

# DAWLISH COAST MISSION COMMUNITY

A newsletter brought to you every fortnight throughout the year with information from the churches of St Gregory's (Dawlish); St George's (Holcombe); St Mary's (Cofton) and St Paul's (Starcross).

Issue date: Sunday 16th February 2025

[www.cofe-in-dawlish.org.uk](http://www.cofe-in-dawlish.org.uk)

## LEARNING AND LAUGHING

*Will Halse, LLM, writes:*

Last weekend over 100 LLMs (formerly known as Readers) gathered at the Livermead Cliff Hotel in Torquay for a weekend of fellowship, learning, fun and questions. Margaret Noel and I are very grateful to St. Gregory's for sponsoring us.



The conference began with an excellent supper (I particularly recommend the fish!). In the evening session Mike Harrison, the new bishop of Exeter, began by telling us a little about himself before answering questions. Open and engaging, he told us how his life depended on a decision his mother made on the dance floor (when she chose his father over the butcher's son). Born in Bolton, he studied Maths at Cambridge. Through Rev Harry Potter, his college chaplain, he received the offer of a year's placement as a youth worker in Deptford. Here he lived in a much-burgled vicarage with Father Dimond, the parish priest, who 'probably smoked too much and drank too much' but somehow conveyed to many the joy and love of God. His summary before question time – *'I have been blessed by wonderful people'* I wanted to hear more!

Ceri joined us on Saturday morning in the 'Growing Faith Adventure'. We learned about Christian work in schools. Students from the JUMP group at St. Cuthbert Mayne School in Torquay (Jesus Understands Me Personally) led our worship with song and dance. And they joined tables bravely answering our questions about their faith and school experience. We were also asked to think about how we could help schools? This is something Joan Mead is already doing through the A group, and Ann Leigh through the homework club at Westcliff School (to name but two). What is most important for making joyous connections – Prayer, Relationships, Pastoral Care, or ...? And what would help children and young people to be involved, and to belong in our churches?

On Saturday afternoon Jeremy Putnam, Diocesan Mission Enabler, spoke about the fourth wall to encourage us to break out of our church buildings with the good news of Jesus. The fourth wall divides the actors from the audience. An actor speaking directly to the audience breaks through the fourth wall – think of Miranda Hart. How can we break through the walls of our churches to bring Jesus to those outside in the community? Saturday evening - Muzingo (musical bingo); LLM's being silly and Margaret generously sharing her winnings! (*Editor's Note: If I'd known that, I'd have stayed!*)

On Sunday morning Bishop James spoke to us about Andrew – the disciple who was first called but then overlooked. He is usually referred to as Simon Peter's brother! We naturally want to be recognised, appreciated. So how do we feel when our work is overlooked or taken for granted? James encouraged us to get the truth into our hearts and be who we are called to be, content with who we are; content with roles that suit our gifts and character; free from jealousies. This hit home to me. Does it make any sense to you as we serve Christ together here in Starcross, Cofton, Dawlish and Holcombe? And what is God calling us to as we look toward Lent and Easter 2025?

*With love and gratitude*

*Will*

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**AND WHATEVER YOU DO, IN WORD OR DEED, DO EVERYTHING IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS, GIVING THANKS TO GOD THE FATHER THROUGH HIM. Colossians 3:17**      *Chris Curd writes:*

So, is it possible to act in the name of the Lord Jesus, if we are not concerned about how our actions might impact on others? If we are not concerned about the creation with which we have been entrusted?

For us as Christians, the motive for wanting to reduce our own carbon emissions is complex. Yes, we want to do what we can for the world which will be inherited by the next generation, and we grieve to see the denaturing of the planet. But in addition, we are aware that we should act to the Lord's glory, loving God and our neighbour. Is it possible to love like that without loving the planet, which God has given us and on which our neighbour depends?

So, to help some of us think through how we can personally cut carbon emissions, we are hosting the Action on Climate in Teignbridge "Carbon Cutters" session on the afternoon of Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 3pm (the venue will be dependent on numbers attending but it will be at an easily accessible venue in Dawlish) - see *the advert below*. If you would like to take part in it, please contact me, Chris Curd, [prebchris2020@gmail.com](mailto:prebchris2020@gmail.com), 07771 842334. There will be refreshments!

