

# Benefice Events E-Letter

**Dawlish with Holcombe & Cofton**  
**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February**

Please note that this newsletter is for the next two weeks.

It has been a struggle for everyone particularly as time has gone by and we are now 2 years down the road. Despite the Government's likely decision to remove all the restrictions, which have continued by law, I cannot see that we are out of the woods yet. I hope that those who are wishing that we will move to what is often said to me to a return to "normal" in our churches, will remain patient with me.

Over the two years, being patient, and assessing carefully the risks means that we have done incredibly well as there have been no infections of Covid 19 traced back to our churches. I would like to keep it that way as we have a considerable number of vulnerable people who worship with us. It has taken a long time for some to build their confidence to the point where they now feel able to return to worship and we need to hear their voice.



Infection rates are high and whilst the consequences for the vaccinated have been less with Omicron I have known more people who have had the virus in the last few months than before.

Whilst the virus itself has not been too difficult to deal with for most the recovery time can be longer than one would hope for due to loss of energy. It may be that the removal of all restrictions will not lead to a greater rate of infections. It may be that we are going to have to move to a place of accepting that the virus will be with us like a 'flu virus. However, I feel that whilst we can be optimistic that we should continue to be cautious for a little longer.

It may be that some of the things we have learned to change in our services we may wish to keep. So, it is a good opportunity to think about what we mean by 'normal' because we may come to see that what someone thinks is normal, is



not counted in that way by another. I am aware of this when I have conversations with people who just want to go back to “normal” but that is not the same as what I might consider to be my “normal”.

At some point in the future, we may decide that we can cope without face coverings on in church (after all that isn't normal) but some people may wish to keep them. I was the only one in the hairdresser this week wearing mine, but I still think it is important to try and protect people. There are people who have had the virus more than once so to have it even once does not seem to give protection against it.

A decision to restore the chalice could in due course be made. This would be a major step in the church's recovery. However, I would want to work out for each church how to do that so that those who do not wish to take the wine do not feel under pressure to do so. It is important to remember that taking Holy Communion in one kind is sufficient in itself.



There may be some further guidelines from the Church of England in due course so we will wait to see if they are forthcoming, as generally they are very helpful in determining our risk assessments, as have the webinars run by our Archdeacons.

With every blessing,  
Dallas

### **Services next week**

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| 20 <sup>th</sup> February | 10am Greg's @ 10 @ St Gregory's<br>9.30am HC @ St George's Holcombe<br>11am Morning Worship @<br>St Mary's Cofton             |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> February | 10am midweek communion @<br>St Gregory's  |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> February | 10am Holy Communion @ St Gregory's<br>9.30am Morning Worship @ St George's Holcombe<br>11am Holy Communion @ St Mary's Cofton |



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### **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February Prayer meeting**

Tuesday prayers is open to anyone from the Benefice. We are not an elite group of people, but we are all learners in the school of prayer. What do we pray about? We cover a wide range of concerns from international issues such as Afghanistan, Russia and other places of

conflict and concern. We pray for the Government, for MPs, our NHS, and for revival in our nation. We also pray for local concerns such as the local economy, empty shops and for good new businesses to benefit the community (and we have seen answers to this prayer), employment, for safety for those building the sea wall, our schools, hospital and doctors' surgery, for families, individual people we know who ask for prayer and for the life and mission of our churches. We pray to be guided by the Holy Spirit and even though we

continue to meet on Zoom we experience this together every Tuesday. You are not required to pray out loud, some of us do and some do rarely, but we all believe in the power of prayer and are blessed by the presence of each other. You would be very welcome and we would love you to join us.

Please note that Tuesday prayers on the 22nd February and 1st March have the same log in.



**Topic:** Dallas Ayling's Zoom Meeting

**Time:** Feb 22, 2022 09:00 AM London and 1st March

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6591842294?pwd=hakfR92W-WBnpI1CBn5jr6oxpSCzOg>

**Meeting ID:** 659 184 2294

**Passcode:** 995468

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**St George's Holcombe**

St George's church will now be opened daily again for anyone who might wish to visit.

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**Parish Administrator**

Sabrina will be on annual leave next week – 21<sup>st</sup> February. Please note that St Gregory's church office will not be open on Tuesday or Thursday of that week and there will be a brief delay in responding to email enquiries. If there is an urgent enquiry, please contact one of the staff team directly.

## St Gregory's PCC Members

Over the last two years it has been difficult to recruit new members of the PCC and we are now running with less members than we would hope to have. Governance of the church is important and representation of church members on the PCC is really important. Each member has the opportunity to take on not only the responsibility of the governance but are



there to inspire and support the direction of the church by seeking God's vision. At the January PCC meeting we suspended the rule of having one years off the PCC before re-election, for this year, to allow us a bit of flexibility in accepting those who would be willing to serve another term. The situation is that this year at the Annual Meeting we will be looking for the following:

3-year term = 4 people

2-year term = 2 people

1 year term = 3 people

We are also looking for a new Churchwarden. It is the responsibility of every church member to consider standing for the PCC or to encourage others to do so.

Please contact either one of the Churchwardens or the church office for more information about joining the PCC.

