

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 March 2026

www.cofe-in-dawlish.org.uk

TEMPTED IN THE DESERT

Steve Cronin writes:

The Gospel reading for the first Sunday in Lent was: Matthew 4 vs 1 - 11.

It tells the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert. It happens immediately after his baptism by John the Baptist, and as we remember after that event the Spirit fell from heaven like a dove and a voice from heaven says, "*This is my Son, with whom I love, with him I am well pleased*".

I'm sure that if our own fathers had spoken so boldly about us we would have been to say the least a bit chuffed! Whilst we can't presume to know how Jesus thought, I personally imagine he would have treasured that moment.

But rather than dwell on this, he is taken into the wilderness to be tested by the Devil. We read that Jesus prays and fasts for forty days and forty nights. At the end of that time the Devil comes to Jesus and says,

"If you really are the Son of God then turn these stones into bread."

As I prepared to speak on this passage for last Sunday's service at St George's I was really struck by this, let me explain...



The New International Version of the bible says that Jesus was 'Hungry', the New Revised Standard Version uses the word 'Famished', The Message version perhaps expresses it more accurately like this, 'That left him, of course, in a state of extreme hunger, which the Devil took advantage of in the first test.'

We know that Jesus is fully human as well as being fully God, but I wonder if we really recognise his humanity when we think of him. In the wilderness, Jesus was in a state of extreme hunger, he had been marvellously disciplined in his fasting and praying but it had left him hungry and vulnerable.

The Devil took this moment to try to get Jesus to succumb to his pride and his hunger by suggesting that if he really was the Son of God, he could turn stones into bread so that he could eat and be satisfied. Jesus' response was to quote from scriptures that,

"One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Continued overleaf

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Twice more, the Devil tests Jesus, he takes him to the top of the temple in Jerusalem and again uses the words *"If you are the Son of God"* and tells him to jump off, quoting Psalm 91:

"He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."

Once again Jesus quotes scripture,

"Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

Lastly the Devil takes him up to a very high mountain where they can see all of the nations of the world and the Devil offers them all to Jesus, if Jesus will fall down to worship him.

Jesus' response was again from scripture,

"Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."

On hearing this the Devil flees and angels suddenly appear to tend to Jesus.

Are you fasting? Are you taking up something? How easy is it to munch on something without thinking? How easy is it say I'll do twice as much tomorrow?

The reality is that the devil will come to us and use our frailties to get inside our head and tempt us.

This Lent, maybe we need to consider those things that tempt us, we need to have honest conversations with God about what we want to give up, certainly it can be good for us to abstain from sweet things, chocolate, alcohol etc. However, if we are being mature Christians there are other temptations we might be better fasting from - unkind thoughts, the temptation to get angry with someone rather than forgiving them, the temptation to be selfish, pride.

This Lent, we need to look to God: in prayer and worship; through reading the Scriptures; and we need to work out how we can put God back at the centre of how we live, as individuals and as a community.

And as these 40 days pass, we shouldn't lose our focus on God as Lent comes to an end; rather, we should be better prepared to follow Jesus more closely, as we celebrate the joy of the resurrection.

I have been inspired by the human Jesus, who chose not to use the God Jesus to take on temptation, perhaps as we go through Lent we can think about how we can best follow his example?

