Truro timeline

In 1259 Bishop Bronescombe of Exeter consecrates St Mary's church whilst on a tour of Cornwall. It is believed that a church was already in existence by then, having being built between 1135 and 1170. John de Belsal was recorded as the first rector of Truro, St Mary's, in 1164/5

1504, original church rebuilt in the late Gothic style.

More re-building from 1768 when parts of the church were modernised in the then current Georgian style of architecture.

In 1876 the diocese of Cornwall was established, with St Mary's church, Truro, selected as the site of the new cathedral for Cornwall.

1877, Truro granted city status and three years later the foundation stones of the cathedral were laid, the chief one by Edward Prince of Wales and Duke of Cornwall, beginning work on the design by John Loughborough Pearson, who incorporated the southern part of the existing St Mary's into his scheme.

The last mass in old Saint Mary's was said on 11th October 1880, after which services were held in a temporary wooden structure until the new cathedral was available. It was in this wooden church that Bishop Edward White Benson devised and held the first Festival of Nine Lessons.

1882, Bishop Benson leaves Truro to become Archbishop of Canterbury.

1887, after completion and consecration of the choir and transepts all building work stops.

In 1898 building work re-starts under Frank Pearson and the nave was dedicated in 1903. The main tower and spire was completed by 1904.

1910 dedication of the Western towers, effectively completing the cathedral.

The North door, into the North transept, was dedicated in 1935.

The cathedral Chapter House was completed in 1967.

West front restored in 2005, the cathedral tower in 2010 and re-slating of the main roofs carried out from 2015 to 2017.