

Benefice Events E-Letter

Dawlish with Holcombe & Cofton Sunday 16th January



I was thinking this week about the media attention of the situation with respect to the tennis player Djokovic. It is very easy to be drawn into these kinds of stories because as this one had been, it was at one point the top story on the news and in the media. Why was I thinking about it? Well, it suddenly occurred to me that I needed to ask the question why this story was so important, and deemed important enough, to take that kind of space up as a major headline. It wasn't Djokovic who was seeking media attention, and in fact I am sure that he would rather not have ended up in such a position, whether or

not he had been foolhardy, trusting of others, and possibly in breach of rules and laws. I am sure that some people are interested in the story, but it is not even about a British player, so why a first news item? Now to say that one might think that I am being narrow minded about such things, but I have no objection to the story being in the sports section of the news. However, to take the top spot it seemed to me to challenge the moral compass of, in this case, the television news. They have a great responsibility towards the public and the information they have control of.



The point is that surely there were far more important headlines and news. The growing crises in Afghanistan did at last make the news but only after the Djokovic circus seemed to have lost a bit of steam. I thought that it was really sad that the awful situation in Afghanistan, whether or not we think we are partially responsible towards its contribution, had to wait its turn before it was once again brought to our attention as a national

top news item. I often find it frustrating that

or international events are brought to our attention and then disappear from the news

as though we had given a nod to it and we move

on. It is not that I object to the less important items, or

those which can bring a smile to our faces, as those

things are of value. It is just that how can a tennis player,

albeit a very good one, be seen as so important that the news

spends more time on his situation, than giving space and time to

something which the world needs to know and in which the UN, and a



significant number of Aid Agencies are trying to address. Djokovic is really not significant news and does not need our help, but the people of Afghanistan do.

It's a good exercise to think about how we are influenced by the way the news is presented. We can all place different values on things, and we may think that we have very little influence in such matters, but one thing we can do is pray about those who are required to make such editorial decisions and that they will do better. I wonder whether you also have a critical eye to the way the news is presented.

Something to think about and even have a go at: a well-known theologian Karl Barth is understood to have said this, "**Take your Bible and take your newspaper, and read both. But interpret newspapers from your Bible.**" (Time Magazine, May 1, 1966.)

With every blessing,

Dallas

Services next week

16th January 10am Greg's @ 10 @ St Gregory's
 9.30am Holy Communion
 @ St George's, Holcombe
 11am Morning Worship
 @ St Mary's, Cofton

19th January 10am Wednesday Holy Communion
 @ St Gregory's

23rd January 10am Holy Communion @ St Gregory's
 9.30am Morning Worship @ St George's, Holcombe
 11am Holy Communion @ St Mary's, Cofton



Morning Prayer for the Epiphany Season - on Zoom

Time: Jan 20, 2022 09:00 AM

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 18, 2022 09:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 659 184 2294

Passcode: 995468

5th Sunday joint Benefice Service

This will be held at St. Mary's Hall at 10.30 am on January 30th and will be led by Margaret, Will and Ceri. There will be no other services in the Benefice on that day.

Tuesday 18th at 10.45 St. Mary's PCC meeting

Thursday 20th at 3 pm St. George's DCC meeting

Tuesday 25th at 7.30 pm St. Greg's PCC meeting (Zoom)

Tim's Licensing service

Due to the Covid infection rates there will be a restriction on numbers able to attend Tim's Licensing. If anyone would like to attend, please could you let Sabrina know as she is collating the list. If the church is not able to accommodate everyone it will be on a first on the list basis. Those who will be able to attend will represent those who could not. It is the only way we can do this.

Deadline for Coastline

All copy to be in by this Sunday, 16th January, please.

Text - Word document font Gill Sans, Calibri or Times New Roman, size 12, single line spacing. Photos JPG. To prebchris2020@gmail.com

If you are not online and want to submit something, please phone or text 07771842334.

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.

Kids swap shop news!

Swap Shop at St Greg's continues with sessions held on Tuesdays in school term time, 9-10am.

By popular demand we plan to hold a session on a Saturday, just ad hoc, now and again, particularly to accommodate those parents who can't make Tuesdays due to being at work.

****Our first Saturday session is planned for Saturday 22nd January, 10am-12midday.****

To remind you how it all works.....for each pre-loved item of children's clothing or shoes brought to Swap Shop the 'donor' gets a 'Swap Shop Ticket'. They can exchange these tickets for 'new to them' items from the good quality, clean and constantly replenished stock. No money changes hands. It's a great way to be more sustainable and for families to 'do their bit' to help in protecting our precious planet.

Lastly, Swap Shop now has its own dedicated Facebook page. If you're a Facebook user you can find it at 'Kids Swap Shop at St Gregs'. Please 'Like' the page and 'Share' it with all your local friends.

Ceri

Phyllis Bishop's Funeral

Phyllis Bishop's funeral will be a private cremation. It is planned to hold a memorial service at St. George's sometime in the summer.

Korean Missionaries

On the afternoon of Tuesday 25th January we will be welcoming a small number of Korean missionaries to Dawlish with a view to help the local churches in their prayer life. Subject to the Holy Spirit's leading, we hope to include the following;

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- Lunch and prayer gathering with the lead ministers of the churches
 - A brief tour of the town and churches, including the new Hope Centre
 - A united prayer meeting for anyone from the local churches, leading into...
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- A short united church gathering to mark the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
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Venues and exact timings will be circulated as soon as possible.

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.