

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 15th December 2024

www.cofe-in-dawlish.org.uk

Rev. Linda Cronin writes:

I wonder what your Christmas traditions are? Here are some interesting ones!

Christmas has a long history in the UK, but we have the Victorians to thank for many of our most loved festive traditions, including sending cards and decorating Christmas trees. In fact, before the 19th century, Christmas was barely celebrated in Britain.

The **Christmas tree** was first introduced to the UK in 1800 by the wife of King George III, Queen Charlotte, who brought the tradition from her native Germany, where it was common custom to have a **Christmas tree** in your home. The barbed leaves and red berries of the **holly plant** have long been identified with eternal life and protection in Great Britain. At first the Christian church took a disapproving stance to holly, forbidding it from appearing in churches, but the spiky leaves still appeared in people's houses, as the red of the berries was thought to ward off witches. In the face of such popularity, the custom was sanctified, the leaves taken to represent Christ's crown of thorns, and the berries His blood. **Ivy** was the 'female' plant to the 'male' holly, and another symbol of everlasting life and resurrection.

For good luck, British tradition recommends that everyone should eat a **mince pie** on each of the twelve days of Christmas. Tradition states that anyone who refuses one of their twelve pies will suffer a year of misfortune (you have been warned!).

In the Victorian era, birds raised in East Anglia were often herded along Drovers' roads to London to be sold fresh in time for Christmas. Daniel Defoe recorded that 150,000 turkeys were driven from East Anglia to London each year, a journey that took three months to complete. To protect their feet, **turkeys** were fitted with leather or sacking boots, while **geese** had theirs tarred and sanded.

In London itself, many working-class citizens banded together to form '**goose clubs**' as a way to make the Christmas meal more affordable. Each individual paid a few pence a week towards the purchase, which was then shared out between them.

In England, the **Holy Days and Fasting Days Act of 1551** stated that every citizen must attend a church service on Christmas Day, and must not use any kind of vehicle to get to the service. It is unclear whether this law was designed to remind the wealthy of those less fortunate by forcing them to attend on foot, or whether it was simply an effort to avoid traffic jams as a result of universal attendance. As this act has not yet been repealed, there must be a large number of us who are breaking the law every 25th December!

The name "**Boxing Day**" comes from the tradition of giving "Christmas boxes" to servants and tradespeople. The boxes contained gifts, money, and sometimes leftover food. The tradition originated in Victorian times, when the wealthy would give away items they no longer needed to the poor.

So whatever your traditions are this Christmas – make sure you keep **CHRIST** at the centre of your **CHRISTmas**.

Praying you have a wonderful Christmas time celebrating the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ



WHAT IS THE MEANING OF CHRISTINGLE?



ST PAUL'S DO CHRISTINGLE!

St Paul's wondered if Storm Darragh would affect their Christingle Service... Well they needn't have worried! Just look at this brilliantly packed church for a wonderful service sharing the light. Well Done St Paul's!



ON YOUR OWN FOR CHRISTMAS DAY?

The Strand Centre invites anyone who will be on their own to a free traditional Christmas Day Lunch from 12:00pm to 2:30pm. Transport can be arranged! To help with catering booking is essential. Please ring **01626 889098** or call into the Inspire café. We look forward to welcoming you!



Don't forget to join us to vote for your favourite Christmas Tree!

Church services at Christmas

<p>St Gregory the Great Sunday 15th December 6.30pm Candlelight Carol Service</p> <p>Christmas Eve 5.00pm Crib Service 11.00pm Midnight Holy Communion</p> <p>Christmas Day 10am Benefice Family Service</p> <p>St. George's Holcombe Wednesday 18th December 4.00pm Carol Service</p> <p>Christmas Eve 4.00pm Crib Service 6.00pm Christmas Holy Communion</p> <p>Sunday 29th December 10.00am Benefice Service</p> <p>St. Mary's Cofton Sunday 15th December 4.00pm Carol Service</p> <p>Saturday 21st December 4.00pm Service of the Longest Night</p> <p>Christmas Eve 7.30pm Christmas Holy Communion</p>	<p>St. Paul's Starcross Sunday 8th December 5.00pm Christingle</p> <p>Sunday 22nd December 6.00pm Carols by Candlelight</p> <p>Christmas Eve 5.00pm Crib Service</p> <p>Christmas Day 9.30am Christmas Holy Communion</p> <p>Strand Church (URC) Sunday 22nd December 10.30am Family Carol Service</p> <p>Joint Services with Methodist Church Christmas Day 10.00am United Christmas Service at the Methodist Church</p> <p>Sunday 29th December 10.00am United Service at the Strand Church</p>
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St Gregory's
Christmas tree festival

