

# Coastline



A Magazine for the Dawlish Coast Churches

**Edition 12 —December/January 2022**

St George's Holcombe St Gregory's Dawlish St Mary's Cofton

## Carol Services—Sunday December 18th

Holcombe 4pm, St Greg's 6.30 pm, Cofton 4 pm  
(no 11.00 service at Cofton)

## Christmas Eve

Crib Services—in all three churches at 4pm  
Holy Communion St Greg's and St Mary's, 11.00pm, St  
George's 6pm

## Christmas Day

10.00 Informal Holy Communion at St Gregory's

See Church E-newsletter for details of links for  
Zoom Prayer meetings etc.

**To receive a regular mailing of Coastline  
and the newsletter email  
st.gregs@btinternet.com**

If you are **not online** and would like to  
receive a hard copy, please enquire at  
each church for the arrangements that  
are being made.

**We encourage those who are on line  
to pass on  
copies to those who are not!**

**2023** January 1st—Greg's @10, 9.30 HC  
at Holcombe and 11.00 Morning Worship  
@ Cofton. Wednesday Communion service  
starts again on 4th January.

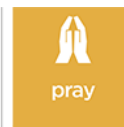


A quiet, reflective  
service at the  
beginning of the  
longest night of  
the year.

**Benefice Service for all our churches.**

**Sunday 29th January, 10.30 am**

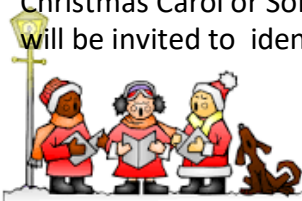
**St Gregory's, Dawlish.**



## Cofton Christmas Carol Trail

A fun, free Christmas event for the  
whole community, Organised by St  
Mary's Church. Everyone of any age in  
Cockwood, Cofton or Eastdon, is invited  
to take part by creating a display which represents a  
Christmas Carol or Song. Those who follow the trail  
will be invited to identify the title of each carol.

Are the local carol singers sing  
ing from the same hymn  
sheet?! Do they need help to  
remind them of what to sing?



From 19th Dec to 2nd Jan incl everyone can follow the  
trail to find the Carols! More information—  
07771842334

Come and see me and  
my Christmas Tree Friends at  
the

## Christmas Tree Festival

St Gregory's Church  
14th to 20th December

**Festival Service, 3pm, Saturday 17th December**



## Finding Light in the Darkness

an afternoon of quiet prayer in Advent

St George's Church; Saturday 10th December  
2-4pm All are welcome!

## From the Bishop of Exeter, December 2022

We all prefer a warm welcome to a frosty  
reception. Years ago, I remember arriving in the  
early hours of the morning in Armenia, then still  
part of the crumbling Soviet Empire, after a long  
and tortuous journey. The local family with  
whom I was staying welcomed me like a lost  
son. Nothing was too much trouble. It was the  
first of many times I experienced the warmth of  
legendary middle Eastern hospitality.

At the heart of the events of Christmas we  
celebrate each year is welcome – or rather the  
lack of it. There was no room in the inn.

As many face a bleak midwinter in our

county with escalating fuel bills and increased mortgage payments, we need to think how we can offer a warm welcome.

A practical thing to consider is for a group from church to meet weekly in one another's homes for food and fellowship, and perhaps prayer and Bible study, to reduce fuel bills. In some cases, people could meet in church or the church hall as part of the national 'Warm Hubs' initiative.

Rather than viewing the approaching winter with dread, might this be an opportunity to discover the transformative power of hospitality and a warm welcome? As St John says in the introduction to his Gospel, 'He came to his own and his own received him not. But to as many as did receive him, he gave power to become children of God.' + Robert Exon

### **The Rev'd Jeremy Putnam has recently joined the Diocese of Exeter staff team as a Giving Advisor.**

Jeremy recently moved to East Devon to take up a House for Duty post in the Honiton Deanery after spending the last seven years as a Priest in Charge in Truro. In his diocesan role Jeremy will be supporting churches with mission resources, such as the Parish Giving Scheme, contactless giving and church grants. Jeremy said



"I am looking forward to visiting deaneries and PCCs and to helping support the mission of the church across the diocese. I think people are more aware than ever of the financial challenges facing so many people in our parishes and mission communities, as well as our churches too. That's why one of the most common questions I hear is 'how can we ask people to give to the church when so many are struggling?'"

