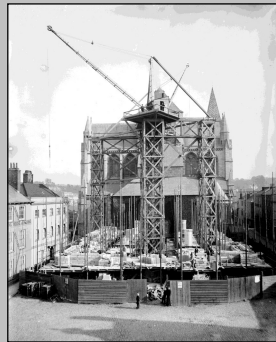
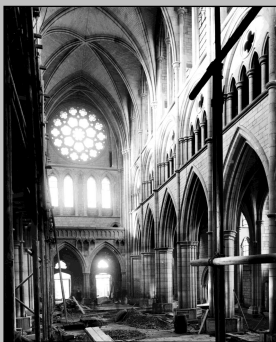


**St Mary's Parish Church,  
around 1860**



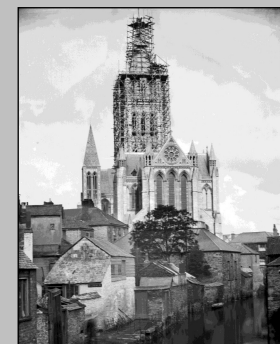
**Constructing Truro Cathedral  
Nave, 1899**



**The interior of the newly  
completed Nave, 1910**



**Truro Cathedral 1902**



**Building the central spire,  
1903**



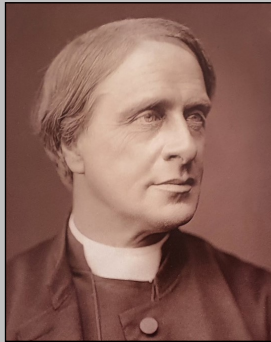
**The new organ installed,  
around 1910**



**The Cathedral, completed in 1910,  
seen from the N.E.**

**The construction of Truro Cathedral, starting in 1880, incorporating one aisle of St Mary's Parish Church. It was completed with the building of the central tower and spire in 1905, and the two western spires in 1910.**

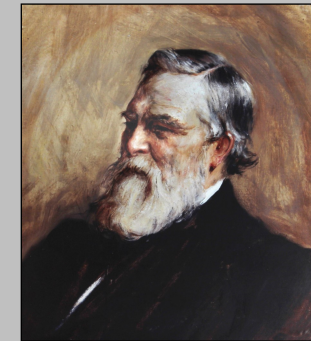




**Edward White Benson from 1876  
first Bishop of Truro**



**A large gathering of women who raised money for the fixtures and fittings of the Cathedral after its completion**



**John Loughborough Pearson,  
Architect of Truro Cathedral**



**Carving of Bishop Benson and two masons, over the west entrance**



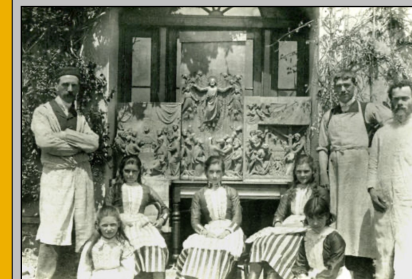
**Some of the masons who worked on building the Cathedral  
in the early days, around 1883**



**Violet Pinwill, designer of many  
Cathedral woodcarvings**



**Sarah Benney, an early benefactor  
of the Cathedral**



**Violet Pinwill and her sisters with  
some of the woodcarvers**

**Key people who were involved in the planning, design, construction and furnishing of Truro Cathedral, between 1878 and 1910, and later.**

***ST. MARY'S CHURCH  
AROUND THE 1860s***

The 16th century parish church of St. Mary, Truro was designated as the first cathedral in 1876. Bishop Benson immediately started plans to replace it with a newly built cathedral.

***TRURO CATHEDRAL,  
WITH NAVE UNDER  
CONSTRUCTION 1899***

Designed by John Loughborough Pearson, the new building started in 1880, but ceased in 1887 when funds ran out. This photo shows the nave under construction when building resumed in 1898.

