

Benefice E-Newsletter

23rd July 2023

Dawlish with Holcombe and Cofton



Welcome to the summer holidays! This should be a time for rest and relaxation but for some it is anything but. We are in a vacancy and a lot has been happening. A great deal of work has gone into preparing the benefice profile. It's an excellent document and goes to a meeting of the church PCC's and DCC on this coming Monday for approval.

I'm afraid my vision is less than perfect just now. I

popped into the optician at lunchtime today – my glasses are bent and scratched and I could do with another sight test. Maybe once a year is not enough for me now!

But for me the most important page in the profile is the page headed 'Our Vision'.

Our Vision is to 'pray and worship, grow and serve' together as a family of churches. As we seek to implement our Vision our priorities are:

- Creating a place of welcome and hospitality reflecting the love of God.
- Deepening our lives of prayer.
- Ensuring pastoral care is at the heart of all we do.
- Outreach, mission and connection with the wider community shapes our life as a church.
- Building links with our schools, families and young people.
- Learning to grow together as a Mission Community through mutual support, but also through celebrating our uniqueness.
- Embracing our different styles of worship across our different churches and congregations.
- Making church relevant to the wider community and being engaged in community life.
- Improving communications both inside and outside our churches, Mission Community and with the wider community and world.
- Nurturing the gifts of all God's people and empowering others to get involved.



This presents a big challenge to us, and we will need more than a sight test and new glasses to make even part of this vision a reality.



Which of these challenges would you put first on the list for our new rector? Which would you put first on the list for our PCC members, for yourself, and for other church members? And which do you think God would put first? If we cannot do it all, which would be the challenges we should put to the bottom of the list?

This vacancy is a time for us to reflect and to pray together. Perhaps not so much for some words to go into the profile, but for some words to speak into our hearts. We have been very encouraged by our worship, and by many kind words that have been spoken; by care and support given and received. Our vision is already a work in progress because God is at work here in our Benefice, and His work is always work in progress.

And what is at the top of my list? Correcting my vision! LET US PRAY!

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,
Will



Services

23rd July

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

26th July

10am St Gregory's – mid week Holy Communion

30th July

10.30am Benefice Service at St Mary's Hall

NO OTHER SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE ON THIS DAY

Tuesday Prayer Meeting on Zoom



Join us on Zoom for a half hour of prayer at 9am on Tuesday. [Just click on this link](#) or go to <https://zoom.us/join> and enter Meeting ID: 575 020 5964 and Passcode: 850653

Will Halse

An open invitation to Midweek Communion



Each Wednesday at 10am, a group gathers in the upper narthex at St Gregory's to join in a quiet celebration of Holy Communion. The service was moved up there during the winter, in order to be warm, but when Spring came, the regulars were unanimous in staying there as they found the more comfortable, intimate space to be particularly appropriate for this celebration. Some come in addition to their attendance on Sundays. For others, it's an alternative which they recommend to anyone who is finding Sunday services difficult, as many people do, especially in later years. Though the service is in St Gregory's,

EVERYONE is welcome. It's for the whole benefice. We are grateful to the retired clergy who make it possible every week, the only exception being 9th August, when Ann Leigh will kindly lead Morning Prayer. Please join us!



Section 11 meeting

All members of the Benefice PCCs are invited to attend the Section 11 meeting on Monday the 24th July 7pm at St. Gregory's. The purpose of the meeting is to adopt the Parish Profile.

Benefice Service

Sunday 30th July, 10.30, at St Mary's Hall, Dawlish Warren. Ample parking and no 22-bus route. If the weather is clement, the service will be held outside, so please come prepared for this. If it is too hot, cold, windy or wet we will be inside! The service will be followed by tea and coffee, and then by a bring and share lunch.



The service will follow a Lammas theme, giving thanks for our daily bread and the first fruits of the harvest, and we will be thinking about food. As well as your contribution to the Bring and Share (and we hope as many people as possible will join in with this), please bring a contribution for the local food banks as follows. It could be a joint one with a friend.

Please bring a simple store cupboard item which is a grain or made from a grain, such as pasta etc. These gifts will be offered in the service along with the Lammas Loaf. If you forget, or are unable for very good reasons to do this, please come anyway!

Lastly, I would love to hear from anyone who is willing to bake a home-made loaf; not an intricate harvest loaf but a reasonably sized loaf of bread to be the Lammas Loaf.

Many thanks
Chris Curd

Morning prayer and coffee morning at St Mary's

St Mary's Cofton will be running regular morning prayer and coffee mornings July-August. All welcome!

Welcome to Cofton St Mary

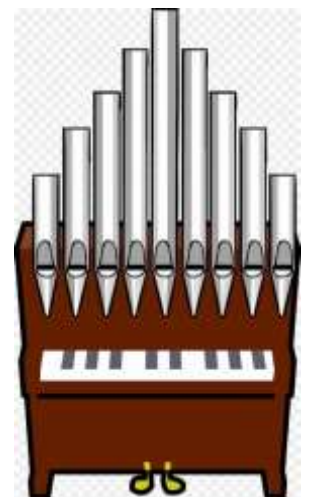
CHURCH OPEN

July & August Monday to Friday 10am - 3pm

Morning Prayer every Tuesday at 9.30am followed by Coffee Morning - ALL WELCOME

St Peter's Organ Recital – change of time

There will be a lunchtime Organ Recital at St Peter's Church, Shaldon – Ian Bartlett will be playing at 1pm (not 12 noon as previously advertised!) on Wednesday 26th July. Entry is free. Please do come along and support this event.





Food Production and
Wildlife Garden
Open for Charity



**2 Middlewood,
Cockwood,
EX6 8RN**

**Saturday 22nd July
11 am to 5pm
Sunday 23rd July
1 pm to 5 pm**



£5 adults, children free
Well behaved dogs on short leads.
Teas, Limited Parking on road
Close to no 2 Bus route

Open Garden event

Chris and Cliff would welcome offers of baking to sell for charity at the Open Garden.

Please contact Chris on 07771842334.

Also, if anyone would like to help on the day as there are still some gaps in the rota!

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
