



How Truro created Christmas musical history

The Nine Lessons and Carols service is held in churches all across the world today. Less well known are its origins in a wooden cathedral, and how it was meant to keep locals from too much of the wrong kind of Christmas spirit

On 20 May 1880, the Prince of Wales and Duke of Cornwall laid the foundation stones of Truro Cathedral amid great pomp and circumstance. Part of our history we trumpet less often is that there was a good deal of local opposition to the new building. Not only did some residents lose their homes to make way for the cathedral but, later that year Truro's beloved 16th-century parish church was also demolished, save for one aisle which was incorporated into John Loughborough Pearson's new cathedral whose three spires now soar heavenward from the heart of the city.

It is in that bittersweet context that, for Christmas Eve that year, Edward White Benson, the first Bishop of Truro, devised a new service: the Nine Lessons with Carols. His intention was at least partly to keep his flock from enjoying too much of the wrong kind of festive spirit in the local pubs.

Taking nine biblical passages from the old and new testaments he interspersed them with various carols, hymns and three "anthems" (from Handel's Messiah – For unto us a child is born, There were shepherds abiding in the field and the Hallelujah chorus) to tell the Christmas story. The service began by setting out mankind's need for a Redeemer – the first "lesson" recounting Adam's "original sin" in eating an apple from the tree from which God has commanded him not to eat. The account of Jesus's birth is from St Luke's gospel. And the final readings focus on what its birth means for us. Benson also decided that the first reader should be a humble chorister, each subsequent one progressing through the cathedral hierarchy up to the bishop, a tradition that continues to this day.



DECEMBER SERVICES

Sunday 7th December

- 9:30am Phillack Holy Communion
- 9:30am St Elwyn Eucharist
- 9:30am St Erth Holy Communion
- 11am Gwithian Holy Communion
- 11am Gwinear Holy Communion
- 4pm Phillack Bereavement Service

Sunday 14th December

- 9:30am St Elwyn Eucharist
- 10am St Erth Christingle
- 11am Gwithian Christingle
- 4pm Gwinear Carols and readings
- 4pm Phillack Christingle

Sunday 21st December

- 9.30am Phillack Nine Lessons and Carols
- 11am Gwithian Nine Lessons and Carols
- 4pm St Elwyn's Nine Lessons and Carols
- 6pm Gwinear Carol Service
- 6pm St Erth Nine Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve 24th December

- 4pm St Elwyn's - Nativity
- 9pm Phillack Candlelight Holy Communion
- 9pm Gwinear Candlelight Holy Communion
- 11.30pm St Erth Midnight Communion
- 11.30pm St Elwyn's Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 25th December

- 9.30am St Erth Holy Communion
- 10.30am Gwinear Holy Communion
- 11am Gwithian Holy Communion

Sunday 28th December

- **11am Phillack—Team Service**

COPPERHOUSE COMMUNITY CAFÉ

Phillack Church Memorial
Hall. Copperhouse, Hayle

11.30-2.30pm. All

welcome - every Thursday

we serve a variety of soups

& sandwiches. Hot and

cold drinks and cakes are also available

GWITHIAN CRAFTY WARM SPACE

Runs each Friday from 1pm until 3pm with soup and light refreshments. Bring your own craft to work on, or participate in one of our small workshops. Just turn up on the day and enjoy the friendly welcome!

GWINEAR BELL RINGING

Practice evenings 1st Tuesday of every month. 7.30 to 9pm. Come and take a look! Contact Kevin Green kevingreen100@yahoo.com

MEET & PRAY

We will meet again at usual 10am for 10.30-11am on Monday 1st December

MUSIC AT ST ELWYN'S CHURCH

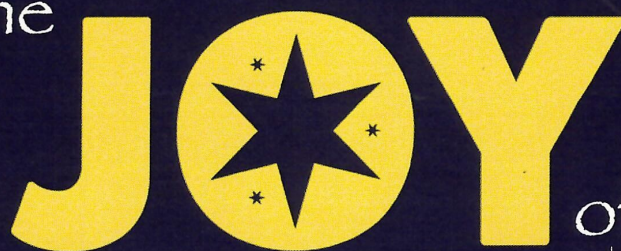
The next concert at St Elwyn's will be Local Vocalz on the 6th December starting at 7pm

