

Benefice E-Newsletter
Dawlish with Holcombe and Cofton
15th October 2023

As harvest time draws to a close, we see God's goodness in full barns and food stores across the land. Once again, Sandford's will be making their excellent Devon cider. We have been called to sing old favourites like 'Come ye thankful people come, raise the song of harvest home'. The analogy of harvest reminds us of the prospect that God will bring his people, in all walks of life, home on judgement day. We stand before Him in his judgement of how we have fulfilled the Christian vows that were given for us at our Baptism and which we affirmed at our Confirmation. I think we can look again profitably at Henry Alford's harvest hymn, based as it is on Psalm 100.

1.
Come, ye thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest home!
All is safely gathered in,
Ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, doth provide
For our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come;
Raise the song of harvest home!



Verse 1

Are we a thankful people? Unmistakably thanking God for a bounteous harvest? Perhaps not if we are honest, confused as we are by science and the distractions of modern life. In this verse these people are rejoicing in their achievement, not taking God's gift for granted. Do we? Perhaps the 21st century lulls us into a false smugness that we can do without a Christian God. Will we be safely gathered into eternal life? Do we always recognise that God will supply our wants? If we ask him and listen, I think he will. We are drawn heavenwards as we worship in our congregation, weekly raising songs of praise.

2. We ourselves are God's own field,
Fruit unto his praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown
Unto joy or sorrow grown;
First the blade and then the ear,
Then the full corn shall appear;
Grant, O harvest Lord, that we
Wholesome grain and pure may be.



Verse 2

We are the fruits of God's goodness. God recognises us as his own (God's own field) and wants to care for us. Are we thankful to God enough for the sustenance, physical and spiritual, He provides? We are God's harvest, you are God's harvest, have we been bounteous fruit in sharing Christ's message, doing good to others in our daily lives? To family and friends? Could we be better stewards of this Earth? We hope to be saved as the good grain,

not discarded as weeds or chaff. We worship God in the hope of receiving His grace so that we are worthy of being saved as the good grain.

3. For the Lord our God shall come,
And shall take the harvest home;
From His field shall in that day
All offences purge away,
Giving angels charge at last
In the fire the tares to cast;
But the fruitful ears to store
In the garner evermore



Verse 3

We hear again we have but one God and that we should not be distracted by the false gods of modern society. We should look forward joyfully to the coming again of Christ into our daily lives and in final judgement, freeing us from the slavery of sin so that we can live whole and fulfilling lives. He will save us as the fruitful ears, a play on an ear of corn and our ear to listen to God's message as presented to us in Christ's witness to us here on earth.

4. Then, thou Church triumphant come,
Raise the song of harvest home!
All be safely gathered in,
Free from sorrow, free from sin,
There, forever purified,
In God's garner to abide;
Come, ten thousand angels, come,
Raise the glorious harvest home!



Verse 4

Here we are reminded of God's triumph over evil, giving us that hope of eternal peace. The use of the term 'angels' comes from the ancient Greek 'angelos', meaning messenger, in a form linking the divine and the human. But we are invited to be free from sin today by living in the image of God to the example of Christ. We are the harvesters too, as Christ's disciples today. Let us open our hearts and live out simple lives in Christ's message of love and hope.

This traditional hymn uses the grain seed to illustrate our dependence on listening to God. We recently marked in the Church of England the feast of the blessed Francis, founder of the Franciscan Order. His emphasis on poverty and humility reminds us of our need to serve others here in Dawlish and district, nurturing our wider community. At harvest time too Francis reminds that creation reflects God's glory. Our stewardship of the environment and agricultural methods should be in line with God's wishes. In closing, as the farmer watches the weather closely, we too should watch for what God is asking us to do in his name. May we all be blessed in our work this week.

PS. If you are not yet baptised or confirmed and think you would like to be, please say hello to one of our readers in church or see their telephone numbers at the end of the newsletter. It is our top priority at St Greg's to share God's gift of love and eternal life with those who seek it.

- Richard Orr



Services

15th October

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

18th October

10am St George's – Midweek Holy Communion

22nd October

10am St George's – Morning worship and Baptism

10am St Gregory's – Holy Communion

11am St Mary's – Holy Communion



Tuesday Prayer Meeting on Zoom

Please do join us on Tuesday at 9am for a half hour of prayer. We meet on Zoom.

Just click on this [link](#) or go to <https://zoom.us/join> and enter:

Meeting ID: 575 020 5964 and Passcode: 850653.

Devon Historic Churches Day

St Gregory's raised £193.50 for Devon Historic Churches Day – this amount came entirely from donations and the Bric-a-Brac stall, run by Graham and Gill Reynolds on the day. Many thanks to everyone who came along, donated money and volunteered.



St Gregory's Harvest Holy Communion

St Gregory's raised £390.40 in donations for St Petrock's on 8th October, alongside donations of dried, tinned and canned foods and cereals which were delivered to St Petrock's in Exeter.



Many thanks to all the flower arranging team of Sadie, Gill, Sharon, Trevor and Elsie who did such a great job of decorating the church so beautifully.

Mothers Union

The Mothers' Union is supporting women in Melanesia by collecting sewing machines, materials, knitting needles, wool, patterns and any other haberdashery items to send to the Solomon Islands. Help from our churches would be welcome, and there will be a large box in St Gregory's, St George's and St Mary's, where contributions can be placed.

Ann Leigh – Dawlish MU Branch Leader

St Gregory's Big Church clean

There will be a big church clean at St Gregory's on the 14th October between 9.30am-12noon. Coffee and biscuits will be provided! The more the merrier would be very appreciated!

