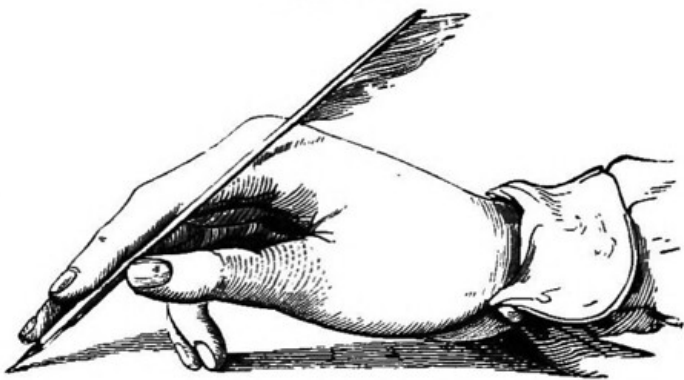


Benefice E-Newsletter
Dawlish with Holcombe and Cofton
24th September 2023

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For Summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cell



This verse from the John Keats has been rattling around in my head since I realised, I had the newsletter to write. Along with other poets of his era Keats was known as a 'Romantic' poet in that they all tended to look at life through 'rose tinted glasses'. Life was great and for living, which they did with gusto. Don't worry - this is not a poetry lesson!

But these lines do rather sum up Autumn, although this September has not been 'misty' but blistering hot. In fact, there is an abundance of fruit and certainly late flowers and bees. September, when I was growing up, used to mean a flurry of jam and chutney making and the

thing my brother and I dread, pickling onions. It was our job to grate the rock salt. Oh well, happy days some of you may identify with, but now very rare with freezers for storage and supermarkets providing such things instantly.



Alan, in his letter a couple of weeks ago referred to this being a time of new opportunities with children returning to school, students going to university, some people starting new careers. But it is also a time of ending.

September brings the end of harvest and a period of quietness, preparing for winter and the cold, when it comes. The end of a parent's close relationship with their young child and its dependence on them, when they start school and learn independence. The teenager who no longer wants mother's fussing when he or she leaves for university and becoming an adult, although they still never learn how to use the washing machine or manage finances.



Endings, beginnings, endings - a constant cycle of life. And it is the same for us in the church. We are in the last quarter of our Church year, with Advent only 3 months away and the start of a new Christian year. We will have Harvest festivals in October then start planning Christmas. Circles of Church life.



But underneath, as in all families, the fundamentals carry on; Sunday services, weekly group meetings, Mother and Toddler groups, Swap Shop, Luncheons, morning coffee. And along with these everyday events we need to think beyond our church doors and look around our communities. The nights are getting darker, colder, and what is now the annual worry of whether we can afford fuel bills. Many people, young and old, families or single, are struggling to make ends meet now. Life becomes very difficult in the winter for people on their own.

Autumn and Winter are seasons that can bring hardship. We may wonder what we can do to help less fortunate than us. The food banks are brilliant and seem to be needed more than ever. Harvest festival gives us a chance to bring produce for them. But there are people who may not need food but need friendship. A telephone call helps if we know their number; keeping an eye on our neighbours on their own. If you can't phone, then drop a friendly note through their door to let them know you are thinking of them; give a cheery wave when you walk by their house. The homeless are still with us and need support. These are the things we did during lock-down but may think they are not necessary now. But the hardship and the loneliness hasn't gone away.



Being a Christian brings so many demands but rewarding demands and helping others is a way of praising God. The words of the hymn - 'When I Needed a Neighbour Were You There' sums it up. Because God is in the poor and the rich, He is not selective in who he loves. Autumn's abundance of fruits to be shared and

enjoyed are found not only in God's generosity of providing the food but in his love which he gives us, and we should share in what way we can.

I started this article with poetry and will finish the same way with two modern poems.

RUPI KAUR

the irony of loneliness
is we all feel it
at the same time

ALISON MALEE

pour honey
on my open
wounds
and promise me
we will find a
cure for
loneliness

AMEN TO THAT.

Margaret



Services

24th September

9.30am St George's – Morning worship

10am St Gregory's – Holy Communion

11am St Mary's – Holy Communion

27th September

10am St Gregory's – Midweek Holy Communion

1st 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



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.

Julian Group at St Gregory's

The Julian group will meet for quiet prayer on Tuesday 26th September at 2.30pm. New members will be especially welcome to a gentle introduction to silence.

