

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 16 March 2025

www.cofe-in-dawlish.org.uk

ST. PATRICK AND CONFIDENCE IN THE LORD

Revd Linda Cronin, writes:

As we continue our journey in Lent, we have St Patrick's Day on 17th March.

As most of you will know, we spent the previous 4 years before coming to Dawlish in Northern Ireland. On one occasion we spent the weekend of St Patrick's Day (being a bank holiday) in Dublin and went to Downpatrick on St Patrick's Day itself. This was an experience of huge celebration. *(It was also in Dublin where I had my first taste of Guinness!).*

There are various folk stories about St Patrick but something that struck me is what he writes in the Confessio. In it Patrick tells of a dream, after his return to Britain, in which one Victoricus delivered him a letter headed "*The Voice of the Irish*". As Patrick read it, he seemed to hear a certain company of Irish beseeching him to walk once more among them. "*Deeply moved,*" he says, "*I could read no more.*" Nevertheless, because of the shortcomings of his education, he was reluctant for a long time to respond to the call. Even on the eve of his reembarkation for Ireland, he was beset by doubts of his fitness for the task. Once in the field, however, his hesitations vanished. Utterly confident in the Lord, he journeyed far and wide, baptizing and confirming with untiring zeal. (<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Patrick>)

There were a couple of things that struck me.

* His reluctance to respond to God's call due to the shortcomings of his education

But when He obeyed the Lord...

* His confidence in the Lord and his untiring zeal

I wonder if you can identify with Patrick?

Maybe there are times when you sense God maybe calling you to something and yet we can find so many reasons as to why not! And yet when we obey the Lord, we can know His confidence and His zeal!

During this time of Lent, maybe take time to listen to God, His gentle nudges or His gentle whispers, maybe as you pray, as you read the Bible, through something a friend says or something you hear through a sermon or a Lent group.

This prayer of St Patrick maybe of help.....

Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me
Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort me and restore me.

Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger
Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend or stranger.

(390-461 A.D.)





THANK YOU *Paul Jones writes:*

I'd like to start by saying a big thank-you to everyone who provides financial support to the Church. It doesn't matter how much or how little you give, it is all needed and is gratefully received, so thank you. I'd also like to thank those who give their time in so many ways, none of our Churches could continue to operate without our many volunteers, you are critical to the running of our Churches so thank you as well.

There are several ways in which you can give to St. Gregory's (or to any of the Churches in the Benefice), these include PGS (Parish Giving Scheme), Bank Standing Orders, Bank Transfers, Gift Aid envelopes or Cash. Don't forget that with PGS and Standing Orders you still remain in control of your giving and can vary the amount whenever you wish, the regular income the Church receives from these give us stability and allows us to pay our monthly bills. At St. Gregory's we also have a contactless card payment machine which, now that people are getting used to it, is being used increasingly. If you would like more information about ways in which to give please contact your local treasurer.

The building at St Gregory's currently faces a number of challenges, most immediate is the repair of the 4 pinnacles on the Church tower which have been weather eroded. We need to repair them before they become too dangerous and threaten to close the Church, and cost estimates so far range from £40,000 to £90,000. The Church windows are also in need of upkeep, current estimates are in the order of £30,000-£40,000. The Church heating is another challenge, it is over 35 years old and while it has been extremely reliable over the years we have recently had a couple of faults. It is also very costly to run (in 2023 our gas bill was £10,000) and doesn't really give the heat that we need, and the Church of England Carbon NetZero challenge means finding a suitable cost-effective replacement is daunting. Finally the Church roof has regular maintenance but we know that it is suffering from nail rot, no it's not painful but it does mean that tiles slip and let rain in so we probably need to re-roof, at least this can be done in stages to help us manage the bills.

With all that in mind I feel I ought to mention Legacies. Over the years we have received some very welcome and helpful legacies. If you feel you are able to leave one of your local Churches a little something in your will it could help maintain our Churches for future generations, and if you would like more information please contact your Churchwardens or treasurer.



A PRAYER FOR LENT *from Bishop James Grier*

Dear Loving Father,

Lent so often becomes solely focused on what we give up, turning it into an exercise of willpower and determination, rather than recognizing our deep need

for You. In a world that is broken, we know that we cannot rely on our own strength, wisdom, or efforts. We need You, Lord.

As individuals and as a Church, we often fall into complacency, relying on our own resources and comforts, forgetting to trust in You fully. Forgive us for the times we've been entitled and self-sufficient. Help us to place our trust in You, not in our own abilities or circumstances.

This Lent, reveal to me where I have placed my trust in myself and the world around me, rather than in You. Open my eyes to my weaknesses, and lead me to face my sin with humility. Help me not to make excuses, but to be quick to repent and turn back to You. Transform me, O Lord, through the sanctifying work of Your Holy Spirit, and renew my heart according to Your will.

In the precious name of Jesus, our Saviour, Amen.

FLOWER FESTIVAL NEWS

Margaret Noel writes:

In September St Gregory's will be holding a **4 day flower festival** to celebrate 200 years since the church rebuild, finished in 1825. There will be a service of celebration on Sunday 21st led by Bishop Mike.

