

Coastline



A Magazine for the Dawlish Coast Churches

Edition 17 June 2023

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



disciples and to serve the people of Devon with joy.”

Bishop Robert studied theology at St John's College, Durham, before training for ordination in Cambridge and Rome. He served as a curate in the Diocese of London before returning to Cambridge as chaplain of Trinity College for six years and teaching early Christian life and thought. He spent 10 years as a Benedictine monk in Oxfordshire, returning to parish ministry in London's Primrose Hill. He was appointed Bishop of Stockport in 2008.

During his time as Bishop of Exeter, he championed the role of the rural church, instigating the Growing the Rural Church project and most recently editing the book *How Village Churches Thrive*.

His time in office has also seen the development of the [Devon Pilgrim](#) project, the [Devon Church Weddings](#) project and social justice work through [Transforming Plymouth Together](#). He steered Devon's 600 Anglican churches through the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Bishop Robert is also patron of [Plymouth Marjon University](#), numerous charities and voluntary agencies including [YMCA Exeter](#), [St Petrock's](#) and [Devon Historic Churches Trust](#). He is a trustee of [Devon Community Foundation](#).

He is an accomplished author, whose works include *Celebrating the Seasons*, *Celebrating the Saints*, *The Contented Life*, *Peace at the Last (on funeral ministry)* and *The Good Worship Guide*.

The Lord Lieutenant of Devon, David Fursdon, said “It has been my privilege to work with Robert as Bishop of Exeter for eight of his nine years in office. He has indeed, as he set out to do, served the people of Devon with joy. Through a series of challenges, not least the Covid crisis, he has led by example. His deep personal faith, empathy and pragmatism coupled

See Benefice E-newsletter for more details of events. To receive mailing of **Coastline** and the newsletter email st.gregs@btinternet.com **This Magazine** is available free electronically to those who subscribe. Hard copies are provided free of charge but donations to church funds are always appreciated! **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 copies to those who are not!**

Bishop of Exeter Announces Retirement

The Bishop of Exeter has announced he is to retire on 30 September 2023 after more than nine years in the role. The Rt. Rev'd Robert Atwell was installed as bishop at Exeter Cathedral in July 2014. He is currently convenor of the Bishops in the South-West region, chair of the Church of England's Liturgical Commission and the lead bishop for Rural Affairs. He has been a member of the House of Lords since November 2021.

Bishop Robert said: “There is no ideal time to retire, but this seems like a sensible moment. I will be 69 in August. Last year I had surgery and, although it was successful, I am increasingly conscious of how precious the gift of life and health is, and I don't want to take it for granted.

“It has been an honour to serve as Bishop of Exeter in this beautiful county with so many historic and amazing churches served by faithful congregations. I have been blessed with a fantastic team of clergy colleagues and diocesan staff and I will miss working with them.

“I know the people of the diocese will continue to live out our vision to grow in prayer, make new

Senior Clergy Reflection – June 2023

Rev'd Tanya Hockley-Still



Tanya is priest in charge at St Mark's Exeter, and the UKME champion for the Diocese of Exeter.

(UK Minority Ethnic)

Being the parent of a 19-month-old, I often find myself thinking about busyness and trying to find the optimal work/life balance. The story of Mary and Martha from the Bible (Luke 10:38-42) offers an interesting perspective on the topic of busyness. In

the story, Jesus visits the home of two sisters, Mary and Martha. Martha is busy with preparations for the meal, while Mary sits at Jesus' feet, listening to his teachings. Martha becomes frustrated with Mary and asks Jesus to tell her sister to help with the work. Jesus responds by saying that Mary has chosen the better thing, which will not be taken away from her.

This story highlights the tension between busyness and spiritual contemplation. As someone who often struggles with busyness, this story reminds me of the importance of prioritising spiritual practices, such as prayer, meditation, and contemplation. It's easy to get caught up in the demands of daily life and to neglect our spiritual needs. But ultimately, these practices are what sustain us and give us the strength to face life's challenges.

