

**Benefice E-Newsletter**  
**Dawlish with Holcombe and Cofton**  
**1<sup>st</sup> October 2023**

I decided this week to write about pastoral care, but I've found it a bit of a challenge. To begin with, what is pastoral care? These are just some of my thoughts, and I hope that this will start conversations about this important subject.



Thinking about pastoral care in the Bible I landed very quickly on Psalm 23 – 'The Lord is my shepherd...He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul.' It's such a familiar Psalm but I have only just noticed that there is an important change in the middle of the Psalm. When 'I walk through the valley of the shadow of death' that care becomes very direct and very personal. No longer does the writer say 'He leads me...'. But suddenly 'he' becomes 'you'. 'You are with me. Your rod and your staff they comfort me'. And so, through the course of the Psalm, and especially through the difficult challenges of life and the shadow of death, the writer comes closer to God.



In His own words, Jesus is the good shepherd, who lays down His life for His sheep; by sheep He means you and me. And He would have had Psalm 23 on His mind when He spoke those words. But if Jesus provides the ideal of pastoral care in the Psalm, where does that leave you and me? How does pastoral care work in our lives, and in our churches here and

now? I suggest that everyone of us has a part to play. Every one of us can give pastoral care. And we must remember that every one of us also needs pastoral care.

How does this care happen? I think that we need certain ingredients. What are those ingredients? Let's start with **remembering** or just a little **thinking**. You cannot give care to a person if they just slip your mind. The second ingredient is some kind of **action** to connect with them – it could be a visit, but it doesn't have to be; perhaps you could make a phone call, or send a text message, an email, or even a letter or a card.



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Which of these do you think would be most appreciated? It won't be the same for everyone.

The next ingredient is **time**. Giving and receiving pastoral care takes time. But how much time? It may need very little, but for another it may be much more. For one person a quick text may be all that is needed, for another a quick visit to say 'hello'; for another there may be an invitation to share a cup of tea, or even to share a meal; or is there a job that needs doing?

Another ingredient is a **listening** ear, and possibly even **words** of concern, encouragement or prayer (though words are not always needed and often best kept to a few). It is good to remember **prayer**, though I don't always remember – it could be silent prayer or aloud, you could pray alone or together; and you can pray before, during or after you make that all important connection.

We are hoping that when our new Rector is appointed, they will have a heart for pastoral ministry. But that is not so that we can stop, and ask the Rector to do it all. It's a ministry in which we all can share. Let us encourage one another in this important matter of pastoral care as we look forward to a new stage in the life of our benefice.

With love in Jesus, who is the  
good Shepherd  
Will





## **Services**

### **1<sup>st</sup> October**

8am St Gregory's – Holy Communion

9.30am St George's – Holy Communion

10am St Gregory's – Greg's @ 10

11am St Mary's – Morning worship – Harvest

### **4<sup>th</sup> October**

10am St Gregory's – Midweek Holy Communion

### **8<sup>th</sup> October**

10am St George's – Morning worship - Harvest

10am St Gregory's – Harvest Holy Communion followed by Bring and Share lunch

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.

## **Mothers Union**

We are inviting visitors to our meeting in the Upper Narthex on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October because the speaker will be Katie Drew, the Executive Officer of the Melanesian Mission UK. This is one of the missionary projects particularly supported by Exeter Diocese. Katie has recently returned from a visit to the Solomon Islands, and she will be telling us ways we can give practical support as well as giving, especially by providing sewing machines, patterns, cottons, etc. The meeting will start at 2pm and refreshments will be served afterwards. All are welcome - members of the congregation, friends, neighbours!



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## **St George's Drop in session**

There will be a drop-in session at St George's Holcombe on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October between 2-4pm for tea, cake and fellowship. All welcome.



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## **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 8<sup>th</sup> October. This year's Harvest gifts will be given to St Petrocks.

All are welcome!

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## **St Petrock's**

You may be aware that homelessness is rising, sadly and cost of living crisis is plunging more households into destitution. In Exeter, the number of rough sleepers doubled last year and we're having increasing contacts with desperate new faces needing our help.

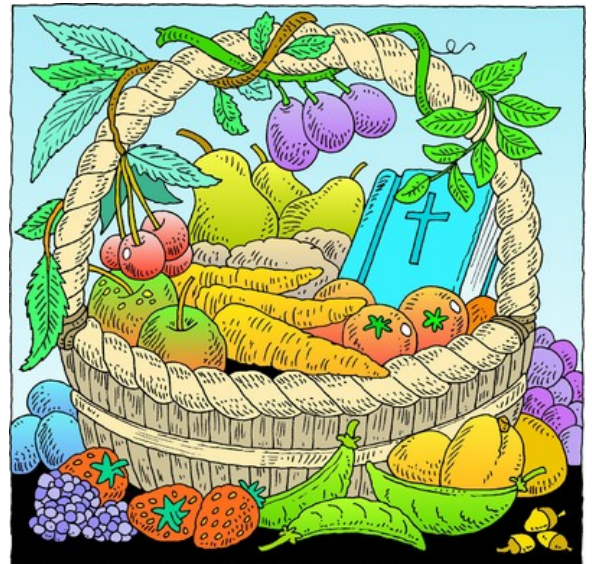
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## **St Gregory's Harvest decoration**

'Harvest time is almost here,  
So please come along, be full of cheer;  
With flowers, fruit and veg you've grown,  
From all those seed carefully sown.  
We've baskets and vases, big and small,  
They'll need filling this Autumn fall.  
We'll place them around our church,  
To thank the Lord for His good works.'

We will need willing volunteers to decorate St Gregory's for Harvest – please do come along on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October from 9.30am please!**

For more information contact Georgie Moore directly: 865486



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## **Reader Service in Exeter Cathedral**

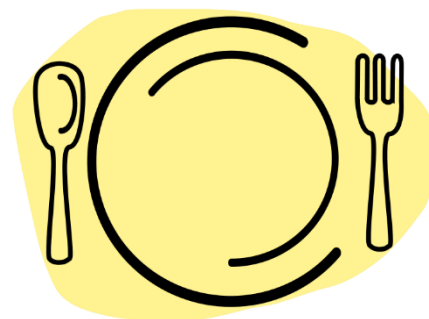
The annual Reader service will be in Exeter Cathedral at 2pm on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. New Readers in the diocese are admitted and licensed in this service. But it will be a very special service this year as Readers who had to give up their license and were given PTO (Permission to Officiate) when they reached the ripe age of 70 will be re-licensed. Margaret Noel and Will Halse are among those readers being re-licensed in the service. Please do come and support them.



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## **Eat and Enlightenment at The Castle Pub**

Eat and Enlightenment will be taking place at the Castle pub in Holcombe on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. If you'd like to attend, please call 01626 439978.



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## **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!

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## **Ann Leigh – retirement as reader!**

St George's celebrated and thanked Ann Leigh this past Sunday for her many years of service as a Reader.



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Teignbridge CAP Fundraiser



Please support our fundraiser if you are able to.

We offer free debt advice for those struggling with unmanageable debt. The Aviva Community Fund will **MATCH FUND** any donations we receive, only up until 15<sup>th</sup> October. Please visit:

[www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/p/cap-teignbridge](http://www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/p/cap-teignbridge)

Thank you for your support!





# **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.**

## 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](mailto: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



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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

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