

Benefice E-Newsletter
Dawlish with Holcombe and Cofton
10th September 2023

It's September already! Where did the summer go?

September for many is about a new start. Those who attend schools and colleges will be moving into new classes and courses and some, of course, will be starting in new



situations. For some it is exciting but for others very daunting. My years working in schools has left me with a sense that September is the beginning of a new year, a concept I have struggled to let go of in retirement.

In fact, I have always been surprised at how many 'new year starts' there are. The calendar says it is in January. The accountant and taxman says it is in April but the church says its year starts on Advent Sunday So don't forget when we are turning on the Christmas lights, it's Happy New Year!!

But here we are in September as we begin to leave Summer behind and look to autumn colours. As a church we move on in our quest for a new Rector as the vacancy is – at long last – now advertised. So, my prayer is that somewhere there is a priest that God is calling to a new start with us and that they are hearing that call. Oh, and I'm also praying that we won't need to wait for another September before they can have *their* new start.



In reality, there are all sorts of new starts, I can think of several new jobs and new roles I've had. I can think of other new starts such as getting married, becoming a parent, getting ordained, retirement - to name a few.

But as I think of all this; I think of the real new starts in my life, the ones with and for God. Sometimes because it has become clear God wants something new from me, or at least to have me in a new role or a new place. But the most important new starts for me are when I realise that I have fallen short and lost touch with God to some extent. Before I would even stop long enough to realise things were awry in my relationship with God, often it has needed something to go wrong or someone else pointing me to the reality.

If only I had been attentive to Him. If only I had read scripture and listened for what God was saying to me. If only my prayer times had had plenty of time for me to listen and did not just prattle on to God. If only I had

Don't we all regularly need to stop and stop long enough to ask where God has been in our lives? And perhaps even more importantly to ask where we missed God, prompting, warning or directing us?



Then I realise it is a time for yet another new start. Whether it is in my times with scripture, or my times in prayer. Whether it is in using those gifts and abilities God has given me to His glory and not mine, not least in playing my part in the life in the church.

So what of each of us? Will September be a new start? Perhaps not at school and certainly not yet with a new Rector.

But is it time to stop and look at where we each are with God, and ask ourselves, do I need another of those new starts?

With my prayers,
Alan Smith

“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 *Corinthians 5:17*).

If you have given your life to Christ, you are **a new creation** – whether you feel like it or not. (*Billy Graham*)



Services

10th September

9.30am St George's – Morning worship
10am St Gregory's – Holy Communion
11am St Mary's – Holy Communion
3pm St Gregory's – Civic service

13th September

10am St Gregory's – Midweek Holy Communion

17th September

9.30am St George's – Holy Communion
10am St Gregory's – Greg's @ 10
11am St Mary's – Morning worship
6.30pm Benefice Telephone service

Tuesday Prayer Meeting on Zoom

Join us on Zoom for a half hour of prayer at 9am on Tuesday. [Just click on this link](#) or go to <https://zoom.us/join> and enter Meeting ID: 415 012 5700 and Passcode: Wedlake



Civic Service – St Gregory’s

There will be a Civic Service taking place at St Gregory’s at 3pm on Sunday 10th September. All welcome!

Little Greg’s – St Gregory’s

Little Greg’s begins again 9.30am-11.30am on Tuesday 12th September at St Gregory’s. Please share with anyone who might like to come along.



Meeting
Reminder!

St Gregory’s Standing Committee meeting

The next Standing Committee meeting at St Gregory’s will be on Tuesday 12th September at 7.30pm.

Annual Wave of Prayer



Mothers' UNION

On Tuesday 12th September there will be a gathering at Margaret Kerr’s home (10 Fordens Lane, Holcombe, EX7 OLD) at 2pm where members of the Mothers Union will be taking part in the annual Wave of Prayer.



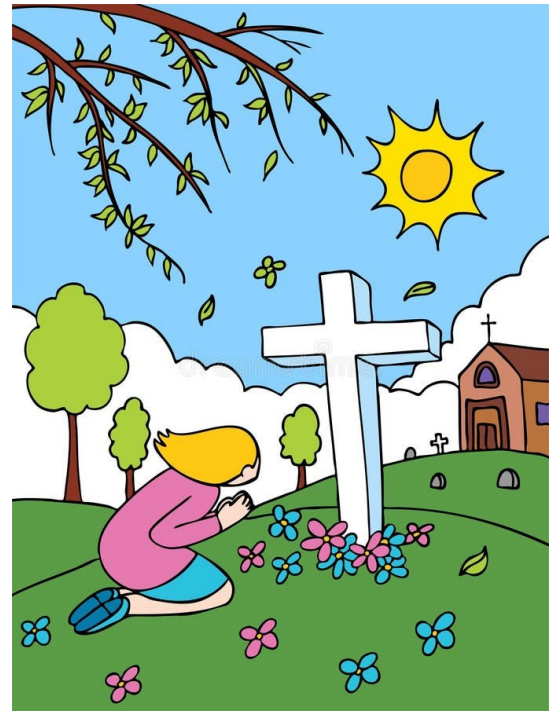
Advanced notice: Julian Group

The Julian group will meet again at St Gregory’s from 2.30pm on Tuesday 26th September. All welcome.

Churchyard at St Gregory's

The St. Gregory's Biodiversity Project aims to manage areas within the churchyard for the benefit of wildlife and biodiversity. We are a small group of volunteers who usually work on Wednesday mornings, but other times are possible. We encourage people to adopt a patch, or particular graves, to look after. Perhaps you have expertise to contribute, or a few seeds to spare.

We have uncovered many headstones that have been swallowed by vegetation and there are many more awaiting discovery. We work in liaison with Teignbridge District Council and the PCC.



If you would like to get involved, please contact me, Dave Hutton at:
dave.dawlishww@gmail.com.

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:

Margaret Noel: 01626 863148

Will Halse: 01626 866054

Ceri Lee: 07739 936286