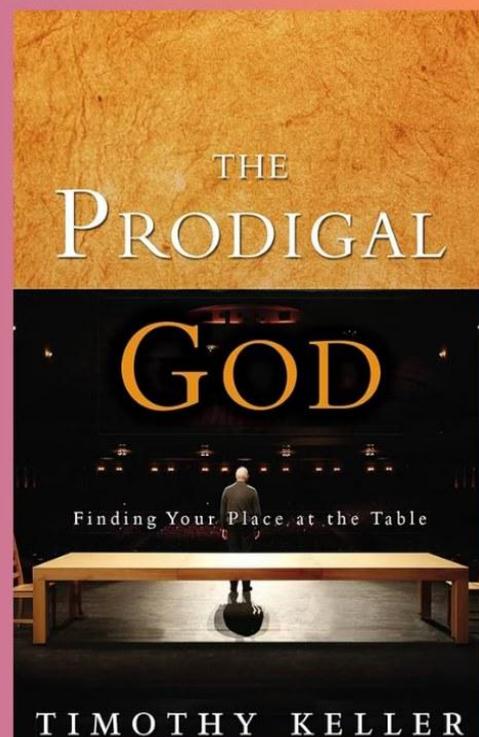


Christians Together
in Dawlish and
District

Lent Bible study groups

Tuesday 2pm St Paul's Starcross
Wednesday 2pm Dawlish Methodist
Wednesday 7pm ask for venue
Thursday 2pm St George's Holcombe

BEGINNING THE W/C 23RD FEB FOR 6 WEEKS
EACH WEEKLY SESSION IS IDENTICAL
SO YOU CAN GO TO ANY GROUP IN EACH WEEK
FOR MORE INFO CONTACT
07534369035



SAFEGUARDING TRAINING – REMINDER

Tess Hickson, Safeguarding Officer, writes:



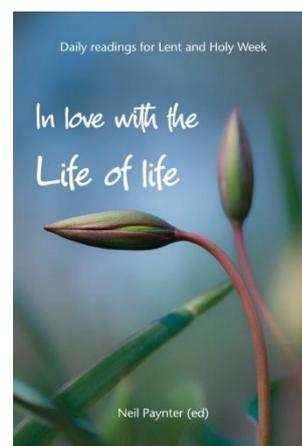
Could I remind those who need to redo their **Foundation Safeguarding Training**, and prefer face to face rather than online, there is a session in Dawlish on **Monday 9th March at 1.30-3.30pm**.

And advance notice, for those needing to do the **Domestic Abuse Safeguarding Training**, for example if you are on the PCC, there is a face to face session, again in Dawlish, on **Monday 13th April at 1.30-3.30pm**.

For more details (including the venue) please phone Tess on 07376 658440.

A LENT PRAYER by Nancy Cocks, from 'In Love With the Life of Life' (www.ionabooks.com)

God of mercy,
in your presence, we confess those times when we have cherished anger toward people and places which somehow gave us offence. Forgive us our own hardness of heart which leads us to give up on the power of mercy to create new beginnings. In these times when distrust and anger colour the world stage and deepen divisions, we pray that you will call neighbours and nations to repent of their anger and turn from dangerous, divisive action. Inspire us to trust in your mercy and seek to live it out in our own relationships and attitudes for the sake of Christ, Mercy Incarnate.
Amen.



Exeter Opera Group
presents the opera

Teignmouth Classical Music Festival

Saturday March 7th @7pm

St Michael the Archangel Church
Dawlish Street
Teignmouth
TQ14 8TB
The church by the seafront

CARMEN
G. BIZET

EL DANCAIRO - Ian Spackman
MICAELA - Rachel Phillips
FRASQUITA - Clare Northcott
MERCEDES - Rachel Phillips
CHORUS of EOG

DON JOSÉ - Robert Felstead
ESCAMILLO - Stephen Moseley
ZUNIGA - Nick Young
MORALES - Ian Spackman
EL REMENDADO - John Burgoyne

THE LOVERS

DIRECTOR - Nick Lawrence
Iryna Ilytska
MUSIC DIRECTOR - Stephen Moseley
PIANO - Richard Lucas
Tim Laurence-Othen
FLUTE - Suzanne De Lozey
TRUMPET - Harry Stanwell

Tickets £14 (accompanied under 18s free) available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/vive-la-musique (a small booking fee will apply), via rachaelsharmur@gmail.com (tel 07960 103 394) or on the door (cash or cheques only).

Refreshments will be served during the interval.
Organised by Vive La Musique Charity No 1190248.