As I was thinking about this, the February Church of England Environment bulletin plopped into my inbox. Under the headline: **Roses are green this Valentine's Day**. It went on to say "Encourage your loved ones or friends in church to buy sustainable flowers this Valentine's Day! (and at any time of year!)..... The environmental cost of imported, out of season flowers is huge – an estimated 570 tonnes of roses are shipped into the UK each February. Opt for a UK-grown seasonal flower instead, such as daffodils from Cornwall."

From the Royal Horticultural Society: "The environmental cost of imported, out-of-season flowers is one of the less romantic aspects of Valentine's Day. Every February, an estimated 570 tonnes

of roses are shipped into the UK, according to Heathrow import figures. That's the combined weight of about 85 adult bull elephants. Then think how little one bunch of roses weighs – that is an awful lot of bunches. By the time they reach the UK, these stems have usually travelled thousands of miles across the world in refrigerated containers. Let's not start on the tonnes of non-recyclable cellophane that these bunches are then wrapped in before hitting the shelves. You can find out more on the [RHS website](#). In the meantime, why not sign up for that Carbon Cutters session?

While we live in this world, we will never get everything right, but that does not mean that we should not try. The enormity of climate change, as of injustice (climate or otherwise), can dissuade us from doing anything. But ...

*A Prayer from the App, Lectio 365, (4th Feb.)*

Lord, I confess that I sometimes allow the enormity of injustice to paralyse me. Guide me as I read, as I shop, as I pray, as I work and as I interact with others. Show me the battles you want me to fight to see your kingdom come and your will be done for all people. *Amen.*



**Carbon Cutters**  
Action on Climate in Teignbridge

## **Carbon Cutters Lite**

Helping you to work out the most effective action you can take on climate change.

Scott Williams, Town Councillor and one of the organisers of Turn the Tide, member of

### **Action on Climate in Teignbridge**

Has kindly offered to facilitate a

90 minute session

3pm Sunday 23rd February.

Venue TBC, but will be in Dawlish

To enquire, express interest or sign up please contact the

Eco Champion, Chris Curd, 07771842334

[prebchris2020@gmail.com](mailto:prebchris2020@gmail.com)

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## TIME TO TALK: MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

*Edited extracts from an article written by Reverend Canon J. John for the Philo Trust, and inspired by 'Time to Talk' Day (which fell on 6th February) focusing on mental health awareness. Thank you, to Mike Moulds of St Greg's, for suggesting this be shared in this Newsletter!*



I'm sure all of us have had family or friends who have suffered from depression, anxiety, self-harm or other mental health issues and many of us have some personal experience in this area. Mental health issues have worsened to the point of being termed a crisis. The organisation Mind compiles a mental health report every year and the 2024 version is sobering reading. In England, it's estimated about 1 in 4 people will experience a mental health problem at some point each year, and 7.8 per cent of adults in the UK felt lonely 'always or often'..... In the area of mental health the Christian church *should* be part of the answer. We have a lot going for us.

\* **We believe in community:** we are a family bought by God's grace through Jesus Christ. Those family bonds can, and should, enable sharing and caring.

\* **We accept frailty.** One aspect of the modern world that contributes to mental health problems is its worship of superiority, power and success so that we are endlessly exposed to heroic figures who seem invulnerable to doubt, depression or despair. Yet precisely because to become a Christian is to admit our failings before God and to receive forgiveness in Christ, the church should be an environment in which weakness and fragility can be acknowledged without condemnation or stigma.

\* **We accept the complexities of the world** that give rise to mental health problems. We see human beings not as mere 'biological machines' but beings with complex and interacting physical, mental and spiritual dimensions. The Bible is honest in depicting figures engaged in mental struggles.....

\* **We have a long history of a gracious and caring openness on mental health issues.** In John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*, the hero struggles with 'Giant Despair'. And the great Victorian preacher C.H. Spurgeon was unashamed to talk of his agonies of depression. As early as 1907 The Salvation Army established the world's first suicide prevention programme.

\* **We follow our Saviour Jesus** who took upon himself the title of 'man of sorrows' (Isaiah 53:3 KJV) and in the darkness of Gethsemane clearly underwent the deepest of trials.

Finally.... \* **We have an ultimate hope:** beyond every darkness lies Christ and an eternity from which all sorrow has been banished (Revelation 21:4).