Helen Bays



Harvest Communion for the whole Church Family

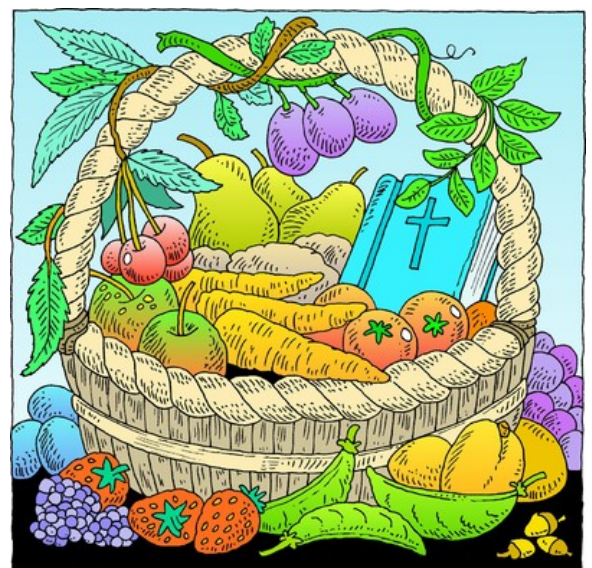
There will be a Bring and Share lunch after St Gregory's Holy Communion Harvest service on the 8th October.

All are welcome!

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 6th October from 9.30am please!

For more information contact Georgie Moore directly: 865486

Eco Church update

Some time has passed since all four of our buildings were awarded the A Rocha Eco Church – one of the aims of the Diocese is that we should progress through the scheme. Later in the year, I hope to check each building's status on the scheme, but in the meantime, I invite you to revise and reinforce some of the commitments we made below:



1. Only use eco-friendly and sustainable cleaning materials.
2. Only use recycled toilet paper and hand towels.
3. Use recycled printed paper in administration and in offices and in all publications.
4. Have facilities to recycle on site, food waste (tea bags), paper, tins, glass etc - even if it is a scheme where someone is appointed to take things home and recycle domestically. This does mean some method of sorting waste at point of disposal.
5. Use Fair Trade tea and coffee.

There will be more – but these are some of the quick wins. Thank you for all you do to keep the Benefice Eco-friendly!

Chris Curd

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!



St George's Drop in session

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



Eat and Enlightenment at The Castle Pub

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

Bishop Robert's farewell sermon

For those who may have been unable to attend, [please see this link](#) to read Bishop Robert's farewell sermon, from Sunday 17th September.

St Petrock's Harvest Wishlist

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.

Because of the increasing need, we're somewhat running out of food and survival gear.


You have been very generous in the past so I have attached our harvest festival wish list in case anyone may like to bring in any items for people sleeping rough.

Unfortunately, we're unable to collect any donations, however, there is easy parking behind our shop in **Paris Street, Petrock's Place, which is open Tuesday to Saturday, 11am to 5.30pm**. We would though, be grateful if you would be able to give us advanced warning of when you're going to do this if possible, so we can then arrange easy transfer of donations to our centre in Cathedral Yard.

Harvest Festival Wish List 2023

Last year our teams provided **11,754 meals** and **507 sleeping bags** to people experiencing homelessness in Exeter. We couldn't do this without you.

Thank you!

 **Scan to Donate**

Would your school/church/group/workplace like a **talk** about our work?
Contact Claire at info@stpetrocks.org.uk

Delivering donations:
We would be very grateful if you could deliver to us via our Petrock's Place Shop at **19 Paris St, Exeter, EX1 2JB**.
11am—5.30pm, Tuesday—Saturday.
(Car drop offs at the rear of the shop.)

St Petrock's
Responding Positively to Homelessness
Registered Charity Number: 1090155 Company Number: 04312156

Rough sleeper items

- Sleeping bags
- Rucksacks
- Trainers
- Men's jeans & joggers
- New boxer shorts
- T-shirts & hoodies

Tinned items

- Tinned vegetables (*not pulses*)
- Tinned tomatoes
- Tinned fruits
- Rice pudding
- Tinned/powdered custard
- Tinned meats
- Tinned fish
- Tinned curries
- Pasta sauce
- Sweet & sour sauce
- 500ml bottled water

Packaged Goods

- Sugar – granulated/caster
- UHT/long-life milk
- Powdered milk
- Instant coffee
- Hot chocolate
- Fruit squash
- Individually wrapped biscuits
- Long-life bakery items (e.g. - Croissants/pain au chocolat)
- Cereal bars
- Biscuits (sweet)
- Jam & honey (*not homemade*)
- Cooking oil
- Golden syrup
- Stock cubes
- Mixed herbs
- Ketchup & brown sauce
- Branston pickle
- Mustard

Cleaning items

- Anti-bac soap (liquid)
- Anti-bac spray
- Biological washing powder
- Fabric conditioner
- Washing up liquid
- Washing up sponge/cloth
- Toilet cleaner
- Large wet wipes

Toiletries

- Men's spray deodorants
- Disposable razors
- Shaving foam
- Mouthwash (small)

Miscellaneous

- Tin foil
- Greaseproof paper (large)
- Cling film (large)

w: stpetrocks.org.uk t: 01392 422396 e: info@stpetrocks.org.uk

 Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

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
