

Benefice Events E-Letter

Dawlish with Holcombe, Cofton and Starcross Sunday 5th December

A few weeks ago, I was putting together the newsletter for the Benefice and it was the week after the 'What's Next' meeting. Unfortunately, I missed the meeting but the content Dallas had sent was to do with essentially volunteering across the Benefice. Being



completely honest, I couldn't think of a single thing I could help out with. I served my time on St Gregory's PCC and was PCC secretary for years; uncharitably, I felt that I've done my bit. I mentally shrugged. But as I thought about this more, I thought about all the times that I sat on PCC and in meetings, or in church as notices were read asking for volunteers and all the times that I probably could have helped, but actively chose not to bother, or made excuses for my inaction. And that's the story of how I found myself spontaneously signing up to join Georgie's Flower Rota at St Gregory's. That's a small job I can help with. I

also offered to write this week's newsletter, as your parish administrator!

A few years ago, when I was quite new in my faith as a Christian, I had a conversation with a friend who was a long-standing member of a different church and was very involved in activities and groups there. I remember her telling me that it was her opinion that 'church folk treated each other far worse than anyone outside of church.' At the time I was very confused about what she meant.



Some years later, that conversation makes much more sense to me.

The church is like a family; it's very easy to treat each other unkindly, to take each other for granted and VERY easy to let someone else do the washing up!



My point is, there are all small things that we can each do – even just being available to volunteer at one service a month, or giving an hour of time. Service to each other and our church community is easily done – it does not have to be difficult or complicated. J John tells a great story about reluctantly signing up to the coffee rota amid protest that he was a minister and not a barista! He ended that anecdote by saying that he had more conversations and learned more people's names by serving the church making coffee after

services.

If you think you could help out, or have time – don't be shy. Don't wait to be asked. In the next few weeks across the Benefice there are lots of events taking place and each church will need volunteers, stewards and so on. If you're not sure how to help – ask! Imagine the difference we would all be making if where we saw things that needed to be done, we just did them. In the words of Catherine Ryan Hyde: 'there is no wrong way to perform an act of kindness.'

Sabrina

Notices

Services & Events

12th December 10am – HC, St Gregory's
9.30am, Morning Worship @
St George's, Holcombe
11am, Morning Worship @
St Mary's, Cofton
10am, HC @ Starcross
6.30pm Telephone Service



Telephone Service



There will not be telephone service on the 19th December as there will be Carol Services on that day.

For those who are unable to attend over Christmas there will be a telephone service at 10am on Boxing Day.

I know that the telephone service has been appreciated and I would like to thank those who have supported it by leading, reading, praying and preaching. However, this will be the last telephone service unless we find ourselves in lock down again in the future. I am sorry that some people will be disappointed but we are now struggling to resource it.

Prayer Meetings

Dallas Ayling is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Prayer time on Tuesdays

Time: Dec 7th, 2021 09:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 659 184 2294

Passcode: 995468

Prayer Meeting - Thursday

Morning Prayer for Advent: Thursday 9th December at 9am.

Contact Chris Curd 07771842334 for queries.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2198890557?pwd=Y3FmUmFqdDVpNW1ETVUrZ2RoS2MxUT09>

Meeting ID: 219 889 0557

Passcode: 5y1GPu

Reading & Collect for 5th December

Collect

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. Amen.

Reading

Luke 3.1–6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be

made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.””

Funerals

Sadly, we have entered a season of funerals of members of our Benefice. Please pray for their families.

Carol Comber (from St. George's).

Tuesday 7th December 10am Exeter Crematorium (family and close friends only) followed by 12noon Memorial Service, St George's Holcombe. 1pm Refreshments (either at The Castle or Village Hall, Holcombe)

Ron Dunn (from St. Gregory's)

14th December at 10.30 at Torbay Crem.

Covid-19

At a Rural Dean's meeting this week we were encouraged to continue to ask people to wear face coverings in church. Although we would prefer not to, when there are significant numbers of people present in church, we have also been asked to keep outside doors open. You might like to wear an extra layer! Please also say if you would prefer to keep some form of social distancing which is also advised by the Diocese and the Church of England.

Decorating St Gregory's

“WANTED” - Help to decorate St Gregory's for Christmas. Enthusiasm not experience needed! Monday 20th December from 9.30 onwards. Coffee and mince pie reward
Tel: Georgie 865486

Christmas Tree Festival

We are still looking for stewards! Please email the church office or check the rota in the lower narthex at St Gregory's!

As part of the Christmas Tree Festival, we are holding a Community Carol Service on Tuesday 7th December at 6 pm when the festival will be opened. This will be attended by the Mayor and the speaker will be the Archdeacon of Exeter. This is a new venture organised at the request of the Mayor. Please put it in your diary and invite others to come.



Christmas Service and Events at St Gregory's

Attached with this newsletter is dates / times for events and services taking place at St Gregory's during Christmas – please do share widely or display where you can. There are printed copies available in church if required.

Moldova Shoebox Appeal

Ray Williams Chris May and Ray Moore (right) have been collecting and transporting the donations ready for their long journey to Moldova. The collection is in full swing with almost 2000 items in the depot. Thanks to everyone who has helped with this appeal. Ray Moore.



St Paul's **Christmas**

We are beginning to prepare for Christmas services and decoration of the church and are asking for donations towards the cost of the Christmas tree, sweets and oranges for Christingle and flowers to decorate the church. Donations can be given to Claire - thank you.

Services in December

Sunday 5th December: 10am Morning Worship

Sunday 5th December: 5pm Christingle

Sunday 12th December: 10am Holy Communion

Tuesday 14th December: Licensing of Rev Patrick Parkes, at St Paul's, by invitation only,

(numbers are limited due to Covid restrictions)

Sunday 19th December: 6.00pm Carol Service

(There will be no morning service)

Friday 24th December: 5pm Crib Service

Saturday 25th December: 10am Christmas Day Communion

(No service on Sunday 26th December)

Other dates/events

Wednesday 15th December, 7.30pm Quiz Night at the Atmospheric

Tuesday 21st December: 6.30pm Village Carols, led by St Paul's music group – on Starcross sportsfield

Sunday 2nd January: St Mary's Hall, Dawlish Warren, 2-4pm

Benefice New Year Party and a farewell 'do' for Tim and Mary Collins

6.30pm: Telephone conference call service.

Join us for a short service together using any phone line. All you do is dial the number and when asked put in the access code.

Dial in number: 0330 606 0403

And then input the access code 727830

The clergy team may be contacted on:

Dallas Ayling: 01626 867386

Tim Collins: 01626 862383

Please be aware that Dallas and Tim may be the initial point of contact but you may then be contacted by another member of the Clergy team. If you would like to be added to St Gregory's Church Directory, you will need to contact the Parish Administrator:

st.gregs@btinternet.com

If you are added to the Church Directory, this will (with your permission) allow us to contact you via phone or email. **We are praying for you and we are here for you.** If you would like someone to pray for you via phone, please contact the Clergy directly.