Grand opening by the Mayor
On Wednesday 11th December 6pm

THURSDAY 12TH 11AM-1PM & 3PM-6PM
FRIDAY 13TH 2PM - 6PM
SATURDAY 14TH 11AM-3PM FOLLOWED BY FESTIVAL CONCERT
SUNDAY 15TH 12 NOON - 3PM
SUNDAY 15TH CAROL SERVICE 6.30 PM
MONDAY 16TH 12 NOON - 3PM

We would like to say a HUGE Thank You to **Powderham Christmas Trees** for very kindly donating the St Gregory's Church Christmas Tree this year!



Christmas @ St Paul's Starcross

Sunday 8th December, 5.00pm
Christingle Service

Sunday 22nd December, 6.00pm
Carols by Candlelight (9 Lessons & Carols)

Tuesday 24th December, 5.00pm
Crib Service

Wednesday 25th December, 9.30am
Christmas Day Communion

Also 9.30am Sunday services on
1st, 8th, 15th December

SERVICES - 15th December to 4th January

Sunday 15th December - 3rd Sunday of Advent

- 9.15am St George's – Morning Worship
9.30am St Paul's – Morning Worship
10am St Gregory's – Greg's@10
11.15am St Mary's – Morning Worship
4pm St Mary's– Carol Service
6:30pm St Gregory's– Candlelight Carol Service

Wednesday 18th December

- 10am St Gregory's - Midweek Holy Communion
4pm St George's– Carol Service

Saturday 21st December

- 4pm St Mary's– Longest Night Service

Sunday 22nd December - 4th 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
6pm St Paul's -Carols by Candlelight

Tuesday 24th December– Christmas Eve

- 4pm St George's– Crib Service
5pm St Gregory's - Crib Service
5pm St Paul's - Crib Service
11pm St Gregory's- Midnight Holy Communion
6pm St George's– Holy Communion
7:30pm St Mary's- Holy Communion

Wednesday 25th December– Christmas Day

- 9:30am St Paul's- Christmas Communion
10am St Gregory's– Family Holy Communion

Sunday 29th December

- 10:30am Benefice Service at St George's

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY coming up soon

DECEMBER

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| Saturday 14th | Antiques & Collectors Fair, 10am- 3pm in the Strand Centre |
| Saturday 14th | Grand Charity Choir Concert, 3pm in St. Gregory's |
| Sunday 15th | Brunswick Singers' concert, 2pm in the Methodist Church |
| Monday 16th | Carols round Starcross village Christmas tree, 6.30pm |
| Wednesday 18th | Christmas at the Manor (Choral Soc), 7.30pm in the Manor House |
| Thursday 19th | Community Carols, 6-8pm in the Hope Cafe |
| Saturday 21st | Christmas Bingo & cream tea, 1pm in the Strand Centre |
| Saturday 21st | Carols at the Swan Pub, 6pm at Cofton Holidays |
| Sunday 22nd | Candlelit Carol Service, 6pm in the Strand Centre |
| Sunday 22nd | Carol Service, 6pm in Hope Church |
| Monday 23rd | "A Christmas Carol", 6pm in the Strand Centre |
| Tuesday 31st | New Year's Eve Ceilidh, 7.30pm-midnight in the Strand Centre |

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



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.



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to find us on



FACEBOOK or INSTAGRAM

St Greg's [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#)

St George's [Facebook](#)

St Mary's [Facebook](#)

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