

**Benefice E-Newsletter**  
**Dawlish with Holcombe and Cofton**  
**10<sup>th</sup> March 2024**



**Beyond the Daffodils – some thoughts on Mothering Sunday**

As we were reminded by Alan in St Gregory's last week, Sundays don't count strictly in the 40 days of Lent. However, to exclude them can seem very much like cheating (sorry, Alan!) After all, it really shouldn't be too difficult to go without chocolate or wine or whatever you might have given up for 6 days at a time. However, when it comes to this Sunday, there should be no argument.

From medieval times, the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent has been marked as Laetare (rejoicing) or Refreshment Sunday. The custom grew in those earlier centuries of letting young servants and apprentices go back to their mother church (the one in which they had been baptised) and to visit their own mothers with gifts of flowers and

Simmel cake. Hence the more modern designation of Mothering Sunday, now marked also as Mothers' Day, especially beloved of hard-pressed card sellers, florists and restaurateurs. Of course, it is absolutely right and proper to take the opportunity to thank our mothers, but the day can also be hard for those who grieve for lost relationships or whose hopes of parenthood have been dashed. So, it might be helpful to remember that our focus in church is much broader.



The very title of Mothering Sunday indicates that we are moved to give thanks, not just for our mothers (whether birth, foster, adopted or step) but also for every way in which we have been 'mothered', by relationships that have been life-giving and nurturing. To me, this is something a bit different from just a good friendship. I was blessed with a wonderful mother but she died when I had only just turned 21. In the subsequent years, I experienced wonderful supportive love from other older women, who all feature in my thanks on Mothering Sunday.



Every blessing,  
Helen

As we remember the mothering that we have both received and given, hopefully we can also reflect on how the love of God has come to us through those relationships, opening our minds to an image of God as both Father and Mother of us all with all the breadth and depth of relationship that offers.

May Refreshment Sunday bring new impetus to us as we continue on our Lenten journey.

### Services:

#### 10<sup>th</sup> March

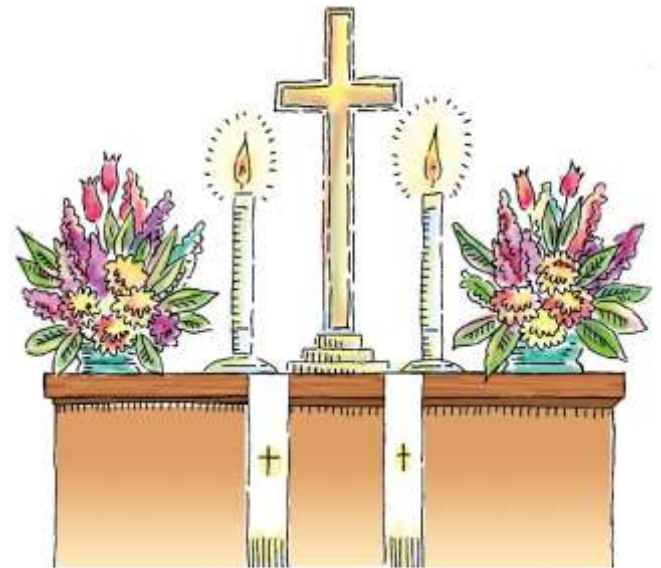
9.30am Holcombe Village Hall  
(Not St George's) – Mothering Sunday  
Family Service  
10am St Gregory's – Holy Communion –  
Mothering Sunday  
11am St Mary's – Morning Worship –  
Mothering Sunday

#### 13<sup>th</sup> March

10am midweek Holy Communion  
at St Greg's

#### 17<sup>th</sup> March

9.30am St George's – Holy Communion  
10am St Gregory's – Greg's @ 10  
11am St Mary's – Morning Worship



## Worship Schedule

#### 20<sup>th</sup> March

10am midweek Holy Communion  
at St Greg's

#### 24<sup>th</sup> March – Palm Sunday

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



---

## **Coming events in March...**

Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Flag raising, 11am at the Piazza – Commonwealth Day
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Praying for Dawlish, 12noon in the Methodist Church Ladies Lunch, 12noon in Amelia's Café, Cofton
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	A Warmer Place, 12noon-2pm St George's Holcombe
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	
<b><u>Maundy Thursday</u></b>	Maundy Thursday meal and Holy Communion service, 6pm for 6.30pm, St Mary's Hall
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	
<b><u>Good Friday</u></b>	Good Friday Quiet Reflection, 10am, St Gregory's Walk of Witness, 11am Easter Gardening, 3pm, St Gregory's
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter Egg hunt in the Manor House
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	
<b><u>Easter Sunday</u></b>	Easter Dawn service and breakfast, 7am, Dawlish Warren Holy Communion, 9.30am, St George's Holy Communion, 10am, St Gregory's Holy Communion, 11am, St Mary's

---

## **Tuesday prayer meeting on Zoom**

Welcome to a half hour of prayer on Tuesdays at 9am. [Just click on this link or](https://zoom.us/join) go to <https://zoom.us/join> and enter: Meeting ID: 575 020 5964 and Passcode: 850653.