An Invitation to Step into a Deeper Relationship with God

"That's why it is so important that our churches continue to develop a culture of generosity which reflects God's heart for all of us and reflects our heart for the communities we serve."

Jeremy's role is part-funded by the national church, and he will be working alongside Brigit Kiyaga and Sarah Owen in the Mission Resources team. He added:

"My role is to support our churches to think generously as well as strategically when it comes to resourcing our mission. Resources such as the Parish Giving Scheme and Contactless Giving points are more than just mechanisms for giving. They help our churches proclaim what we believe, in such a way that we offer other people an opportunity to participate with us in the mission of the church and God's vision for the community we belong to. In other words, resources such as a Contactless Giving point, or a digital QR code for donating, are an invitation to step into a deeper relationship with God. I am delighted to be serving in this way and look forward to working with churches across the diocese."

### **Benefice Service on October 30th**

This was held at St Mary's Hall, Dawlish Warren, and was a celebration of All Saints Day. Ann from St George's, Margaret from St Gregory's and Valerie from St Mary's, all shared information about the lives of the three saints, as well as some information about the churches themselves. So if you never knew about the "real" St George, or who St Gregory was, or which Mary Cofton is dedicated to, you were enlightened! It was an enjoyable and worshipful occasion. If you have always given the joint services a "miss", why not start off the new year but resolving to join in on the **5th Sunday of January at 10.30 am at St Gregory's.** ? There will be no other services on that day.

### **HOPE CHURCH EVENT** (cont on p 5)



Hope church hosted a supper evening on 4<sup>th</sup> November for those interested in hearing about **Dawlish churches' involvement in community projects.**

Mark Jones expertly led the evening which consisted of a relaxed and informal meal in good company interspersed with short presentations. We heard from the lead ministers: Mark, Dallas and Sharyn of their recent inspirational ROC annual conference.

ROC Dawlish employs Adam Gidney, **the schools worker** who spoke enthusiastically about the welcome he receives in local schools.

Other speakers included Simon from the **Hub Store in**



One person you are bound to run into this Christmas season is **Father Christmas**. These days he seems to frequent shopping malls and garden centres. If he looks tired, just remember that he has been around a long time and gone through a lot of transformations. Father Christmas wasn't always the red-suited, white-bearded star of the retail trade that he is today. He began life as Nicholas, born way back about AD260 in Patara, an important port on the southern coast of what is now Turkey. When his parents died and left him a fortune, Nicholas gave it away to the poor. He became a bishop of the nearby city of Myra, where he almost certainly suffered persecution and imprisonment by the Emperor Diocletian. Nicholas was a serious theologian: he was a participant at the First Council of Nicaea, which formulated the Creed which we still say today. He even, reportedly, slapped another bishop in a squabble over the exact nature of the Trinity. Nicholas died in Myra about AD343, but the stories of his generosity and kindness were just beginning. One enduring tale tells of the three girls whom he rescued from certain prostitution by giving them gold for their dowries. When the father confronted him to thank him, Nicholas said he should thank God alone.

In the UK, Nicholas became the basis for Father Christmas, who emerged in Victorian times as a jolly-faced bearded character. Meanwhile, Dutch and German settlers had taken him to America with them as Sinter Klaas and Sankt Nicklas. It was in America that Nicholas received his final two great breaks into real stardom. The first was when the Rev Clement C Moore, a New York Episcopal minister, turned from his life-work of writing a Hebrew/English lexicon, to write a fun poem for his children one Christmas. His 'The Visit of St Nicholas' is now universally known by its first line: 'T'was the Night Before Christmas'. From Clement Moore we discovered that St Nicholas is round and pink-cheeked and white-bearded, and that he travels at night with sleigh, reindeer and a sack of toys on his back. It was Clement Moore who also revealed that St Nicholas enters houses down chimneys and fills children's stockings with toys and sweets.

So how did we find out that Father Christmas wears red? That was the US Coca-Cola advertising campaign of 1931, who finally released the latest, up-to-date pictures of Father Christmas: wearing a bright red, fur-trimmed coat and a large belt. These days, it is good that Father Christmas uses reindeer and doesn't have to pay for petrol. In order to get round all the children in the world on Christmas Eve, he will have to travel 221 million miles at an average speed of 1279 miles a second, 6,395 times the speed of sound.

