about dusk.

Faye Edwardes, the diocese's Church Buildings Officer, said: "I love these cushions, they are designed to fit most seats and pews and are easy to carry around. They are battery-powered, cordless and rechargeable."

Dr Sharon Willoughby, Diocesan Environment Officer at Diocese of Truro, said: "Making sure all the questions are answered on the EFTs really helps us measure the Diocesan progress towards net zero emissions – really vital missional work."

For more information about the EFT visit the Diocese of Truro's website [page](#).

The ramp is part of the 'Restoration and Heritage Re-interpretation of St Mawgan-in-Pydar church for community and visitors' project which has been awarded a grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Faye Edwardes, Church Buildings Officer, said: "Improvements that help parishes to welcome those with access needs to our churches are always worthwhile and we look forward to seeing more proposals for such projects across the diocese."

GENEROUS GIVERS DONATE MORE IN 2025

Generous givers have donated an amazing £12,779.04 to the 2025 Cornish Christmas Giving Catalogue – that's over £1,500 more than the year before.

After weeks of careful sums, the Diocese of Truro's finance team are pleased to announce the huge figure – which is the net total of all donations given to the different causes.

Charities benefiting this year included the foodbanks, iSight Cornwall, Beach Guardian, Hidden Help, Carefree Cornwall, Georgia's Voice and CoachHouse Food Hub.

Rosey Sanders, Operations and Project Assistant at the diocese, said: "It never ceases to amaze me how generous the people of Cornwall are when there is a need.

"Thank you to you wonderful people for your generosity; your actions will make a real impact on individual lives going forward."

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.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

WORLD INFO OR HELP - CALL 01872 301388 EMAIL CLARE.GREEN@TRURO.ANGLICAN.ORG

CREATION CARE

DIocese of TRURO EDUCATION

CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE POSTER

CREATION CARE NETWORK USEFUL LINKS

The next Creation Care Network gathering is on March 12, from 10am.

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

READ THE LATEST CREATION CARE NEWSLETTER HERE

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DIocese OF TRURO

PODCASTS