---

## **The Big Plastic Count: 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> March**

I have signed up for this - I encourage others to do the same.  
<https://thebigplasticcount.com/>

If you are interested but not online, contact me and I will see if I can sign you up. It involves counting your plastic waste during that week. More details in the March Coastline.

Chris Curd – 07771842334



---

## Quiet Prayer during Lent



As an offshoot from the Julian Group who meet monthly for quiet prayer and meditation, there will be half an hour of quiet prayer in St Gregory's each Tuesday during Lent at 2pm. An opening prayer and reading from the words of Julian of Norwich will be followed by a period of silence and then further spoken prayer.

We will meet in the upper narthex or Lady Chapel, depending on what else is happening. Please speak to Helen Bays for more details or just come along. Everyone is welcome.

---

## Day out – Didcot Railway Centre

The men's breakfast group are pleased to announce this exciting day out at Didcot Railway Centre on Sat 11<sup>th</sup> May. It's a special steam event - see website - and the engineers among you will enjoy the workshops. Admission will be about £20, depending on age and gift aid.

I recommend the train at 7.34 am, change Reading, arriving in time for opening about 10.30 – but anyone wishing to go will need to book it themselves to avoid complications.

Best wishes, Ray Williams.

---



## Easter Lilies 2024

This year's Lily list is now in church. It is to remember your late loved ones. Please print their name and also your name. Each Lily costs £2 which Georgie will collect. Our Churchwarden Richard will produce a lovely 'In Memoriam' list which will be displayed in church along with the flowers.

Georgie Moore - (865486)





---

## **Good News about the Benefice Telephone Service**

Our monthly telephone service will be on Sunday, March 17th at 6:30pm and the theme will be 'From the heart'. All are welcome! **It is now very easy to join the service. Just dial our new local number 01200 480091 and you will be there. There's no need to put in an access code!** We had a great service in February and look forward to sharing in worship next Sunday evening. The service sheet is being sent out with this newsletter. To request a printed copy please call Will on 07974 755926.



---

## **Good Friday Gardening**

On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm at St Gregory's, there will be Good Friday Gardening for all children aged 1-101! Help plant the Easter garden and decorate eggs for the Easter Tree while eating hot cross buns – drinks will also be provided. We hope to see you here!

---

## **Electoral Roll 2024**

From March 24th until April 21st St. Gregory's Electoral Roll will be displayed in the Lower Narthex in preparation for our APCM on May 12th. Do please try to check that all those who wish their names to be on our Roll are indeed included but if not, please contact me on 01626 772249. Also if there is a name of anyone who has definitely moved away, likewise let me know please.

Graham Reynolds

---

## Easter Gardens

Since Covid, each Easter I have displayed a very simple Easter Garden on the wall outside my house and chatting to various folk, I've discovered many of you do the same. I think this is wonderful and with your permission, I'd love to share where all our Easter Gardens are located so that others can find them as they are out and about in our towns and villages over Easter.



If you are planning on having an Easter Garden to display from the beginning of Holy Week, please let me know this by email or call or text me on the number below by the **18th March**. Remember to give me your address where the garden can be viewed. I will then email all those on my baptism contact list in our Dawlish Coast Mission Community, to share this info with them. All the gardens I know of before our newsletter goes out on the 18<sup>th</sup> March, I'll ask to be printed in that newsletter too so we know where to find them as well – so please let me know your plans as soon as possible. If you can photograph your creations before and after Easter day and email your photos to me, it would be lovely if these could go onto our churches' website so that everyone can get a chance to see them and enjoy them later.

Easter Gardens I find are very moving to create, bring lots of joy and can be a fabulous talking point and opportunity to share the Easter message. Perhaps because of this, they are the best bit of gardening we can ever do.

Huge thanks to everyone for your help and green fingers

Cath Chappell xxx  
[cath.godden@outlook.com](mailto:cath.godden@outlook.com)  
07880557772