"COME INSIDE" - ADVENT EVENINGS AT THE

RECTORY—This Advent we will spend three evenings of fellowship and reflection on the theme "The Joy of Waiting". Monday 1st, 8th and 15th December 7-8.30pm



Share the



of Christmas

Across the Godrevy team

Services

Sunday 7th December

Phillack Church - 4pm Bereavement Service

Sunday 14th December

St Erth Church - 10am Christingle

Gwithian Church - 11am Christingle

Gwinear Church - 4pm Carols and readings

Phillack Church - 4pm Christingle

Sunday 21st December

Phillack Church - 9.30am Nine Lessons and Carols

Gwithian Church - 11am Nine Lessons and Carols

St Elwyn's Church - 4pm Nine Lessons and Carols

St Erth Church - 6pm Nine Lessons and Carols

Wednesday 24th December - Christmas Eve

St Elwyn's Church - 4pm Nativity

Phillack Church - 9pm Candlelight Holy Communion

Gwinear Church - 9pm Candlelight Holy Communion

St Erth Church - 11.30pm Midnight Communion

St Elwyn's Church - 11.30pm Midnight Mass

Thursday 25th December - Christmas Day

St Erth Church - 9.30am Holy Communion

Gwinear Church - 10.30am Holy Communion

Gwithian Church - 11am Holy Communion



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

more information at godrevytm.org.uk

Bereavement Service at Christmas

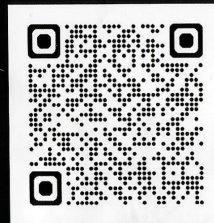
*We invite you, your family
And friends to our service of
reflection for those living with the pain
of loss this Christmas*

4.00pm on Sunday 7 December

Phillack Parish Church

20a Churchtown rd, Phillack, Hayle

TR27 5AE



for more information, please visit
<https://godrevytm.org.uk>
Rev Michelle Porter-Babbage
01736 759754

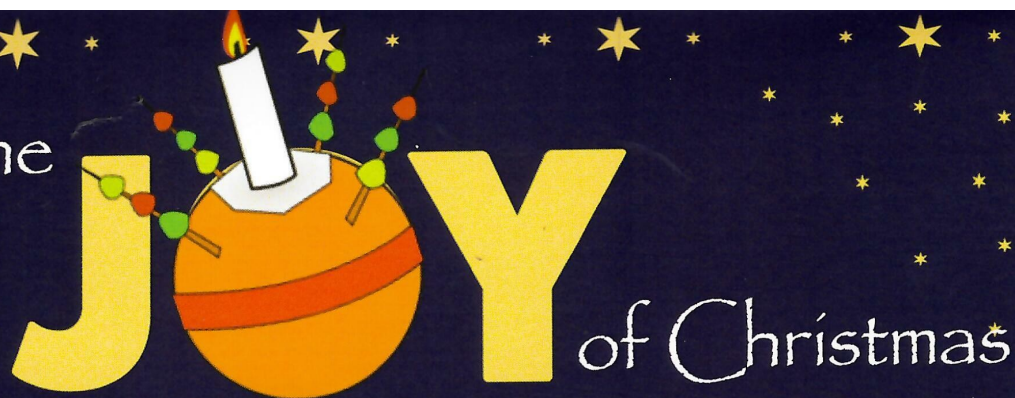
The Bereavement Service

**A service of reflection and
thanksgiving for those living with the
pain of loss.**

**Sunday 7 December
4.00pm**

*The names of loved ones will be read out during the service,
as we both remember and give thanks for them before God.
If you would like your loved ones included and have not
already been approached, please ask a member of the
welcome team to add their names to the list.*

Share the



of Christmas

Across the Godrevy  team

Christingle Services

Sunday 14th December

St Erth Church - 10am

Gwithian Church - 11am

Phillack Church - 4pm



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

more information at godrevytm.org.uk

St Elwyn's Church
Invites you to our...

