

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 27th September 2026

www.cofe-in-dawlish.org.uk

Steve Cronin Writes.....

Forgiveness

Forgiveness is a wonderful gift from Jesus, but it can also be one of the most difficult things to do.

Recently we considered this as our Gospel Reading was Matthew 18 vs 1 – 25 Peter asked Jesus how many times he should forgive seven? Jesus answered not seven but seventy times seven (too many to count).

Jesus then went on to tell a story about a servant who owed his father a thousand bags of gold and when his master ordered him and his family to be sold into slavery, he begged his master for forgiveness and said he would pay back every penny. His master heard his pleas and showed mercy, set him free and cancelled the debt.

Sadly, as the servant was leaving, he saw another servant who in turn owed him a hundred silver coins and demanded payment, the servant pleaded with him but instead of showing mercy he had him thrown into jail until he could repay. The master heard about this and had the first servant brought back into him and told him "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" His master was angry and had the servant thrown into jail and tortured until he could pay.

This is a picture of what God has done for us!

We are like the first servant, he owed an enormous debt that he could never repay, the master had compassion and cancelled the whole debt and set him free. We have all sinned and fallen short of God's standards, we cannot earn our way into God's forgiveness through our own work or effort.

In God's mercy he forgives us through His Son Jesus Christ. The debt is cancelled. The punishment we deserved is taken by Jesus. We are free because of God's mercy. This should change the way we treat others.

The shocking part is what come next! Having just been forgiven an enormous debt he finds another servant who owes him a much smaller amount. Instead of showing mercy he grabs him and demands payment. The second servant begs for forgiveness, but he refuses and has him thrown into jail. When the master hears what happened he is angry, because the servant had received mercy but refused himself to give mercy. This is a big lesson for us!

We cannot fully appreciate God's forgiveness while deliberately refusing to forgive others.

Forgiveness does not mean that what happened to us is acceptable

It doesn't mean pretending that we were not hurt, It doesn't mean that there should not be consequences for wrongdoing. But forgiveness means that we release our right to revenge and place justice in God's hands



We probably find it easy to forgive little things, but when it gets to bigger things, things that really hurt you it's harder isn't it? There is an old saying (possibly from St Augustine) that says: "Resentment is like drinking poison and waiting for the other person to die"

It's true isn't it, the person who has upset you might not have even realised that they had upset you and happily going on without a thought, yet you are still ripped up by it. That's not to diminish the hurt but to recognise the additional hurt we can be doing to ourselves by not allowing God to help us forgive. Jesus taught his disciples a prayer which still today serves a model for us today. "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us." Perhaps today there is someone you need to forgive. Perhaps there is a name that comes to mind immediately. Perhaps you have said, "I will never forgive that person." If so, bring that pain to God. You do not have to pretend that it did not hurt. You do not have to deny what happened. But you can ask God for the grace to forgive. Let us remember the words of Jesus: "Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?"

We are people who have been forgiven. Therefore, let us become people who forgive.

A Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for Your mercy and for the forgiveness You have given us through Jesus Christ.

Forgive us for the times we have judged others, held onto anger, or refused to show mercy.

Give us humble hearts.

Help us to forgive those who have hurt us, even when forgiveness is difficult.

Heal the wounds in our hearts and give us wisdom where boundaries are needed.

Help us not to confuse forgiveness with ignoring wrongdoing, but teach us to leave justice in Your hands.

May we remember every day how much You have forgiven us.

Make us people of mercy, grace and love.

In the name of Jesus Christ,

Amen.



DAWLISH COAST TEAM MINISTRY

Not just about the Animals

Celebrating the legacy of Francis of Assisi

An afternoon of quiet prayer
St George's Church, Holcombe

Saturday 3rd October · 2-4pm

2pm **Opening worship and reflection**
followed by quiet time on our own in the stillness

3.30 **Closing worship**
followed by tea and cake

No need to sign up — all are welcome!

