

Benefice E-Newsletter
Dawlish with Holcombe and Cofton
8th October 2023

OCTOPUS, DRAGONFLIES AND TELESCOPES: Strange and amazing things!

When I first sat down to write this piece about a week ago, I didn't have a clue what subject to write about! So, for the last few days, I've been praying for inspiration. Not sure if the result is God-inspired or just the product of my (sometimes weird) thinking, I'll leave you to decide.....



I began, today at my computer, by looking at the National and International Awareness Day Calendar, just as I did once before when I ended up basing my piece around the theme of National Thank You Day. Well, October 8th turns out to be World Octopus Day which, initially, I didn't think was very helpful! I suppose these amazing creatures deserve a day, and given the name, it

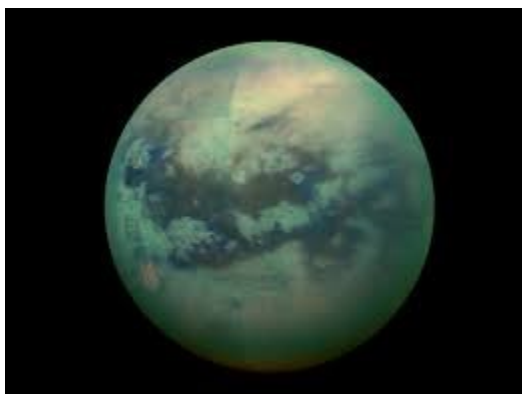
was always going to be in 'Oct'ober. And I did learn a few fun facts about them – they have three hearts (I have enough trouble with just one!) and blue blood. Giant Pacific octopuses are the world's largest species growing from the size of a rice grain at birth to being fully grown within the space of just two years. The biggest recorded specimen had an arm span of 10 metres (33ft) and weighed 270kgs (600lbs).

As if octopuses are not strange and amazing enough creatures, something popped up on my phone notifications from BBC News. One of their Science Correspondents, Pallab Ghosh, had written an article titled 'Alien life in Universe: Scientists say finding it is 'only a matter of time'. If you want to read it in full then you can follow this [link](#).



Suffice it to say, apparently many astronomers are no longer asking whether there is life elsewhere in the Universe. The question on their minds is instead: when will we find it? NASA's James Webb Space Telescope recently detected tantalising hints at life on a planet outside our Solar System – and it has many

more worlds in its sights. Whilst some look to distant planets, others are restricting their search to the planets of our own Solar System. They're looking at Jupiter and also sending a spacecraft called Dragonfly to land on Titan, one of the moons of Saturn.



So, I started with the octopus and here I was, in a rather roundabout route, now thinking about the dragonfly. Yet another strange and beautiful creature! This reminded me of a story which I'm sure some of you will know but bears repeating...

Once, in a little pond, in the muddy water under the lily pads, there lived a little water beetle in a community of water beetles. They lived a simple and comfortable life in the pond with few disturbances and interruptions. Once in a while, sadness would come to the community when one of their fellow beetles would climb the stem of a lily pad and would never be seen again. They knew when this happened; their friend was dead, gone forever.

Then, one day, one little water beetle felt an irresistible urge to climb up that stem. However, he was determined that he would not leave forever. He would come back and tell his friends what he had found at the top. When he reached the top and climbed out of the water onto the surface of the lily pad, he was so tired, and the sun felt so warm, that he decided he must take a nap. As he slept, his body changed and when he woke up, he had turned into a beautiful blue-tailed dragonfly with broad wings and a slender body designed for flying. So, fly he did! And, as he soared, he saw the beauty of a whole new world and a far superior way of life to that he had ever known existed.



Then he remembered his beetle friends and how they were thinking by now he was dead. He wanted to go back to tell them and explain that he was now more alive than he had ever been before. His life had been fulfilled rather than ended. But his new body would not go down into the water. He could not get back to tell his friends the good news. Then he understood that their time would come, when they, too, would know what he now knew. So, he raised his wings and flew off into his joyous new life!

My thinking is that there are some fantastically intelligent people on this planet! Some of them are scientists employing their 'superbrains' in searching for an answer to some very big questions. Whilst I'm in awe of their skills and abilities, and find the results of their explorations fascinating, at the same time I'm happy to rely and rest on my faith, in the knowledge that God has ALL the answers and that He knows and loves ALL of us. Just like in the story of the dragonfly, one day, through the sacrifice of His only Son, He'll raise our wings and we'll fly off into a joyous new life!

