

Benefice Events E-Letter

Dawlish with Holcombe, Cofton and Starcross Sunday 12th December

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Well, I thought that I would just give you a gentle reminder, should it have slipped your mind.



But, it's ok, you can relax, it's still days and days and days away. Plenty of time to get everything sorted, plenty of time to get those cards written, presents wrapped, food ordered, and Brussel sprouts gently simmering away...

Now, I'm guessing that you have reacted to the above couple of sentences in one of two ways. You're either so laid back that, 'Yes, that's right, still plenty of time, no



worries. And look, see, there are oodles of windows yet to be opened on the Advent Calendar, and lots of candle still left to burn; and the Post Office's last posting date is sometime in the future!



Or, I have now put you into a blind panic. "So much to do, so little time left to do it! Most of the windows have now been opened on the Advent Calendar. And is there really only that much candle left? Oh no, I've forgotten to send a card to Aunt Lucy in Australia, and she won't now get it till after Christmas."

(There is, of course a third option, in that we are all probably somewhere between those two extremes! But hey, why spoil a good dramatic illustration. Oh, and I think, I'm more of the 'there's still plenty of time!' type.)

I am truly sorry if I have pushed you over into panic mode. That wasn't my intention. And I am also pretty sure that it certainly wasn't anyone's intention of God for us all to be caught up in the stresses and strains of responding and reacting to the material, commercial world – Black Friday, Manic Monday, Tinsel Tuesday – or whatever the latest



sales gimmick that is being used by large companies to get us to part with our monies. And I'm definitely sure that God really didn't expect us to have to face this onslaught of the real strange mix of the sacred and the secular that the period from about early-November to



Christmas Eve has become. When Father Christmas and reindeer and snowmen and robins and, and, and etc., etc., etc. all seem to be crowding around, crowding out the manger.

And crowding out the messages that underpin our Advent journey.

Messages of anticipation and of preparation. Anticipation – a time of eager waiting and watching, of being awake, aware and alert for what is to come; and

preparation, yes, but not the frantic whirlwind of present buying and wrapping, of decorating halls with holly and ivy and tinsel – but a deep preparation of hearts and minds, preparing ourselves. I believe that what is expected of us is to take some time during this mad, intense, amazing, incredible, wonder-filled season we are in, to stop; to think; to begin to explore the promise of love held out to us at Advent. Because, and another gentle reminder:



CHRIST IS COMING!

This is what we are anticipating; this is what we are preparing for. So, don't worry about the tinsel and the turkey; take a moment or two and listen out - not for sleigh bells, but for the cry of a child.

All blessings for the rest of Advent and the Christmas Season

Tim

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 be no telephone service on Sunday 19th December.

Tuesday prayers

There will be no 9am Tuesday prayers on Zoom on the 14th December.

Newsletter

The last newsletter of the year will be 19th December. The first newsletter of 2022 will be on 9th January 2022.

Morning Prayer for Advent on Zoom

Time: Dec 16, 2021 09:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting:

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

Meeting ID: 219 889 0557

Passcode: 5y1GPu

Reading & Collect for 12th December

Collect

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reading

John 1.6–8, 19–28

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord,"' as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Funerals

Funeral of Ron Dunn is on Tuesday 14th December at 10.30 am at Torbay Crem followed by refreshments at St. Mary's Hall, Dawlish Warren.

Covid-19

At a Rural Dean's meeting 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

Thank you to all those who supported the Christmas Tree Festival and to those who acted as stewards.

St. Gregory's

Whilst it is appreciated that generally it is a good way of exchanging Christmas cards between church members we are asking you not to leave Christmas cards for people in the church again this year.

Ladies that Lunch

The next Lunch for ladies in any way connected with St George's and St Mary's will be at Amelia's, Cofton Country, on Tuesday 14th December, gathering from 12 noon for 12.30. We understand that as well as the usual menu choices, it will also be possible to order from the Christmas menu!

If you would like to come, please let Chris Curd (07771842334, prebchris2020@gmail.com) or Valerie Jeffery (7970255712, valerie@coftonholidays.co.uk) know as soon as possible, so in these interesting times the staff know how many we will be. If at all possible, please take a lateral flow test that morning; wear a mask when not seated and wear layers, as the venue is well ventilated as per government guidance!

From Tear Fund - Send a Christmas Card to Boris Johnson about COP26 and Climate Change - "The Proof of the Pudding is in the eating."

Boris Johnson spoke some strong words about climate change at COP26 – but will the UK government follow through? When it comes to climate action; the proof of the pudding. is in



the eating.

Make your voice heard by sending a Christmas card to the Prime Minister calling for greater climate ambition. Just follow these simple steps:

- ♣ Choose/create your card. A shop-bought card works fine, or you might like to create a homemade card that represents your message.
- ♣ Write your message. You can use the message from Tear Fund's giant Christmas card below as a starting point. For even more impact, personalise it and make it your own.
- ♣ Post your card to: The Rt Hon. Boris Johnson, MP, Prime Minister, 10 Downing St, London SW1A 2AA

Tear Fund's giant Christmas card. On Wednesday 15th December, we will deliver a 3-metre Christmas card to No 10 with the message below, signed by people across the UK. It will contain this wording:

Dear Prime Minister,

Christmas is a time of hope. Our hope is that climate catastrophe is averted for the poorest and most climate-vulnerable countries, and that the pledges made at COP26 are fulfilled.

At the start of COP26 you acknowledged the responsibility of richer countries to support those suffering the worst effects of the climate crisis. After COP26, you said there is now 'a clear roadmap to limiting the rise in global temperatures to 1.5 degrees'.

But the proof is in the pudding. During the remaining UK COP presidency in 2022, we call on you to:

- ♣ Ensure countries deliver stronger national plans to keep 1.5°C alive.
 - ♣ Secure more ambitious climate finance commitments.
 - ♣ Press for finance for climate-related loss and damage.
 - ♣ Lead on drawing the fossil fuel era to a close and a just transition to renewable energy.
- Only then will COP26 be deemed to have put the brakes on climate change.

We wish you a peaceful Christmas.

Daily Hope



With the ending of the Benefice phone service, it may be helpful to have a reminder of the existence of the free phone line, Daily Hope. A lot more has been added to it and there are options for listening to Carols, to Morning and Evening Prayer, to Pam Rhodes talking about different Carols, and there is also a daily reflection for Advent, changing every day. Two other additions are calming words to listen to in

bed to help with a good night's sleep, and an option for listening to chair exercises. It is an excellent resource and means that there is a service on the phone not only on Sundays but every day of the week.

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 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.