

Benefice E-Newsletter
Dawlish with Holcombe and Cofton
14th January 2024

THAT'S EVERYTHING! A story for a New Year

Every year, at our house, when we turn off the Christmas lights and take down the Christmas tree and decorations, it always puts me in a wider 'cleaning and out' mood. I often end up Spring cleaning in January through deep cupboards and drawers that rarely get a look in at any other time of the year! Every year I find items that haven't seen the light of day for at least 12 months and, as they're perfectly good but surplus to our requirements, I often take a boxful of 'stuff' to one of the local charity shops. So, my New Year resolution, this year, is to remind myself NOT to buy things that I'm unlikely to use!



This put me in mind of a New Year story I heard and thought I'd share with you all.....



A lady had just dropped off a bag of clothes and a few other items at her local charity shop. She decided to have a look at the shelves of books to see if anything appealed to her. As she did so she noticed an elderly couple moving slowly around her in search of items they had on a list which they held tightly in hand. They didn't say much, but occasionally motioned to the other and held an item up next to the list.

"No, that's not good," one would say and move on.

Curiosity got the better of the lady observer, "Can I help you find something?" she asked.

They stopped, looked at her and said, "We're looking for old things that look new." Then they shared a small laugh. The lady was looking puzzled so the couple began to explain, "Every new year when we were younger, we tried to

begin the year with new things. It was a goal to surround ourselves with things fresh and new so that we had new direction, new hopes and dreams for the year ahead," the man said. "It took a long time for us to learn and a great deal of debt, but we discovered it really got us nowhere," his wife said.



"So, how does this fit in?" the lady asked the couple "I mean shopping at a charity shop? Are things bad financially?"

"No, not at all. We discovered that things don't have to be expensive to be of great value. Even though it's old, it's new to someone who never saw it before." he said. "So, we search at the beginning of each year for things of value to no one but mean the world to us." she added.

"May I see your list?" the lady asked. It was an old tattered piece of paper with three words written on it. "This is it?" she asked as she flipped it over to see if there was something she was missing. "Yes! But don't ask if that is it. That's not just it, that's everything." The elderly lady said.



"What have you found so far?" the lady asked the couple. The man stretched out his hand and in it were two things. A small picture frame made out of lolly sticks and what appeared to be one knitted baby bootie. Not a pair.

"We still need one more thing," he said. "Got it!" they heard off in the distance. "What did you find?" he shouted across the shop. His wife walked slowly toward him holding something in the air, saying "Look, it's a flower vase. Well, it's a jam jar that someone has painted. It looks awful, but..." then in unison they said...."It's new to us!". They then headed to the till to pay without saying another word.

There you have it. Your New Year message for 2024.

"What?" Oh, yes. You might want to know what the three words were on their list.

2024

It won't make much sense to you. I mean, you really need to see beyond it all. You must understand that this was all just a game for them. They could have picked out anything, anything at all.

The real point here is that they had spent most of their lives believing that there was power in "things." They spent most of their lives believing that at the stroke of midnight as one year ended and a new one began, that life was going to change magically.



They, like most of us, believed that we had to have a plan and we needed to sacrifice all of our waking hours and sometimes even our values to get ahead in the world. Because that's what it's all about at New Year. Dump the old and start with the new.

The truth is, as they had discovered, there really isn't anything different from one day to the next, one year to the next, except for your attitude toward it and what you choose to do with it. Everything, including change, is there waiting to be discovered.

So everything is old until you see it for the first time. There is only one thing constant, never changing and sure. That's what those three words were on that paper.

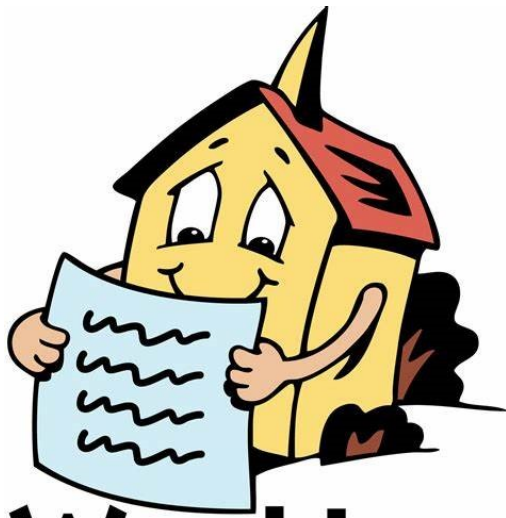
"God loves you!"

As the elderly lady said to the younger, "That's not just it, that's everything."

Happy New Year!

Ceri

God
..Loves..
YOU



Worship Schedule

14th January 2024

9.30am St George's – Morning Worship

10am St Gregory's – Holy Communion

11am St Mary's – Holy Communion

17th January 2024

10am St Gregory's – Midweek Holy
Communion:

21st January 2024

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

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

Julian Quiet Prayer Meetings

We are moving from the last to the 3rd Tuesday of each month, so will meet on Tuesday 16th January at 2.30pm in the upper narthex of St Gregory's. A prayer and short reading is followed by a period of silence before a further prayer, lasting around 30 minutes in all and will be followed by refreshments and a time of fellowship.



New people are always welcome!

Helen Bays

Funerals taking place at St Gregory's

The funeral of Eric England will be on Thursday 18th January at St Gregory's at 11am. The funeral of Peter Frank Taylor will also be on Thursday 18th January at 1.30pm.

Funeral of Dot Spring – Friday 19th January

The funeral of Dot Spring will be on Friday 19th January – if you have any reminiscences or memories of Dot, please do share them with Margaret Noel, who will be leading this funeral.



Ladies Lunch at Amelia's Cofton

There will be a Ladies Lunch at Amelia's Cofton on 16th January 12 for 12.30 - all welcome.

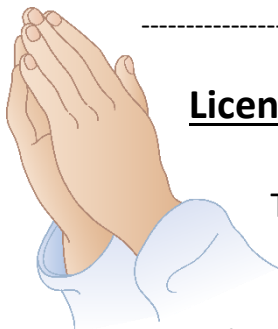
Benefice Telephone service – 21st Jan

Our monthly evening telephone service will be on Sunday, January 21st at 6:30pm. To join the service just dial 0330 088 1927 and then enter the access code 2132492. We will be using a Night Prayer Service for the 3rd Sunday of Epiphany. Please contact Ceri Lee on 07739 936286 or Will Halse on 07974 755926 if you need a printed copy.



Licensing of Rev. Linda Cronin

The licensing of Rev. Linda Cronin as team Rector will take place on Thursday 15th February at 7.30pm in St. Gregory's. Please do come and support Linda as she begins her ministry in the Benefice. Please pray for Linda and her husband Steve as they move to Dawlish.



St Gregory's Big Church Clean

St Gregory's will be having a big church clean on Saturday 3rd February at 9.30am – please come and help to clean the church. See Leena if you need any more information.



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