At the same time, I don't think this story is meant to suggest that we should abandon our worldly responsibilities in favour of spiritual pursuits. Both Mary and Martha have important roles to play - Martha in providing hospitality and Mary in receiving spiritual teachings. The key is to find a balance between these two aspects of life, to recognise the value of both busyness and contemplation. Ultimately, I think the story of Mary and Martha offers a powerful reminder of the importance of finding balance in our lives, and of prioritising those things that truly matter

(cont from front page) with humility and a gift for clear communication has enabled him to exercise strong leadership whether in the Diocese, as chair of the Church of England's Liturgical Commission or being the lead bishop for rural affairs in the House of Lords. We will miss him very much."

Bishop Robert will be stepping back from public duties in late July. The Bishop of Crediton, the Rt. Rev'd Jackie Searle, will be Acting Bishop of Exeter pending the appointment of the new bishop.

Bishop Jackie said "It is an honour to serve with Bishop Robert in this wonderful diocese. His retirement will be a significant loss to us all, and we are deeply thankful for his ministry. He will leave a rich legacy that includes his collaborative, prayerful and wise leadership, a strong team, and the Diocesan vision to guide us as we continue to pray, grow and serve the people of Devon with joy. It will be my privilege to be Acting Diocesan Bishop through the forthcoming vacancy."

Annie Jeffries, who as Chair of the House of Laity, represents lay people in the diocese, said "On behalf of the laity of the Exeter Diocese may I say how sorry we all are to hear that Bishop Robert is retiring. He has encouraged and supported the laity in all that he has instigated and achieved throughout his tenure as Bishop. It has been an absolute delight and privilege to work alongside him, as many of us have been fortunate to do. We wish him much happiness and continuing good health in the future years, with many thanks for his outstanding leadership."

There will be a farewell service for Bishop Robert at [Exeter Cathedral](#) in September. Details for this will be shared in due course. [Bishop Robert's Video Announcement](#)



Smile Line—those who know the editor will understand why she could not resist including the following:

Overheard at my gardening club meeting:

"I never knew what compost was until I met my husband."

From the notices: **The audience is asked to remain seated until the end of the recession.**

The Revd John Adams spoke briefly, much to the delight of his audience.



New 'This is My Story' Exhibition Shares Inspiring Stories of Christian Faith

A new photographic exhibition, which tells the faith stories of Christians from across Devon, has opened. [This Is My Story](#), which will be touring churches across the county throughout 2023, was launched by the Bishop of Plymouth in early May at St Pancras' Church in Exeter's Guildhall Shopping Centre.. It features a series of black and white photo portraits taken by photographer and military chaplain, the Rev'd Huw Ryden. Accompanying each portrait is the subject's faith story in their own words. People featured include scientists, farmers, former members of the armed forces, students, priests, musicians and Exeter's MP, Ben Bradshaw.

Each person has a unique story about what being a Christian means to them. For example,

Barry, a forester who has experienced homelessness, said: "My childhood was chaos, there was no moral code and a lot of drugs and drinking. A few years later I was homeless in London and only had 30p for a bag of chips. I looked-up and said God help me, just help me, this is too much. I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for God, he's the real deal."

Esther is a singer who suffers from anxiety. She said: "Through praying and reading the Bible I felt God's sense of security and peace. It gave me the courage to seek help with anxiety. I was approached to be on the TV show 'The Voice' and was picked by Tom Jones. It was amazing being able to do that, having struggled so much with anxiety."

The Diocese of Exeter exhibition is designed to prompt questions about faith and explore the way our beliefs shape our lives. It was the inspiration of Katharine Otley, a Communications Officer for the Diocese of Exeter. She said "I used to work for the National Trust doing visitor engagement and I found that visitors connected with a place much more when we told the stories of the people who lived there rather than just sharing details about the history or architecture. In the same way, I want to help churches to share the incredible faith stories of Christians living in Devon today."

As well as the exhibition, there is also an Instagram account [@ThisisMyStoryUK](#) which features more portraits and stories. This Is My Story will be touring churches across the county throughout 2023 and will also be displayed at Exeter Cathedral and the Devon County Show.

If your church would like to host This is My Story, please [email](#) the Diocese of Exeter Communications team. [Click here for more info.](#)

Teignbridge Residents invited to get involved in study to reduce district carbon footprint

Teignbridge District Council is looking for Teignbridge residents to get involved in Making Changes – a study to help people make the changes they want to their lifestyle to save money, improve their health and fitness, and help them play their part in reducing the district's carbon footprint.

