

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 1st December 2024

www.cofe-in-dawlish.org.uk

PLEASE DO NOT LOSE HEART!

Will Halse LLM, writes:

When Ceri wrote to remind me that it was my turn to write for the newsletter this week my first thought was no surprise. Oh no! What can I write? That question did stay with me for a day or two. I'm not sure if I really prayed it (I should have done). But this morning I received an answer. It came direct from the new Bishop of Exeter. He had arranged a study day for this morning (Saturday, November 23rd). And almost as soon as I arrived he came over to speak to me – yes me! I told him I was from Dawlish, and his response took me by surprise. 'I was in Dawlish yesterday'. He had come on the train! I'm afraid I missed him, but he did ask to be invited for a visit. That's something for our Rector Linda to arrange – so I'll hand this one to her. It might take six months to fix but watch this space!



When it came to the serious business of the day Bishop Mike had important things to say. He started with the recent trauma about abuse, Safeguarding and Justin Welby's resignation. He quoted Paul's second letter to the Corinthians 4:1. '*Since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart.*' ...**Do not lose heart!**

We do live in an unsafe world and we belong to a church that has porous boundaries. There will always be challenges, but this is part of our calling – to reach damaged people. A recent audit of Safeguarding in Exeter Diocese has revealed very good practice in our churches. Bishop Mike says, 'Please do not lose heart'.

The focus of the day was the difficult question of how we reach families, children and young people; and he went on to tell some lovely stories - of times when he was taught by his own children; and of things he learned as a child. Do you have fond memories from your childhood? A good memory is a blessing to a child. And then he touched on faces - years of cultivating a loving heart can be seen in a radiant face. We live in a world which insists on its rights and the test of a good relationship can often be 'does it work for me?'. But Jesus says, 'This is my body, given for you.' Jesus gave himself for us. What can we give?

Bishop Mike left us with a challenge. We may or may not have children in our church. But let's all grow younger. God is eternal. God is ageless. But God is also the newest and youngest thing we can imagine.

We are called to become younger every day. Growing younger, growing faith.

This is not a chore. **It's a gift.**

SPREADING SOME CHEER!

The annual Shoebox appeal by Christian Response in Eastern Europe has been in full swing in the lead up to transporting the items to Moldova and Ukraine. Thank you to those who brought their boxes to Church and for the generous donation by one of our 'regulars'.

Members of Dawlish Water Rotary Club have been travelling around south Devon and beyond filling their vehicles with donations from Schools, Churches and many organisations and households. In the past two weeks we have taken more than 1400 boxes and donations to the Exmouth depot in preparation for the arrival of the Heavy Goods Vehicle which will transport the items ready for distribution to children and their families.

The Charity's Director Hugh Scudder has talked to us about the work of the Charity and we are reminded how much their work is appreciated. In a world where the news each day reports the misery and dangers faced by so many innocent people it is a blessing to know that there is support for such initiatives which bring some joy to those in need.

The shoebox collection is pretty well complete for this year but I'm sure that Hugh will be grateful for any further donations to assist with transport costs and to allow the group to purchase domestic fuel to help families keep warm this winter. Rotarians Ray Williams, Chris May and Ray Moore will be happy to convey any further donations.

Ray Moore can be contacted on 07773 276005



INVITATION FROM BISHOP MIKE

You are warmly invited to Bishop Jackie's Farewell Eucharist Service at Exeter Cathedral on Saturday 18th January at 3pm, followed by refreshments. Please feel free to share this invitation with others in your Mission Community or organisation. To give an indication of numbers, please book your seat at [this link](#)

Bishop Jackie has been a huge blessing to this diocese over the past six years and we are grateful for all she has done as Bishop of Crediton and Acting Bishop of Exeter. We will be creating a leaving gift of a book of photos and messages of appreciation from across the diocese. Please upload a photo and/or a message (selfies appreciated!) for inclusion in the book to [this link](#)

If you would like to contribute to a gift for Bishop Jackie, please make a BACS payment to: NatWest Bank, High Street, Exeter Sort Code: 56-00-49 Account Number: 00717673 Account Name: Exeter Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd. Reference: Bishop Jackie (*please ensure you use this reference otherwise your donation cannot be allocated to Bishop Jackie's farewell gift*).



