

DAWLISH COAST TEAM MINISTRY

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 10th May 2026

www.cofe-in-dawlish.org.uk

WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

Will Halse writes:

Not long ago Leena and I celebrated our golden wedding anniversary – fifty years married. Neither of us feels old enough, but no doubt that will come. This past weekend we visited friends in the Gower – we have been friends for 46 of those 50 years. And when I opened my new New Daylight Bible reading notes for May there on the opening page was a letter by Gordon Giles.

It was about friendship. How do you see your community? Is it a friendly place? How about your street or terrace, or block of flats? I think of Dawlish as being friendly; especially the dog walking community. People have time. They are willing to stop and chat. They are friendly. But is friendliness the same as friendship? I think maybe not...

What makes for friendship then? Gordon Giles suggests that friends belong to one another; that in a sense they own each other. Friends share in owning interests and experiences. Friends care for each other.

Going back to our marriage, how can two people endure, let alone enjoy, a whole lifetime together? Friendship has to be at the heart of any committed relationship. If two people share common interests and experiences then it's not difficult to see how their friendship will grow bigger and stronger. Nor is it difficult to see how separation and self-interest might undermine a friendship.

I always think of a friend as being on my side, whether I am right or wrong; someone who is very slow to take offence, who will always try to find an excuse for me when I fall short or forget. Quite the opposite of Bob Dylan's sentiments in the song, 'It ain't me babe', where he says 'you say you're looking for someone...to protect you and defend you whether you are right or wrong'. Yes please, that is what I want! So if it ain't Bob please let it be someone else!

What a friend we have in Jesus. He is on our side, whether we are right or wrong. He loves us, and He gave his life for us on the cross. No conditions. No holding back. Only forgiveness. Not that they asked for it. But Jesus gives it anyway. We don't have to get straight. We can just come as we are. That's good news – for young and old, for dog walkers and dog fearers, for the friendly and for the friendless.

'Winter, spring, summer or fall, all you have to do is call, and I'll be there, yes I will. You've got a friend'. Thank you, Carole King, for writing those words, way back in 1971 before I even met Leena. Thank you much, much more, Lord Jesus, for being our friend through all these years; now and always.



DIOCESE
OF EXETER



Dawlish Coast
TEAM MINISTRY



warmly invites
you back 

to St Gregory's Church



Sunday 10th May

at

10:00am



for our
Holy Communion
service



It will be a joy to gather together again,
and we look forward to welcoming
you with open hearts.



Thank you so much for your patience
during this time, and for all your
kind and encouraging messages –
they have truly meant a lot.

We can't
wait to
see you
there!



All are welcome. All belong. All are loved. 

PLEASE NOTE: There will be refreshments after the service in the Upper Narthex, as usual. However, due to the presence of scaffolding occupying part of the space at one end, for their safety any children **MUST** be accompanied and under the care of a responsible adult.

WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO HELP AND HAVE FUN AT 'TURN THE TIDE'!

On the 23rd May, at the Turn the Tide Festival, our churches have 2 tables which will encompass Eco Church, Fair Trade and Swap Shop. This is on behalf of ALL our churches. We would ideally like to have 3 people on duty at all times. We have covered the time up to 11.30. We would love to have some more help to engage with visitors and help keep everything safe from 11.30 to close of play at 4pm. Offers do not have to be for the whole time, they could be for a couple of hours or so. And the Festival looks to be very interesting to look around. Remember that this year it is in the grounds and Hall of Dawlish College, so we are inside, whatever the weather! Please contact Chris Curd on 07771842334 prebchris2020@gmail.com or Cathy Slade on 07899941297 c.slade@icloud.com



.....and a PLEA FOR HELP WITH COLLAGE MATERIALS!

St Greg's Eco Team is planning collage activities at Turn the Tide on 23rd May, and we would love it if the congregations could supply us with the following:

- colourful buttons - not too big, just odd ones fine!
- odd pieces of tissue paper and wrapping paper
- cork, either bottle corks or pieces of cork
- old magazines
- any images of green or eco solutions to heating, cleaning, etc etc
- sweet and other wrappers (must be clean) of different colours
- anything that you think might be useful in a collage and is not too heavy for the glue to hold it.

