

# Benefice Events E-Letter

## Dawlish with Holcombe & Cofton Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

Last Sunday we brought cans of soup for the Strand Centre, to help with their ministry to needy Dawlish neighbours. But if you drop in to the centre on Monday at around 11 am you would find something different - some of the tables laid out with glue sticks, scissors and tubs of waxed crayons. And in the corner near the organ Maggie Farley sits at a small table organising craft materials with Jennie on hand to help. The clients are beginning to troop in, and sit down at some of the tables. They come from care homes and from supported living arrangements in and around Dawlish, Teignmouth, Newton Abbot and Exeter; their support workers are with them - they make this possible. It's time for Celebrate Mondays!



Greetings are exchanged – just a word, or no word at all, but there's a big smile, a hand is offered, or a name shouted – “Barry”. Communication is difficult. Covid awareness is not great. Josh is always there early – keeping an eye on things, passing out information, or voicing a concern. He doesn't often do the craft work, but loves to be at the heart of the action – giving advice, playing a CD, or pointing out when something is not working.

The first hour of Celebrate Mondays is craft work. This usually involves colouring, cutting out and gluing. The simplest task is a challenge for most clients – colouring within the lines, using scissors and glue, but they give it a go and there's usually a result. Maggie will have a second craft activity up her sleeve, as some of the clients are quickly satisfied.



At 12 it's time for lunch - maybe a pasty bought down the Strand, or a sandwich, or perhaps a bacon bap and cup of tea from the Strand Centre Café, served by students from Oakwood Court College.

Soon it's time to move tables out of the way and arrange the chairs for the service, set up the microphones, tune the guitars and hand out tambourines. At 12:45 it is time for worship and the pattern is the same every week. We sing and sign in Makaton – “We are

here together”, a prayer and then lots more singing. The songs are simple, many lively, some touching, some moving. Debbie and Chris lead the Makaton signing. It helps with the words. And David, a client from Rainbow House, also loves to sign for us, if he’s not dancing to “When the Spirit of the Lord is within my heart”. There are songs for dancing, songs for marching, songs for quiet and songs for prayer.

And every week there is news to share, with the roving microphone – perhaps a birthday or a special trip, a visit to family. Richard is going to be best



man at a wedding, and in our next news session he’s going to practice his speech – very special. More songs and then a Bible story, usually connected with the craft work. Yet more singing and then it’s the roving mic again as we share in prayer – for mum, or for someone we know, or just a loud ‘Amen’. Songs to finish. You shall go out with joy!

For Josh the singing is best, and Hayley, too. She feels very welcome, included and valued and it is a highlight of her week. For Amy it’s great to be together. Chloe’s favourite song is “Father God I Wonder”. But I’ll give Maggie the last word:

‘Hi all - just wanted to say how much I've enjoyed today. Thanks to Julia, Will, Debbie, Dave, Jennie and Ann. Jennie is also such a great help to me. As some of you know over lockdown I wasn't sure if I wanted to come back or not... I decided to leave it in the Lord's hands. He answered my prayers by bringing Debbie and Amy back home. I know this is where the Lord wants me. It's great seeing the clients enjoying the music, stories and joining in. Hopefully Judy and Barry will soon be feeling better and joining us again. God bless you all and keep you safe.



Will with Maggie and Dave, Debbie, Ann, Jennie, Julia, Barry, Judy, Chris (the Celebrate Mondays team)

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## Annual Meetings

### St. Mary's APCM

Sunday 3rd April at 12 pm after Morning Worship

### St. George's Annual Meeting

Sunday 10th April at 10.30 am after Morning Worship

### St. Gregory's APCM

Monday 25th April at 7 pm



## **April**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm St. Mary's, Cofton – Stations of the Cross

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm St. George's Holcombe – Meditation

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> 10am St. Gregory's – Holy Communion

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm St. Mary's Hall, Dawlish Warren – The Last Supper with HC (bring your own supper)

Good Friday 11am Churches Together in Dawlish and District: Walk of Witness which starts on The Lawn by the bowling green opposite the URC Church.

Good Friday 2pm St. Gregory's – The Last hour

Easter Sunday 8am St. Gregory's – Holy Communion

9.30am St. George's – Holy Communion

10.00am St. Gregory's – Holy Communion

11.00am St. Mary's – Holy Communion

## **Services**

3<sup>rd</sup> April            10am Greg's @ 10 at St Gregory's  
                          9.30am Holy Communion @ St George's Holcombe  
                          11am Morning Worship @St Mary's Cofton

5<sup>th</sup> April             10am Midweek communion @ St Gregory's

11<sup>th</sup> April            10am Holy Communion @ St Gregory's  
                          9.30am Morning Worship @  
                          St George's Holcombe  
                          11am Holy Communion @ St Mary's

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## **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April Prayer meeting**

**Topic:** Dallas Ayling's Zoom Meeting

**Time:** 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 09:00 AM London

**Meeting ID:** 659 184 2294

**Passcode:** 995468

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6591842294?pwd=hakfR92W-WBnpl1CBn5jr6oxpSCzOg>

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**Morning Prayer**

Please note, this will be the last Zoom Morning Prayer for the time being.