Teignmouth Classical Music Festival

CELEBRATING THE CLASSICS

Exeter Youth Orchestra
Directed by Robert Willis

Sunday 8th March 2026 at 3pm
St Michael's Church, Teignmouth, TQ14 8TB

Tickets: £8.00 (under18s free) from
rachaelsharmur@gmail.com
07960 103394
www.ticketsource.co.uk/vive-la-musique

Organised by Vive La Musique! (Registered Charity No 1190248)

SUCCESSFUL PEAL ON THE ST GREG'S BELLS

Good news! The visiting team of 8 bell ringers were successful in ringing their peal on Monday 16th February. They continuously rang a method called Zetland Road Surprise Major for almost 3 hours. This is a mathematical pattern of 5152 changes that each of the ringers had to learn in advance and then as a team - ring without mistakes. This takes a considerable amount of concentration as well as being physically demanding to do. The band were extremely competent ringers and they very much hope all who heard the ringing enjoyed it - and to those who weren't so keen - they extend their thanks for your patience and hope you weren't disturbed too much.



Peals are not rung often because they are such hard work and can (because of the time they take) be disruptive to local residents; but this band do hope to come again next year and to have an equally enjoyable and successful ring.

As your local St Greg's ringers - we are of mixed ringing abilities, but we delight in ringing together and do our best every Sunday to ring as well as we can, reminding folks in Dawlish that the Sunday service is soon to start and all are welcome to share in it.

If you fancy having a try at ringing please do get in touch as we'd be very happy to let you have a go under expert and reassuring supervision of our ringing Master and his very able assistants. You too could be ding-donging merrily on high!

Cath Chappell, Ringing Tower Secretary. Phone: 07880 557772 Email: cath.godden@outlook.com



Daffs and Donuts!
A time of celebration & thanks for everyone
Mothering Sunday 15th March
St Greg's Church @ 10am

A mix of traditional and contemporary music and prayers,
followed by daffs and donuts!
Free - any questions contact Revd Linda on 01626 927281

Mothering Sunday Flowers at St. Greg's

We will be
preparing posies
for Mothering
Sunday on:-

**SATURDAY 14th
MARCH at
9.30am**
in Church.

Georgie Moore
01626 865486
07765 901917

NOTICE TO ALL CANDLE-USERS – ECCLESIASTICAL AND DOMESTIC!

CR2EE (Christian Response to Eastern Europe) collect candle ends to send to Ukraine. They are melted down to make trench candles etc. Candles **cannot** be in containers - just the ends, please. Could churches and individuals collect these? They could be given to St Paul's Church at Starcross (for Hugh Scudder) or to Chris Curd who is happy to pass them on.

REDEEMING OUR COMMUNITIES: SOUTH-WEST GATHERING – 21st MARCH



Mark Jones, ROC Dawlish, writes:

Dear Friends, we're delighted to invite you to the Redeeming Our Communities (ROC) South-West Gathering on Saturday 21 March, 6:00–9:30 pm, at the Hope Centre in Dawlish.

National Director and Founder of ROC (roc.uk.com), Debra Green OBE DL, will bring a prophetic call to the church, helping us reflect on how we live out our faith, in unity, and on mission in today's rapidly-changing context.

This **FREE** evening is open to churches, leaders, and church members from across Devon and the South West and will include worship, teaching, prayer, and space to respond together.

Follow this link to book your FREE ticket:
redeemingyourcommunity.eventbrite.co.uk

Here's a short invitation video for you to share: <https://youtu.be/A7KiAZJ8dHc>

Here's Debra in action to give you a flavour:
<https://fb.watch/EVP0lxRGIQ/>

*We'd love you to join us. Grace and peace,
Mark*

Redeeming Your Community
in 2026 and beyond...

Equipping churches and Christian-led organisations to hear God's heart and serve their community

Saturday 21st March 2026, 6.00 - 9.30pm
The Hope Centre, Swift Road, Dawlish EX7 0FS ...with Debra Green OBE DL, Founder and National Director of Redeeming Our Communities (ROC)
Light refreshments will be provided...

FREE event hosted by: **ROC** DAWLISH REDEEMING OUR COMMUNITIES, **Mi HOPE CENTRE** MISSION INCREASE, **eventbrite**

For all churches and leaders from across Devon and the South West

Book online via redeemingyourcommunity.eventbrite.co.uk Contact Mark Jones 07729 998334, rocawlish@gmail.com

The 2026 'Easter Is...?' Church Experience

Now running for its 4th year in Dawlish, the 'Easter Is...?' experience has been adapted so that not only our local school children can enjoy it but also the wider church!

