

Benefice E-Newsletter
Dawlish with Holcombe & Cofton
18th June 2023



Dear All

A prayer being answered means a new prayer is being asked.

Like so many of us, one of my prayers for the last few years has been that God brings more young families into our churches. Well, He is busy answering this prayer BUT now he needs us to help encourage and support them as I hope you agree.

Since Dallas retired, many of us have taken on new roles or have found existing ones have expanded somewhat- not least for our amazing church wardens and wonderful Readers and retired clergy! I perhaps have been given one of the most enviable of roles, to meet and greet folks who contact our churches asking for little ones to be baptised. It's a wonderful thing to do and a great privilege to go into folk's homes and chat with them about this decision and to have the opportunity to speak about our loving God with people whom God has called to us. You see how the prayer is being answered? There's no persuasion needed because they come wanting baptism and with what they describe as a special connection with our churches.



Over the next few months, we will be celebrating at least one baptism in each of our three churches and with the fabulous support from our baptism supporters, great advice from our retired clergy together with Dallas's sensible prior instruction and of course guidance from the Holy Spirit; we hope that the families coming are as prepared for this special event as they can be.

But baptism isn't an end but a beginning and in the service everyone is asked: 'will you support this child as he /she begins their journey of faith and will you help him/her to live and grow within God's family? To which we all enthusiastically respond with a loud 'we will' - and if we don't say it confidently enough - our clergy ask the question again until they are sure we have answered them well enough.



Our prayer has been for families to come to us BUT we promise at their baptisms to support and encourage them and God needs us to keep our promise. We can start fulfilling this each time we are in church by being welcoming and interested in the families attending and of course be accepting of the buzz that little ones naturally have - personally hearing them in church gives me goose bumps because their noise instantly reminds me that God is answering our prayer and that's a very powerful feeling! Simply saying hello and introducing ourselves can mean a lot and it so helps the new families to recognise a smiley face when they come another time. This is something they frequently tell me is so appreciated.

Having younger folks with us does mean we need to be more flexible with how we share worship. I appreciate this is a big ask, but however we are worshiping it's still God we are praising so the end result is the same and that's surely what matters most.

The other thing we all must recognise is that we are followers of Christ every day of the week and not just for an hour on a Sunday morning. This is something we try hard to get across to our baptism families and to help them find ways of acknowledging God in their day-to-day lives so their little ones are growing up daily in the knowledge and love of God. This is especially important as so many do find coming regularly to church on Sundays difficult for various reasons, not least due to work shift patterns and children's hobbies and activities which are often on a Sunday morning. This isn't to say that shared worship together isn't important or necessary for us all, but as churches we may have to think about how and when we come together to worship as Sunday morning is not the most convenient time for everyone.



Of course, whenever we are unsure of what steps to take, we can pray and ask God to lead us in the right direction and this is something everyone of us can do. So, my ask of us is that we are friendly and welcoming churches and we also pray for our baptism families and the little ones being baptised, we pray for help in supporting and encouraging them and we pray that we can adapt how and when we worship so they do have the opportunities

to be with us and share in the joy of worshipping our loving Father and together we can help his Kingdom Come.

God Bless

Cath Chappell
Baptism Coordinator



Services

18th June

9.30am St George's – Holy Communion
10am St Gregory's – Holy Communion
11am St Mary's – Morning Worship
6.30pm – Benefice Telephone Service

21st June

10am St Gregory's – mid morning Holy Communion

25th June

9.30am St George's – Morning Worship
10am St Gregory's – Holy Communion
11am St Mary's – Holy Communion

Tuesday Prayer meeting

Join us for prayer at 9am on Tuesday. All are welcome. To join by phone dial **0330 088 1927** and then enter the access code **2132492**. You can also join online at <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/willhalse>
Will Halse (01626 866054)



