

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 4th January 2026

www.cofe-in-dawlish.org.uk

REFLECTIONS AND INTENTIONS *Steve Cronin, writes:*

As I write this our house is full of family as all our children and grandchildren are staying in the vicarage, as we get together to celebrate Christmas time. But even now the memories of Christmas are fading, and we are fast coming up to the new year. New year can be a funny time, as we look back over the last year and then look forward to what is coming in the new year.



This past year there has been much to remember, some of the highlights have been the times when we have celebrated together. Occasions like the regular benefice services, St George's 80th Anniversary, St Greg's 200th Celebrations with the floral displays and concerts, the many musical events across the benefice, the Christmas tree festival and many more special times we have spent together across the four churches.

Another of the highlights were the lent groups that were held across the benefice, based in different locations and held at different times to allow as many people as possible to take part. Particularly encouraging was the way that people went to another group to take part in a session that they couldn't get to in their usual group.

The 6 o'clock prayer meetings at St Greg's have been encouraging too as we have seen answers to prayers and continue to pray for revival. A faithful group of people regularly taking part has been a real blessing. This group has stopped for the time being as the Christmas break had made it difficult for people to attend, however we will begin to meet again starting in Lent which surprisingly is only a few weeks away.

There have been sad events as well where we have had to say goodbye to friends who have either moved away or sadly died. This too can make this time of year difficult for many.

Just today, Sunday 28th December, I was privileged to attend Patrick Parkes' farewell service at St Paul's. Although we had said farewell as a community at the last benefice service, today was Patrick's last Sunday serving St Paul's, this again being one of those events that foster mixed emotions. On the one hand the sadness of Patrick and Viv moving away from our own church life and all that has meant over the last 4 years, but there is also the sense that, as they leave us they are embarking on a new chapter, and we wish them well in their next steps as God leads them.

Mixed emotions maybe, but it's also good to look ahead. Many people take this opportunity to set resolutions for the new year (although if we're honest, I'm not too sure how many people keep them). On Sunday 21st December at St Greg's we took some time to look at the life of Joseph. As we looked at the few mentions he gets in the bible he, perhaps, could have thought of himself having just a 'bit part' in Jesus' story.

We discovered that in reality Joseph had a major role in Jesus' life, not just in his lineage or his trusting the angel who appeared in his dream, or even the naming of their son Jesus, but very much in the way he brought up Jesus to the point where he took on his ministry. We reflected that we might look on ourselves as being bit players in the church but just like Joseph, who had something special to give, it is the same for us. The bible teaches that we ALL have a role to play in the church. None of us are bit players but we do all have a bit to play!

As we think about what is in store for us in the new year perhaps it is a good time to look at what our part is in the church's life. Maybe we should ask ourselves what is our bit?

Wishing you all a happy and blessed new year.

A 'THANK YOU' FROM REVD. PATRICK AND VIV PARKES

Dear All,

A somewhat belated note to say how moved both Viv and I were at the very generous retirement gift that we received at my final benefice service along with the thoughtfully chosen plants that have already found pride of place in the garden of our new home.

It has been a joy and a privilege to minister amongst you and you will continue to remain in our prayers and our hearts as you move forward with the mission of God in your various churches.

We will certainly miss you all but hope to touch base from time to time, once we have acclimatized to our new surroundings.

Do please convey our sincere thanks to the four church congregations for their contributions.

With kind regards and good wishes, Pat and Viv xx

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL NEWS!

£1,500 raised and shared equally between
ASSIST Teignbridge and Dawlish Community
Larder (ROC). **£570** taken on the Fairtrade stall.



Christmas Tree Festival
— Voting Results —

🏆 Mayor's Favourite Tree
"The Tree That Keeps On Giving"
Dawlish WI

★ People's Choice Awards ★

🥇 1st Place
"Price Paid For Freedom"
Little Gregs Toddler Group

🥈 2nd Place
"Grow Your Own"
Dawlish Garden Society

🥉 3rd Place
"Breakfast With The Military"
Dawlish Armed Forces & Veterans
Breakfast Club

With thanks from all at
St Gregory's Church

St Gregory's Church,
Dawlish

Please do join us for
Choral Evensong

On Sunday 4th January 2026
at 4.00pm

followed by tea in the Upper
Narthex



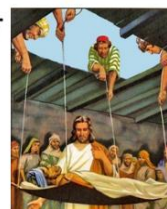
at
St. Greg's

Thursday
15th January
2026
3.30-6pm

It's church, but not as you know it!

This month's theme: **A NEW START**

Come to hear the story of the four
friends who took a poorly man
through a hole in a roof to meet
Jesus.....and be healed!



Plenty of fun with
activities for
adults and children
to enjoy together

Celebration
Time!
Stories, songs
and prayers

Refreshments on
arrival and
a meal before
going home

Messy Church values are about being Christ-centred, for all ages,
based on creativity, hospitality and celebration.



BISHOP ENCOURAGES US TO SHINE AS LIGHTS IN THE DARKNESS IN 2026

The Bishop of Exeter, the Rt. Rev'd Dr Mike Harrison, shares a New Year message for 2026

Looking back at 2025, one moment that stands out for me is entering the Cathedral with the French and Italian women's national rugby teams in August as Devon welcomed the Rugby World Cup into the County and celebrated its arrival. The applause on entry was rapturous and long-lasting – and a fine example of the outstanding hospitality this part of the South West has so often provided – be it to students, sojourners, sightseers, or in this case sportswomen.