The apostle Paul wrote to the church family at Corinth (1 Corinthians 13:12) just under 2,000 years ago, but he could have been writing with the same words to the NASA scientists today, with their amazingly powerful telescopes, when he said: 'For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.'



And that's good enough for me! How about you?

Ceri



Services

8th 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

11th October

10am St Gregory's – Midweek Holy Communion

15th October

9.30am St George's – Holy Communion

10am St Gregory's – Greg's @ 10

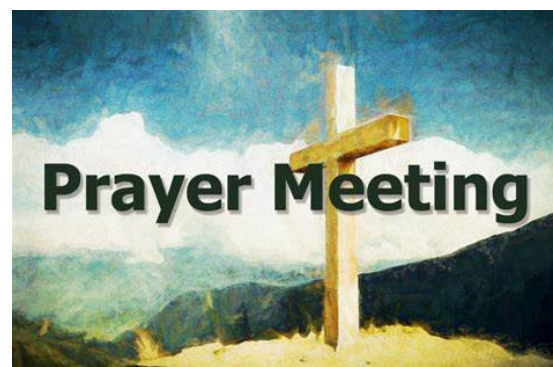
11am St Mary's – Morning worship

6.30pm – Benefice Telephone Service

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.





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. This year's Harvest gifts will be given to St Petrocks.

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.'

Please do come along to help us decorate St Gregory's on **Friday 6th October from 9.30am!**
We urgently need some more volunteers!
For more information contact Georgie Moore directly: 865486

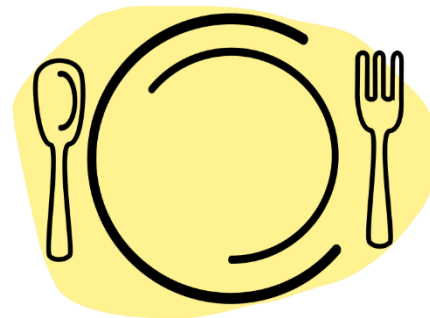
Reader Service in Exeter Cathedral

The annual Reader service will be in Exeter Cathedral at 2pm on Saturday, October 7th. 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.



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.



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!

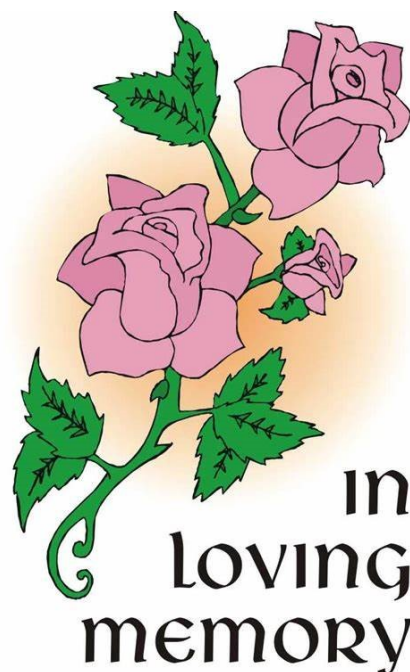
Midweek Holy Communion on the 18th October

Due to vacancy interviews taking place that day, the 10am Holy Communion service at St Gregory's **will now be held at St George's** – for this week only.

Advance Notice - Service of Remembering and Hope - Sunday 5th November

Last year a service was held at St Mary's, Cofton. This year, there will be a Service of Remembering and Hope held at St George's Holcombe on Sunday 5th November at 3pm, followed by tea and cake.

An invitation is extended to any across the Benefice who may like to attend. If you wish to have the name of a loved one read out in the service, please contact Prebendary Chris Curd on 07771842334 or prebchris2020@gmail.com



Advance Notice - Coffee and Sale Morning for Ukraine

Organised by Liubov Nazarok and Chris Curd. This will be Saturday morning, 11th November, in Cockwood, exact details TBC. Proceeds 50/50 to Christian Response to Eastern Europe who are sending lorries of aid to Ukraine; and to humanitarian work



carried out by a friend of Liubov. Liubov, from Kyiv, lived with Cliff and Chris Curd for nearly a year and is now in a flat in Dawlish with a friend. She works in Cofton and Cockwood.

Needed - offers of help, baking (both for consumption on the day and for sale), craft items, anything that could be a stocking filler, anything good quality that could sell (kitchenware, toiletries, children's toys etc etc), tree decorations etc. Also as good as new clothing and shoes. If the latter do not sell, they can be taken out to Ukraine by CR2EE. Please contact Chris - 07771842334; prebchris2020@gmail.com

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 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



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.**

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