The study aims to support people who want to help tackle climate change, but don't know where to start or how they can make a difference.

Councillor Jackie Hook, Executive Member for Climate Emergency, said: "This is a very exciting project that brings to life the second phase of our plan to tackle climate change by reducing the carbon we use across the district. Through these workshops, we will support residents to make simple changes to their lives that could reduce their fuel bills, become more active, travel more sustainably or save on (cont p 7)

Tributes to the late Ann Boulton .Ann's funeral was at St Gregory's on 19th May.

from Canon Colin Evans (excerpts)

Ann – without an E, Boulton then – and I like to have a look at people's names on special occasions – they very often have a meaning that strangely enough seems to throw light on the person in question. But Boulton defeats me – Ann and Michael have added new grace to it – but then – they were lovely people by any standards. Michael is Hebrew - and it is the archangel Michael's own war cry: Who is like unto our God? And indeed they both devoted their long and generous lives to proclaiming just that. And Ann, with or without an E – why, that is Hebrew too, for grace. And, their names sum them both up – for they devoted their lives to living up to their names: Michael with much vigour; Ann, with much grace.

It was a sort of gentle sorrow to them that they had no children, but Ann somehow used her motherly talents, her grace, with Sunday Schools – and when I first came to Dawlish, she would gather up some 20 odd children from the front pew on a Sunday morning, and take them up into the Narthex during the sermon and communion, – and bring them back down again just in time for the final blessing, all with a smile of their faces, Ann included.

And of course, she had an absolutely marvellous little garden: no more than 20 feet square – but every corner was growing something special. And I like to think that both Michael and she are indeed now in the garden of heaven, in Paradise in fact – for Paradise is an ancient word for garden, both of them walking with our Lord Christ. ... They knew the peace of God in whose gentle grace they walked and lived and moved. The problems of old age, and the interruptions to that peace that this world brings with it anyway, sometimes as it were tried to shake them – but no: they settled back into that peace without a backward look, and the way Ann accepted Michael's death was a lesson to us all. I could keep on: though in fact I am a poor witness to them because I loved them both, and so might be biased, but I think not..

So ..be most thankful for Ann, indeed, Ann and Michael both, and thank God that they are now both walking the fair fields of Paradise in the uninterrupted and unimpeded service of our God, and of his Christ. So give unreserved thanks to God that he raises up such people as Ann, full of his grace, to be his servants, and be glad that God will indeed, if I can put it that way, be delighted to welcome her home. **Colin R Evans May 2023**

The Revd Michael Boulton, b 1922; ordained 1968; curate Hawkwell, Chelmsford 1968-1971; then to Cornwall: curate St Keverne 71-73; vicar Constantine 74-79; vicar St Merryn 79-87; retired to Dawlish 1987

From Derek Knell—an old family friend

It is with joy that I remember Ann Boulton whom I've known for 67 years. Yes she lives on and now she's more alive than she's ever been, in the presence of her Saviour. Michael and Ann were family friends right back then, when they were close friends of my parents and to my brother and me. We as family were a dinghy sailors and what Michael and Ann knew about boating was taught them by my father. We lived in Ashford, Middlesex and from there we towed our dinghies down to the Fal Estuary every year for our summer holiday. With Michael and Ann (who had no children of their own) and with another couple called Bob and Joy we sailed for two weeks in the Estuary. At the time Michael was an estate agent in Ashford before he left that for "the cloth". The one thing I remember of those holiday days in Cornwall was surprising then, though perhaps not so surprising in current times. My brother Bryan was 11 and I was 9. The holiday party comprised 6 adults and we 2 boys. At the beginning of the first holiday, Ann and Michael, Bob and Joy said to my brother and me "Please call us Ann and Michael, Joy and Bob". This was so appreciated and affirming to Bryan and me. It did not decrease my respect for them – it only increased it! Perhaps a foretaste of the spirit of Michael and Ann's receiving people for who they were and bonding with them quickly and easily. But that was long ago!

