

Benefice E-Newsletter
Dawlish with Holcombe and Cofton
November 12th 2023

A Grain of Sand at a Time...

Hello from St George's and thank you to Sabrina for asking me to provide an article for this edition of the Benefice Newsletter! I will get back to the idea of 'sand' in a minute but first let me mention something rather more important...



I'm sure the big news has spread throughout the Benefice and beyond by now, that we have a new Team Rector at last - Revd Linda Cronin from Glenavy Parish in Ireland! Some of us had the pleasure of meeting the 3 applicants when they visited St George's on the day before the interviews and I'm sure the interview panel made an excellent choice the next day. Of course the process between the appointment and the date when Revd Linda will finally arrive here will take a while so we will probably be welcoming her sometime in the early months of 2024, all being well. For myself, I can't wait for her to arrive and once again be for us all the cornerstone of the Benefice, especially as it will then be nearly 4 years since Chris Curd retired!



Now back to the sand...

Firstly, I don't know if you also read the monthly [Benefice Newsletter 'Coastline'](#) which is produced by Chris Curd? If so, you will have seen that the October issue was edited by me (at the request of Chris who was taking some time off in September) and one of the articles was titled 'A Grain of Sand' (read it below). It certainly rang a loud bell with me! We are well into autumn now and I have definitely felt more and more overwhelmed as what seem like 'hundreds of tasks' have been mounting up and I can't get on top of them. List after list is produced but by the end of the day, the 'to-dos' have not been ticked off, and even more have been added! I've been feeling very incompetent and drained in body, mind and soul but this little piece in



Coastline has told me clearly and simply how to tackle the problem. You take the jobs one at a time through the day and let them 'pass slowly and evenly' through the narrow neck of the hourglass from top to bottom.

Simple! At that point, I should be able to accept that the tasks of the day are complete and it's time for me to step away, and rest and relax until the end of the day.





Early days still but I am determined to get there because the person who wrote this article (and I'm afraid I don't know the author's name) has this final message - 'Do not attempt more than God designed you to do.' Something to be written up and pinned to the noticeboard above my desk so that I am reminded every day that my life is like an hourglass. (Mind you, I am probably that shape these days as well, but hey ho, you can't get to 76 without some extra pounds and ounces!)

Liz Hawarth, St George's

A GRAIN OF SAND AT A TIME

This autumn, do you feel overwhelmed with all the things that you need to get done? Then think of your life as an hourglass. There are thousands of grains of sand in the top of the hourglass; and they all pass slowly and evenly through the narrow neck in the middle.



We are like that hourglass. When we start in the morning, there are hundreds of tasks which we feel that we must accomplish that day. But if we do not take them one at a time, and let them pass through the day slowly and evenly, as do the grains of sand passing through the narrow neck of the hour glass, then we are bound to break our own fragile physical and mental structure.

Do not attempt more than God designed you to do.



Services

12th November

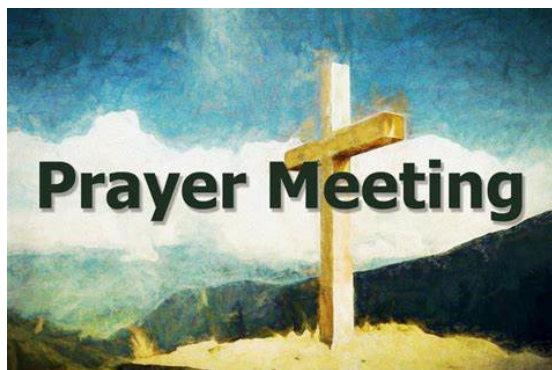
9.30am St George's – Morning Worship
10am St Gregory's – Holy Communion
10.50am St Mary's – Morning Worship
3pm St Gregory's – Civic Service

15th November

10am St Gregory's – Midweek Holy Communion

19th November

9.30am St George's – Holy Communion
10am St Gregory's – Greg's @ 10
11am St Mary's – Morning Worship
6.30pm Benefice Telephone Service BCP Evening Prayer



Tuesday Prayer Meeting on Zoom

Please do join us on Tuesday at 9am for a half hour of prayer. We meet on Zoom.

Just click on this [link](#) or go to <https://zoom.us/join> and enter:

Meeting ID: 575 020 5964 and Passcode: 850653.

BCP Telephone Service on Sunday, November 19th at 6:30pm

Our monthly evening telephone service will be on Sunday, at 6:30 pm. This month we will be using the Prayer Book Evening Prayer service. The service will be available online [here](#). Please contact Will Halse on 07974 755926 if you need a printed copy. To join the service just dial 0330 088 1927 and then enter the access code 2132492.

Best wishes - Will





Benefice Ladies Lunch

The next Benefice Ladies Lunch will be on Tuesday 14th November at Amelia's Cofton – 12 noon for a 12.30pm start. All welcome!

ROC – Praying for Dawlish

The next Prayer event for ROC / Praying with Dawlish will be on Tuesday 21st Nov at St Mary's Cofton. All Welcome!

Reaching Dawlish event

The next Reaching Dawlish event will be at Hope Centre at 6pm on Friday 24th November beginning at 6pm and finishing at 9pm at the latest.

The purpose of this event is for lead ministers to share their strategy to foster a greater sense of ownership and participation by local Christians. This will be an enjoyable, informal dinner to celebrate all that God is doing on mission in our community and to give everyone the opportunity to have their say in what happens next.



Lead ministers are encouraging everyone locally to get involved in some way, whether that's attending, volunteering in a practical way, or praying for the work. Free tickets may be booked on [Eventbrite](#) or you may contact Mark Jones directly on 07729998334 [or by email](#).