*Dress up as
your favourite
nativity
character!*



Christmas Eve Nativity Service



24th December
St Elwyn's Church, Hayle

3.30pm Doors Open

4pm Start

**We invite you to come and
join in as we tell the
nativity story and sing
well-known carols
together.**

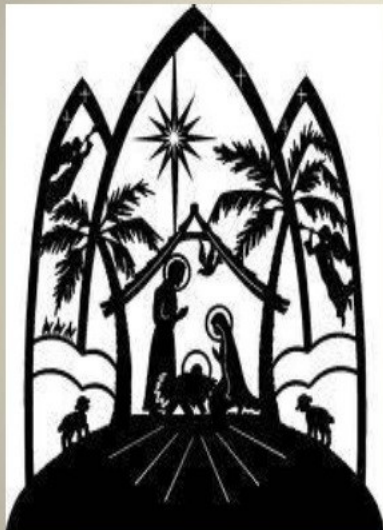
**A service for everyone
whatever your age!**



St. Erth Church Christmas services 2025

14/12	10am	Christingle
21/12	6pm	9 Lessons and Carols
24/12	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
25/12	9.30am	Eucharist

6 pm
Sunday
21 December



St Erth Church
Nine Lessons
& Carols



**Followed
by
Mulled Wine
& Mince Pies**

ST EARTH SHOEBOXES

The good people of St Erth have shown their usual generosity as 48 shoeboxes were dispatched to the local collection point for onward transmission by the charity Samaritan's Purse to boys and girls in far off countries overseas. These children are very unlikely to get any Christmas presents, but these boxes packed with a few essentials for everyday living plus some presents will make a world of difference and let them know that they are loved and not forgotten.



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY ST EARTH

On Remembrance Sunday we held a joint service with the Anglican and Methodist Churches, with both Rev Patricia Murley (Church of England) and Lester Scott (Methodist) leading the service. The two minute silence was held outside by the St Erth War Memorial, and despite the inclement weather; George Lawry (ex RAF Musician) played 'The Last Post' and 'Reveille' on his tenor horn. He also played 'I vow to thee my Country' during the laying of the wreaths and finished with the National Anthem. George Lawry has been undertaking this task for over 30 years using a cornet; bugle and trumpet at various times. The Rainbows, the youngest troop of the Girl Guides, attended the ceremony with their banner.



Details supplied by Mike Millichamp, honorary citizen of St Erth in recognition of his contribution to the village.

ST ERTH FILM CLUB
Saturday 20 December
SUMMER IN FEBRUARY
7 for 7.30pm St Erth Church Hall

Cost £4 for members £8 incl entry for non-members

Based on true events in the Lamorna artist colony in Cornwall before World War I, it tells the story of painter Alfred Munnings, his friend Gilbert Evans, and their tragic love triangle with artist Florence Carter-Wood.

Stars: Dominic Cooper, Emily Browning, Dan Stevens.

Director: Christopher Menaul



SATURDAY 17 JANUARY

The Dressmaker

A glamorous woman returns to her small town in rural Australia. With her sewing machine and haute couture style, she transforms the women and exacts sweet revenge on those who did her wrong.

Cast: Kate Winslet, Judy Davis, Liam Hemsworth, Hugo Weaving

**Church Hall
Bookings**



**St Erth
Events**



DARTMOUTH SUMMER COACH OUTING

Pick-up points would include Penzance at 8am, Goldsithney, St Erth, and various locations in Hayle.

Email franknolan21@gmail.com

Mobile or WhatsApp: 07919 473555 if interested.

◆ Provisional Details ◆

Saturday 27 June 2026

- **Coach only (return trip to Dartmouth): £27**
- **Coach to Paignton + Steam Train + Ferry to Dartmouth**
- **Total for full package: £49**
- *(Prices to be confirmed)*



New St Erth Stripe Card machine

Offline donations - Donations can be stored when there is no internet connection and processed when the connection is reestablished (Internet connection is needed to log onto the donation page). More on how offline donations work.

Reoccurring monthly contactless donations - easy sign up of donors to monthly reoccurring donations

Give and Go - Set one default donation amount that donors tap to pay without selecting it on a screen first

ST ERTH CHURCH GIVE A LITTLE

Scan QR code to take you to the payment options of

£5

£10

£20

£30

Or choose your own amount



If you are feeling generous please make a donation!