Pray Without Ceasing

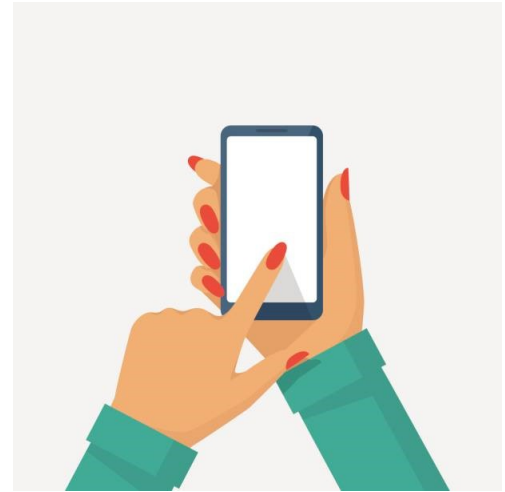
Day trip to Butterfly Farm & Buckfast Abbey



The Pudding Club is going to have a day trip instead of our usual meeting on Thursday 6th July to the butterfly farm and Buckfast Abbey stopping for lunch in between. We have a couple of spare seats in cars if any ladies would like to join us for a fun day out. There will be some walking involved (limited I hope). The cost of entry is £9.95. Please contact Linda 07510386459 or Jacqui 07804639999 to save yourself a seat in a car.

Evening Telephone Service on Sunday, June 18th at 6:30pm

Our monthly evening telephone service will be on the third Sunday as usual, at 6:30 pm. We will be using the service for Trinity season, which is being sent out with this Newsletter. 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>.



Praying for Dawlish



A new pattern of monthly prayer meetings for CTDD (Christians Together in Dawlish and District) and ROC (Redeeming Our Communities) Dawlish, called 'Praying for Dawlish' has recently been announced. The first of these will be from 12 noon on Tuesday 18th July at Dawlish Methodist Church.

Thereafter, prayer meetings for the remainder of this year will be on: 15 August, 19 September, 17 October, 21 November and 19 December, rotating around the

Dawlish churches - host venues are currently being arranged. All local people who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ are welcome to attend and participate.

We do encourage as many people as possible to attend these prayer gatherings as we believe the Spirit of the Lord resides with us in our unity, togetherness and common purpose.

God bless you all.
Mark Jones



Sefton Hall Opening event

Sefton Hall in Dawlish is hosting an opening event on Friday 23rd June from 10.30-4pm with a BBQ and live music. Please do come along!



St Mary's BBQ

All of the funds for this BBQ will be for both St Mary's Hall and Cancer Research. For more information, please get in touch with Ruth Cann: ruthcann737@btinternet.com

Men's Breakfast – St Gregory's

The next men's breakfast will be on Monday 3rd July at the Mount Pleasant at 9am. £10 as usual – there will be a full English breakfast (or Veggie alternative). If you'd like to book to come along, please get in touch directly with Ray Williams: 07539 083989.

Organ Recital

There will be an Organ Recital on the 2nd July at St Gregory's, which will be dedicated to George Elliot and Phyllis Bishop who were organist and choir conductor at St Gregory's for many years. All are welcome to attend!

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

BARBEQUE AT ST MARY'S HALL DAWLISH WARREN

Sat 17th June 2023 at 5pm

Entertainment from



U Kan Strum

plus



Vanessa & Friends

Tickets

Adult £8

Children U12 £5


Free First Burger

or Hot Dog



Tickets can be obtained from
Ruth on 01626 864537 email
ruthcann737@btinternet.com or
Rachel on 07713 929148 or email
bookstmaryshall1@gmail.com

Bring your own drinks
Tea & Coffee available



ST GREGORY'S CHURCH, DAWLISH

ORGAN RECITAL PROFESSOR IAN TRACEY

Organist titulaire at Liverpool Cathedral
On the highly regarded Willis organ

SUNDAY 2ND JULY 2023 AT 6.30PM

Tickets £10 on the night. Proceeds to be split equally between
CAP Teignbridge and St Gregory's Parish Church organ fund.