

Benefice E-Newsletter
Dawlish with Holcombe and Cofton
17th September 2023

Sharing the Joy of the Spirit

Our current epistle readings from Paul's Letter to the Romans focus our minds on the nature of Christ's church – the one he founded on the rock of Peter, rather than any specific human institution – and have been timely in the face of gloomy media reports about the future of our own C of E.



Between planning sermons looking at Paul's words, we spent a couple of days last week on our annual visit to Bude Jazz Festival. As I sat and listened to some great music – and some not so great, or at least, not to our taste – I reflected on how a good jazz band can be a metaphor for how a church community should be.

Different musicians coming together, each with their own instruments and talents, to play together; to play in harmony when they blend together; to take turns to play the solo, taking the limelight while the others watch or simply play quietly to enhance the sound of the soloist; the leader encouraging and enabling the contributions of every member so that they perform as a cohesive and harmonious team.



These are not new thoughts to me, but this year it came to me that that there is an extra quality that is needed to really engage those who listen. That is JOY. It's when the musicians play

with obvious joy in the music, joy in playing together and most importantly joy in sharing their music with the audience, that it becomes infectious. You can't help but sway in time to the music, tap your feet, clap your hands and sing along.



Replace joy of music with joy in the Spirit and perhaps this image can help us to think about what Church is all about: mutual love, respect, encouragement and interdependence, which enables each person to grow in discipleship and to reach out to draw others in. Christian Joy is not about a false cheerfulness in the face of suffering but about the inner quality which enabled Julian of Norwich, even when contemplating in depth the Cross of Christ, to say that 'All will be well and all will be well and all manner of things will be well.'

Let's make music together!

Every blessing,
Helen



Services

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

20th September

10am St Gregory's – Midweek Holy Communion

24th September

9.30am St George's – Morning worship
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.

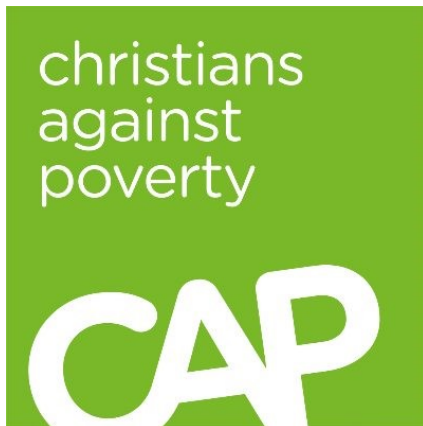
Just click on this [link](#) or go to <https://zoom.us/join> and enter Meeting ID: 575 020 5964 and Passcode: 850653.

Special Guest for Greg's @10

In our Greg's@10 service this Sunday we will welcome Adam Gidney as our special guest. Adam works for Redeeming Our Communities as School and Family Mentor Coordinator. I will be interviewing him to learn more about his work and how we can share in it. Looking forward to seeing you there.



Will Halse



Befriending with CAP

Are you a good listener?

Do you have a passion to help support those struggling in poverty and debt?

Are you available for 2 hours/month, to join a debt coach at client appointments?

If so, please prayerfully consider whether you could become a befriender with CAP Teignbridge. For more information to find out what is involved please contact Tim Wigley - Debt Centre Manager at timwigley@capuk.org

ROC/CTDD Prayer meeting

The next ROC/CTDD prayer meeting will be at St Agatha's RC Church on the 19th Sept 12 noon.

Please do come along to support the work of ROC and CTDD in our community. All welcome.



Advanced notice: Julian Group

The Julian group will meet for quiet prayer on Tuesday 26th September at 2.30pm. New members will be especially welcome to a gentle introduction to silence.

Helen Bays



Advanced notice: Harvest Communion for the whole Church Family

There will be a Bring and Share lunch after St Gregory's Holy Communion Harvest service on the 8th October.

All are welcome!

Grow: Equipping God's People to Serve with Joy

Grow is an exciting new series of courses designed to enable people to grow in their faith and service to God and the church.



Every follower of Jesus is called into ministry. That word often makes us think of people who stand at the front of church and do particular jobs, but as St Paul writes: *"There are different kinds of working but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God working."* (1 Corinthians 12:6) To help you explore this, the Diocese of Exeter has created a suite of online courses that provide basic learning in a number of different roles. Here is a link to the web page: [Grow Lay Learning Courses - Diocese of Exeter \(anglican.org\)](http://anglican.org)

Eco Church update

Some time has passed since all four of our buildings were awarded the A Rocha Eco Church – one of the aims of the Diocese is that we should progress through the scheme. Later in the year, I hope to check each building's status on the scheme, but in the meantime, I invite you to revise and reinforce some of the commitments we made below:

1. Only use eco-friendly and sustainable cleaning materials.
2. Only use recycled toilet paper and hand towels.



3. Use recycled printed paper in administration and in offices and in all publications.
4. Have facilities to recycle on site, food waste (tea bags), paper, tins, glass etc - even if it is a scheme where someone is appointed to take things home and recycle domestically. This does mean some method of sorting waste at point of disposal.
5. Use Fair Trade tea and coffee.

There will be more – but these are some of the quick wins. Thank you for all you do to keep the Benefice Eco-friendly!

Chris Curd

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