Evening Telephone Service on Sunday, October 15th at 6:30pm

Our monthly evening telephone service will be on Sunday, at 6:30 pm. We will be using the service for Trinity season. Please contact Will Halse on 07974 755926 if you need a printed copy. To join the service just dial 0330 088 1927 and then enter the access code 2132492. Or you can connect on line at

<https://join.freeconferencecall.com/willhalse>.



Visitation day and Interviewing

There will be an orientation day on Tuesday 17th October when candidates will visit the Benefice. Interviews will take place the following day, Wednesday 18th.



Praying for Dawlish

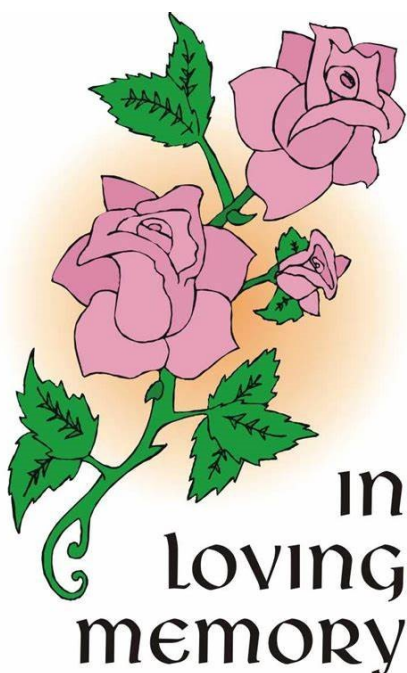
The next half hour prayer meeting, Praying for Dawlish, will be at 12 noon on Tuesday 17th October at Hope Church. All welcome!

Benefice Ladies Lunch

This will be at Amelia's, Cofton, on Tuesday 17th October – arriving at 12 for 12.30am. Please do come along!

Midweek Holy Communion on the 18th October

Due to vacancy interviews taking place that day, the 10am Holy Communion service **will now be held at St George's** – for this week only.



Advance Notice - Service of Remembering and Hope - Sunday 5th November

Last year a service was held at St Mary's, Cofton. This year, there will be a Service of Remembering and Hope held at St George's Holcombe on Sunday 5th November at 3pm, followed by tea and cake.

An invitation is extended to any across the Benefice who may like to attend. If you wish to have the name of a loved one read out in the service, please contact Prebendary Chris Curd on 07771842334 or prebchris2020@gmail.com

Advance Notice - Coffee and Sale Morning for Ukraine

Organised by Liubov Nazarok and Chris Curd. This will be Saturday morning, 11th November, in Cockwood, exact details TBC. Proceeds 50/50 to Christian Response to Eastern Europe who are sending lorries of aid to Ukraine; and to humanitarian work carried out by a friend of Liubov. Liubov, from Kyiv, lived with Cliff and Chris Curd for nearly a year and is now in a flat in Dawlish with a friend. She works in Cofton and Cockwood.



Needed - offers of help, baking (both for consumption on the day and for sale), craft items, anything that could be a stocking filler, anything good quality that could sell (kitchenware, toiletries, children's toys etc etc), tree decorations etc. Also as good as new clothing and shoes. If the latter do not sell, they can be taken out to Ukraine by CR2EE. Please contact Chris - 07771842334; prebchris2020@gmail.com

Real Advent Calendars

If you were lucky enough to receive a Fairtrade Real Easter Egg this year then you will know how special they are! I am now organising Real Advent Calendars and other goodies for November delivery. You can email your order to alex_pugh@sky.com or I will have order forms available in church if you prefer.

Money raised from sales help farmers receive a fair price for their goods alongside a cash Fairtrade Premium. This can be spent on the priorities for their communities. Sales also help charities that provide care for Mums and babies in Africa and the chocolate is also palm oil free.



The following options are available:

- 1) Real Advent Calendar including 24-page Christmas story activity book & 25 chocolates
£4.50
- 2) Christmas Blessings Bar
£3.00
- 3) Host of Angel Tree Decorations including 6 chocolate angels, sticker set and activity poster
£5.00
- 4) Meaningful Chocolate Orange with Christingle features
£3.50



Last order date will be Sunday 5th November and payment will be cash on delivery mid-November. Collection will be from St Gregory's at a Sunday service to be confirmed.

With every blessing,
Alex



St Gregory's Church Dawlish

A CONCERT OF FAVOURITES FROM THE STAGE AND SCREEN

**Performed by the combined choirs
of St Gregory's & St George's with
special guest singer
Donna-Marie Broomfield**

**Saturday
14th October 2023
4.30pm**

**Free entry
Refreshments to follow**

**Voluntary donations to be shared equally between
Christians Against Poverty Teignbridge to support local
families & St Gregory's organ fund.**

Christmas Shoeboxes

Christmas Shoeboxes can be delivered to Dawlish Funeralcare – the sooner, the better please! (See poster below)

UKRAINE & MOLDOVA

Christmas Shoebox Collection Point



Your filled shoebox should be wrapped in Christmas paper and marked as:

ADULT (Male or female)

BOY (0-12 or over 12)

or

GIRL (0-12 or over 12)

DEADLINE:
24th November

A few ideas for items you could put in your shoebox:

For all (adults and children):

Hats; Gloves; Underwear; Toothpaste; Hairbrush; Chocolates; Calculator;
Torch; Pencils; Socks; Sweets; Soft toy; Shampoo; Biscuits.

For girls:

Beads; Jewellery; Tights; Friendship bracelets; Glowsticks;

Hair clips and slides; Lip gloss; Purse;

(*For older girls:* Hand cream; Perfume; Lipstick).

For boys:

Lego bricks; Toy cars; Wallet; Torch; Glow sticks; Pen knife; Magnifying Glass;

(*For older boys:* Aftershave; Coffee; Mini tools).



PLEASE BE GENEROUS
'Quality over quantity'

Dawlish
Funeralcare



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