Thank you! This comes with my prayers for you as we enter the new Church year and the season of anticipation that is Advent.



BENEFICE ADVENT EVE RETREAT DAY..... POSTPONED!!

This was due be held on **Saturday 30th November** from **9.30am - 4.30pm** at **St Paul's Church, Starcross**. We will update you with the new date for the Spring, as soon as advised.



to enter your Christmas Tree into the Festival!

THANK YOU to **Paul and Veronica Hillcox** for their vibrant and expert design of the Festival poster aside!

St. Gregory the Great, Dawlish Coast Mission Community

Christmas Tree Festival 11-16th December 2024

St. Gregory's Church, Dawlish would like to invite you to take part in our Christmas Tree Festival. Community Groups, families, individuals & local businesses are all welcome to submit an entry for display. We are looking forward to creating another fun community event!

Please contact: alex_pugh@sky.com for an application form or pick one up at St Greg's



December can feel like chaos – lots of social events, services, Christmas presents to buy, never-ending to-do lists and the pressure to create the perfect Christmas. But in the midst of this chaos, our churches can offer an opportunity to find peace during this busy time.

The Church of England's theme for Advent and Christmas 2024, Follow the Star: Calm and Bright, draws on the world-famous carol, Silent Night:



“Silent Night! Holy Night! All is calm, all is bright...”

One of the reasons that this carol is so universally loved is the way it invites us into the still centre of the Christmas story, to contemplate Mary holding the new-born Jesus, the Light of the World.

The angelic messages we encounter in the biblical story of Jesus' birth typically hold together the need for calm in the present (“Do not be afraid” ... “Fear not”) with the hope of a bright future (“for you have found favour with God” ... “for behold I bring you tidings of great joy”). Throughout Advent, we will focus primarily on how to find Calm during this busy period, with reflections offering people a chance to pause during the busy season and tips on how to prepare for a calm Christmas.

SERVICES - 1st December to 14th December

Sunday 1st December - 1st Sunday of Advent

- 8.00am St Gregory's – Holy Communion
9.15am St George's – Morning Worship
9.30am St Paul's – Morning Worship
10am St Gregory's – Greg's@10 & Baptism
11.15am St Mary's – Morning Worship

Wednesday 4th December

- 10am St Gregory's - Midweek Holy Communion

Thursday 5th December

- 7pm St Gregory's - Funeralcare Memorial Service

Sunday 8th December—2nd Sunday of Advent

- 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 11th December

- 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

DECEMBER

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Sunday 1st | CTDD Advent Sunday service, 5.30pm Methodist |
| Monday 2nd | Men's Breakfast, 9am in St. Gregory's |
| Tuesday 3rd | 'Praying for Dawlish' (CTDD), 12 noon |
| Tuesday 3rd | Kids Swap Shop 9 - 11am in St. Gregory's |
| Thursday 5th | Funeral Care Memorial Service, 7pm in St. Gregory's
Pudding Club 2:30pm A Christmas Festive Gathering |
| Saturday 7th | Women's Breakfast, 9.30am at the Hope Centre |
| Saturday 7th | Kids' Swap Shop, 10am-12 noon in St. Gregory's |
| Sunday 8th | Christingle, 5pm in St. Paul's Starcross |
| Wednesday 11th | Opening of the Christmas Tree Festival, 6pm in St. Gregory's |
| Thursday 12th | Carols at Dawlish Warren, 7pm in St. Mary's Hall |
| Saturday 14th | Grand Charity Choirs Concert at 3pm in St. Gregory's |



Advance notice: Please note there is a change of date for the January meeting of Pudding Club to **Thursday 9th January at 2:30pm**

**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

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

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