

DAWLISH COAST MISSION COMMUNITY

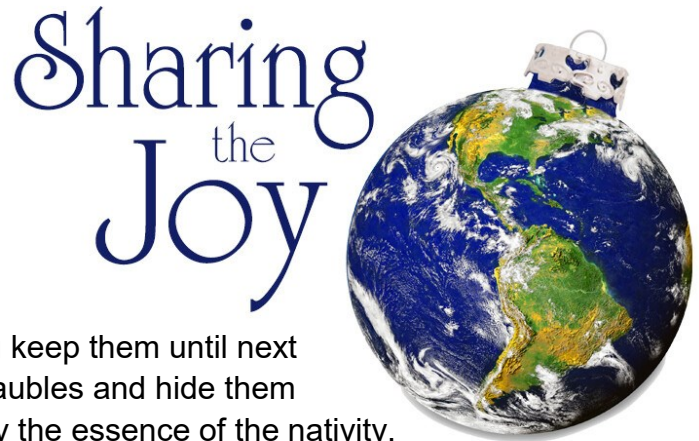
A newsletter brought to you every fortnight throughout the year with information from the churches of St Gregory's (Dawlish); St George's (Holcombe); St Mary's (Cofton) and St Paul's (Starcross).

Issue date: Sunday 5th January 2025

www.cofe-in-dawlish.org.uk

Margaret Noel LLM, writes:

I expect that by the time you read this newsletter, you will have packed Christmas away for another year. Put the tree back into its box, baubles in the bag and set aside the dead batteries for recycling when the refuse day comes round. The nativity set joins all the other decorations up in the loft or wherever you keep them until next year. You can pack away the tree, tinsel and baubles and hide them until next year. But you cannot really pack away the essence of the nativity.



The miraculous event of that Christmas night in Bethlehem is not meant to be packed away and forgotten. The gift of God's son to us brought so much to our lives that we cannot hide it away for 365 days. It is more than love; it is the very heart of our faith. If we keep the gifts from God safe in our hearts they will help us through the year. Faith, love, trust and peace are so desperately needed in our troubled world now. But one more gift seems to get forgotten. Joy.

Christians can be so miserable at times, too centred on getting everything just right as we see it. We need to find the joy in our faith again. A very brave, young woman, instead of being afraid of finding herself an unmarried mother, rejoiced. There was joy all around when her baby was born. The angels sang joyfully to the shepherds, who then hurried to Bethlehem to see the baby, rejoicing at his birth. The Magi rejoiced, and Simeon and Anna rejoiced, to see the Messiah.

Joy was born that night. So, we too, should have joy in our faith. Not just at Sunday worship but all through the week. God gave us the ability to smile, to know how to be happy. People respond positively to someone who is happy. It would be lovely if this year we filled our church and the community with the joy of God's love. Even in our darkest moments we can find joy and comfort from knowing that God loves us.

*Another fresh New Year is here.
Another year to live!
To banish worry, doubt and fear,
with joy, love, and faith to give!
Because God's presence is always near.
May I wish you a very happy,
peaceful and JOYFUL NEW YEAR.*

Blessings,
Margaret.

DAWLISH COMMUNITY LARDER CO-ORDINATOR VACANCY

The Dawlish Community Larder is looking to appoint a self-starting Coordinator who identifies with the ethos of ROC Dawlish. The successful candidate will need to work independently with agencies referring clients who need food support, collaborate with those supplying the food, and interact successfully with those receiving it.



This is an important opportunity for someone who likes networking and delivering a critical service to people in need. Starting in February 2025 the initial engagement is for one year, potentially extending to three years, subject to additional funding being secured. The post is for 8-12 hours a week, with the potential to increase up to 16 hours a week. This is a post requiring a Safer Recruitment process and a DBS safeguarding check.

Salary will be in the region of £12-15 per hour depending on experience. **Applications will close at 5pm on Monday 13th January 2025.** Interviews will be during the week commencing Monday 20th January 2025.

Anyone interested in finding out more about this exciting opportunity should contact Dr Mark Jones (rocdawlish@gmail.com / 07729998334) for a role profile and application form.

CREATION CARE - A ROCHA ECO CHURCH PRESENTATION

Sunday 19th January, approx.11:00/11:15 at St Greg's.

Anyone interested from across the Benefice is invited to attend.



It will be good to relaunch the A Rocha Eco Church Scheme across our churches. However, some have told me that they do not understand the scheme or why and how we should use it. This is a gathering in St Greg's Church, after which a small group will form a working party to put an action plan to Dawlish PCC.

But it seems good to invite anyone who might be interested from across the Benefice, who would like to refresh their knowledge of the scheme, or indeed learn about it for the first time, to attend **without obligation**. Quite simply, the more of the congregations who know about the scheme and who understand it, the better chance we have of making things work. So although we do need a few people to "help", you can also help by encouraging and working out the commitments "on the ground". Those involved with the fabric of our buildings, and those involved in the ordering and using of supplies will find information that is useful, as well as those who plan and lead worship and groups.

For about 30 to 45 minutes, I will try to answer the following questions:

Why belong to A Rocha Eco Church?

How does the scheme work?

What commitments did St George's, St Greg's and St Mary's make to get the Bronze Award?

I will also try to answer any other questions to the best of my ability, which sometimes may involve sharing my own ignorance on some matters! No need to book, although if you want to tell me you will come, emergencies and weather etc permitting, that would encourage me!