Please do NOT buy anything new and everything should be "scrap".

Please put your item donations into a bag or box marked TtT and **bring it to the church service you attend**, wherever that is in the Benefice, **on Sunday 10th or 17th May**. The team will make arrangements to collect the contributions after church on 17th. Please leave tidily in an appropriate place. (Churchwardens, apologies for not contacting you all in advance.) If St Greg's is in St Mary's Hall on 10th, one of the team will take the donations away. Thank you!

DILL'S DISAPPEARING PARISH MAGAZINES. HAVE YOU SEEN THEM?

St Gregory's Church 200th Anniversary Celebrations in 2025 included a display of Parish Magazines (from 1981-2017) borrowed from Dill Cameron. When Dill collected them from the seat near the Lady Chapel after the event, she found they'd got mixed up and later discovered over 20 from various years were missing. Have you seen them, borrowed them, or picked them up and put them somewhere else in St Greg's for safekeeping? If so, please let Dill know on dillcameron@icloud.com or see her at church.

NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME - OPEN GARDEN - HELP NEEDED

This summer, Cliff and Chris Curd's garden will be open again for charity with the National Garden Scheme. They are looking for people who might be able to help on one or more of the following dates: Sat 20th June, Sun 21st June, Fri 10th July, Sun 12th July. Garden is open from 1-5.30pm. Shifts could be split! Roles include car parking duty, gate/welcome, garden steward, refreshments. - Seating provided as appropriate! For more information or to offer help, please contact Chris on 07771842334, prebchris2020@gmail.com or Cliff on 7881442031, cliffswheelbarrow@gmail.com

NEW WINE

This poem, by Marjorie Thorne, appeared in the last edition of this Newsletter but with one letter missing that is vital to the sense of the piece. You may like to compare them to see if you can spot it. No prizes - other than the satisfaction of finding it and the reading of these thoughtful and inspiring words again.



He called it the new wine, untasted ere His coming.
In the legalistic cups of their tradition
That taste was shocking, frothing up and spilling over
they could not, would not drink it, - such Life did it contain.
We, who at the Wedding, had seen men fill with water empty vats
Marvelled when rich and red the wine poured out!
Was this it? This 'new wine ' tangible to taste and tongue or was there something still?
The 'blessings ' He pronounced that turned our values upside down upon that grassy hill?
We could not understand. Nor when the cup was passed on that dark night
"My blood " He said, ominous mystery to us so dim our light.
And in the garden - What cup was it He pleaded not to taste?
What wine so potent that He could not face?
Yet gave assent to Father's will above and drank
the shame and agony- still breathing love.
And Love is the wine which nothing could destroy,
It's pardon, peace and joy forever bubbling up!
No hangover for all who drink - if humbleness shall fill their cup.

NATIONAL DAY OF
Street Worship
SATURDAY 9TH MAY 2026

"Open up the doors, let the music play
Let the streets resound with singing!"

MEETING AT
11:55AM
BY THE
VIADUCT
TO SING
"The Blessing"
OVER DAWLISH
AT MIDDAY!

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER
FOR
DAWLISH
and District
WILL BE TAKING PART!

Join with Christians across
the UK in lifting our voices
in worship and blessing
our community!

Let's come
together, lift
our voices and
bless our town!

ST MARY'S COFTON
EX6 8RP

WILL BE OPEN ON
TUESDAY MORNINGS
**FROM 10AM
UNTIL 12 NOON**
DURING THE MONTHS
OF MAY AND JUNE

COME AND VISIT OUR LOVELY CHURCH
FOR TEA, COFFEE AND A CHAT OR ENJOY A
QUIET TIME OF REFLECTION JUST FOR YOU

WE LOOK FORWARD TO
WELCOMING YOU

CREATION CARE, CARING FOR POLLINATORS

Chris Curd writes

on behalf of the Eco and Pollinator Planting Groups

From the RHS website:

Almost any insect that visits flowers can carry out pollination, and therefore classed as a pollinator. Conservative estimates suggest we have over 1500 pollinating insect species in Britain, though the true figure is likely to be much higher. Insects often seen on flowers are bees, flies (not just hoverflies), social, solitary and parasitoid wasps and beetles.