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## Churches Together in Dawlish and District

We are looking for a Chair to lead CTDD. Tim took on the Chair and because of Covid led CTDD for two years. The pattern is to appoint a lay person every other year so we are looking for that person. We have a very good and strong CTDD but to sustain that we need to appoint a Chair. Please consider whether God is asking you to take on this responsibility. **If you want to know more about it, please speak to Dallas.**



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## **Foundations in Christian Ministry course**

Please see the attachments with this email for more information on the Foundations in Christian Ministry course. If this is something you might be interested in, please talk to Richard Orr, who is participating in the course this year.



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## **Phone appeal for CAP**

Following last week's appeal for funds for Tim Wigley in his new role as Debt Centre Manager for Christians against Poverty in Teignbridge, we have collected in excess of £100 and sent this to Tim. This will help him fund a business phone for his work.

Tim hopes to visit the CTDD churches in Dawlish to tell us about his work and thanked everyone who contributed.

Thank you.

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## **The Christian Resources Exhibition**

The Christian Resources Exhibition is coming to Westpoint on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February. Tickets are available on line in advance at £4 or if you book a group £3. There will be many different stalls and resources to look at. Here is the link: <https://creonline.co.uk/>



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## **Afternoon of Quiet Prayer**

Afternoon of Quiet Prayer at St George's Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2-4pm. This is an opportunity to spend some time in stillness as we prepare for Lent. There will be opening worship with a talk, about an hour to spend quietly on our own and then a short act of worship to close, before refreshments and fellowship. Everyone is welcome. For more details or to register interest, please contact Helen Bays [spiritualdirections264@gmail.com](mailto:spiritualdirections264@gmail.com) or 07391-594867

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## **Edith Hatt**

Edith Hatt sadly died last week – she was a long-term resident of Holcombe and her family asked that she be remembered.

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## **Message from Sue Knight**

Sue Knight wished to say thank you for all phone calls, messages, and cards received and for everyone's prayers following my recent heart attack and hospital stay. I am pleased to say I am making a slow but steady recovery. My thanks, too to Dallas for her help and concern. It has been all been much appreciated.

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## **Mothers Union**

The speaker at our next meeting on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March will be Chris Shepherd who will give a talk on 'Children's Society, new problems, new hope.' We know that there are other members of the congregation who support the Children's Society and you will be very welcome to join us at the Riverside Centre (Brook street) at 2pm.

There will be a collection for the charity.



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## **World Day of Prayer**

On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March for the World Day of Prayer there will be a service lasting about an hour at The Strand church in Dawlish at 2.30pm. Refreshments will follow. All are welcome.



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## **Saying Goodbye Service**

On the 5<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm in Exeter Cathedral we will be hosting one of our Saying Goodbye Services. This service is for anyone who has either personally lost a baby at any stage of pregnancy, at birth, or in early years, or who has been affected by family members or friends' loss. Whether the loss was recent or otherwise, everyone is welcome to attend. We have also extended the services, and gladly welcome anyone who is grieving

the fact that they haven't had children. This may be due to circumstance, infertility, or for other reasons - but all are welcome. Babies and children are also invited to come with their families.

For more information, please see the charity website: <https://www.sayinggoodbye.org/>

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### **Ash Wednesday**

There will be a service of Holy Communion for the Benefice at St Gregory's on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 10am for Ash Wednesday. All welcome to attend.



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### **Lent Course**

We are in the process of planning the Benefice Lent course, which will be held at St Gregory's at 2pm on Wednesdays beginning on the 9<sup>th</sup> March. We hope to run the missionary society USPG'S 2022 Living Hope Lent course on weekly on 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> March and 6<sup>th</sup> April. The title is drawn from 1 Peter 2, 'Living Stones, Living Hope'. It looks at how the church can transform lives and bring hope to vulnerable people in their local communities. The Zoom lent course will be running on Dallas's usual Zoom account. Dates will be Thursday evening: 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> March and 7<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm.

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### **Real Easter Eggs**



Fair trade, palm-oil free chocolate in plastic-free wrapping with the Easter story enclosed in each one. What's not to like! Helen Bays will be taking orders for Milk Chocolate (£4.50), Dark Chocolate (£5.50), White Chocolate (£5.00) and Special Edition which includes a chocolate bar and a card (£9.99). Or go to [www.realeasteregg.co.uk](http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk) to order direct. They will post eggs for you. Orders need to be with Helen by 6<sup>th</sup> March. Cash on delivery. Phone/text 07391-594867 or email

[spiritualdirections264@gmail.com](mailto:spiritualdirections264@gmail.com)

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### **Museum of the Moon**

Exeter Cathedral currently has a moon museum taking place: for more information see: <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/events/museum-of-the-moon/>

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## **Recycling**

Thank you for all the blister packs – they raise money for the Marie Curie charity. Please note that the Teignmouth shop no longer accepts them. They have to go to the Superdrug pharmacy in Exeter or Newton Abbot. Plastic milk bottle tops raise money for the Hospice S.W. The local collecting point is the Dawlish Funeral Service. All clean soft plastics, including crisp packets and bubble wrap can now be recycled at the Co-Op, Sainsbury's or other large supermarkets. No need to put them in your black bin!



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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:

Revd. Dallas Ayling: 867386

Margaret Noel: 863148

Will Halse: 866054