I started my missionary career in 1973. Ann and Michael followed our story throughout the years and to the last days Ann wrote and maintained an interest in what we were doing. We thank the Lord for all those prayers which kept me and Andree my wife of the last 44 years, on track, firstly with Feba Radio and now with Operation Mobilisation.

FATHER, thank you, thank you for the encouragement, friendship and prayers of a life well lived. Thank you for Ann. Amen **Derek Knell May 2023**

Barnabas Fund—11th May



Homayoun Zhavah and Sara Ahmadi were arrested for their membership of an Iranian “house church” in June 2019. Later convicted on national security grounds, they began their prison sentences of two and eight years, respectively, in August 2022. Yesterday, however, an appeal court in the Iranian capital of Tehran acquitted the Christian couple. They were released the same day.

The appeal court judge ruled that there was nothing suspicious about the Christian activities of Homayoun and Sara. Gathering with other Christians was, said the judge, entirely “natural”. Having books about Christianity was merely “an extension of their beliefs”. There was “no evidence” that the couple posed a threat to national security. The reports by the officers of the Ministry of Intelligence about organisation of home-groups to promote Christianity, membership, and participation in home-groups, are not considered as acts against the country’s security, and the law has not recognised them as criminal activity,” added the judge. The acquittal is wonderful news for Homayoun, who suffers from Parkinson’s disease, and Sara. It also has a wider significance.

Christians from Iran’s majority Farsi (Persian)-speaking majority are treated with much hostility as converts from Islam. Worship in Farsi is forbidden, as is any Christian evangelism. Farsi-speaking Christians are often charged with “acting against national security” for their activities in unofficial “house churches” – or what the judge in his ruling referred to as “home-groups”.

The judge, however, has ruled that membership of a “house church” – or even helping to run a “house church” – is not any threat to national security. In his opinion, “house church” activity is not criminal activity. As well as giving thanks for the release of Homayoun and Sara, we must pray that this ruling will be a precedent that allows more Christians to be released and prevents others from being targeted by the authorities.



**GARDEN OPEN
FOR CHARITY** 2 Middlewood,
Cockwood

Saturday 22nd July 11 am to 5 pm
Sunday 23rd July 1 pm to 5 pm
On road parking limited, no 2 bus route.

**The Editor invites constructive
comments on the slightly different
layout of some pages this month.**

High Days & Holy Days for June

A selection

- 3 The Martyrs of Uganda
- 4 Trinity Sunday
- 4 Petroc – the abbot of Padstow
- 5 Boniface of Crediton
- 9 Columba of Iona
- 11 Barnabas
- 15 Evelyn Underhill – 20th C mystical writer
- 16 Richard of Chichester - wanting God more clearly, dearly and nearly
- 24 John the Baptist
- 29 St Peter and St Paul

St Alban—22nd June.

Alban was the very first Christian martyr in Britain – or at least the first we know of. He was probably killed during the persecution under the emperor

Diocletian in the early years of the fourth century, in the late stages of the Roman occupation of Britain. His martyrdom took place in the amphitheatre outside the Roman city of Verulamium, which is now St Albans, in Hertfordshire.

The church historian Bede, writing six hundred years after Alban’s death, records that Alban was a Roman citizen (possibly a soldier) who gave shelter to a priest who was being hunted by the Romans. During the priest’s stay in his home, Alban was converted to the Christian faith. When the soldiers eventually tracked the priest down, they arrived at Alban’s house and insisted on searching it. What they found was Alban dressed in the priest’s clothes, while their real prey escaped. They arrested Alban and demanded that he make a sacrifice to the Emperor – a common test of loyalty. He refused. He was then condemned to death and taken into the amphitheatre, which still stands in the fields below St Alban’s Abbey, to be put to death. One of his executioners was converted, Bede claims, but the other one took a sword and beheaded him. He was buried nearby, on a site where a shrine was later erected.



On Friday 21 April 1,400 representatives and supporters of Christian charities, and other groups (including Christian Climate Action, A Rocha UK, Christian Aid and Tearfund) gathered for worship and prayer at a central London church with a simple message: *We have no faith in fossil fuels.*

They then processed to Parliament Square pausing at Shell's headquarters, where the Rt Rev John Sentamu, former Archbishop of York, delivered a joint letter calling on the oil giant to turn away from fossil fuels.