#### **Prayer Requests for Christmas from "Open Doors"**

For many Christians around the world, the Christmas season brings increased likelihood of attacks. Pray for God's protection and peace for churches and Christians meeting to worship, and that the plans of any attackers would come to nothing.

**Sunday 25 December – Christmas Day** "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned" (Isaiah 9:2). Pray for persecuted Christians in dark situations today – in prison, under house arrest or displaced – to experience the life-transforming love of Jesus.

Elmeera\* (12) and Aisha\* (8) are Christians from North Africa. "We love Christmas," they write in a letter. "Since our church is closed, we couldn't celebrate Christmas with other children. That's why we ask you to pray for us that next year we can celebrate Christmas in the church with our community."

Iran - "At Christmas, we are monitored by the intelligence agents most," says Elahe\*. "Many Christians are arrested for celebrating Christmas, so we must be careful." Pray for God's protection for Christians in Iran this Christmas.

Ethiopia - Daniel\* was rejected by his community after he became a Christian. Thanks to Open Doors local partners, he has completed his education. Pray for all isolated believers this Christmas, that they will experience the joy of the angels, shepherds and Magi in their hearts.

Egypt - Ashraf\* (12) and his family must celebrate Christmas in secret. "We can't go to the church," he says. "We watch the Christmas night prayer on TV. But we lower the volume so we aren't heard by our neighbours."

Praise God for the faith and strength of Open Doors local partners who have continued to support persecuted Christians in more than 70 countries throughout 2022. Thank God for their courage and determination to minister to our sisters and brothers. Pray that God will renew their strength in the coming year.

**Epiphany Prayer:** Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. (*CW Additional Collect*)



## **Heroes of the Faith**

### **Ida Scudder**

There is no more outstanding example of a Christian dynas-

ty than the Scudder family, of whom it could be written in 1959 that 'forty-two members through four generations had given a total of 1,100 years to missionary service in India'. Amongst that remarkable lineage, the most striking figure is Ida Scudder.

John Scudder, Ida's grandfather, was a pioneering medical missionary who went to Asia in 1819 and whose eight children all followed his calling. Ida was born in 1870 to John Scudder Jr, who served in South India. Ida grew up exposed to sickness, poverty and famine, and utterly hated it.

Aged eight, Ida went to the United States for schooling where, enjoying comfort and security and anticipating marriage and motherhood, she rejected all thought of missionary life. Returning to India in 1890 to visit her ailing mother, she had a life-changing experience. One night, three men from very different communities arrived separately, seeking medical help for their pregnant wives who were seriously ill. They left when told by Ida that the only doctor was her father, as their cultures did not allow a man to treat a woman. The next morning Ida learned that all three women and their babies had died. Shaken, she prayerfully decided to become a doctor in order to help the women of India.

Ida returned to the United States and underwent medical training, graduating in 1899 as one of the very first women doctors. She returned to India expecting to work alongside her father, but his death soon left her on her own. Undeterred, she opened a small clinic for women at Vellore, seventy-five miles from Madras, and there, in 1902, built a forty-bed hospital for women using funds given to her in the States. At the same time, she created roadside clinics in rural villages where she could treat people and give health education.

As Ida's reputation grew and she found herself facing impossible demands, she resolved to train local women as nurses. Despite widespread scepticism, her nursing programme proved a great success, and by 1906 an enlarged hospital was treating 40,000 patients annually. She made a point of encouraging the adaptation of western

medical practice to the particular needs of India with its many poor and dispersed rural communities.

With time her Christian Medical College was training not just women as nurses but from 1918 as doctors. Faced with growing demands, Ida began travelling regularly to the States to raise funds. She now found herself in a management role, organising the college, seeking funding, negotiating between different missionary agencies and dealing with a turbulent Indian political scene in which fierce demands for independence were growing.

Increasingly recognised as one of the leading medical institutions in all India, the Vellore hospital began offering medical degree courses in 1942. In a break with tradition the various training programmes became open not just to women, but men.

Ida, by now in her seventies and a legendary missionary figure, continued to seek funds for the work. Although formally retiring in 1946, she continued to be involved with the work until her death in 1960 at the age of eighty-nine.