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Helen Bays · 01626 863098 · Text 07391 594867
spiritualdirections264@gmail.com

Diocese of Exeter

ADVANCE NOTICE
Upcoming Events

Sun 11th Oct 12:30pm Harvest
Lunch at St Greg's sign-up sheet in
the Narthex

Sat 17th Oct 7pm
Red Earth Opera St Greg's Tickets
Available from St Greg's office.

Sat 24th Oct 11am
Geoff Wildey Memorial service St
Greg's

Sat 19th Dec Christmas Family
Funday at St Greg's
4pm Christingle followed by Tea
Party

Weds 9th –Mon 21st Dec Christmas
Tree Festival.

Cofton St Mary Devon
Historic Churches Day and
Flower Festival

We are hoping to have raised £500 for Devon Historic Churches Trust at a very colourful three-day flower festival at St Mary's. Cockwood Primary School made rockets and spaceships which were surrounded by vibrant flame coloured flower displays and twinkly lights supporting the theme of "Spaceships to Heaven". Visitors enjoyed the refreshments and praised the hard work arranging the displays in our usually tranquil church.

South Devon Singers were joined by members of the school choir for a concert of songs composed by David Haines about the size of space, from the smallest photon allowing us to interpret particles of light to the enormity of a journey of 93 million miles from Earth to the Sun.

Thanks are due to Cofton Holidays, Dawlish Gardens Trust, and our team of flower arrangers.



On Sunday 13th we were pleased to host the Mayoral Civic Service for the Mayor of Dawlish, Councillor Anne Heywood. The service was attended by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Devon, Christopher Hart, the Chair of Devon County Council, the Mayors of Chudleigh, Exmouth, Kingsteignton and Teignmouth Town Councils, the Chair of Ipplepen Parish Council and Dawlish Branch of the Royal British Legion. Upbeat music was provided by Devon Folk Orchestra with a wonderful atmosphere for everyone to enjoy.

DAWLISH COAST TEAM MINISTRY

BENEFICE
QUIZ NIGHT

Come along and join us for an evening of fun, laughter and friendly competition!

SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER

ST MARY'S HALL, DAWLISH WARREN

Doors open 6pm | Quiz 6:30pm-9pm

TEAMS OF UP TO 6
seated together at tables

ENTRY £1 PER PERSON
Please bring your own drinks and nibbles

PARKING AVAILABLE

RAFFLE
Supporting
DAWLISH COMMUNITY TRANSPORT & CR2EE

What's on this coming
Fortnight

DAWLISH COAST TEAM MINISTRY
PEOPLE • PLACES • TOGETHER

FIRST FRIDAY

Friday 2nd October • 7pm

St Greg's, Dawlish

A relaxed evening for everyone, including all four churches in our Team Ministry and the wider community.

Good Food Great company

Faith Community Friendship for Everyone

All are welcome!

You don't have to be a member of any church.

SCRABBLE
DOMINOES
CARDS
JIGSAWS
AND MORE!

Chat Play Connect Belong

Come along for good food, games, laughter and friendship!

Supper and refreshments provided (menu to be confirmed)

Games for everyone! Scrabble, dominoes, cards, jigsaws and more!

A warm welcome to all four churches in our Team Ministry and the wider community.

Everyone is welcome You don't have to be a member of any church. Just come along!

Good People • Brighter Community • Stronger Together

Paws, Claws & Prayers

A joyful service celebrating all God's creatures

Sunday 4th October 10am

St Gregory's Church, Dawlish

Bring along your furry, feathered or scaly friends!

Each pet will receive a special blessing from
Revd Linda Cronin
and their very own blessing certificate to take home.

Pets – and their humans – are warmly welcome!

Wagging tails and a little chaos are quite expected!

DAWLISH COAST TEAM MINISTRY

DIOCESE OF EXETER
100th ANNIVERSARY

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Gill Brown has asked me to share the following email she received from Kevin Bennett from Premier Christian Media.



For some years my wife and I helped out with the homeless outreach of our Church. Once a month we'd go to two locations in Central London to hand out food and toiletries, and spend time talking to the people needing help. It was a privilege, and I learned a lot about God, people and myself through serving in this way. **Including one night I'll never forget...**

As we arrived at the first location, we discovered it to be heaving with people. Another group hadn't visited that week, and consequently there were far more people than usual to help. **Such was the demand; they cleared us out of absolutely everything we had with us.** This was a big problem, as it meant we had nothing for the people at the second location. We chatted about what to do next, should we go to the second location, or call it a night and head home?