Come and explore the first century Jerusalem temple filled with Easter story characters, who you'll 'interview' and build up a rich understanding of the impact that Easter had on them all.

The experience also interactively includes ceremonial foot washing, temple sacrifice, a full-sized cross that can be hammered, a full sized first century tomb to be entered and a Passover table to explore.

A time to reflect afterwards with the characters including refreshments will also be provided.

Spaces are limited, so book in today!



Children are welcome with an accompanying adult, and it is encouraged that folk consider bringing a non-Christian friend

EVENT
HOSTED
BY



Wednesday 1st of April, 6:30pm – 8:30pm at the Hope Centre, Dawlish. Tickets are FREE and available through the Hope Centre website - www.hopechurchdawlish.org/whats-on

MESSAGE FROM ECO CHURCH GROUP AT ST. GREG'S

St Greg's try to re-cycle as much as we can using Eco Church and Fairtrade guidelines. PLEASE can everyone involved look at notices and labels on items. Then follow the instructions about re-cycling. Those of you who do this at home will know it's not an onerous duty and means we all do our bit to look after our precious planet.



CHURCH WARDENS AT ST GREG'S

Both St Greg's Church Wardens are stepping down at the next APCM in May 2026.

Anyone who feels called to be a Church Warden at St Gregs, should realise that an **application process** exists as follows:

1. Obtain a Nomination Form
2. Get a Proposer and Secunder to fill out the form
3. Submit completed form to the PCC Secretary
4. Forms must be submitted before the date of APCM on **17th May 2026**
5. Election will take place during the APCM

TREASURER AT ST GREG'S

The St Greg's Treasurer is stepping down at the APCM in May 2026.

Any person who feels they may be able to become St Greg's Treasurer after the APCM in May 2026, should, in the first instance speak to, or email, Revd Linda Cronin ASAP.

Revd Linda Cronin (Rector)

01626 927281 or email: revdlinda@icloud.com

ST MARY'S COFTON
EX6 8RP

MARCH SERVICES

Sunday 1st 11.15am Morning Worship

Sunday 8th 11.15am Holy Communion

Sunday 15th 11.15am Morning Worship for
Mothering Sunday

Sunday 22nd 10am Joint Shanty Service
at St Paul's

Sunday 22nd 4pm Quiet Holy Communion at
St Mary's

Sunday 29th 10.30am Benefice Service for
Palm Sunday at St Greg's

WE LOOK FORWARD TO
WELCOMING YOU

WILD POLLINATOR TRAIL

*Supported by Dawlish
Town Council.*



All those who live in Dawlish are encouraged to enter this Trail to get Dawlish buzzing! Entries can be anything from entire gardens to single pots, as long as entries are visible to the public; or in the case of gardens open at advertised times. **Entries have to be in by 31st March.**

Any who would be interested in helping with an entry for St Greg's are invited to meet with

members of the Eco team by the stone cross outside the south wall of the Church, **after the service on Mothering Sunday**, bring refreshment with you! If you can't come at that time, or have any ideas as to how the area around the stone cross could be enhanced in a wildlife friendly way, please let Chris Curd know.

07771 842334, prebchris2020@gmail.com

You might be able to help with providing suitable plants, or containers or constructing a small water feature or bug hotel etc.

#CountYourPlastic

thebigplasticcount.com

**THE BIG
PLASTIC
COUNT
9-15 MARCH**



**WE'RE TAKING PART IN
THE BIG PLASTIC COUNT.**

ARE YOU?

SIGN UP NOW

SPRING

A poem
by Marjorie Thorne



Air is warming, buds are forming
Days are lengthening, sun rays strengthening.
Flowers emerging, hearts are lightening,
Dewdrops glistening on greener grass
winter gives way to spring at last.

Yet again the miracle of God's creation
brings nature's time of celebration.
Hatchlings break out with baby cheeps
Lambs find joy in frolicking leaps.