By the time you read this, the Turn the Tide Pollinator Trail will be about to be launched. St Gregory's has entered and there is now a variety of pots and planters of different sizes around the church and next to the Garden of Remembrance. (*Do pick up a trail leaflet and consider where to cast your vote!!!*) It is heartening to experience people's response. There have been donations of finance, pots and compost (thank you to the anonymous compost donors!). Alex H rehomed a large quantity of earth from his garden into large recycled planters donated by Cath Chappell and her husband. Jacqui, Cathy S, Daniella, and Andrew have planted and watered. Altogether, including myself, 14 people have been involved in one way or another.. In addition, when I was planting out last Saturday morning and was working for under an hour around the church, people stopped to talk to say how much they appreciated seeing the plants appear. I was also able to introduce one lady to the idea of planting for pollinators and small creatures which are all part of the web of life, along with us!

The large stone raised bed on the north side of the Church is going to be tended by the local Scout group, with whom Jacqui has made contact. We have also consulted former members of the U3A natural history group who over the past 3 seasons have worked to establish wildflower areas. The one which the Eco group wants to carry forward is the area to the north of the Luscombe Vault where there are no standing grave stones. When the sun was shining in late April it was alive with insects appreciating the flowers and there are some yet to display their colours. On 23rd April Cliff and I identified primroses, daisies, dandelions, bluebell, wild garlic, corn cople, red campion, honesty, salad burnet, yarrow, sweet William, mullein, hawksbeard, perennial cornflower, comfrey, calendula, artemisia, vetch, green alconite, spurge and seas of forget-me-not. And that was just what we could see and identify (with the help of a plant App for some of them!). This area will require minimal maintenance, but of the right sort, so we are consulting on that. It is gratifying to see that Teignbridge mowed round standing flowers when they cut the grass in April.

We have realised that the graveyard acts as a "bridge" between gardens in the town, on one side, and the Linhay and the Luscombe Estate on the other. The un-mown "wilded" areas are of course a haven for wildlife, including pollinators, but the pots enhance this. The more variety of plants with pollen throughout the season, the more variety of creatures will be helped. The new planting consists of cistus (rock rose), pinks (donated by Alison P), lobelia, bakopa, catmint, antirrhinum, cosmos, salvias of different kinds "including one called "Royal Bumble", verbena, dill, mint, strawberry, sage, chives, thyme, scented leaf geraniums, penstemon, sedum, stonecrop, cyclamen (this was already in place.) Not yet in place at the time of writing: cornflowers, californian poppy, calendula and some lavender plants which have been donated. All of these provide pollen for the pollinating insects.

So why do this? To coin a phrase, "every little helps", it helps to inform people, it looks attractive (hopefully!) and demonstrates that we as Christians care for God's creation. At home, we are trying to plant in a more nature friendly way, not choosing to use a lot of flowers that do not produce pollen. For the insects, these flowers are like cafes without any food, shops with empty shelves! What a difference it would continue to make if as many as possible used pollinator friendly plants as part of our everyday worship.

THY KINGDOM COME

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement taking place each year for 10 days from Ascension Day up to Pentecost. This year, from 14th to 24th May, Christians are urged to pray for their own communities and to include specific prayers for five people who they know personally and would like to see come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Each day across the world, Christians can come together to pray, or pray on their own wherever they may be, for these people. They might be family members or those you meet in passing on your way to work or while walking the dog, maybe only knowing their first name. It gives us all a way to focus on growing the kingdom of God here on earth. So why not ask the Father who he might want you to lift up to him throughout this time of Thy Kingdom Come, and join together as we pray for them?



On Thurs 14th May the Ascension Day 7pm CTDD service at St Gregory's marks the start of the 'Thy Kingdom Come' ten days of prayer in Dawlish and surrounds. Then Friday 15th – Saturday 22nd Thy Kingdom Come prayers, 12 noon daily in the Strand Chapel.