Bishop Mike says he is looking forward to some of the community and sporting events happening in Devon in 2026

I confess to being concerned for the Italian team who appeared to be half the size of the French team – and hoped that what they lacked in build would be made up for in speed – but sadly for them they were trounced.

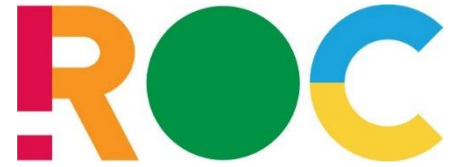
And looking forward – these are challenging times for us globally. Indeed it's been described as a time of monsters. Not in terms of Pixar movies but in terms of leaders who rise to the top by being the least scrupulous, the most brazen, the at best amoral – indifferent to historic distinctions between virtue and vice, truth and falsehood, selflessness and selfishness.

We need good leaders, especially when surveys suggest there is more and more polarisation and fragmentation in our communities. So my hope is for good leadership and good leaders. Of course we all need to do our part, and for me that means supporting, encouraging and resourcing the leaders and people of the 595 churches I oversee as Bishop to continue to grow in service of their local communities.

And it also means celebrating some of the wonderful initiatives we see around us in Devon – whether the work of the Deaf Academy (celebrating its 200th anniversary in 2026), St Petrock's charity working with rough sleepers in Exeter or the Devon Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs (Devon YFC). And of course having fun in all of this – with for instance the Bideford Water Festival marking its centennial or Torbay hosting the Stand-Up Paddleboarding World Cup in June 2026.

And my message to you all this New Year? From Herod to Scrooge to the Grinch there have always been symbolic characters looking to extinguish the light. The Good News of the Christmas season is that the light shines in the darkness, the darkness has not overcome it and we are called, we are invited, we are beckoned to this light, to catch alight ourselves and radiate light. So let's shine as lights in the world in 2026. Happy New Year!

UPDATE ON DAWLISH SCHOOLS WORK



Adam Gidney writes:

The Christmas half-term has seen a flurry of activity as well as a new project take shape.

In the primary schools there was plenty of classroom action with subjects being taught on messiahship, trinitarism and theology proper.

We also covered assemblies on All Saint's Day, the Presentation of Mary, Advent and, of course, Christmas. The Christmas teaching didn't stop there as we also ran our EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) Christmas puppet shows and helped the schools in their preparation for their Carol and Christingle services.

Finally, this half term saw the BeDazzled after school club's numbers swell to the largest it has been for some time now, and we spent our time together each week acting out the nativity - the children had a great time!

In Dawlish College, the ROC Champion's program completed its relationship building sessions between the Year 7s and their Year 9 'Champions'. They were such a joy to be a part of and we finished on a high, feeding all 40 of them in our December 'Lunch Lounge'.

The 'Hope Connection' sessions worked with a great bunch of Year 9 students all of whom fully embraced the ethos of the program: to selflessly serve the community. The program has been such a success through its alternative provision that it's been credited as improving student attendance and attitudes towards school.

The Kintsugi Hope wellbeing sessions for Year 8 were a blast as we supported 10 students on a weekly basis. We now have another round of sessions booked in for the Spring term.

And finally, in response to the College's lack of one-to-one pastoral support, we set up a new program called 'ROC Solid'. This half-term saw us work with three students with complex backgrounds, helping them to navigate home life, school and relationships.

The focus in early January will turn towards Easter...

Love and Blessings,

Adam

Adam Gidney

ROC Dawlish School and Family Mentor Coordinator

07711234948

Usual days of work: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

SERVICES – 4th to 17th January 2026



Sunday 4th January — Second Sunday of Christmas

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 7th January

10am St Gregory's - Midweek Holy Communion

Friday 9th January

1.30pm St Gregory's – Funeral of the late Hilda Quantick

Sunday 11th January — 1st Sunday of Epiphany, Baptism of Christ

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 14th January

10am St Gregory's - Midweek Holy Communion

Thursday 15th January

3.30-6pm St Gregory's – Messy Church

TUESDAY PRAYER MEETING ON ZOOM



Welcome to a half hour of
prayer online on
Tuesdays at 8.45am.
Just click on this link or
go to <https://zoom.us/join>
and enter:
Meeting ID: 575 020 5964
and Passcode: 850653

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

The
PRAYER HALF HOUR
that has been taking place
at 6pm on a
Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri.
has now paused,
and will restart at the
beginning of Lent.

Watch this space!

DIARY DATES IN JANUARY

Monday 5th **Mens' Breakfast** – Upper Narthex at St Gregory's, 9am
Tuesday 6th **Little Greg's** – Upper Narthex at St Gregory's, 9.30-11.30am
 Praying for Dawlish - 12midday in the Methodist Church
 CTDD Planning Meeting - 4.15pm in the Strand Chapel
Thursday 8th **Pudding Club** – Upper Narthex at St Gregory's, 2.30pm
Fri 9th - Sat 17th **"Cinderella"** at the Shaftesbury Theatre
Tuesday 13th **Little Greg's** – Upper Narthex at St Gregory's, 9.30-11.30am
Friday 16th **Mayoral Bingo Night**, 7.30pm in the Manor House

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

Steve Cronin (LLM): 07817 678774; **Will Halse (LLM):** 01626 866054;

Ceri Lee (LLM): 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](#)