And surely we with grateful hearts
can praise for all God's love imparts,
and worship Him with song and rhyme
For Christ is risen at Easter time !
That He, like earth is resurrected
And we, through Him are born again.

DEATH

WHAT A WONDERFUL WAY TO EXPLAIN IT...

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side." Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know ..."
"You don't know? You're a Christian Man, and don't know what's on the other side?"
The doctor was holding the handle of the door; on the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness. Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing ... I know my Master is there and that is enough."

**PRAYING FOR
DAWLISH**

Pray for Dawlish together

Every First Tuesday
12:00–12:30 PM
Methodist Church Dawlish

*"For where two or three gather in my name,
I am there with them. – Matthew 18:20*

First Tuesday of every month from 12–12:30pm, at the Methodist Church, we gather to pray for our town — for families, schools, businesses, streets and seafront. It's simple, relaxed and open to everyone. No special words needed — just come as you are.

☕ The Methodist Café is open 10:00–12:00, so come early for coffee, cake and good conversation.

We believe prayer changes things. The Bible says: "If my people... will humble themselves and pray... then I will hear from heaven." –

2 Chronicles 7:14

This isn't just for leaders. It's for all of us. Every voice matters. Every prayer counts. Let's stand together and pray hope into Dawlish.

Vines are grown together because:

- *They flourish in shared systems
- *God works through covenant communities
- *Fruit is for others, not just oneself
- *Life flows from one source into many

A vineyard says: you don't have to be strong on your own to be fruitful — you just have to stay connected.

SERVICES – 1st to 14th March

Sunday 1st March — 2nd Sunday of Lent

8am St Gregory's - Holy Communion (BCP)
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
4pm St Gregory's – Choral Evensong, *followed by tea*

Wednesday 4th March

10am St Gregory's – Midweek Holy Communion

Friday 6th March

9.45am St Gregory's – Funeral service: *James Davis*
2.30pm St Gregory's – 'World Day of Prayer' service
followed by refreshments

Sunday 8th March — 3rd Sunday of Lent

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

Wednesday 11th March

10am St Gregory's - Midweek Holy Communion

Friday 13th March

11.30am St Gregory's – Funeral service: *Colleen Jackson*



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

Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri.
PRAYER HALF HOUR
From 6.30pm on Zoom
Please follow this link [HERE](#) to join

The Lady Chapel at St Greg's is available for quiet prayer from 9.30am, before the 10am Sunday service

DIARY DATES IN MARCH (FOR LENT COURSE DATES, TIMES & VENUES – see page 3)

Monday 2nd Mens' Breakfast – St Gregory's, 9am
Crafting and Chatting – St Paul's, Starcross 1.30-3.30pm

Tuesday 3rd Kids' Swap Shop – St Gregory's, 9-11am
Little Greg's – Upper Narthex, St Gregory's, 9.30-11.30am
Praying for Dawlish – Dawlish Methodist Church, 12noon

Wednesday 4th Drop-In – St George's, Holcombe 2-4pm

Saturday 7th 'Carmen' – Exeter Opera Group, St Michael's, Teignmouth, 7pm - *details on page 2*

Sunday 8th Celebrating the Classics – Exeter Youth Orchestra, St Michael's, Teignmouth, 3pm – *details on page 2*

Monday 9th Foundation Safeguarding Training – 1.30-3.30pm, *details on page 2*

Tuesday 10th Little Greg's – Upper Narthex, St Gregory's, 9.30-11.30am
Mothers' Union – St Gregory's, 2pm

Thursday 12th Pudding Club – Upper Narthex, St Gregory's, 2.30pm – fun quiz!

Saturday 14th Preparing Posies for Mothering Sunday - St Greg's, 9.30am
Monthly Sale – St Paul's, Starcross 11am-1.30pm

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

LLMS: Steve Cronin: 07817 678774; **Will Halse:** 01626 866054; **Ceri Lee:** 07739 936286.

Safeguarding Officer at St Greg's: Tess Hickson 07376 658440

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