RUNNING FOR GOOD

Ruth Cann from St Mary's wrote to tell us about Natasha Cleave, who has been running the Busy Bees Parent and Toddler Group at St Mary's Church Hall in Dawlish Warren for the last three years. Ruth says, *"She is for ever obtaining grants and fundraising to make the group the success it is. She and her helpers are all volunteers, and the charges to those attending are quite small - though the children are always given two different types of fruit/veg and two other foods with the choice of juice or water to drink, and the adults have tea/coffee and biscuits. They all seem to have a really lovely time. Natasha works so very hard. On top of all she does she recently ran a marathon to raise funds for both Busy Bees and Dawlish United Knights U14s football team. I think she is one of the younger generation who looks out to what she can do for others. Someone to admire and celebrate"*.



Natasha says: *"In November 2025, having joined Dawlish Coasters running group, I signed up to the 'London Marathon my way' event, this is completed on the same day as the 'actual' London Marathon but can be completed anywhere in the world and is tracked on your phone and watch. The training was tough; I needing help to encourage me I decided to do some fundraising. Anyone who knows me knows how passionate I am about supporting my local community. This challenge was about achieving something I never thought I'd be capable of — running a marathon — while raising money for causes where I can see exactly how it helps and who it benefits. So, on 26th April I had a great run and completed it in 4:45. I far exceeded my target of £500 and have raised £864. I still can't believe I have achieved this,. Thank you to everyone who has helped me"*.

Natasha has always wanted to improve the outdoor space at Busy Bees by adding a playhouse and new garden toys. Her fundraising has now enabled this, and the children are enjoying playing in the improved outdoor area. Another cause very close to her heart is her son's football team, Dawlish United Knights U14s. She wanted to give something back to thank them for the wonderful memories and sense of community they've given her family. The funds raised have covered the cost of the Veo camera subscription for next season. Well done, Natasha!

SERVICES – 10th to 23rd May 2026



Sunday 10th May — Easter 6

9.30am St George's – Morning Worship (*followed by APCM*)
9.30am St Paul's – Holy Communion
10am St Gregory's – Holy Communion
11.15am St Mary's – Morning Worship

Wednesday 13th May

10am St Gregory's Midweek Holy Communion

Thursday 14th May – Ascension Day

7pm St Gregory's – CTDD 'Thy Kingdom Come'
Ascension Day Service

Sunday 17th May – Easter 7 - Sunday after Ascension Day

9.30am St George's – Holy Communion
9.30am St Paul's – Morning Worship (*followed by APCM*)
10am St Gregory's – Greg's@10 (*followed by APCM*)
11.15am St Mary's – Morning Worship

Wednesday 20th May

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

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

DIARY DATES IN MAY

It is hoped that **Little Greg's and Messy Church at St Greg's** will both be up and running again during June – plans are for Little Greg's to begin weekly from Tues 9th and Messy Church monthly from Thurs 18th

- Saturday 9th** **Street Worship**, meet at the Viaduct 11.55am, to sing a blessing over Dawlish at midday. More information on page 3.
- Tuesday 12th** **Mothers' Union**, 2pm in St Gregory's
- Friday 15th – Saturday 22nd** **'Thy Kingdom Come'** prayers, 12 noon daily in the Strand Chapel
- Saturday 16th** **EAT Dawlish Festival**, all day along the Strand
Dawlish Garden Society plant sale, 10am-3pm at the Strand Centre
- Tuesday 19th** **Kids' Swap Shop**, 9-11am in St. Gregory's
- Wednesday 20th** **Messy Church** at St Paul's, Starcross, from 3pm
- Saturday 23rd** **'Turn the Tide' Festival** – 10am to 4pm, Dawlish College –
Fun and FREE family-friendly environmental festival for all ages.
- Tuesday 26th** **Julian Prayer group**, 2pm in St. Gregory's
- Wednesday 27th** **Funeral service - Margaret Murch**, 10.30am in St. Gregory's
- Sunday 31st** **Benefice Service** – 10.30am at St George's, Holcombe
– no morning services elsewhere in the Benefice

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 from the Ministry Team:

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

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

Benefice Administrator: (Tues-Fri 10am-2pm): Rachel Hammond 01626 864322

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](#)