The service and march were significant for the singular and collaborative focus on ending fossil fuel exploration. Charities are being expected to cover ever more needs, nationally and internationally, at the same time as their own budgets being threatened by the cost of living crisis. But the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the largest body of independent scientists ever gathered, is clear that the single biggest cause of climate change is burning fossil fuels. Last week's event highlights just how threatening the charities now see climate change to the achievement of their core mission. The 2015 Paris Agreement committed nations to keeping global temperature rise below 2 degrees celsius and as close to 1.5 as possible. To achieve this, the IPCC called for at least a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and the International Energy Agency said there should be no new fossil fuel development after 2021. Currently, however, the world is on a trajectory for a catastrophic 2.4 degree temperature rise by the end of the century. Yet in the UK our government recently issued a whole new round of oil and gas exploration licences and permission for a new coal mine.

So, No Faith in Fossil Fuels was also a significant act of Christian witness. As the crowd entered Parliament Square they sang the hymn Amazing Grace in praise of our Creator God, a God of love and justice. At heart, the collective call is for responsible leadership, for the Westminster government to turn from a path that is profoundly cruel and unjust to current

and future generations and to our natural world. Evidence of accelerating climate disruption is now a regular occurrence. Last year saw the UK hit by the hottest temperatures we had ever experienced. People and wildlife died from it. This week, scientists reported ocean temperatures have hit a new high, rising even faster than predicted by climate models, with severe implications for sea life and the speed of sea level rise. That is why Christian charities, with an obligation to spend their supporters' money to protect the environment or to help the poor and vulnerable, are increasingly feeling they have no choice but to speak up. Continuing fossil fuel extraction not only undermines the achievement of their charitable objectives, it is imperilling all of God's creation.

Great Big Green Week, 10-18 June.

This is the UK's biggest annual call for action on climate change and nature. It's organised by the Climate Coalition, of which **A Rocha UK** is a member. The week of action aims to show decision-makers that people from all walks of life are stepping up to take action - and that we need them to step up too.

Churches Count on Nature (CCoN),

3-11 June. A partnership with Caring for God's Acre, the Church of England and the Church in Wales, [participation is open](#) to churches of any denomination. Now in its third year, CCoN focuses on the wildlife found in churchyards and chapel yards, whatever their size.

The Editor is unaware of any local events this year, but this serves as a reminder of the value of our Churchyards for Nature.

Dawlish FixFest – Repair Café

Saturday, June 17, Strand Centre 10.00—12.30

A **Great Big Green Week** event.

Refreshments available

Anyone who can help with repairs please contact alison.foden@devon.gov.uk

Alison says 'By repairing and re-using we can help the planet, by reducing waste and the need for new materials.'

The event aims to help with repairs to digital, IT, electrics, sewing and welding.



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

The Future of the Traidcraft Brand.

Notes from a webinar on 24th May 2023, which included presentations from the staff of Transform Trade, including Charlotte Timpson CEO, and from

Fair Trade producer groups based in Africa.

There was an acknowledgement that the past 12 months has been confusing and fast moving.

Traidcraft has gone – no longer will there be catalogues and a “shop”; BUT it has NOT gone!

Traidcraft was founded in 1979 by Richard Adams, deeply rooted in his Christian faith and the belief that producers and consumers are equal. Traidcraft PLC, the trading arm, went into administration in January 2023; one of reasons being that that Fair Trade is now more mainstream. But for **Traidcraft**, Fair Trade was a minimum value; not just doing part of your business differently but a different ethos. It was the first to make Fairly Traded goods available in the UK and the first to publish “social accounts”, detailing the effect on the stakeholders.

Transform Trade, formerly **Traidcraft Exchange** (the charitable wing) but now renamed, now owns the Traidcraft brand and wants to use brand to help producers find multiple routes to market

Three different ways to use the brand were shared

- 1) Endorsing producers
- 2) Licensing products
- 3) Producing Christmas cards, which will help keep connection with core supporters

The **Traidcraft** brand has started to create partnerships with businesses with the highest ethical standards; these include

Ethical Superstore, The Ethical Shop, Liberation, Premcrest, Fair Trade warehouse, Shared Earth.