Unlike some great achievers, Ida was not only respected but also loved. Patients and colleagues admired her servant heart and, although she never married, she had a wide circle of close friends. She was particularly admired for her commitment to service and made no secret that this came from her Christian faith. The motto that the Christian Medical Centre took of the words of Jesus in Mark 10:45 – 'I have come not to be served, but to serve' – was most definitely hers.

Ida's work has outlived her. The CMC Vellore continues and is regularly ranked in the top two medical colleges in India. Unlike many institutions founded by missionaries, it has not lost its basis of faith and continues to be openly Christian.

The life of Ida Scudder shows many truly heroic qualities. Let me point out four.

First, she displayed a life of courageous decision. Ida showed courage in that striking decision to respond to God's call and, obediently, to totally change the course of her life. Once aware of that calling, that was exactly what she did for the rest of her life.

Second, she displayed a life of caring dedication. Despite being ever more involved with the organisational aspects of the college and hospital she had created, Ida never lost her desire to lovingly care for those men and women who were sick and suffering. In many cases those who create an institution can find that their creation comes to displace their original vision. Ida, always remaining at heart a carer, never

let that happen.

Third, she displayed a life of careful discernment. There are many heroic figures from every area of life who have been so 'driven by their vision' that they burn themselves out before their time. One of the striking features of Ida was her wise strategy. Rather than self-destruct trying to save India on her own, she developed a remarkably effective way of multiplying who and what she was doing through training and education.

Finally, she displayed a life of continuous determination. In her long and active life, Ida faced a seemingly unending range of obstacles including entrenched cultural values, staff shortages, funding crises and awkward mission organisations. She also saw her world change dramatically. She began as a doctor when India was a British colony under Queen Victoria and was still working when India had become an independent nation. She saw science, technology and clinical practice change almost beyond recognition. Yet through obstacles and change, failures and successes, joys and sorrows, Ida simply pressed on doing what God had called her to do.

Ida Scudder is an outstanding example of a medical missionary. But she is more than that: she is an example of how we can all best live for Christ.

J. John Reverend Canon [www.canonjjohn.com](http://www.canonjjohn.com)

#### *Hope Church Event (cont)*

**Dawlish**, although a private enterprise, is very much at the heart of what ROC Dawlish supports.

**CAP Teignbridge** co-ordinator Tim Wrigley gave us some insights into his debt counselling work.

The Hope church building itself has arisen out of the miraculous leading of God. Its facilities are still being developed, one of which will be a coffee shop which will provide a welcome "stop off" after shopping in Sainsbury's.

*Mike Moulds, Nov 22*

#### **Cost of Living, Warm Spaces etc**

The **Town Crier** for Autumn/Winter 2022 lists lots of helpful details about support available in the current situation: Details of the Community Larder, places you can go with money worries, details of help with energy and how to look after yourself. Please ask if you have not received a



#### **Good King Wenceslas.**

This carol was 900 years in the making... and started with a brutal murder in Bohemia. For Wenceslas was a real person, the Duke of Bohemia, who lived in the early 10<sup>th</sup> century. He seems to have been a rare ruler, in

that he was just and had compassion for the poor. His goodness made him enemies, and when he was only 22, he was assassinated on the steps of a church in Prague in 935.

But that was not the end of Wenceslas. Deeply mourned by the common people, he was soon considered a martyr and a saint. A cult of Wenceslas grew up in Bohemia, influencing the High Middle Ages idea of the *rex Justus* – or 'righteous king' – that is, a monarch whose power stems mainly from his great piety. The story of Wenceslas came to England sometime before 1853, when Queen Victoria's envoy to Stockholm sent some rare books to a friend, John Mason Neale, Warden of Sackville College, East Grinstead. Here Neale found the story of Wenceslas in an ancient poem by Czech poet Václav Alois Svoboda. Neale published his translation as a carol in 1853. He made the 'Duke' into a 'King', as a later Pope had conferred the regal title on Wenceslas.

The carol tells the poignant story of a young king and his page braving harsh winter weather in order to bring food, wine and fuel to a poor peasant on the Feast of St Stephen (26 December). The journey is terrible, and the page only gets through by following in the king's footprints, step by step, through deep snow. There are themes here of following Christ, through suffering, to do good to the poor.

If the story is ancient, so is the melody that Neale chose for his carol; it goes back to 1582 Finland.