***INTERIOR OF THE  
NEW NAVE 1910***

The building shows the interior of the new nave in 1910. Pearson's design with vaulting and rose windows is regarded as a major contribution to the Gothic Revival.

***TRURO CATHEDRAL 1902***

The cathedral was built mostly on the site of the old St Mary's parish church, its graveyard and the area of High Cross. The south aisle of St Mary's was retained and incorporated into the new cathedral as St Mary's aisle.

The foundation stones were laid in 1880, and the quire, transepts and baptistry were completed and consecrated in 1887. No further construction was possible for eleven years.

The death of Archbishop Benson in 1896 saw a great desire to commemorate his Primacy and to complete his cathedral at Truro.

This 1902 photograph shows this second phase of building under Frank Loughborough Pearson, with the nave and central tower completed by 1904.

The western towers were finally added in 1910. Of John Loughborough Pearson's original design, only the Chapter House and cloister were never built.

***TRURO CATHEDRAL,  
AFTER 1901***

This 1903 photo shows the clock tower and the final stages of the building of the central tower. The western towers were not added for a further six years.

***THE NEW ORGAN,  
AROUND 1910***

The four manual organ was built by Henry Willis for the consecration of the cathedral in 1887, and except for moving the console, it remains substantially unaltered from its original design.

***TRURO CATHEDRAL,  
AFTER 1910***

The completion of the western towers in 1910 marked the end of the building phases, 30 years from the laying of the foundation stones, and with a gap of eleven years 1887-1898.

KEY TO PHOTO PANEL ON THE LEFT

**Edward White Benson (1829–1896)**, saw the need for a new Cathedral in Cornwall. Planning began in 1878, building in 1880. Edward Benson was Bishop of Truro from 1876–1883; Archbishop of Canterbury 1883–1896.

A large gathering of women at the newly completed west end. In 1884, an appeal was made to all the women of the diocese, from all walks of life, to raise money for the fixtures and fittings of the interior. Thousands contributed and successfully raised the money for the glorification of ‘their’ Cathedral.

**John Loughborough Pearson (1817-1897)**, architect of the Cathedral, believed church architecture should give a sense of awe. His design reflected the limited space in the middle of Truro and the affinity between Cornwall and Brittany.

This carving over the West entrance shows Bishop Benson, first Bishop of Truro, with two masons, showing that his gift to the new Diocese was the vision and realisation of this magnificent Cathedral.

**Some of the key people involved in designing, building, and furnishing Truro Cathedral.**

**Building took place between 1880 and 1910.**

**Violet Pinwill (1874-1957).** A designer and woodworker, formed a company of carvers restoring and creating woodwork in the churches of Cornwall and Devon.

**Sarah Benney (1825-1897).** An early benefactor who collected money on the family packet boats to Falmouth. This money furnished the chairs and Sanctuary steps in the Cathedral. She is depicted in a north aisle window.

A group of masons who built the quire incorporating the south aisle of St Mary’s Parish Church, some on the timber scaffolding held together by rope. There were no fatalities and only one serious accident happened during the construction of the Cathedral.

**Violet Pinwill and her sisters Mary and Ethel** with two woodworkers. Encouraged by their father, they pioneered women working as professional woodcarvers. Many of Violet’s beautiful carvings can be seen in Truro Cathedral.



# Photographic Credits



**This display has been conceived,  
designed and mounted by The Arts  
Society Truro in conjunction with  
Truro Cathedral**

Truro  
Cathedral  
*sacred space, common ground*



## **All photographs of the building of the Cathedral**

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## **Violet Pinwill and the Pinwill sisters.**

© Image & Film Service  
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Plymouth City Council

## **Portrait of Bishop Benson**

©Kresen Kernow, Redruth

## **Carving of Bishop Benson and Sarah Benny stained glass**

Photographs by Jonathan Barker, Truro

## **Portrait of John Loughborough Pearson** courtesy of Truro Cathedral

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Rachel Freschini (Truro Cathedral)**