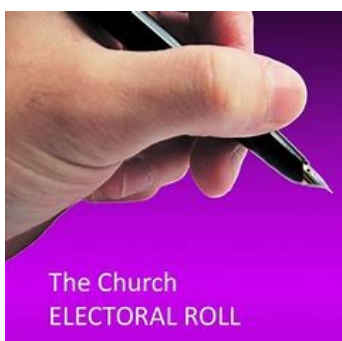
An open meeting will be held on **Friday March 21st at 7pm** for anyone who is able to help in any way not just with flower arranging, but with accompanying displays, stewarding, possible refreshments etc. Georgie Moore is the lead with the flower arranging. This is an opportunity to reach out to the community and welcome them into their parish church. Some of you may recall the jubilee festival (*pictured above*) and how well it was received, so help us make this festival even better!



If you are unable to come to the meeting but willing to help then please let Alex Pugh or myself know. Everyone can get involved in some way, and there will be much to do before the festival.

BLISTER PACK RECYCLING

Most of you will know that for quite some time, hoping to be as Eco-Church as possible, we have been collecting empty medicine blister packs for recycling. Ann Leigh has been taking them home, bagging them up into large clear sacks and then we've been taking them to the Superdrug Pharmacy at Newton Abbot ready for a company (Terracycle) to collect and recycle. Unfortunately Superdrug are no longer able to take these bulk drop-offs. There is, however, still a collection point (*see picture*) in any Superdrug that has a Pharmacy instore, where you are able, if you can, to take your own as individuals.



IMPORTANT NOTICE: ELECTORAL ROLL AT ST. GREGORY'S

We can now begin preparing our **new Electoral Roll** for this year which has to be ready and on display by April 23rd. Anyone wishing to be included on the roll has to follow, please, the procedure requested by the diocese every six years and complete again an application for enrolment form. Application forms are available for collection in the Lower Narthex together with a copy of our current electoral roll and a timetable reminder.

If any queries, please contact me on 01626 772249. Many thanks, Graham Reynolds.

THE SEASON OF

Lent

JOIN US FOR A SERIES OF BIBLE STUDIES AS WE EXPLORE THE CORE OF CHRISTIAN BELIEF THROUGH THE NICENE AND APOSTLES'S CREEDS.
(EACH WEEKLY SESSION IS IDENTICAL)

TUESDAYS IN STARCROSS - 1PM & 7PM
BEGINNING 11TH MARCH
WEDNESDAYS IN DAWLISH - 7PM
BEGINNING 12TH MARCH
THURSDAYS IN HOLCOMBE - 2PM
BEGINNING 13TH MARCH

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT
REVD LINDA CRONIN
REVDLINDA@ICLOUD.COM
OR REVD PATRICK PARKES
EPP@SKY.COM

SERVICES – 16th to 29th March

Sunday 16th March – 2nd Sunday of Lent

9.30am 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
OR you can join online at
<https://www.freeconferencecall.com/wall/willhalse>
then click 'Join Online Meeting'

Wednesday 19th March

9.15am St Gregory's - Common Worship Morning Prayer
10am St Gregory's - Holy Communion

Thursday 20th March

9.15am St George's - Common Worship Morning Prayer

Friday 21st March

9.15am St Mary's - Common Worship Morning Prayer

Sunday 23rd March — 3rd Sunday of Lent

9.30am 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 March

9.15am St Gregory's - Common Worship Morning Prayer
10am St Gregory's - Midweek Holy Communion

Thursday 27th March

9.15am St George's - Common Worship Morning Prayer

Friday 28th March

9.15am St Mary's - Common Worship Morning Prayer
11am Funeral of Peter Macklin



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.

Rector Linda's Lent Challenge

From Thursday 6th March and continuing through Lent

join me

Wednesday 9.15am
St Greg's
Thursday 9.15am
St George's
Friday 9.15am
St Mary's

for Common Worship
Morning Prayer

See page 3 for details of
LENT COURSES
now begun

MARCH - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 18th Kids' Swap Shop in St Gregory's, 9-11am
Little Greg's in St Gregory's, 9.30-11.30am
Ladies Lunch at Amelia's, Cofton Holidays 12pm for 12.30pm
Lent Course continues in Starcross, 1pm at St Paul's, 7pm at The Rectory

Wednesday 19th 'A Warmer Place' in St George's Holcombe, 12-2pm
Lent Course continues in Dawlish, 7pm at the Vicarage, Shillingate Close

Thursday 20th Lent Course continues in Holcombe, 2pm at St George's

Tuesday 25th Little Greg's in St Gregory's, 9.30-11.30am
Lent Course continues in Starcross, 1pm at St Paul's, 7pm at The Rectory
Julian Group, 2pm at St Gregory's
PCC Meeting, 7.30pm at St Gregory's

Wednesday 26th Lent Course continues in Dawlish, 7pm at the Vicarage, Shillingate Close

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 (Rector): 01626 927281 or email: revdlinda@icloud.com

Revd Patrick Parkes (Minister at Starcross) : 01626 685709 epp@sky.com

Will Halse (LLM): 01626 866054; Margaret Noel (LLM): 01626 863148;

Ceri Lee (LLM): 07739 936286; Steve Cronin (LLM): 07817 678774.

FOLLOW THESE LINKS to find us on SOCIAL MEDIA

St Greg's [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#)
St George's [Facebook](#)
St Mary's [Facebook](#)
St Paul's [Facebook](#)

Safeguarding Officer at St Greg's: Tess Hickson 07376 658440 tessh@btinternet.com

Information and contact details for Safeguarding Officers in the other churches can be found on our website [here](#)