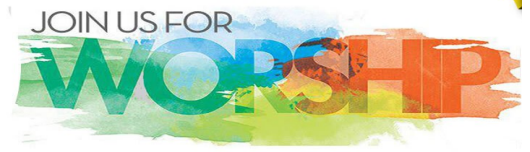
Let me conclude with four pleas for those of us in churches:

- 1) **Recognise** that mental health issues are widespread and almost certainly occur in your church.
- 2) **Be careful** to avoid adding any stigma or shame to mental health issues. Treat such issues sensitively.
- 3) **Seek wise teaching.** Pastoral preaching and teaching can aid good mental health.....
- 4) **Offer loving and wise support.** We need to have 'a passion for compassion' and be prepared to show sympathy and support to those who are struggling with their mental health. As such issues are often worsened by social or financial pressures, they offer opportunities for the church to lighten the burden. Yet our support needs to be balanced with wisdom. Well-meaning but naïve intervention can be hurtful. Sometimes the wisest thing to do is to encourage someone who is suffering to see a trained professional. And, with sensitivity, we can all pray for healing for those who are struggling. In what seems to be an epidemic of poor mental health we who are Christians have enormous opportunities of helping wisely, sensibly and graciously.

Let's get alongside those who are struggling. **It is indeed 'time to talk'.**

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## SERVICES – 16th February to 1st March



### Sunday 16th February – 3rd Sunday before Lent

9.15am St George's – Holy Communion  
9.30am St Paul's – Morning Worship  
10am St Gregory's – Greg's@10  
11.15am St Mary's – Morning Worship  
6pm Telephone Service—*dial 01200 480091 to join*

### Wednesday 19th February

10am St Gregory's - Midweek Holy Communion

### Sunday 23rd February — 2nd Sunday before Lent

9.15am St George's – Morning Worship  
9.30am St Paul's – Parish Communion  
10am St Gregory's – Holy Communion  
11.15am St Mary's – Holy Communion

### Wednesday 26th February

10am St Gregory's - Midweek Holy Communion



### TUESDAY PRAYER MEETING ON ZOOM

All welcome to a half hour of prayer online on Tuesdays at 9am.

Just click on [this link](#) or go to <https://zoom.us/join> and enter: Meeting ID: 575 020 5964 and Passcode: 850653.



### FOLLOW THESE LINKS



to find us on

**FACEBOOK or INSTAGRAM**

St Greg's [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#)

St George's [Facebook](#)

St Mary's [Facebook](#)

St Paul's [Facebook](#)



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY coming up soon ....

### FEBRUARY

**Monday 17th** Guide Dogs (talk and tea) at The Strand Centre, 3pm  
**Tuesday 18th** Ladies' Lunch at Amelia's, Cofton Holidays, 12.30pm  
**Wednesday 19th** A Warmer Place at St. George's Holcombe, 12-2pm  
**Sunday 23rd** Carbon Cutters Dawlish venue TBC, 3pm (*see page 2 for more details*)  
**Tuesday 25th** Julian Group in Upper Narthex, St Gregory's, 2pm

### MARCH

**Saturday 1st** Table Top Sale in The Strand Centre, 10am-2.30pm  
**Friday 7th** World Day of Prayer Service in Hope Church, 2.30pm  
**Wednesday 12th** Illustrated talk on work in Ukraine and Moldova of CR2EE (Christian Response to Eastern Europe), Starcross Fishing and Cruising Club, 8pm. The bar will be open to buy drinks, teas and coffees. Parking at nearby New Road car park. This event is NOT a fundraising event, it is intended as an opportunity to gain an insight into the work of this local voluntary charity.

**If you would like any support, or someone to talk to,  
or you know of someone else who does,  
please contact one of the following:**

**Revd Linda Cronin (Day off - Monday):** 01626 927281 or email: [revdlinda@icloud.com](mailto:revdlinda@icloud.com)

**Will Halse:** 01626 866054; **Margaret Noel:** 01626 863148;

**Ceri Lee:** 07739 936286; **Steve Cronin:** 07817 678774.

Safeguarding Officer at St Greg's: Tess Hickson 07932 560804 [tessh@btinternet.com](mailto:tessh@btinternet.com)

Information regarding safeguarding issues together with contact details for Safeguarding Officers in the other churches can be found on our website [here](#)