

# 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 19th January 2025

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

## TOGETHER IN PRAYER *Ann Leigh writes:*

**CTDD? What does it stand for?** - Churches Together in Dawlish and District - though we recently changed the wording slightly to Christians Together for Dawlish and District, because we acknowledged there are many Christians living in our town who don't worship in one of our local churches, and we want to include all.



Over the past 12 months we have been working hard to re-establish CTDD after the difficulties of the Covid period, and we have chosen to re-affiliate with two larger bodies: Churches Together in Devon and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (ctbi). Inevitably this has meant some consideration of rules and regulations - what does our church believe? Do we all believe the same?

These questions had to be considered in the early years of the Christian church when the first disciples were spreading the news of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. In 325 AD church leaders from all over the known world were summoned by the Roman Emperor Constantine to gather in the town of Nicaea (Turkey). Over three months (May to July) they worked to formulate the basic beliefs of all orthodox Christians, expressed in the NICENE CREED which, in our Anglican liturgy, follows the sermon in the eucharist, though often nowadays we use a shortened form.

It is appropriate that 1700 years later the theme of this year's **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 18th-25th January, is 'Do you believe this?'** and each day there is the opportunity to consider a different phrase from the Nicene Creed we say so often: -

*Day 1* We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty

*Day 2* Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen

*Day 3* One Lord, Jesus Christ..... he came down from heaven..... and was made human

*Day 4* He was crucified, he suffered death and was buried ..... he rose from the dead

*Day 5* The Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life

*Day 6* One holy, catholic and apostolic Church

*Day 7* One baptism for the forgiveness of sins

*Day 8* The resurrection of the dead and life in the age to come

Do join us if you can for the breakfast (at 10am) and the opening service (at 11am) on Saturday 18th in St. Gregory's when we will be reflecting on God our Father, and perhaps also on Sunday 19th at 11.15am (after the morning service) when Chris Curd will be reminding us of God's work in creation and what we can do as churches to protect that wonderful, created world. Then during the week, at 12 noon in a different local church each day, there will be a small group meeting for study, discussion and prayer, considering one of the phrases from the Creed.

Above all, please pray for the unity of CTDD and all our churches in Dawlish.

## NOTHING WE CAN'T HANDLE.....!

Ceri Lee writes:

At the service at St Greg's on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January, when we celebrated the 'Baptism of Christ', Rev Helen Bays told us of an artwork that hangs in the church vestry (*pictured*), which has the following words:

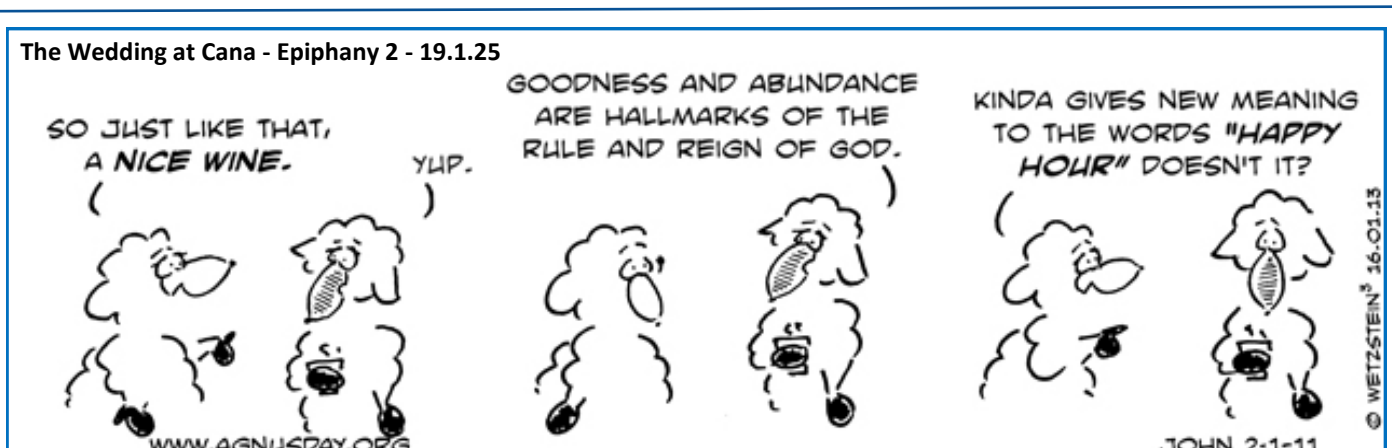


*'Lord, help me to remember that nothing is going to happen today that You and I can't handle.'*

Helen shared with us how helpful these words have been to her in the past, and continue to be to her, especially when faced with tasks for which she feels unprepared. I know that feeling and I suspect we all do from time to time. I'm going to bring those words to mind next time I feel out of my depth.... I doubt I'll have long to wait! Thank you, Helen.