Good King Wenceslas... today, a millennium after his brutal murder, he is still remembered in Prague, where a statue of him stands tall in the middle of Wenceslas Square. His goodness is not forgotten.

copy from Dawlish Council. The magazine also gives details of the local **WARM SPACES**

**Dawlish Library**—usual opening times

**Methodist Church** : Mon, Thurs, Fri 10—12;

**Hope Centre** near Sainsburys: Mon, Tues, Weds 10.30—2.30, hot drinks, simple hot lunch available

**Hub Store** Mon to Sat 9.30—4.30—free indoor play area, wifi, charging, tea, coffee, books

**Strand Hall**, Lawn Hill, Tues—Sat, 10—2pm .

## How Bad are Bananas?

Regular readers will have seen that last month's "carbon quiz" was based on the book of this title by Mike Berners-Lee.

"The answer is that bananas aren't bad at all.

110g CO<sub>2</sub>e each or 670g CO<sub>2</sub>e per Kilo.

Bananas are a great food for anyone who cares about their carbon footprint. For just 110g carbon you get a whole lot of nutrition: stacks of vitamin C, vitamin B6, potassium and dietary fibre. Overall, they are a fantastic component of the low-carbon diet. Bananas are good for just about everyone .... There are three main reasons that bananas have such a low-carbon footprint compared with the nourishment they provide:

1. They are grown in natural sunlight with no hothousing required.
2. They keep well, so although often grown 1,000s of miles from the end consumer, they are transported by boat, which is about 1% of the carbon footprint of airfreight.
3. There is hardly any packaging, because they provide their own!

On top of their good carbon and health eating credentials, the **fair-trade** version is readily available. However, for all their qualities, don't let me leave you with the impression that bananas are too good to be true. They have environmental issues. Of the 300 types in existence, almost all those we eat are of the single, cloned Cavendish variety. The adoption of the monocrop in pursuit of the maximum, cheapest yields has been criticised for degrading the land and requiring the liberal use of pesticide and fungicide. And it has left banana vulnerable to the *fusarium* fungus, which has been slowly spreading around the world, devastating plantations. Furthermore, although land is dramatically better used for bananas than beef in terms of nutrition per hectare, there are still parts of the world in which forests are being cleared for banana plantations. (*buy Fairtrade—ed!*) Overall, though the only really bad bananas are those you let rot in your fruit bowl. These join the scandalous 22% of food waste in the UK and many other countries. If you do find yourself with bananas on the turn, they are good in cakes and smoothies and with custard! "

*P 39 of How Bad are Bananas.*



Caretakers of God's Creation

<https://footprint.wwf.org.uk>

<https://www.climatestewards.org/>

### What is your carbon footprint?

At the top of the page there are 2 websites which help with calculating this. The World Wildlife Fund calculator is a quicker and more approximate tool. Carbon Stewards help you to personalise your answers. It is worthwhile perusing the Carbon Stewards website—perhaps in a quiet moment after Christmas. There are lots of ideas and helpful information.



Hot on the heels of the news that

St Gregory's has been

awarded the A Rocha Eco Church

Bronze Award, comes the news

that St Mary's and St George's are

in the process of applying. The actions each church has taken to achieve this are slightly different, so hopefully in due course there will be the specific information displayed locally and on the website.

### Something we can all do!



Write to Rishi, the MP, the King ....

Asking that the impact of carbon emissions be taken seriously and that there should be more awareness raising of the carbon footprint of various activities, food and "stuff".

### Why Bother?

OK, let's put the theology on one side.

Our children are getting worried. I want to be able to tell my grandchildren in ten years time that I have done what I could.

*And bringing just a tinsy bit of theology in:*

If we are to genuinely love our neighbour, then we should be concerned that our consumption is already ruining the lives of others—yes, its true, Its happening.



See the Eco Page on the new look Church Website! <https://www.cofe-in-dawlish.org.uk/eco-church/>  
Well done, Sabrina!!



### Swift boxes installed at St Greg's.

One of the things we can do to help nature, is to provide habitats where these have so often been destroyed by modern development. Leena Halse has provided these pictures of Jerry the swift man and the boxes he made from recycled wood.



The boxes are set against a window in the bell tower of the church and the swifts access them via the small windows from the outside. So hopefully next May there will be new visitors to St Gregory's!