These partners are helping the Traidcraft brand reach more people.

So you can still buy Traidcraft Tea, which is good news for the producers!

Those buying from these stores or similar, and buying, amongst others, Traidcraft branded goods, are supporting social enterprises whose standards far exceed the legal minimum of Fairtrade.

*Traidcraft Exchange was the charitable arm of the Traidcraft organization, it now operates independently as a multi-country charity. It provides direct support and advice to producers in developing countries, and campaigns for fair trade policies and practices. On 25 September 2022, Traidcraft Exchange rebranded to rename itself **Transform Trade**.^[29] It is still registered with the [Charity Commission](#) as Traidcraft Exchange. Transform Trade now works in three main areas: Fashion, Tea, and Agriculture.* Wikipedia

(cont) their weekly food budget, all alongside reducing their own, and the district’s carbon.

“We want to find out what motivates people and help them make the small changes to achieve their goals. These changes can also make a difference to their carbon footprint, as well as saving money, improving their health, fitness, and wellbeing. This will be a personal journey for all participants, and their decisions will be central to how we develop the workshops. We will give participants the time and expert advice to help them on their way and hopefully their stories will demonstrate to other Teignbridge residents that it is possible to make a difference, and that lots of small changes put together can have a big impact. We are looking for all different types of people to be involved, whether you just want to save money, become healthier or have a strong interest in reducing your carbon footprint, we’d encourage you to sign up. We are sure everyone involved will benefit from the experience.”

Residents will be asked to attend a series of online interactive workshops over six months which focus on three key areas – Transport, Energy, Home & Food. Participants will identify personal (cont p 8)

(cont) goals which they can achieve over a number of months and assess the impact on their lives and their carbon footprint. Throughout the Making Changes study experts will be on hand to provide specialist advice, help and practical solutions around the key themes and support them to achieve their goals. Participants will also be encouraged to undertake a carbon assessment at the start of the process to find out how much carbon they currently produce, repeating the process at the end to see whether their changes have made a difference.

This study will help identify what changes people can make to their lives that will help them achieve their own personal goals and contribute to a reduced carbon footprint for the district.

The council is looking for residents of all different ages and backgrounds who live within the Teignbridge area. You do not need previous experience of attending a workshop and do not need to have knowledge or an interest in climate change or reducing your carbon footprint. Workshops will run between June 2023 and January 2024. In return, residents will receive vouchers up to the value of £100 to spend on a range of local food producers.

[To get involved complete our online registration form.](#)

[Find out more about the Making Changes study.](#)

Teignbridge District Council is working closely with partner agencies to deliver the project including [ACT - Action on Climate in Teignbridge](#).

All items for
July/Aug
Coastline to Ed-
itor by 25th
June please.

Ladies' Lunch

@ Amelia's
Cofton, 12 for
12.30
June 20th
July 18th

Did you miss it?
The special

Coronation
Coastline?



There is currently no Rector or Licensed member of the clergy in our three churches. Services are being taken by the Ministry Team (Lay Ministers and retired priests). The service rota is being put together by the Revd Helen Bays.

Contact details during the Vacancy are as follows.

Church Office 01626 864322. usually open Tuesday and Thursday mornings. At other times messages can be left. st.gregs@btinternet.com.

Baptism and Marriage—enquiries should be made to the Church Office as above.

Funerals—contact Lay Minister Mrs Margaret Noel—01626 863148; oldstokeroad57@outlook.com

Other urgent or pastoral enquiries

Please contact one of the Lay Ministers:

Margaret Noel: 01626 863148 Will Halse: 01626 866054 Ceri Lee: 07739 936286

- St Mary's Cofton: If you would like to receive regular news from St Mary's, please contact the Churchwarden, Valerie Jeffery, 01626 890401, valerie@coftonholidays.co.uk
- **St Mary's Hall bookings:** Rachel Hammond; 07713 929148; bookstmaryshall1@gmail.com

Website: www.cofe-in-dawlish.org.uk

Coastline Editor and Benefice Eco Champion

Revd Preb Christine Curd, 07771842334; prebchris2020@gmail.com;

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