

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 7th April 2024

ARE YOU A DOUBTING THOMAS?

Scepticism is very much in vogue in our society today. Whether it's the TRUMPeting of 'fake news' when the facts don't suit our narrative or disbelief around the authenticity of photographs, even when minor changes to detail do not affect the veracity of the picture as a whole.

Deception of any kind is considered the unforgivable sin, no matter how minor the infringement might be. There is always the danger of 'swallowing camels and spitting out gnats', and the 'so what?' should perhaps be asked more often than it is. Is the truth or otherwise of a matter really that important for us to spend the amount of time that we often do to establish it?

We have always had our conspiracy theorists who make it their life's ambition to uncover one plot or another that 'Joe public' has been naïve enough to believe.

We have *BBC Verify* that 'fact checks' information that is fed to us in various ways, always assuming of course that that institution is not itself biased in its reporting.

When interrogating Jesus at the trial before his crucifixion, Pilate famously asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' cynically dismissing Jesus's assertion that he came to bear witness to it. Seeking and finding out truth has always been a tricky business and when we demand proof, we often find it more elusive than we expect.

In the story of doubting Thomas, this particular follower of Jesus chose not to believe the testimony of his fellow disciples but insisted on concrete, tangible evidence that Christ had indeed risen from the dead. John in his gospel tells us that Thomas said *"Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."*

When, a week later, the physical proof Thomas demanded was presented to him, he was not commended by Jesus for his unwillingness to take at face value the word of others. His insistence that he be provided with concrete evidence was seen by Jesus as a stubborn refusal to believe. He was not alone in his scepticism, other disciples thought that the reports from the women who first saw the resurrected Christ were nonsensical, idle tales and dismissed them out of hand.

Although Thomas's doubt is rewarded by a visitation from the risen Lord, Jesus declares *"Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."* It is possible to believe without seeing, and this belief is not inferior to an evidence based conviction, and a determined non-believer will not be moved whatever 'proof' is presented to them.

To those for whom the Easter story matters, it is our role to present the resurrected Christ to an often sceptical world. Then we, like Thomas of old, have the same choice to make, to take the leap of faith, accept the testimony of those first disciples and embrace it with joy, or to remain unconvinced, still to be persuaded that these are merely the nonsensical and fanciful tales of a naïve and deluded group of people. The choice is ours.

Happy Easter,

Patrick

Minister, St Paul's Church, Starcross



COULD YOU OFFER HELP?

Dawlish Community Larder are struggling with demand and in need of another volunteer for approx. 1 hour each week.

The volunteer will need to have their own car, and be fit and able to carry heavy bags down stairs.

Induction and training is provided.

*Please contact **Jo Jones** on **07842 109980** if you are interested in helping or want to know more.*



TUESDAY PRAYER MEETING ONLINE ON ZOOM

All welcome to a half hour of prayer 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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(See Jonah 1-4) 10-04-2010

JONAH ATTEMPTS TO SHARE HIS TALE WITH DOUBTING THOMAS

EMAIL SCAM

The Diocese have received some reports of people in churches receiving fake emails, seemingly from their vicar. Please be vigilant for this type of email scam.

For advice about what to do: [Click here.](#)



THE 'FLOCK' READY FOR EASTER

at St. Helen's Church on Lundy Island

Photo reproduced with kind permission of the photographer, Shaun Barnes, Bideford - via Facebook



ST GEORGE THE MARTYR CHURCH, HOLCOMBE

St George's Day

CELEBRATION!

TUESDAY 23 APRIL 2024

2.00pm to 4.00pm

at the Church Room, Church and Garden

Everything stops for tea!

Come along to the Church Room at St George's and enjoy tea, coffee and lots of delicious home-made cakes!

The Church is also open and you are welcome to walk around, taking in the beautiful Jarman Quilt on the wall.

And...weather permitting...have a stroll round the glorious garden, admiring the distant views of the sea.

NO NEED FOR PLASTIC SURGERY

There's a face-lift you can perform yourself that is guaranteed to improve your appearance. It's called a smile.



St George's
Holcombe



A FEW IMAGES FROM THE CHURCHES AT EASTER

St Gregory's
Dawlish



St Mary's, Cofton



St Paul's, Starcross



SERVICES 7th APRIL TO 20th APRIL

Sunday 7th April: 2nd Sunday of Easter

- 8am St Gregory's – Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am St George's – Holy Communion
9.30am St Paul's – Parish Morning Worship
10am St Gregory's – Greg's @ 10
11am St Mary's – Morning Worship

Wednesday 10th April

- 10am St Gregory's - Midweek Holy Communion

Sunday 14th April: 3rd Sunday of Easter

- 9.30am St George's – Morning Worship
9.30am St Paul's – Parish Communion
10am St Gregory's – Holy Communion
11am St Mary's – Holy Communion

Wednesday 17th April

- 10am St Gregory's - Midweek Holy Communion

*Easter
Sunday
Sunrise
Service
at
Dawlish
Warren*



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY Events coming up in April.....

Saturday 13th Monthly Sale at St Paul's, Starcross. 11am-2pm.

Bric-a-brac; Books; Raffle; Refreshments.
'Roman Exeter' a talk by Derek Gore, 2pm,
Dawlish Library

Sunday 14th St George's Annual Parish Meeting 11.30am

Tuesday 16th Kids' Swap Shop at St Greg's, 9am-11am.
Little Greg's at St Greg's, 9.30am-11.30am.
Praying for Dawlish, St Agatha's Church, 12pm
Ladies Lunch at Amelia's, Cofton. 12pm for 12.30pm

Friday 19th 'A Life in Music' a talk by Bert Parton, Dawlish Library, 6pm
Antiques 'Call My Bluff' by David Force, The Manor House, 7.30pm



*St Paul's
Easter Day*

**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:**

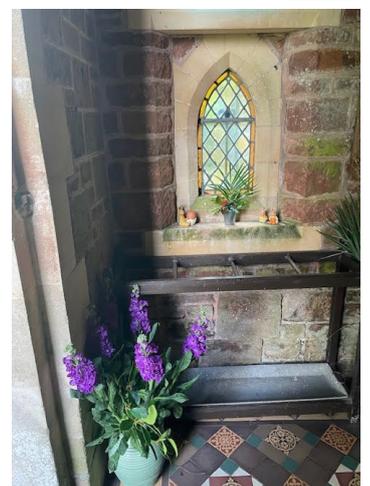
Revd Linda Cronin: 01626 927281

Or email: revdlinda@icloud.com

Margaret Noel: 01626 863148

Will Halse: 01626 866054

Ceri Lee: 07739 936286



*St Mary's
Easter Day*