EVERY
FRIDAY

HAYLE FARMER'S & CRAFT MARKET

10AM - 1PM

PHILLACK CHURCH HALL
HAYLE, TR27 4HE

FRESH
HOMEMADE
PRODUCE & CRAFT
FROM CORNWALL





Phillack ringers will be holding their practice evening at Gwinear on the 1st Tuesday of every month 7:30 till 9 pm. If anyone is interested, please feel free to come along and have a look.



COME AS YOU ARE

FAMILY FRIENDLY FUN SERVICE



Gwithian church
3rd Sunday of the month
10.30 breakfast
11am start

All welcome-however old or young



11 Churchtown Rd, Gwithian, Hayle TR27 5BX | <https://www.godrevyttn.org.uk/> |

Copperhouse Community **CAFE**

Every Thursday 11.30-2.30pm

Join us for soup, sandwiches & hot drinks



*Phillack Church Memorial
Hall. Copperhouse, Hayle*



REC YOUTH

Every Friday Afterschool
until 5.30pm
at the Recreation Ground
Hayle

Launching Friday 4th July

Fun & Food
Sports & Shakes
Games & Crafts

Detached
/Drop In
Session





Godrevy Team Ministry

The Parishes of Phillack with Gwithian, Gwinear, St Erth and Hayle St Elwyn



Tel: 01736 757033

Email the Office: godrevyteamoffice@gmail.com

GODREY TEAM CONTACTS

PRIEST IN CHARGE—Pioneer Oversight Minister

Rev Michelle Porter-Babbage 01736 759754 Mobile 07387 912920

revmichellepb@gmail.com

Ministerial Team Priests

Rev Debbie Harris (Assistant Curate) Mobile: 07841 393204

revddebbieharris@gmail.com

Rev Patrica Murley 01736 754386

Rev Clive Morton 01736 603040

Fr Simon Bone 01736 752234 Mobile: 0797 127 0615

revdcfmpam@gmail.com

fathersimon@btinternet.com

TEAM ADMINISTRATOR Frank Nolan

godrevyteamoffice@gmail.com

Office: 2 to 4pm Most Monday afternoons. Working from home Wednesday two hours, Friday two hours.

CHURCHWARDENS

Gwinear Geoff Webster 01736 851173 geoff.webster249@btinternet.com

Gwithian Vacant

Phillack David Philp 07745 873544 dphilp1959@aol.com

St Erth Barbara Read 01736 758233 barbararead21@yahoo.com

TREASURERS

Gwinear Margaret Stapleton 01736 850343 mstapleton305@gmail.com

Gwithian Sue Colliver suecolliver59@icloud.com

Phillack Gwen Pooley 01736 753463 gwenpooley70@gmail.com

St Elwyn's Felicity Cork 07795 595956 (Answerphone) labtech50uk@yahoo.co.uk

St Erth Richard Purchase 01736 753628 rhpurchase68@gmail.com

TEAM READER

Helen Purchase 01736 753628 helen.purchase45@gmail.com

GODREY TEAM MINISTRY HALL BOOKINGS

Gwithian Tracey Worrall 01736 850919 scotchtracey@hotmail.com

Phillack Michelle Porter-Babbage 01736 759754 Mobile 07387 912920 revmichellepb@gmail.com

St Elwyn's Reverend Clive Morton 01736 603040 revdcfmpam@gmail.com

St Erth Jill Sharpless 01736 756896. Please go to: [https://www.st-erth.co.uk/old-school-room-](https://www.st-erth.co.uk/old-school-room-booking.htm)

[booking.htm](https://www.st-erth.co.uk/old-school-room-booking.htm)

Office Address

Godrevy Team Ministry

St Erth Church Hall

The Green Lane

St Erth

TR27 6HS

Cheques to: **Godrevy Team Fees Account**

QR for St Erth Hall



For All Safeguarding Concerns and advice

Please contact

Priest In Charge: Rev Michelle Porter-Babbage

email: revmichellepb@gmail.com

Mobile: 07387912920

Land line: 01736 759754

Or

Benefice Safeguarding Officer

godrevysafeguardingofficer@gmail.com

