

Benefice E-Newsletter
Dawlish with Holcombe and Cofton
November 19th 2023

My contribution this week is a brief history of St Mary's Cofton bringing it up to date with the path we have followed in the vacancy.

The church was first mentioned in a deed of 1270 saying it was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. Sadly, this deed is lost but in 1384 Bishop Brantyngham authorised the Vicar of Dawlish to perform divine service at St Mary's.



About this time the villagers of Cofton brought an action against John Caynock, the Vicar, to force him to provide a chaplain to serve the Chapel of St Mary, and, with the loss of this suit, a long and complicated series of proceedings developed. The dispute did not end until 1439 when the Court of Arches authorised the Rural Deans of Exeter, Dunsford and Kenn to admonish all parishioners of Cofton to attend services and receive sacraments at the Parish Church of Dawlish under pain of excommunication.



Had it not been for this quarrel, we should probably not have known anything of the early history of the church. After the Reformation it fell into disuse until 1662, when Dr George Kendall, the Vicar of Kenton, who had been deprived of the Benefice took himself to Cofton where he held services until his death in 1683. There is a tablet in his memory on the north wall of the Chancel.

He was succeeded by the Vicars of Dawlish, Kenton, Powderham and Mamhead, who held services in turn on Sundays, but this custom fell into disuse and we find in or about 1760 left the church once more without a priest and the building fell into ruins.

During the years which followed many of the stones were carried away for building and repair work, and the story goes that a neighbouring farmer took the altar slab to use in his dairy; but the milk always turned sour, and there were so many uncanny noises and unpleasant occurrences that at last the stone was returned to its original home, after which all was well. It supports the present high altar.

So, we have a very checkered history.

A tablet on the outside of St Mary's beneath the west window states that the chapel was founded in the 14th century. Having lain in a ruinous state for over 70 years., William, tenth Earl of Devon restored the church and reopened it in 1839.

The plate includes an unusual chalice of mother of pearl (given by William Collyn of Kenton in 1839) which is said to have been part of the spoils of the Armada; an early 17th century Baluster stem Cup; an 18th century Irish Paten and a 17th century Apostle Cup.

To mark the 150th anniversary of the re-building of the church, a programme of refurbishment was carried out in 1988.

In December 2020 dry rot was discovered by the organ, our insurance covered most of the costs including a major task of removing the pipe organ and then re-building it. A new kitchen was installed in the church room in 2022 with dishwasher, refrigerator and built in cupboards and this is now used every Sunday. This year carpets have been replaced in the vestry, church room and north east aisle of the church.



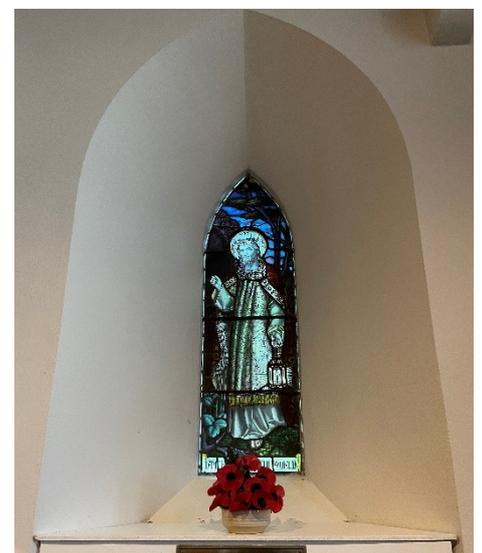
We welcome Cockwood Primary School to all major church festivals and they celebrated harvest with us in September and are coming for a Christingle service at the end of term.

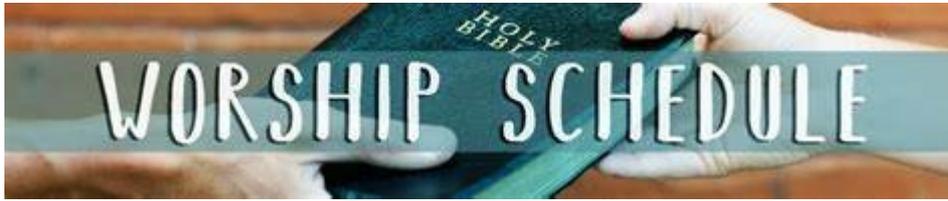
At St Mary's we are proud of the achievements of such a small congregation, always paying our common fund and giving a percentage of our income to various charities every year. The church has a very welcoming atmosphere and we regularly have holiday visitors who readily participate in our worship and stay for a chat and coffee after the service.

In the vacancy we have been blessed to have retired and lay Ministers readily available to lead the services at St Mary's and we acknowledge and thank Helen Bays for organising the rotas month on month.

Finally, I always appreciate the annual cycle of the Church's year. This past weekend Remembrance Sunday even more poignant this year as we confront issues of war, peace and loss. Then the Feast of Christ the King returns us to the Advent theme of judgement, with which the cycle once more begins.

Valerie Jeffery
Churchwarden





Services

19th November

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 BCP Evening Prayer

22nd November

10am St Gregory's – Midweek Holy Communion

26th November

9.30am St George's – Morning Worship

10am St Gregory's – Holy Communion

11.00am 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.