With no food, we decided to go to the second drop anyway. A lot of the value in being there is the conversation and the prayer, and we hoped that would be enough. We pulled up and I opened the back door of the minibus to get out. Immediately I saw a homeless person purposefully walking straight towards me carrying a giant blue sack.

As he reached me, he asked, *"I don't suppose you could use some food to hand out? I was just passing Boots and they handed me all the sandwiches they won't be allowed to sell tomorrow. "Yes, we really could!"* I replied. So, for the rest of the night we handed out sandwiches, chatted and prayed for people.

When it was time to leave, we got in the minibus and looked in the sack. There was just one sandwich left!

Then, as one of the team was about to open and eat it, a homeless person knocked on the window of the minibus and asked *"Have you've got any food left?"* We handed him that last sandwich and drove off.

God had provided precisely the number we needed!

Never before or since had we been so overwhelmed that we had nothing for our second location. Never before or since did anyone approach us with a big bag of food to hand out. That night taught me two things. Firstly, the God that fed the 5,000 in the Bible story is the same God today. **What you read, you can believe. He is still in the miracle business!**

Secondly, the phrase *'we meet God at the end of ourselves'* stuck in my head. We'd done all we could, we had nothing left to give, but we carried on and trusted God would be in it. Somehow, I think that's where God can move most powerfully. It means we have to be outside our comfort zone more than we'd like, but I think it's where we must depend on God more to do what we can't.

What you read, you can believe. He is still in the miracle business!

SERVICES – 27th September – 10th October



Sunday 27th September– Trinity 17

- 9.30am St George's – Morning Worship
9.30am St Paul's – Harvest Praise Service
followed by Harvest Lunch at 1pm
10am St Gregory's - Holy Communion
11:15 St Mary's – Holy Communion
(HARVEST)

Wednesday 30th September

- 10am St Gregory's – Midweek Holy Communion

Saturday 3rd Oct

- 2pm -4pm St George's – Afternoon of Quiet Prayer

Sunday 4th October – Trinity 18

- 9.30am St George's – Holy Communion
9.30am St Paul's – Morning Worship
10am St Gregory's - PET SERVICE
11:15 St Mary's - Morning Worship

Wednesday 7th October

- 10am St Gregory's – midweek Holy Communion

A half hour of
prayer online
Tuesdays at 9am.

Click on [this link](https://zoom.us/join)
or go to
[https://zoom.us/joi](https://zoom.us/join)
n
and enter:

Meeting ID:
891 1433 5818
and Passcode:
Wedlake

DIARY DATES

Tues 29th Sept 9:30-11.30am: Little Greg's at St Greg's

Thurs 1st Oct 2:30 pm Pudding Club St Greg's
Upper Narthex
3:30pm Messy Church St Greg's

Fri 2nd Oct First Friday at St. Greg's 7pm

Sat 3rd Oct 6:30pm Benefice Quiz Night at St
Mary's Church Hall, Dawlish Warren

Sun 4th Oct 4PM EXETER CATHEDRAL Choral Evensong
Feast day of St Francis of Assisi on 800th
anniversary of his death. ALL WELCOME

Mon 5th Oct 9am Men's Breakfast, St Greg's
1:30pm – 3:30pm Craft and Chatting
Church Room, St Paul's

Tues 6th Oct 9:30am – 11:30am Little Greg's St Greg's
9am – 11am Kid's Swap Shop 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 from the Ministry Team: **Revd Linda Cronin (Rector)**: 01626 927281 or email: revdlinda@icloud.com **LLMS: Steve Cronin**: 07817 678774; **Ceri Lee**: 07739 936286.

Benefice Administrator: (Tues-Fri 10am-2pm): **Rachel Hammond** 01626 864322 **Safeguarding Officer at St Greg's**: **Tess Hickson** 07376 658440