

# OUR NEWS

## DECEMBER 2025



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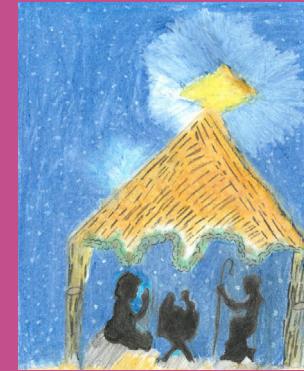
WATCH IT  
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DIOCESE  
OF TRURO

Christmas  
Message



As he gets ready to mark his first Christmas in the diocese, Bishop David shares his hopes and prayers in his Christmas message. Watch it here.



**WINNING CHRISTMAS  
CARD ENTRIES - SEE  
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## CHRISTMAS GIVING CATALOGUE RAISES £5K IN FIRST MONTH

Thousands of pounds have already been donated to charities in the Diocese of Truro's Cornish Christmas Giving Catalogue – in one month.

The diocese's 2025 Cornish Christmas Giving Catalogue, featuring 20 local groups and charities, officially launched last month and to date has seen more than £5,000 in donations.

The catalogue, which can be downloaded [here](#), showcases what charity representatives would like help with this year. Items listed range from £5, for things such as art supplies, up to £90 for therapy sessions.



Rosey Sanders, Operations and Project Assistant at Diocese of Truro, said: "It is heartening to see the generosity of the people of Cornwall thinking of others in need this Christmas."

"Each and every donation is appreciated and can make a real difference to individuals in ways that alter difficult situations into change and hope."

"Thank you to all for your continued support."

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

## BISHOP HUGH FAREWELL

As Bishop Hugh comes to the end of his time as Bishop of St Germans and looks forward to becoming Bishop of Worcester, there are a number of key dates which may be of interest:

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

**December 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.

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

Bishop Hugh would love to see as many people as possible attending.





## JOIN THE CAMPAIGN

The Diocese of Truro has joined with organisations around the world in shining a spotlight on domestic abuse through the United Nations' 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign.

The campaign, which runs until December 10 (Human Rights Day), is an annual opportunity to raise awareness of the challenges faced by women and girls and calls for global solidarity to end violence against women and girls everywhere.

Violence against women is a major public health and human rights crisis, affecting almost one in three women in their lifetime. Yet, violence against women is preventable.

Truro Cathedral are again hosting the LOUD Fence during the 16 Days. Pop in and add your message to the fence.

The Truro branch of Mother's Union is encouraging churches to join in with the Red Chair Project. This asks churches to reserve one chair draped in red fabric with a sign highlighting facts about domestic violence. The empty chair serves as a powerful reminder that every 11 minutes globally a woman or girl dies at the hands of an intimate partner or family member.

Lora Prynne, Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Officer for the diocese, said: "We are proud to be supporting 16 Days of Action this year alongside Truro Cathedral. There are some amazing training opportunities running throughout the 16 days; we would encourage people to take a look at the Safer Cornwall website to see what's available. There are also a number of resources which we would encourage parishes to display and circulate amongst their networks."

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

# ADVENT ADVENTURES OFFERED

Churches have been provided with resources to help them welcome children into their buildings this Christmas.

The Advent Adventures resources have been put on Diocese of Truro's [website](#) to help people run workshops for schoolchildren in churches.

During the summer months, more than 1,000 children from schools across the diocese signed up to take part in Christian-themed Creation Care workshops in church yards during the summer months. Now the days are getting colder, children are being invited inside churches to learn how people prepare for Christmas.

The Advent package of resources, developed jointly by Tina Venton and Jane Wheeler from Carmarth South Deanery and Clare Green, Diocese of Truro's Schools' Creation Care Officer, fit in perfectly with the required primary school curriculum and cover a number of objectives detailed in the Cornwall RE Syllabus followed by all Cornish Primary schools.

Titled Advent Adventures, the workshop is for those in Years 1 and 2 and can also be adapted for early years or lower juniors.

The workshop explores the Christmas story, discusses advent as a time



of preparation and invites children to take part in practical activities involving craft, drama and storytelling.

Clare Green said: "These workshops tell the Christmas story and how people prepare for it with Advent.

"They are a simple and practical way for churches to link with their local schools and for children to enjoy a church visit with a purpose."

Any church interested in running a workshop with schoolchildren can contact [Clare Green](#) for advice.

## 2026 BUDGET ACCEPTED BY DIOCESAN SYNOD

At a meeting of Diocesan Synod, members voted (47 to 9 with one abstention) to accept the 2026 budget. It had been formally approved at a meeting of the Bishop's Diocesan Council in early November.

