

Benefice Events E-Letter

Dawlish with Holcombe & Cofton Sunday 13th March

“You have made us like sheep to be slaughtered, and scattered us among the nations”

This is Psalm 44 v12 which was the set Psalm for Tuesday morning office this week. There are many Psalms which are very relevant to the situation as we read them from a perspective of the war in the Ukraine. It made me think what it might be like for a Ukrainian Christian to read these words pointing the finger at God out of fear and despair. It goes on to say:

“Our soul is bowed down to the dust; our belly cleaves to the earth.
Rise up, O Lord, to help us, and redeem us for the sake of your steadfast love.”



Like many, I guess, I knew very little about Ukraine and its people. It is heart-rendering, it is heart-breaking, as we see the pictures on our tv screens as people who were living peaceful ordinary lives are now living in a war zone, or have made their way on long difficult journeys to another country taking what they can in a small suitcase or bag. There is great courage among the women travelling alone often with their little children making these

extraordinary journeys. I also see the courage and bravery of the many who are staying in their towns and cities unable or unwilling to make such journeys. How hard it must be to have to make such decisions wondering whether it is the right one to make.

We might wonder and ask where is God? I have no doubt that he is in every loving generous action of those who are helping in any way, volunteers, countries offering shelter, those delivering aid, and those who are just doing their little bit in sending supplies or money. I heard this week a snippet of a thank you from a Christian who shared something of the prayers that they have seen answered in Ukraine with an encouragement to keep praying. So please don't give up even if you are wondering whether it will make a difference. That is what Satan wants us to do – give up praying. Bring what you are feeling to God and allow Jesus to show you what to pray. We may not understand everything about this war, the politics, the economic sanctions, and the consequences for us, but God knows it all, and so we can pray for wisdom to know how to pray. We can see what is happening on the



ground but there is also a heavenly perspective to this for which we can pray for too and which Paul saw as being so relevant.

Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

There is much to pray for including those Russian people who don't know or understand what is happening, and for those who have been brave enough to protest and are now in prison, and for the Russian Churches, that they will be willing to speak up with compassion and challenge Putin and the Kremlin. As I write we also need to pray for our own Government that the inept response to the visa situation will change. That has led me to send a Tweet to our MP about my disbelief that we are still trying to sort out how to process those Ukrainians who already have family in the UK, when Poland, and the other countries have opened their arms and embraced those who are seeking refuge. I get it that our national security is important but surely, we can still pull out all the stops. I know little about such things, but it seems that we weren't too worried about national security when others, such as oligarchs, have invested in football clubs, newspapers, businesses and property and have used our nation to hide, or whatever else they might have done with their money, until now.



As this situation coincides with Lent then lamentation and repentance for ourselves, our nation and our world may be a little clearer. I think it is worth reading Psalm 5 among others remembering that our sin also lays before us. Let us continue to cry out to the Lord.

With every blessing,

Dallas

Services next week

13th March 10am Holy Communion @
St Gregory's
9.30am Morning Worship @ St George's Holcombe
11am Holy Communion @ St Mary's Cofton

16th March 10am midweek
Communion @
St Gregory's

20th March 10am Greg's @ 10
9.30am Holy Communion
@ St George's Holcombe
11am Morning Worship
@St Mary's Cofton



Tuesday 15th March Prayer meeting

Topic: Dallas Ayling's Zoom Meeting

Time: 15th March, 2022 09:00 AM London

Meeting ID: 659 184 2294

Passcode: 995468

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Zoom Lent Course

The first Lent course will take place on Thursday 10th at 7pm, on Dallas zoom meeting – the details listed above.

Sermons during Lent – Surprised by Generosity

Can you think of a time when you received unexpected generosity? Do give this some thought. Our sermons during Lent will be following Surprised by Generosity, the special diocesan Lent course produced by the diocese. We will learn more of God's generosity and will be encouraged to live generously in return. Topics include Catching Fish and The Penguin (that's in week 5).

Lent Course



This year's Lent course is LIVING STONES, LIVING HOPE. The course has been prepared by USPG, the missionary society. The metaphor of the Christian community in 1 Peter 2 as living stones that constitute the household of God is a richly evocative one.

It reminds us not only that we are one among the many stones that make up God's household, but also that we are each connected in a unique way to Jesus Christ, the cornerstone of our faith. Each week we will explore this theme drawing on examples from around the world and scripture. Please pray for a successful course and maybe see coming along as part of your Lenten life, either to the in-person presentation on Wednesdays at 2pm at St Gregory's or 7pm each Thursday via Zoom.

The in-person course will continue on the 16th, 23rd, 30th March and the 6th April. The Zoom lent course will be running on Dallas's usual Zoom account. Dates will be Thursday evening: 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st March and 7th April at 7pm.