BCP Telephone Service on Sunday, November 19th at 6:30pm

Our monthly evening telephone service will be on Sunday, at 6:30 pm. This month we will be using the Prayer Book Evening Prayer service. The service will be available online [here](#). 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.

Best wishes – Will



ROC – Praying for Dawlish

The next Prayer event for ROC / Praying with Dawlish will be on Tuesday 21st Nov at St Mary's Cofton. All Welcome!



Reaching Dawlish event

The next Reaching Dawlish event will be at Hope Centre at 6pm on Friday 24th November beginning at 6pm and finishing at 9pm at the latest.

The purpose of this event is for lead ministers to share their strategy to foster a greater sense of ownership and participation by local Christians. This will be an enjoyable, informal dinner to celebrate all that God is doing on mission in our community and to give everyone the opportunity to have their say in what happens next. Lead ministers are encouraging everyone locally to get involved in some way, whether that's attending, volunteering in a practical way, or praying for the work. Free tickets may be booked on [Eventbrite](#) or you may contact Mark Jones directly on 07729998334 [or by email](#).

Christmas Tree Festival

Applications for the Christmas Tree Festival are available from the church office – paper copies are available in the lower narthex or you may [email Sabrina](#) in the church office for an email copy.



Christmas Tree Festival Bric-a-Brac stall

Jill and Graham Reynolds kindly have agreed to run a Bric a Brac stall while the Christmas Tree festival is running. If you have any unwanted gifts or Christmas-themed Bric-a-Brac that could be donated, please [contact Jill and Graham directly](#) or leave donations in the church office.

Volunteers for the coffee rota at St Gregory's

We could really use some willing helpers for St Gregory's coffee rota if you can make a cup of tea or coffee (!) then you are qualified! Please speak to Leena or Richard if you can help.



Dawlish Food Larder

The Dawlish Community Larder is in desperate need of reusable shopping bags. If you have too many in your cupboards, please drop them off at the Methodist Church, The Hope Centre, The Manor House or the Hubstore. Many thanks!

Coffee Morning in the Upper Narthex, St Gregory's



Coffee Morning and Cake Sale in The Upper Narthex at St Gregory's.

November 25th 2023 10.30am 'til 12.30

(£3.00 entry:

please bring coins if you can!!)

Unlimited tea, coffee and squash, with chocolate biscuits and a cake or mince pie.

Lots of fun and fellowship

To support Flying Leaps Charity and St Gregory's Organ Fund. Do hope to see you there!

Any questions to Mary May. 07807829183

Dawlish and District U3A Adventure Group

Dawlish and District U3A Adventure Group will be undertaking their latest adventure at St Gregory's Church in Dawlish. On Thursday 23rd November, 2-4pm, they will climb the church tower to admire the view from the top. On the way up they will see the eight bells, have a short talk on how a bell is rung and get to have a first experience of bellringing, under the guidance of the St Gregory's Ringing Master. For more information about the Adventure Group please see [Adventure group - Dawlish & District U3A](#)

Ukrainian sisters seeking temporary home

Cliff and Chris Curd ask, could you or someone you know, open your home to 1 or 2 lovely Ukrainian sisters?

Dina aged 51 and Tetiana aged 60 both have sons serving in the Ukrainian Army. Dina's daughter, aged 21, has been here since April 2022, is very hard working and has endeared herself to many people. She lived with us for 10 months until moving into a flat in Dawlish with a friend. Now, the war is very wearying and wearing them down and they would like to join their daughter/niece. They would need either a double room large enough for 2 people with 2 beds, or 2 separate rooms, or 2 sponsors near each other or a small flat which a sponsor was willing to let them have for 6 months. We have been hosting Ukrainians since April 2022, and it has been a privilege and a joy to do so, despite the challenges, so can answer questions about the scheme, money, commitment etc. There is plenty of support from the local Ukrainian community and from Teignbridge Homes for Ukraine support workers. If helping Dina and/or Tetiana, please contact us. (Chris' mobile to ask more detailed 07771842334) It would be possible to meet Dina's daughter you would like to explore questions and to arrange a video call to meet the ladies online.



Coastline

A reminder that any items for Coastline need to be with Chris Curd by this Sunday at the very latest – any Christmas news please, or reports of things that have happened this last month would be very much appreciated!

Fundraiser for Ukraine on 11th Nov

Thank you to all who attended. On the day we raised £1,164.78 from sales and donations, and with pre and after sales the total on 14th November stands at £1,496.76. More details and pictures in Coastline - thank you to everyone! – Chris Curd

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

Christmas Shoeboxes

These can be taken to Dawlish Funeralcare as soon as they have been completed. If you require a spare shoebox, there are some available in St Gregory's church office.

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



PLEASE BE GENEROUS
'Quality over quantity'



CTDD Advent service

Christians Together for Dawlish and District Advent service will be at St Agatha's RC church on Sunday 3rd December at 4pm. All welcome! Please do come and support this event.

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