Chris Curd, Eco Champion, Dawlish Benefice
07771842334, prebchris2020@gmail.com

COSTLY GIFTS - a poem for Epiphany, by Paul Berchtold

When wise men came to find the Child,
They brought with them costly treasure.
They gave gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
Presents for the new king's pleasure.

God is pleased when we bring to him,
Virtues that these gifts symbolize.
The gold of love, myrrh of sacrifice,
And incense as prayers before his eyes.



It's wise to give the gold of love,
Kindness in thought and word and deed,
It's often the little things that count,
A smile, a word, help one in need.

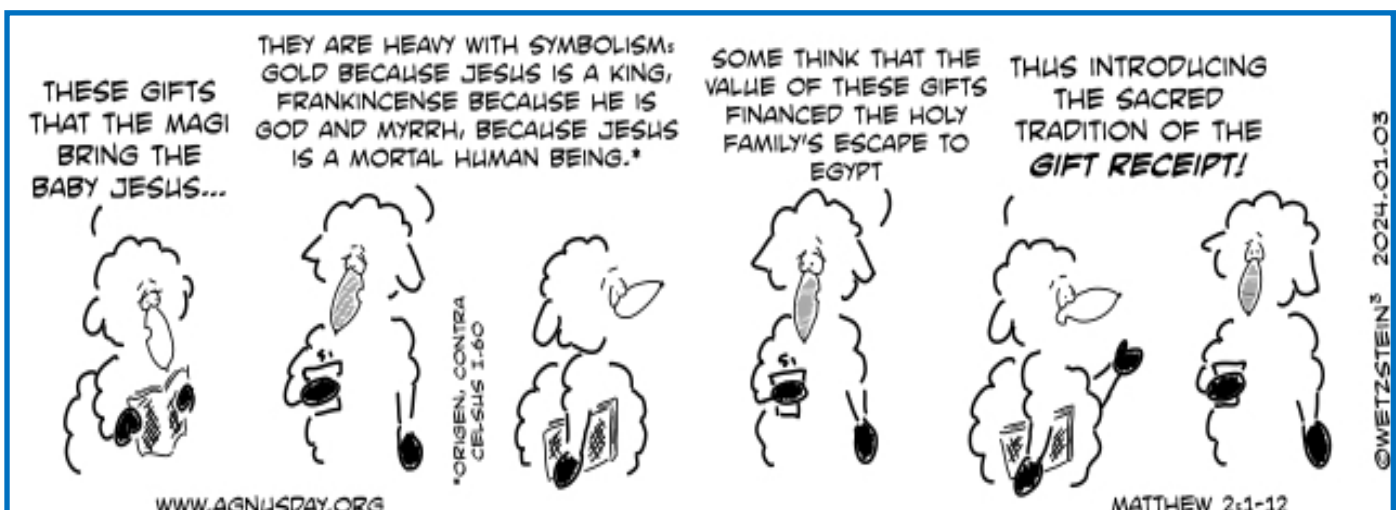
It's wise to give the incense, prayer,
Rising up as smoke sweet-smelling,
Not just prayer from our lips alone,
But deep from our heart, upwelling.

It's wise to give myrrh, sacrifice,
In everything to do our best,
To give with generosity,
In what we do we will be blest.

But be wiser. Unite with Christ,
He is the Gift. He is God's Son.
The best we give, it is nothing
Compared to Christ, what he has done.

Jesus gives us his boundless love,
He came to show us how to pray,
He gave his life in sacrifice.
He is the truth, the life, the way.

*Costly Gifts, [a poem] by Paul Berchtold. Used by permission of the author.
This poem can be found at Thank-Your-Stars.com*



SERVICES - 5th to 18th January

Sunday 5th January - Epiphany

- 8.00am St Gregory's – Holy Communion
9.15am St George's – Holy Communion
9.30am St Paul's – Morning Worship
10am St Gregory's – Greg's@10 & Baptism
11.15am St Mary's – Morning Worship

Wednesday 8th January

- 10am St Gregory's - Midweek Holy Communion

Sunday 12th January — Baptism of Christ

- 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

Wednesday 15th January

- 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.



FOLLOW THESE LINKS

to find us on



FACEBOOK or INSTAGRAM

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

St George's [Facebook](#)

St Mary's [Facebook](#)

St Paul's [Facebook](#)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY coming up soon

JANUARY



Monday 6th Men's Breakfast, 9am, St Greg's (Upper Narthex)

Tuesday 7th Kids' Swap Shop, 9-11am, St Greg's

Wednesday 7th CTDD 'Praying for Dawlish', 12 noon in the Strand Chapel

Thursday 9th Pudding Club, 2.30pm, St Greg's (Upper Narthex)
Davina, a local fitness lady, will be giving us exercises for women's health and well-being.

Friday 10th Dawlish Mission Community Prayer Gathering, 11am at St Gregory's

Saturday 11th 'Let's Have Coffee and Cake' (CTDD Planning),
11am, Dawlish Methodist Church

Tuesday 14th Little Greg's, 9.30-11.30am, St Greg's (Upper Narthex)

Saturday 18th Beginning of 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity' and Celebration of CTDD
10am—12 noon, Breakfast and Service in St Gregory's

Monday 20th to Saturday 25th Prayers at 12 noon each day in different Dawlish churches

**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

Will Halse: 01626 866054; **Margaret Noel:** 01626 863148;

Ceri Lee: 07739 936286; **Steve Cronin:** 07817 678774.

Safeguarding Officer at St Greg's: Tess Hickson 07932 560804 tessh@btinternet.com

*Information regarding safeguarding issues together with contact details for
Safeguarding Officers in the other churches can be found on our website [here](#)*