The Truro Diocesan Board of Finance (TDBF) anticipated a planned deficit of £4.476 million for 2026, driven by support for local plans, use of reserves, and a focus on communities facing deprivation. Changes in income recognition following auditor findings have also contributed to the deficit, as income is now recognised when received rather than when spent.

The budget is deemed affordable, based on an increase in the Ministry and Mission Fund (MMF) contributions. The budget also aligns with the deanery plans which emphasises mission and ministry.

Sophie Eddy, Director of Finance and Assets, said: "The budget deficit is planned and affordable. This deficit arises from the continuing conscious decision to support local deanery plans, from the decisions to use reserves to support parishes rather than further grow the Balance Sheet and from a rebalancing of the shared resources towards communities that are experiencing deprivation."

Speaking after synod, Revd Canon Simon Cade, Diocesan Secretary, said: "The budget reflects a commitment to supporting local communities, enhancing ministry, and addressing environmental responsibilities while managing financial risks effectively."

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)



# 500 ENTRIES TO CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Hundreds of creative designs have been flooding into Church House for the Diocese of Truro's annual Christmas card competition.

Every year the competition is held for children attending church schools in the diocese.

The prize for each winner is an art set and all winners and highly commended designs will receive a certificate. They will also be on display in the cathedral until December 8.

This year the competition's theme was around the verse in Luke 2:14 – "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests," and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing – Glory to the Newborn King."

More than 500 designs were sent in by children aged four years to 11 years old from 14 schools across the diocese.

## WINNERS

- Bishop David and Bishop Hugh's card winner: Aliyah, St Mary's Church of England Primary, Truro.

- Bishop David's card: Prisha, St Mary's Church of England Primary, Truro.
- Bishop Hugh's card: Elijah, St Francis Church of England Primary.
- Lee Moscato's card: Evelyn, Everly, Lottie, Lydia, St Francis Church of England Primary.
- Dean of Truro's card: Scarlett, King Charles Church of England Primary.
- Diocesan Secretary's card: Honor, Duloe Church of England Primary.
- Archdeacon of Cornwall's card: Ezra, St Mary's Church of England School, Penzance.

Judges included the Bishop of Truro, The Rt Revd David Williams, Bishop of St Germans The Rt Revd Hugh Nelson, Archdeacon Clive Hogger and Lee Moscato, the Diocesan Director of Education.

Lee said: "We were, again, overwhelmed by the quality and quantity of entries.

"Each of us chose entries that would be used on our Christmas cards this year.

"Our schools never fail to respond to exciting opportunities like this. I want to thank each school or family that sent in entries – it was an absolute joy to look at them. Having them displayed for all to see at our offices in Truro created a real buzz of excitement."





## PRAYER BOOK AWARD FOR KERSTIN LEWIS

A woman from the diocese has been recognised with a special award in thanks for her work with the Prayer Book Society.

Kerstin Lewis, from Advent, is the Secretary of the Prayer Book Society (PBS), Truro Branch, and has worked for the last 10 years promoting and assisting the use of the Book of Common Prayer in worship and helps clergy to make use it in their regular services.

The Kilmister Award, given to lay people who make an outstanding voluntary contribution to the life of the Prayer Book Society, was presented to Kerstin at the PBS conference in Cirencester.

She said: "It was a tremendous honour to receive the award. It was in recognition of the work I have done and continue to do in the diocese.

"I am still in shock to have received it."

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

## YEW TREES 'A LIVING LINK' FROM CHRIST

A special ceremony took place in St Columb Major when cuttings from a Millennium Yew tree were planted in the church yard – creating a 'living link' from Christ to future generations.

The young trees were sourced and donated by Jacqueline Dow who had cuttings from the Millennium Yew in St Mawgan-in-Meneage.

During the event, Bishop Hugh read Isaiah 55:12-13. He then helped shovel the final soil to the bases of the saplings which were blessed before a final prayer.

He said: "Planting a tree is always an act of hope. To plant a yew tree – which will grow for centuries, long beyond our own lifetimes – is a particularly profound expression of that hope.

"I pray they will stand as an enduring

witness to faith and hope long into the future."

Those attending also included the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, councillors, members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and Jacqueline Dow.

Councillor Scot Taylor, Mayor, said: "The town council was honoured and delighted to welcome Bishop Hugh to the parish. We are particularly grateful that he blessed the yew trees, which are a living link from the time of Christ to future generations."

[READ THE FULL STORY 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/resource/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

DIOCESE OF TRURO EDUCATION

## CREATION CARE NETWORK USEFUL LINKS

The next Creation Care Network gathering is on December 11, 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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READ THE LATEST CREATION CARE NEWSLETTER HERE

DIOCESE OF TRURO  
PODCASTS