**Topic:** Morning Prayer on Zoom

**Time:** April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 09:00 AM London

**Meeting ID:** 219 889 0557

**Passcode:** 5y1GPu



**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2198890557?pwd=Y3FmUmFqdDVpNW1ETVUrZ2RoS2MxUT09>

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**Homes for Refugees**



The Diocesan website has also circulated the below link:

[Diocese of Exeter - Homes for Ukraine \(Expression of Interest\) \(google.com\)](#)

If you might like to reflect on what it would mean to give a home to refugees, please take a look on the Sanctuary Foundation website:

<https://www.sanctuaryfoundation.org.uk/>

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**Platinum Jubilee Celebrations at St Gregory's**

The PCC are very keen that St. Gregory's should contribute and be open for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. We have some ideas but will need some help with them and also we will need some stewards to keep the church open, as we do for the Christmas Tree Festival. There will be a meeting at **St. Greg's on Monday 4th April at 2.30pm**. This is a short-term volunteering opportunity and I hope that



as many as possible will want to be involved. To give you a flavour of what we are thinking about it includes a mini flower festival, so are looking for some flower arrangers. We are also looking to put on a display of the life of St. Gregory's over the last 70 years. We will need help gathering information and working out how to display it.

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## **Flower Festival at St Mary's Church**

St Mary's Church Cofton will be having a Flower Festival to Celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.



If anyone has any of the following: Models of de Havilland Comet aeroplane the Royal Yacht Britannia The Golden Coach. Also any previous Jubilee mugs etc. - AND is prepared to lend them to us for the week of the Jubilee please contact either: Valerie at [valerie@coftonholidays.co.uk](mailto:valerie@coftonholidays.co.uk) or Ruth at [ruthcann737@btinternet.com](mailto:ruthcann737@btinternet.com) with your telephone number and we will phone you about collection etc.

Thanks,  
Ruth Cann



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## **Easter Lilies at St Gregory's**

We have decided that this year, we will have two pedestals of lilies to remind us of all of our loved ones who are no longer with us. I have funds to cover this.

Georgie Moore

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## **Scams and Frauds**

Ever been caught? Or worried about the risks? Police officer Ellen Holah is coming to speak to the Mothers' Union on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April in the Riverside Centre (end of Brook St) 2pm for a 2.15pm start. Visitors will be very welcome to attend.



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## St Gregory's APCM reports



Reports for the APCM are to be emailed to Nicola Twibill by Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April. Reports will be emailed out to PCC members to save on printing costs and paper. If anyone does not have an email account and would like a copy of the reports we can organise that from the church office. Please contact Nicola Twibill or Sabrina in the church office if you need more information.

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## St Gregory's Green Team

St Gregory's Green Team would like to work with the flower planting we have outside the church to do what we can to encourage wildlife and help nature.

Is there anyone who would like to work with the raised bed on the north side of the church?

There is an Easter Garden incorporated in this which will stay, and it could be developed into a prayer stone garden, or at least part of it. We saw that some painted stones have already been left.



There is also the small planted area around the stone cross near the south wall.

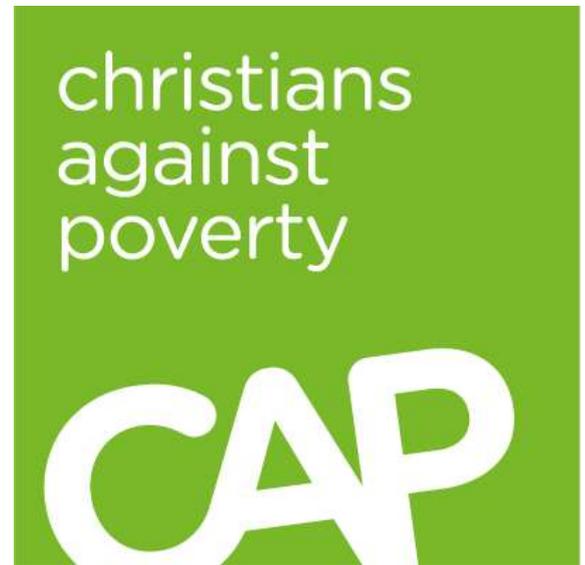
Following the visit of Ecologists who volunteer with the A Rocha Eco Church scheme this week, there are ideas of how these areas could be managed and anyone who would like to help in this way would have the full support of the local green team and the Eco Champion to plan what goes in. There are several ideas such as a sensory area, biblical herbs, sedums and stonecrops which the insects love, as well as other planting – the lower maintenance the better.

This could suit a family or young people looking for voluntary work for something like the DoE aware, as well as friends or couples. If you are interested or have any ideas, please contact Leena Halse – tel. 01626 866054.

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## A message from CAP

Thank you for continuing to partner with Christians Against Poverty in Teignbridge. CAP offers free debt counselling and support across 300 debt centres across the UK. CAP Head Office in Bradford had a 47% increase in calls to the debt helpline in January compared to 2021. We are all experiencing a cost of living crisis in the UK, and those already living on the edge will be hit hardest. 'I still believe some will be left with the choice of freeze or starve.' – Martin Lewis (founder of [www.moneysavingexpert.com](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com)) who is also an advocate for the work of CAP). Many will face the choice of either putting the heating on or eating, if they're not doing so already. I am working on the frontline, meeting families who are struggling with unmanageable debt across Teignbridge. If you feel able to contribute to the work of CAP Teignbridge, on a monthly basis or a one-off donation, please get in touch. Thank you. Email: [timwigley@capuk.org](mailto:timwigley@capuk.org)



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### Thank you on behalf of the Strand Centre

Thank you to everyone who bought and donated tins of soup. The Strand Centre sends out 20 food boxes every week to people who rely upon this support and live in Dawlish. The Centre is very grateful for any help we can provide.

I delivered the gifts from St Greg's today and I attach photos that show the soup tins building up in the Lower Narthex and then arriving at The Strand Centre today. That's me and Marie Whitehead, who works at the Strand Centre 5 days a week.

Thank you for this chance to work together.

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If you would like any support, or someone to talk to, or you are aware of someone else who would appreciate contact please ring one of the following:

Revd. Dallas Ayling: 867386

Margaret Noel: 863148

Will Halse: 866054