Morning Prayer

Morning prayer for Lent on Zoom, with prayer for Ukraine and Russia. (If there is anyone who would like to join but finds the timing inconvenient, please let Chris Curd know: prebchris2020@gmail.com or on 07771842334.

Topic: Morning Prayer on Zoom

Time: Mar 17, 2022 09:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 219 889 0557

Passcode: 5y1GPu

St Gregory's electoral roll



At our Annual Parochial Church meeting on April 25th there has to be a brief report on our Electoral Roll, which should be as accurate as possible. Please kindly check that your name is included on the Roll which is now displayed in the Lower Narthex. If you're not yet included but would like to join, please contact Graham Reynolds on 01626 772249. The final version has to be displayed no later than April 9th. Many thanks for your help.

Mount Pleasant Dinner

There are still tickets available for the dinner at The Mount Pleasant inn on the 12th March. There will be a female vocalist, a magician and raffle prizes together with an excellent menu choice. This will be to raise money for the Mayor's fund. If you would like to attend, tickets are available from the Manor House. Contact 01626 863388.

A notice for St Greg's - supporting Strand Church

Since the beginning of the pandemic as you will know I have been working with Helping Dawlish on behalf of the church. One aspect of our work has been to provide food for those who were left struggling through the pandemic. We have delivered this through ROC (Redeeming our Communities) in partnership with the other organisations, who are part of Helping Dawlish. The Dawlish Food Larder has evolved over time but its purpose is to continue to support those who are in need of food and continues to be delivered through various partnerships. We have been, and continue to be grateful, for those individuals who support us by putting food in the baskets in the local shops, or have given financially to help us buy in, what is needed including our use of an organisation called Fareshare. We have also built relationships with local supermarkets who are part of the food waste movement and who give us left over fresh food, which cannot be sold on, so we pass this on in a number of ways.



When we are able to, we support the Strand Centre to help them in their provision of meals to people too. We have been asked by Mary May, who is a volunteer at the Strand Centre, if we as a church could respond to supporting the Strand Centre. As a response to our series on the Generosity of God, the Standing Committee have agreed to hold a collection specifically for tins of soup, which the centre can either pass on to customers or use in their own provision of meals. This collection will

take place on Mothering Sunday, an easy day to remember. Please consider bringing a can of soup or two which will then be given to the Centre.

Many thanks,
Dallas.

Climate Change

You may have seen in the news that there is now strong evidence that this is the decade in which strong action must be taken to avert the worst climate change scenario. It is easy for these matters to get buried with news of the horrors of war, but climate change will not wait for a ceasefire. We are being urged to inundate our MPs with correspondence. the more they get, the more they are likely to take note!



"A new report released on 28th February shows that the impacts of climate change are getting worse, and hitting those least responsible the hardest. Here in the UK, we've seen just how devastating climate impacts can be if extreme weather like we've experienced these past few weeks becomes more frequent.

Every day without action gives us less time to protect the things we love - but if we act now, we can still create a cleaner, safer future for generations to come.

Let's keep climate action at the top of the government's agenda by keeping it at the top of your MP's inbox. Send an email, or better still - write - to your MP today. Here is a sample letter, but if you can make it personal, so much the better."



Dear [MP name]

I'm writing to you because I live in [write in your hometown] and am deeply concerned about the state of the environment and the impact of this on people and wildlife. As my MP, I need your help to make sure things change.

The government's independent climate advisors, the Climate Change Committee (CCC), recently published advice on how the Government must deliver in 2022 and continue to use

our global leadership role as COP26 President. Amongst other things, the report calls for the Government to put forward plans for a Net Zero Test to ensure that all decisions are consistent with the path to Net Zero.

The scale of this crisis means this is a task for all Ministers in every Government department - not just the Prime Minister. And as stated by the COP President, “delivering this ambitious programme will only be possible with a whole-of-Government and all-of-UK approach”.

The current gas crisis - and subsequent cost-of-living crunch - has made it even more essential to accelerate action for a green, fair and affordable energy future for all - rather than entrenching our reliance on expensive and polluting fossil gas.

As my MP, I would greatly appreciate your support to urge the Prime Minister to lead, the Chancellor to fund, and every Minister to take responsibility and deliver net-zero fairly, and rapidly. I am asking you to please write to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor and the COP President with this message.

I hope you can help me, and many others who share my concerns in [write your hometown here], to have our voices heard by our leaders and Ministers.

Sincerely,

[Your name]

[Address including postcode]

Our MP's constituency office

Anne-Marie Morris, MP

2 Salisbury House, Salisbury Road, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ12 2DF

01626 368 277

annemarie.morris.mp@parliament.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. Dallas Ayling: 867386

Margaret Noel: 863148

Will Halse: 866054