

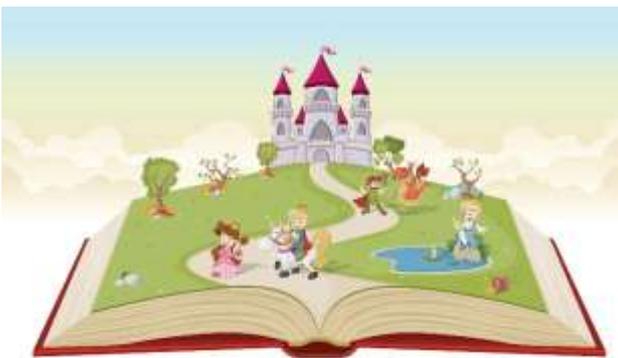
# Benefice Events E-Letter

## Dawlish with Holcombe & Cofton Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February

I wonder if we did a survey of favourite television programmes across the Benefice what would be the most popular. I suspect that as we get older that some of our tastes will have changed. I often ask the question of families when preparing a funeral tribute as to what kind of programmes the person who has died watched and if they were avid fans. It helps me to understand what people are interested in.



Today it is difficult to assess popular culture in terms of the television because if you listen to young people, they rarely watch the tv, as they use catch up on their computers or phones. The fact that they don't watch the tv as perhaps we have done is one of the reasons it has been difficult engaging young people in the vaccination programme. As we have learned unfortunately, the internet is full of misinformation about many things. However, that can also be reflected in our communities. Local inaccurate stories are not unusual and the development of stories which turn into folklore expressing something of the traditional beliefs, customs, and stories of a community, are passed through the generations by word of mouth. Truth and fiction are easily mixed together.

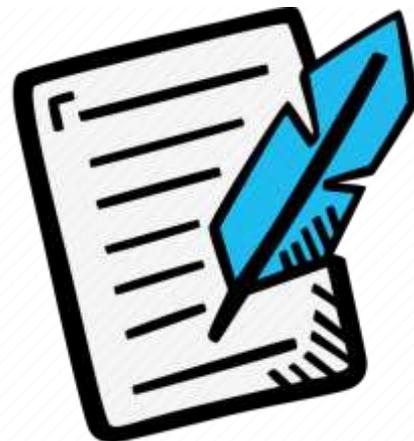


My interest in folklore is that it is so often mixed up with superstitions, faith and religious belief and are imbedded in our daily lives often without thought. An everyday example is that many people 'touch wood' in the hope that something they fear might happen doesn't, or something they want to happen will. As Christians, if we put our trust in God, do we need to touch wood too?

So going back to popular programmes perhaps Call the Midwife is a favourite for many. The story lines tackle the issues of 1950/1960 Britain, which I usually think is superbly written, incorporating issues of cultural change and faith in the Eastend of London experienced through the eyes of a religious community and their midwives. However, last Sunday's episode was I thought quite disturbing for Christians who saw the lovely Sister Monica Joan consulting with a medium, and who at the end of the programme, was then seen in Nonatus House, the home of the religious community. It is disturbing because God is quite clear about mediums. It was quite extraordinary as to the timing of this, that the Morning Prayer reading for Monday was from Leviticus 19 including, "Do not turn to

mediums or wizards; do not seek them out, to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God” which The Message translates as “Don’t dabble in the occult or traffic with mediums, you’ll pollute your souls. I am God, your God.”

Although it is a tv drama it is known for conveying well considered and powerful cultural messages. Therefore, the muddling of faith and spiritualism may lead to confusion that it is an acceptable practice, particularly if a nun has pursued this. It is very easy for people to blur drama into the reality of life particularly from programmes which have built a reputation of being trusted. We know that has happened often with the “Soaps”. It may be that the writer will bring a challenge to this in the next episode, which if that happens will help to right what is quite wrong and a muddled experience, but if not, it will sadly leave some to believe that the Christian faith and spiritualism can share the same platform which it does not and cannot. God has made that quite clear to us in His Word.



My concern is that we are clear about this issue from a Biblical perspective, and therefore should you find yourselves in conversations resulting from this programme, then I hope that you will feel equipped to explain and discuss it from a Christian perspective. Some may also wish to write to the BBC expressing their concern.

with every blessing,  
Dallas

### Services next week

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|---------------------------|---|
| 13 <sup>th</sup> February | 10am Holy Communion @ St Gregory's<br>9.30am Morning Worship @<br>St George's Holcombe<br>11am Holy Communion<br>@ St Mary's Cofton |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> February | 10am Holy Communion @ St Gregory's  |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> February | 10am Greg's @ 10 @ St Gregory's<br>9.30am Holy Communion @ St George's Holcombe<br>11am Morning Worship @ St Mary's Cofton          |



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## Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February Prayer meeting