A service of Remembering and Hope was held at St Mary's Cofton at the beginning of November. Those no longer with us in this life were remembered by name, from both Cofton and Holcombe churches.

Opposite—Remembrance Sunday at St George's Holcombe.



## The Advent Antiphons

In the medieval liturgy, these were sung before and after the Magnificat at Vespers. It is not known when and by whom these refrains were composed, but they were already in use by the 8th Century AD.

### **17th December—O Sapientia**

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the most High,  
Reaching from one end to the other mightily,  
And sweetly ordering all things:  
Come and teach us the way of prudence.  
*Cf Ecclesiasticus 24:3, Wisdom 8.1*

### **18th December—O Adonai**

O Adonai, and leader of the house of Israel,  
who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush  
And gave him the law on Sinai:  
Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.  
*Cf Exodus 3:2, 24:12*

### **19th December—O Radix Jesse**

O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples:  
Before you kings will shut their mouths,  
To you the nations will make their prayer:  
Come and deliver us, and delay no longer  
*Cf Is 11:10, 45:14, 52:15, Rom 15: 12*

### **20th December - O Clovis David**

O Key of David, and sceptre of the House of Israel;  
You open and no one can shut;  
You shut and no one can open:  
Come and lead the prisoners from the prison house,  
Those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.  
*Cf Is 22: 22, 42: 7*

### **21 December—O Oriens**

O Morning Star,  
Splendour of light eternal and sun of righteousness:

The next **Ladies' Lunch** will be on  
Tuesday 13th December, 12 noon for 12.30, at  
Amelia's, Cofton Country Holidays; a venue  
which is much appreciated and works well. For  
details or to say you are coming, please con-  
tact Valerie on 07970255712 or Chris on  
07771842334.  
No details yet received of the Men's Breakfast.

Come and enlighten those who dwell in  
darkness  
And the shadow of death  
*Cf Malachi 4:2*

### **22 December—O Rex Gentium**

O King of the nations, and their desire,  
Their cornerstone making both one:  
Come and save the human race,  
Which you fashioned from clay.  
*Cf Is 28:16, Eph 2:14*

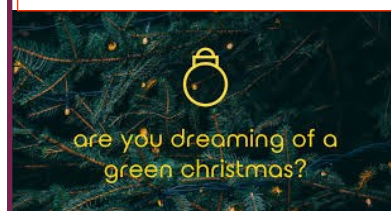
### **22 December—O Emmanuel**

O Emmanuel, our king and our lawgiver,  
The hope of the nations and their Saviour:  
Come and save us, O Lord our God.  
*Cf Is 7:14*

**SMILE LINES.** What do you call Santa's  
helpers? – Subordinate Clauses.

What do you get when you cross a  
snowman with a vampire? – Frostbite.

**December** is the month when the children begin to  
discuss what to get Dad for Christmas. Some insist  
on getting him a shirt, others a pair of socks. But  
the argument always ends in a tie.



All items for  
February  
Coastline to  
Editor by  
15th  
January  
please.

### Contact and Social Media Details

**Benefice Office 01626 864322.** usually open Tuesday and  
Thursday mornings. At other times messages can be left.  
[st.gregs@btinternet.com](mailto:st.gregs@btinternet.com).

For all three churches, enquiries about Baptism and Mar-  
riage can be made to the Parish Office or to The Reverend  
Dallas Ayling, Rector of the Dawlish Coast Mission Com-  
munity— **01626 867386**. [revddallasayling@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:revddallasayling@yahoo.co.uk).  
For enquiries about Funerals, contact Dallas directly.

St Mary's Cofton: If you would like to receive regular  
news from St Mary's, please contact the Churchwarden,  
Valerie Jeffery, 01626 890401. **St Mary's Hall bookings:**

contact Brian Hodge on 01626 862445 or  
email [bhodedawlish@aol.com](mailto:bhodedawlish@aol.com)

Website: [www.cofe-in-dawlish.org.uk](http://www.cofe-in-dawlish.org.uk)

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All clipart is believed to be free to use on a non profit making  
basis. "Non attributed articles and clips from the Parish Pump".

**Find us on Facebook**

**St Mary's Cofton; St Mary's Church Hall, Dawlish Warren;  
St George's Holcombe; St Gregory's Dawlish**