

Benefice E-Newsletter
Dawlish with Holcombe and Cofton
26th November 2023

A Time of Transition



Once I've composed this letter, my primary tasks this week, will be to prepare a sermon for the Feast of Christ the King, the last Sunday of the Church's year, and to draw together my final service rota – the job I took on for the period of the vacancy. The end of the liturgical year and the final phase of the vacancy... a coincidence that pleases my love of symmetry!

I think it's right that, as we look ahead to the arrival of our new rector, we should acknowledge the hard work of the churchwardens and PCC members who drew together the parish profile, the congregation members who welcomed the candidates on orientation day and the parish representatives who formed the interview panel, along with Bishop Jackie, Archdeacon Andrew and two representatives of the patrons of St Gregory's. The whole process was challenging and particularly the interviews, when faced with choosing between candidates with different gifts and aptitudes, knowing that the future of those people and that of the benefice is in your hands. So heartfelt thanks go to all of you and also to Leena, who did sterling work in coordinating communications through the months and, even though not on the interview panel, kept them supplied with refreshments throughout a demanding day.



As I hope everyone knows by now, the post of Rector was offered to the Reverend Linda Cronin, who was pleased to accept. She and her husband, Steve, will be moving to Dawlish from their current ministry on the outskirts of Belfast at the beginning of February. They will be living in the former curate's house in Shillingate Close, where renovations are being carried out in preparation. The long-time vicarage in Westcliff Road will continue to be let by the diocese, while a decision is made as to its future. The newer house will be much more comfortable and easier to heat and to maintain.

Linda's licensing will take place at St Gregory's on the evening of Thursday 15th February, the day after Ash Wednesday, when we will all have the opportunity to gather to welcome Linda and Steve, to pray for their ministry here and to rededicate ourselves to work together to the glory of Christ's Kingdom here in Dawlish, Cofton, Holcombe and Starcross.

As anyone knows, who has worked out a period of notice in an old job, while planning the next and getting to grips as well with moving house, it's a strange time of transition. Much as Linda is looking forward to moving home – she grew up in Newton Abbot and was ordained and served in the Church of England before her move to Ireland – she still has another congregation to lead. So, she and Steve need our prayers now. Please keep them in mind.



And it's a time of transition for us too. Now that we have a date for Linda's arrival, we will focus entirely on the job in hand. Any decisions about the future will be left for her to make. So please be patient. Live for today. There's plenty to keep us occupied as December approaches. We've worked together so well to not only maintain but also grow the Church

these past months. I pray that we will continue joyfully and look forward hopefully as this year gives way to the next.

God, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, make you strong to do his will; and the peace and blessing of the Lord be always with you.

Helen

Benefice Services

26th November

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

29th November

10am St Gregory's – Midweek Holy Communion

3rd December: 1st Sunday of Advent

8am – St Gregory's – BCP Holy Communion
 9.30am St George's – Holy Communion
 10am St Gregory's – Greg's @ 10
 11am St Mary's – Morning Worship
 4pm CTDD Advent Service at St Agatha's

6th December

10am St Gregory's – Midweek Holy Communion
 7pm – Dawlish Funeralcare service at St Gregory's

10th December:

2nd Sunday of Advent

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





Tuesday Prayer Meeting on Zoom

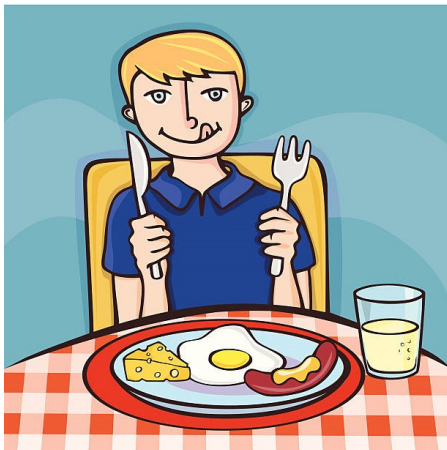
Please do join us on Tuesday at 9am for a half hour of prayer. We meet on Zoom.

Just click on this [link](#) or go to <https://zoom.us/join> and enter: Meeting ID: 575 020 5964 and Passcode: 850653.

Baptism of Marnie Starkey-Bagdi

Marnie will be coming to St Gregory's with her family and friends for her baptism on Sunday at 12 noon. Everyone is welcome to stay on after coffee or come in specially to join with us in welcoming them. The service will last about half an hour.

Thanks,
Helen



Benefice Men's Breakfast – St Gregory's

The next Men's Breakfast will be back at St Gregory's at 9am on Monday 4th December. If you're a man that enjoys breakfast and would like to go along, please contact Ray Williams to book: bevray@outlook.com;

Julian Group

The Julian Group will be meeting on Tuesday 28th November at St Gregory's at 2.30pm for quiet prayer. If you're interested to come along but never have, you're welcome to come and see what it's all about. For more information, [contact Helen Bays](#).



St Greg's 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. The deadline to submit an application to display a tree is **December 4th**, so if you, or someone you know is keen to be involved – please do get in touch as soon as possible!



St Greg's 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 at:

reynoldsgraham587@gmail.com or leave donations in the church office.

St Gregory's Christmas Tree Festival

Grand opening by the Mayor Wednesday 13th December 6pm
followed by festive music in church
(bring a torch!)

Thursday 14th 11am-1pm & 3pm-6pm

Friday 15th 2pm-6pm

Saturday 16th 11am-3pm followed by festival concert

Sunday 17th 12 noon-3pm

Sunday 17th Carol service 6.30pm

Monday 18th 12 noon-4pm

Christmas Tree Festival Stewarding

We will need volunteers to help steward/welcome visitors during the Christmas Tree festival. A sign-up sheet is in the lower narthex – please do put your name down. Without willing volunteers, we will find it difficult to run this event!



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.

Benefice Christmas Events in December

Friday 1 st	Lantern Parade and Christmas Lights Switch on in Dawlish
Saturday 2 nd	Exeter Diocese Day of Prayer in the Cathedral, 11am - 4pm
Sat 2 nd / Sun 3 rd	Christmas Markets on the Lawn and along the Strand, Dawlish
Sunday 3 rd	CTDD Advent Service, 4pm at St Agatha's RC Church
Wednesday 6 th	Dawlish Funeralcare service of Remembering in St. Gregory's, 7pm Drop In at St. George's Holcombe, 2-4pm
Tuesday 12 th	Ladies' Lunch at Amelia's, Cofton Holidays
Wednesday 13 th	Opening of the Christmas Tree Festival in St. Gregory's, 6pm
Thursday 14 th	Carols and Readings for Christmas at St Mary's Church Hall, 7pm with the High C's and followed by refreshments
Sunday 17 th	Carol Service at St, Mary's Cofton, 4pm Carol Service at St. Gregory's, 6.30pm
Wednesday 20 th	Carol Service at St. George's Holcombe, 4pm
Thursday 21 st	Service of the Longest Night, St Mary's, 4pm



Christmas Eve services in the Benefice

9.30am St George's – Christmas Communion
10am St Gregory's – Said Holy Communion for the 4th Sunday of Advent
4pm – St George's – Crib service
4.30pm St Mary's – Crib service
5pm St Gregory's – Crib service
6pm St Mary's – Christmas Communion
11pm St Gregory's – 'Midnight' Communion



Christmas Day

10am St Gregory's – Family Communion
NO SERVICES AT ST GEORGE'S
NO SERVICES AT ST MARY'S

31st December

10.30am Benefice Holy Communion at St Mary's.
THERE ARE NO OTHER SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE ON THIS SUNDAY

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