Forget-me-not Café



*Companionship over a cuppa*



**YOU ARE INVITED TO  
SEFTON HALL COMMUNITY CAFÉ**

**EVERY THURSDAY 10 – 11:30am  
FREE TEA / COFFEE / HOMEMADE CAKES**

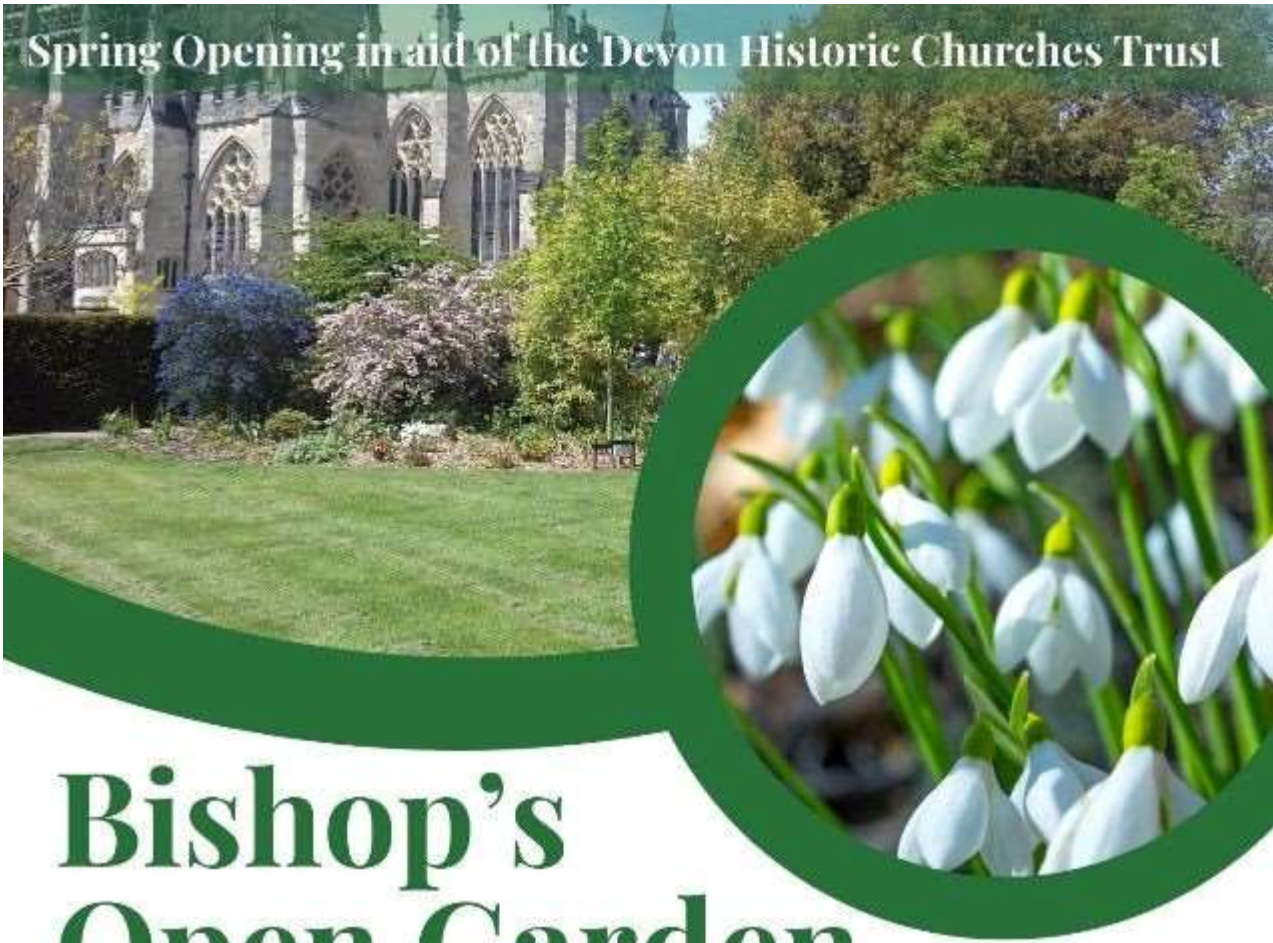


**FOR ALL ELDERLY OR ISOLATED MEMBERS OF  
OUR COMMUNITY**

**YOU ARE VERY WELCOME TO JUST DROP IN AND  
WILL BE TREATED WITH A VERY WARM WELCOME**



Spring Opening in aid of the Devon Historic Churches Trust



# Bishop's Open Garden

Scan to donate



The garden of the Bishop's Palace is one of the best-kept secrets in Exeter. It covers three acres and is one of the most ancient in Devon. Bounded by the old Roman bank and city wall to the east and by the Cathedral to the west, it is a haven of peace in the middle of the city.

The Palace, Palace Gate, Exeter, EX1 1HY

Sunday 17th and 24th March 24

Sunday 14th and 28th April 24

2pm - 4.30pm £5 (card payments welcome)

Please note the garden does not have suitable access for wheelchairs or mobility scooters

Charity Registration Number: 1189807

More Information:

[www.devonhistoricchurches.co.uk](http://www.devonhistoricchurches.co.uk)





---

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 Linda Cronin: 01626 927281 or [revdlinda@icloud.com](mailto:revdlinda@icloud.com)

Margaret Noel: 01626 863148

Will Halse: 01626 866054

Ceri Lee: 07739 936286

---