We were also urged, during the same service, to remember that, through Christ, we are the recipients of God's 'Covenant of Grace' and we said a prayer, by John Wesley, that is used regularly in the Methodist Church. I found it to be of great reassurance and plan to use it regularly in my own personal prayers. I reproduce it here should you wish to do the same:

I am no longer my own but yours.  
Your will, not mine, be done in all things, wherever you may place me,  
in all that I do and in all that I may endure;  
when there is work for me and when there is none;  
when I am troubled and when I am at peace.  
Your will be done when I am valued and when I am disregarded;  
when I find fulfilment and when it is lacking;  
when I have all things and when I have nothing.  
I willingly offer all that I have and am,  
to serve you, as and where you choose.  
Glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
you are mine and I am yours.  
May it be so for ever.  
Let this covenant now made on earth be fulfilled in heaven.  
Amen.



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## AN UNSEEN SPARK STARTED IT ALL

*Jayne Manfredi writes:*

An unseen spark started it all. A flash of heat and light that set aflame the drought dry, dusty vegetation, which lay in wait like piled up tinder. The flames ate it all up, cheered on by devil winds, roaring like a chorus. And when all that was destroyed, the flames rushed on, seeking out more fuel. Gardens. Out-buildings. Homes.



It looks like a hellscape, but it's not a war zone. This is not Gaza. Or Syria. Or Ukraine. This is the Californian Coast. Santa Monica, Pasadena, Los Angeles. Sparks surging closer to the Hollywood sign itself. The exclusive postcode makes no difference to the fire. All is food for the flames.

Wildfire can be described as an Act of God, a way to make sense of an uncontrollable force of nature. I can understand why people find the thought of faith offensive when terrible things occur. What kind of loving God would allow such things to happen? Is the kind of question that can shake your faith or stop a quest for it stone dead. I still don't have a perfect answer to this, and I'm wary of any Christians who tell me that they do.

The Old Testament includes the story of Elijah, who's told to go out and stand on the mountain and wait for God to pass by. And while he waits there, he experiences various natural disasters: a powerful wind, an earthquake, and then a fire. Elijah wonders if God is in these majestic, powerful signs, but we're told that God wasn't present in any of them. God was not in the fire. God was found where God was least expected: in the sheer silence which followed.

Fire is a terrible and fatal leveller. Amongst the celebrity homes that have been destroyed is that of actor Billy Crystal and his wife, who lived there for 46 years, raised their children and grandchildren there, and who said that "every inch of our home was filled with love."

Places are powerful and our psyches are irrevocably woven together with them, but when disaster strikes and life collapses down to the bare basics of existence, it is love which remains.

Fire is a destroyer, but against this it is powerless. God is not in the fire. God is in the silence, in the spaces in between, in the bonds that people share, in the helping and the caring, and in the generosity and bravery of strangers in the face of terrible tragedy. God is in the things which can't be destroyed.

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*This powerful piece was written for and broadcast on The Today Programme, BBC Radio Four, January 10th 2024. The writer, Jayne Manfredi, describes herself as an 'Anglican Deacon. Writer. BBC Radio Four contributor. Unrepentant Crewe Girl.' Her book, Waking the Women: Faith, Menopause and the Meaning of Midlife is out now, published by Canterbury Press. You can read more of her 'midlife musings at the side of the tracks' online on [substack.com](https://substack.com) – or by following [this link Jayne Manfredi | Substack](#)*

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## SERVICES – 18th JANUARY to 1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY



### Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January

11am St Gregory's – CTDD service for start of the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity'

### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January – Epiphany 2

9.15am St George's – Holy Communion  
9.30am St Paul's – Morning Worship  
10am St Gregory's – Greg's@10  
(followed at approx. 11.15am by Eco Church presentation)  
11.15am St Mary's – Morning Worship  
6.30pm Telephone Service - dial 01200 480091 to join

### Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January

10am St Gregory's - Midweek Holy Communion

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January — Epiphany 3

9.15am St George's – Morning Worship  
9.30am St Paul's – Parish Communion for the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul  
(followed by Fellowship Lunch from 12midday)  
10am St Gregory's – Holy Communion  
11.15am St Mary's – Holy Communion

### Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January

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 ....

### JANUARY



**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>** CTDD Breakfast, 10am, St Greg's (Upper Narthex) followed by service, 11am Choral Evensong Workshop – come to join in or listen – 3-6pm, St Greg's

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>** Creation Care: A Rocha Eco Church Presentation, 11.15am approx., St Greg's

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>** CTDD study, discussion and prayer at 12 noon each day for the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity', as follows:  
20<sup>th</sup> St George's, Holcombe; 21<sup>st</sup> Dawlish Methodist Church; 22<sup>nd</sup> St Greg's; 23<sup>rd</sup> Venue TBC; 24<sup>th</sup> St Mary's, Cofton; 25<sup>th</sup> Strand Chapel

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>** Kids' Swap Shop, 9-11am, St Greg's  
Little Greg's, 9.30-11.30am (Upper Narthex)

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>** Memorial Service for Dave Cann, 2pm, St Greg's

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>** Little Greg's, 9.30-11.30am, St Greg's (Upper Narthex)  
Julian Group, 2pm, St Greg's (Upper Narthex)

### FEBRUARY

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup>** Kids' Swap Shop, 9.30-11.30am, St Greg's

**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](#)