

# Benefice Events E-Letter

Dawlish with Holcombe, Cofton and Starcross  
Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November



I often find myself in a place of resistance at this time of year. We have been planning our Christmas services for some time now, plus the Christmas Tree Festival and the other events which will take place between now and Christmas. We have no choice but to plan ahead in order to make sure that everything is covered because it just doesn't happen without forward planning. The resistance I experience is that I find it difficult being drawn into the celebrations of Christmas at the very time when the church is entering the penitential and reflective period of Advent. What am I to do? What are we to do?

I do have to confess that I struggle with the length of Lent, our other penitential season in the church, but at least it is not a time when we find ourselves in competing expectations from society and our communities. I do not have to flip

backwards and forwards between two almost competing extremes as I find I am doing with Advent (penitential) and Christmas (celebration). Lent is a much smoother experience because although Sundays in Lent are still days of celebration they are generally held and expressed within the context of a reflective response.

Whilst trying not to sound like Ebenezer Scrooge I do think that the pressure is on to celebrate Christmas before it has arrived. The idea of any kind of preparation begins much earlier and of course any thought of the Second Coming, the return of Jesus, is beyond the understanding and expectation of many. I would like to be able to stay in the season of Advent and take advantage of what is now difficult to achieve.

In recent years I have noticed that because Christmas now starts much earlier by the time



Christmas Day has arrived people have exhausted themselves and there are those who are ready to pack up their Christmas decorations within a couple of days. Once again, we find ourselves out of step because in the church, we are only just beginning our celebration of Christmas and then of course Epiphany follows. It almost feels like the Kings, Wise Men or Magi, whatever we wish to call them, will miss the party!

Having said all of that maybe we can dig in and decide that Advent really is important and we will find the time and the energy to hold on to this in a way which is spiritually fruitful for each one of us.



Let's begin the Church's New Year recognising the darkness in which we live and looking for the light of Christ to shine in some of our dark corners.

With blessings,  
Dallas

## Notices

### Services & Events

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November 12.30 at the Bandstand.  
This is a great opportunity to be a public witness as we hold a short service as part of the town's celebrations (and yes we will be singing carols!)

Also TODAY at 4pm Churches Together in Dawlish and District will be meeting for an Advent Service at Dawlish Methodist Church. We have missed meeting together as a Christian community so I do hope that you will come and join in this together.

5<sup>th</sup> December 8am – HC, St Gregory's  
10am – Greg's @ 10, St Gregory's  
Telephone Service  
9.30am, HC @ St George's, Holcombe  
11am, HC @ St Mary's, Cofton  
10am, Morning Worship, Starcross



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## **Telephone Service**

There is no telephone service this Sunday evening.

There will not be telephone service on the 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

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## **Prayer Meetings**

Dallas Ayling is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

**Topic:** Prayer time on Tuesdays

**Time:** Nov 30, 2021 09:00 AM London

### **Join Zoom Meeting**

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

**Meeting ID:** 659 184 2294

**Passcode:** 995468

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## **Morning Prayer for Advent, Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec at 9.00**

Service is on p 198 of the red Common Worship Daily Prayer book or via the CE Daily Prayer App on a phone. Please ask if you need to borrow a book or have a query about downloading the app.

**Time:** Dec 2, 2021 09:00 AM London

### **Join Zoom Meeting:**

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

**Meeting ID:** 219 889 0557

**Passcode:** 5y1GPu

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## **Reading & Collect for 21<sup>st</sup> November**

### **Collect**

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

### **Reading**

Luke 21.25–36

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.' Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

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### **Funerals**

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

Marion Wannell (from St. Georges).  
Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 2 pm at St Gregory's.

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

Ron Dunn (from St. Gregory's)  
14<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30 at Torbay Crem.

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### **Quiet Afternoon**

Many thanks to Revd. Helen Bays for leading the Quiet Afternoon last Saturday at St. George's.

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### **Memorial Service arranged with Dawlish Funeral Care**

Everyone is welcome to attend this service at St. Gregory's on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 7pm. If you are attending and wish to have someone's name read out in memory of them please do let Dallas know.

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### **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.

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### **Christmas Tree Festival**

Forms are available for organisations, families, individuals and church groups for the Christmas Tree Festival this year. Please email or ring the Church Office at St. Greg's. I will also be looking for stewards please. As part of the Christmas Tree Festival we are holding a Community Carol Service on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> 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. There is the possibility of Community Transport for anyone who would like to come but will need help in getting there. Please let Dallas know and she will pass on the information to Community Transport.

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**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](mailto: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.