

Benefice Events E-Letter

Dawlish with Holcombe & Cofton

Sunday 9th January

I wonder whether you have made a New Year resolution this year. There is always the dilemma about which thing we want to change in our lives. I gave up doing this years ago realising that it was more like playing a game with myself as to just how long any resolution might last. They never did last for very long at all. That doesn't mean to say that making resolutions for

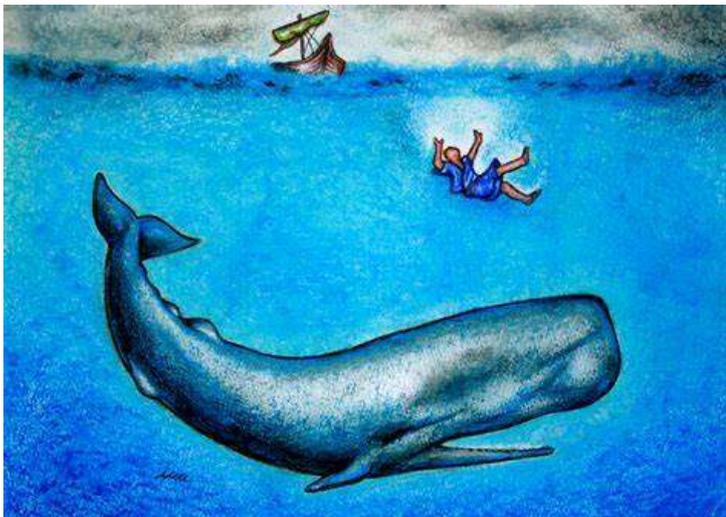


our lives is a bad thing to do but I think that it needs some kind of support structure to be successful with a good dose of determination. I am just not sure that doing it in the darker days of January as part of the Christmas and New Year 'celebrations' is a particularly helpful time to do it. Do let me know if you have ever been successful. Perhaps this is an article for the next 'Coastline'.

The wonderful, good news of the Gospel is that we can ask God to help us with what needs changing in our lives at any time, and God can ask us to change things in our lives too, with the help of the Holy Spirit. In fact, God expects us to be willing to change, not fundamentally the essence of who we are, but some of the ways that stop us from being the person he wants us to be towards God, others and even ourselves. I was listening to a man who has spent time as a CMS Missionary in Burundi, which was an extremely dangerous place to be, and on being asked about how he dealt with his fears he said that he faced it by quoting Scripture to himself about not being afraid (365 times it is mentioned in the Bible). This with much prayer helped him to overcome his fears. So perhaps the one thing we can do towards God's resolution for us is to be resolute in spending time in his

presence, and gaze on the awe and wonder of both the extraordinary story of the birth of Jesus, and his redeeming purposes released into the world, through the revelation that Jesus is the Son of God.

The Old Testament readings for morning prayer last week was the story of Jonah. Having run away from what God had asked him to do, and ending up in the belly of a fish, the only action to take was to pray to the God he had run away from. What else



was there that he could have done? He was in a dark and pretty awful place. That prayer changed Jonah. Although he still grumbled because he couldn't believe that God could change the people of Nineveh, and probably thought it was a waste of time telling them to change their ways, he delivered God's message to the people and they repented. If it has been a while since you have read Jonah it is worth a read. It is a short book but with lots to say to us, I think.

With every blessing,

Dallas

Services next week

9th January 10am Holy Communion at St Gregory's
 9.30am Morning Worship @ St George's, Holcombe
 11am Holy Communion @ St Mary's, Cofton

12th January 10am Wednesday Holy Communion at St Gregory's

Standing Committee (via Zoom)

Monday 10th January 7.30pm St. Greg's Standing Committee (Zoom) – details below.

Morning Prayer for the Epiphany Season - on Zoom

There is a small but committed group who have been meeting for this, drawn from across the Benefice. It would encourage us all if others were to join in. If you are not sure how it works, you would be very welcome just to sit, look and listen!! For those who use the red Common Worship Daily Prayer book, the service for Epiphany is on page 226. One of the joys of Common Worship is the richness of the different seasons of the Christian year. Led by Chris, please contact her if you have any queries about the practicalities of Zoom meetings!