# Prayer Works



Tuesday prayers is open to anyone from the Benefice. We are not an elite group of people, but we are all learners in the school of prayer. What do we pray about? We cover a wide range of concerns from international issues such as Afghanistan, Russia and other places of conflict and concern. We pray for the Government, for MPs, our NHS, and for revival in our nation. We also pray for local concerns such as the local economy, empty shops and for good new businesses to benefit the community (and we have seen answers to this prayer), employment, for safety for those building the sea wall, our schools, hospital and doctors' surgery, for families, individual people we know who

ask for prayer and for the life and mission of our churches. We pray to be guided by the Holy Spirit and even though we continue to meet on Zoom we experience this together every Tuesday. You are not required to pray out loud, some of us do and some do rarely, but we all believe in the power of prayer and are blessed by the presence of each other. You would be very welcome and we would love you to join us.

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

**Time:** Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 09:00 AM London

### **Join Zoom Meeting**

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

**Meeting ID:** 659 184 2294

**Passcode:** 995468

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### **St Gregory's PCC Members**

Over the last two years it has been difficult to recruit new members of the PCC and we are now running with less members than we would hope to have. Governance of the church is important and representation of church members on the PCC is really important. Each member has the opportunity to take on not



only the responsibility of the governance but are there to inspire and support the direction of the church by seeking God's vision. At the PCC meeting in January we have suspended the rule of having one years off the PCC before re-election, for this year, to allow us a bit of flexibility in accepting those who would be willing to serve another term. The situation is that this year at the Annual Meeting we will be looking for the following:

3-year term = 4 people

2-year term = 2 people

1 year term = 3 people

We are also looking for a new Churchwarden. It is the responsibility of every church member to consider standing for the PCC or to encourage others to do so.

Please contact either one of the Churchwardens or the church office for more information about joining the PCC.

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### **Churches Together in Dawlish and District**

We are looking for a Chair to lead CTDD. Tim took on the Chair and because of Covid led CTDD for two years. The pattern is to appoint a lay person every other year so we are looking for that person. We have a very good and strong CTDD but to sustain that we need to appoint a Chair. Please consider whether God is asking you to take on this responsibility.

**If you want to know more about it, please speak to Dallas.**



### **Appeal from Tim Wigley**

CAN YOU HELP?

(From Tim Wigley - New Debt Centre Manager for Christians Against Poverty in Teignbridge)

For my work with CAP, a mobile phone is an essential piece of technology which I use on a daily basis to communicate with clients, CAP head office, referral agencies and many others! I'm currently using an old phone which is temperamental and unreliable. A good quality phone is

therefore needed. I would be grateful if you could please consider helping towards the cost of a new phone or refurbished which will probably cost in the region of £300. Thank you.

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### **Foundations in Christian Ministry course**

Please see the attachments with this email for more information on the Foundations in Christian Ministry course. If this is something you might be interested in, please talk to Richard Orr, who is participating in the course this year.



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### **The Christian Resources Exhibition**

The Christian Resources Exhibition is coming to Westpoint on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February. Tickets are available on line in advance at £4 or if you book a group £3. There will be many different stalls and resources to look at. Here is the link: <https://creonline.co.uk/>



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### **Afternoon of Quiet Prayer**

Afternoon of Quiet Prayer at St George's Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2-4pm. This is an opportunity to spend some time in stillness as we prepare for Lent. There will be opening worship with a talk, about an hour to spend quietly on our own and then a short act of worship to close, before refreshments and fellowship. Everyone is welcome. For more details or to register interest, please contact Helen Bays [spiritualdirections264@gmail.com](mailto:spiritualdirections264@gmail.com) or 07391-594867

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### **World Day of Prayer**

On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March for the World Day of Prayer there will be a prayer meeting held at The Strand church in Dawlish at 2.30pm – all are welcome.

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## Real Easter Eggs

Fair trade, palm-oil free chocolate in plastic-free wrapping with the Easter story enclosed in each one. What's not to like! Helen Bays will be taking orders for Milk Chocolate (£4.50), Dark Chocolate (£5.50), White Chocolate (£5.00) and Special Edition which includes a chocolate bar and a card (£9.99). Or go to [www.realeasteregg.co.uk](http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk) to order direct. They will post eggs for you. Orders need to be with Helen by 6th March. Cash on delivery. Phone/text 07391-594867 or email [spiritualdirections264@gmail.com](mailto:spiritualdirections264@gmail.com)

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## Lent Course

We are in the process of planning the Benefice Lent course, which will be held at St Gregory's at 2pm on Wednesdays beginning on the 9<sup>th</sup> March. For those who would prefer to participate via Zoom, we are very happy to provide that facility; but please do let Sabrina know if you would prefer this option so that we can make suitable arrangements. If you would like to make use of Zoom please email or call the church office no later than **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February**. The Zoom Lent course will be running Thursday evenings from 7pm from the 10<sup>th</sup> March.

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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