Christmas Tree Festival

Applications for the Christmas Tree Festival are available from the church office – paper copies are available in the lower narthex or you may [email Sabrina](#) in the church office for an email copy.

Christmas Tree Festival Bric-a-Brac stall

Jill and Graham Reynolds kindly have agreed to run a Bric a Brac stall while the Christmas Tree festival is running. If you have any unwanted gifts or Christmas-themed Bric-a-Brac that could be donated, please contact Jill and Graham directly or leave donations in the church office.

Volunteers for the coffee rota at St Gregory's

We could really use some willing helpers for St Gregory's coffee rota if you can make a cup of tea or coffee (!) then you are qualified! Please speak to Leena or Richard if you can help.



Dawlish Food Larder

The Dawlish Community Larder is in desperate need of reusable shopping bags. If you have too many in your cupboards, please drop them off at the Methodist Church, The Hope Centre, The Manor House or the Hubstore. Many thanks!



Coffee Morning in the Upper Narthex, St Gregory's



Coffee Morning and Cake Sale in The Upper Narthex at St Gregory's.

November 25th 2023 10.30am 'til 12.30

(£3.00 entry:

please bring coins if you can!!)

Unlimited tea, coffee and squash, with chocolate biscuits and a cake or mince pie.

Lots of fun and fellowship

To support Flying Leaps Charity and St Gregory's Organ Fund. Do hope to see you there!

Any questions to Mary May. 07807829183

Dawlish and District U3A Adventure Group

Dawlish and District U3A Adventure Group will be undertaking their latest adventure at St Gregory's Church in Dawlish. On Thursday 23rd November, 2-4pm, they will climb the church tower to admire the view from the top. On the way up they will see the eight bells, have a short talk on how a bell is rung and get to have a first experience of bellringing, under the guidance of the St Gregory's Ringing Master. For more information about the Adventure Group please see [Adventure group - Dawlish & District U3A](#)



Bellringing at St Greg's in November

On 18th November the Topsham bellringers will be coming to St Greg's to ring our bells from 2 to 3:30 pm and on the afternoon of 23rd of November the U3A group have a visit to our church and tower booked. It's likely some of them may have a try at Ringing, closely supervised by Mick Wallis our Ringing master.

Of course 12th November is also Remembrance Sunday and the bells will be rung for this special occasion. Traditionally on this Sunday, the bells are half-muffled meaning they sound a little different and create a moving echo sound which does in many people's opinion sound quite beautiful. So listen out for this on Sunday 12.11.23 when as your St Greg's ringers, we'll try to do this extra well.

Of course, if you or anyone you know is keen to come and have a go at ringing we are always happy to welcome folk and let people have a try - all carefully supervised. To find out more just contact me Cath Chappell (St Greg's Ringing Tower secretary) on 07880557772 or email me at cath.godden@outlook.com We're a happy, friendly easy going bunch and we'd love you to join us.

Cath Chappell

Ukrainian sisters seeking temporary home

Cliff and Chris Curd ask, could you or someone you know, open your home to 1 or 2 lovely Ukrainian sisters?

Dina aged 51 and Tetiana aged 60 both have sons serving in the Ukrainian Army. Dina's daughter, aged 21, has been here since April 2022, is very hard working and has endeared herself to many people. She lived with us for 10 months until moving into a flat in Dawlish with a friend. She misses her mum and is concerned for her safety. At first, the families wanted to make sure that the young women were safe, having seen what happened in Bucha and Irpin; they live in Kyiv near those towns. Earlier this year, Dina's block of flats was hit by a missile and the windows blown out, although her flat survived otherwise. Now, the war is very wearying and wearing them down and they would like to join their daughter/niece. They would need either a double room large enough for 2 people with 2 beds, or 2 separate rooms, or 2 sponsors near each other or a small flat which a sponsor was willing to let them have for 6 months. We have been hosting Ukrainians since April 2022, and it has been a privilege and a joy to do so, despite the challenges, so can answer questions about the scheme, money, commitment etc. There is plenty of support from the local Ukrainian community and from Teignbridge Homes for Ukraine support workers. If helping Dina and/or Tetiana, please contact us. (Chris' mobile to ask more detailed 07771842334) It would be possible to meet Dina's daughter you would like to explore questions and to arrange a video call to meet the ladies online.



UKRAINE & MOLDOVA

Christmas Shoebox Collection Point



Your filled shoebox should be wrapped in Christmas paper and marked as:

ADULT (Male or female)
BOY (0-12 or over 12)
or
GIRL (0-12 or over 12)

DEADLINE:
24th November

Christmas Shoeboxes

These can be taken to Dawlish Funeralcare as soon as they have been completed. If you require a spare shoebox, there are some available in St Gregory's church office.

A few ideas for items you could put in your shoebox:

For all (adults and children):

Hats; Gloves; Underwear; Toothpaste; Hairbrush; Chocolates; Calculator;
Torch; Pencils; Socks; Sweets; Soft toy; Shampoo; Biscuits.

For girls:

Beads; Jewellery; Tights; Friendship bracelets; Glowsticks;
Hair clips and slides; Lip gloss; Purse;
(***For older girls:*** Hand cream; Perfume; Lipstick).

For boys:

Lego bricks; Toy cars; Wallet; Torch; Glow sticks; Magnifying Glass;
(***For older boys:*** Aftershave; Coffee; Mini tools).



PLEASE BE GENEROUS
'Quality over quantity'



If you would like any support, or someone to talk to, or you are aware of someone else who would appreciate contact please ring one of the following:

Margaret Noel: 01626 863148

Will Halse: 01626 866054

Ceri Lee: 07739 936286