Morning Prayer on Zoom

Time: Jan 13, 2022 09:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 219 889 0557

Passcode: 5y1GPu

Tuesday prayers

Topic: Tuesday prayers

Time: Jan 11, 2022 09:00 AM London

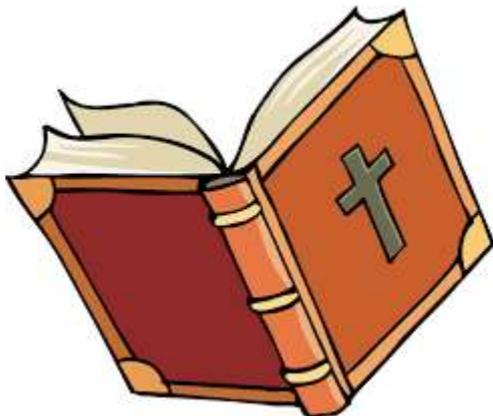
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6591842294?pwd=hakfR92W-WBnpl1CBn5jr6oxpSCzOg>

Meeting ID: 659 184 2294

Passcode: 995468

Reading & Collect for 9th January



Collect

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading Matthew 2.1–12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judah; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their

treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Phyllis Bishop

Sadly we have been told that Phyllis Bishop died early this morning. She will be very much missed.

A message from Tim and Mary

As Mary and I wend our way from Dawlish to Thorverton, we would like to say a heartfelt "thank you," for your amazing generosity: from the painting to the bug hotel, from the flowers to the cake; from the chocolates to the cheque. For all that you have been to us and mean to us.

"Thank you," for accepting us and welcoming us into your churches and your hearts.

"Thank you," for allowing yourselves to be the 'guinea pigs' in my exploring and developing my ministry through this curacy.

"Thank you," for all the fun, food and laughter that we have shared.

"Thank you," for all those challenges of life that we have been allowed to share with you.

And yet, "thank you," really doesn't seem to adequately express all the love and generosity shown to Mary and me by so many people. At the 'leaving do' on Sunday we were enveloped by any number of wonderful people and memories. Memories that will sustain us in the years ahead.

And while we leave the Dawlish Coast Mission Community touched with much sadness, we also know that we go with your blessings and best wishes for the travels ahead. A journey that we could only take because of you all. But it is not as though we are going so far away, and we would be so pleased to see you should you ever find yourself exploring the beautiful countryside of mid-Devon. You will always find the kettle on and a very warm welcome at our new address:

The Rectory
School Lane
Thorverton
Exeter EX5 5NR

And it would also be wonderful to see you at my licensing service:

Wednesday 2nd February at 7.30pm at Thorverton Parish Church.

Because of the ongoing covid situation, numbers are to be limited, so please do let me know if you would like to attend the service.

It's not goodbye, but adieu – until we meet again.

Tim & Mary

Funeral of Hazel Legg

Friday 14th January at 11am: Funeral of Hazel Legg.

Hazel had been in The Rise for a while and sadly died on Christmas Eve. The funeral will be held at St. Greg's followed by the family attending the cremation at Exeter. All are welcome to St. Greg's to give thanks for Hazel's life, who was a member of the Mothers' Union, and a committed volunteer at St. Greg's.

Cofton and Holcombe Ladies' Lunch update

In view of the current situation it seems wise not to meet for a meal this month. However, it has been suggested that we might meet outside on the terrace at Amelia's for coffee at about 11am on Tuesday 25th. (Not the 18th as St Mary's PCC is meeting at that time.) Please look out for information as to whether this will go ahead or not.

Covid Response



Please note that it is once again compulsory for face coverings to be worn in church except for those who are unable to for health reasons, and for leading worship, the intercessions and reading.

Social distancing is not mandatory, but we would ask that you do try and keep some form of distancing. If you would prefer more space please indicate to the sidespeople who are on duty.

Please continue to sanitise hands.

Ventilation is really important. Generally, particularly at this time of year we like to close our church doors but please leave them open. Put on extra clothing and move away from the doors to where it might be warmer.

Star of Wonder

Did anyone see how many words they could find from this? (As in the last edition of Coastline?) We were going to check at the Epiphany Party which didn't happen as a party!! If anyone would like to submit their words, then please either scan and email to Chris on prebchris2020@gmail.com or hand in to the Benefice office or drop or post to 2 Middlewood, Cockwood, EX6 8RN by Sunday 16th. We are still in Epiphany!!

Coastline Magazine

A reminder that Sunday 16th is the date for items for the next edition of Coastline. Can be submitted as above. Pictures as separate JPG's please and text in font 12 and Times New Roman, Gill Sans or Calibri.

Dallas may be contacted on:

Dallas Ayling: 01626 867386

Please be aware that Dallas may be the initial point of contact but you may then be contacted by another member of the staff 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. If you would like someone to pray for you via phone, please contact the Clergy directly.