

As we continue in Lent please remember the Lent Lunches and the Mission Community Lent Course. There are flyers at the back of the church with details of both.



**Mothers' Sunday is March 11<sup>th</sup>.** This year we will be in the Church, not the Village Hall of which we have seen quite a bit recently! Please come from **9.30** to enjoy making posies in our new Church Room. There will be a Family Type (not Communion) Service at **10.00**, similar to services in previous years, then refreshments will be served, and for those who wish to stay on, there will be a shortened form of Holy Communion without music at **11.00**. Again, there are flyers - invite friends and neighbours of all ages.

*Young or old, family or single with memories happy or sad.*

*Children come and make a posy to make your Mum feel glad.*

*Others may want a posy to take, to give to a neighbour or friend,*

*Or to place in memory of a loved one, whose life has come to its end.*

**Our AGM will be on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March** over a cup of coffee after church. We realise that quite a few will be away that weekend so a special encouragement to all who can to come and stay for the meeting. Only those on the electoral roll of the church are entitled to speak or vote, although others are welcome to attend. Remember that the District Church Council oversees the life of the church; everything from the finance to the building, to the services, to the ministry, so this is your chance to come and be part of what happens.

**Annual Report**, including financial report – copies are available for every household represented on the electoral roll. Please help yourself from the back of church. If you are not on the electoral roll, but wish to enrol of this year, Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March is the last day when you may do so. Ask if you can't see the forms.



**Car Parking.** A household very near the church has offered a parking space for those who may find walking up to the car park difficult. If you are interested, please see Chris. If you are able to drive but find the hill difficult, please don't be put off from attending.

### Holy Week and Easter

**Palm Sunday** – the weekend when we lose an hour's sleep. Please note that the Palm Sunday service will be at **10.30 British Summer Time**, although it will feel like 9.30 to us!



**Holy Week.** This year the Mission Community will be providing reflective prayer station opportunities in the different churches. St George's is excused from being a host this year as we will still not be completely organised behind the scenes and will be busy planning for the Bishop's visit. However, we are still very much included. The churches will be open for interactive reflective prayer as follows:

**St Mary's Cofton, Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March; St Paul's Starcross, Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March**

**St Gregory's Dawlish, Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March**, all from 6.30 to 7.30

Also on the Wednesday afternoon there will be the regular meeting of **Forget me nots.**

**Maundy Thursday 7 pm** informal shared meals with Holy Communion at St Gregory's & St Paul's.

**Good Friday** there will be the United Churches Act of Witness around the centre of Dawlish, starting at 12 noon. It is likely to end at the bandstand but with a shorter service there than before. A gentle reminder that this is not intended to be the prime act of devotion for Christians, for which people should turn to services in the churches, but Christians uniting in witness to the town.



**Good Friday – 2 pm – in St George's**, a service of reflection with hymns, followed at **3.30 by the Good Friday Garden** (see below)

– 1<sup>st</sup> April – Holy Communion services at 8.00 (BCP) and 9.30



**Messy Church** – will meet in the Church on **Weds 7<sup>th</sup> March at 4.00** and also on **Good Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 3.30**. This will be a smaller version of what we usually do with hot cross buns and focus on making the Easter Garden and possibly painting Easter Eggs. The



dates for the Messy Meetings in the late spring and summer have not yet been fixed.

**Ladies that Lunch** – the next lunch will be after the Bishop's visit in April. **Forget me Not** – We decided to cancel the planned Dementia Friends session on 28<sup>th</sup> February due to traffic chaos in Dawlish and Exeter and also due to the severe cold. Please look out for the new date which will be fixed soon.

**8.00 BCP Holy Communion please note changes of date and time and special event for all.**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April, Easter Sunday – 8.00** – obviously to accommodate Easter. (not on 25<sup>th</sup> March)

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April – 8.30** followed by “breakfast” in the Church Room. This will be the only service of Holy Communion in the Benefice on this day. It will be followed at **10.00 in Holcombe Village Hall** by a “Songs of Praise” service **for the whole Mission Community**. to which we welcome, **Barry Dugmore**, the **Diocesan Missioner**. Please see Chris with offers to provide cereal, tea and toast in the Church Room.



**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April – “Stepping Stones” – Another date for your diaries.- a Kenn Deanery event. A workshop at St Mary’s Hall, Dawlish Warren,**

Would you like to see children and young people in church? Would you pray for an “all age” church community? How and why are young people different? Please sign the list at the back of the church if you wish to attend. Numbers are needed to plan the day.

### **Dedication of the new Church Rooms, Consecration of Garden of Remembrance extension**

We are delighted that the Bishop of Exeter, the Rt Revd Robert Attwell, is joining us for 3 hours on the early evening of **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April**. The first part of the time will be by invitation, but we will have a Songs of Praise type service at 6.15. or 6.30, and everyone is welcome and invited to this. Come early to get a seat! There will be more details of this in the middle of March. In the meantime, if you have any music or hymns that you think should be sung, or any Bible or other readings that you think are appropriate, please let Chris know of any suggestions by 11<sup>th</sup> March. Also, at the consecration, which will take place as a separate service before the Songs of Praise, we propose to remember by name those whom we would normally remember at the service of Remembering and Hope. The only names automatically on the list will be those for whom funerals have been held by St George’s in the last 2 years. If you wish a loved one’s name to be remembered, please pass the name to Chris **in writing before Palm Sunday**.

**Outstanding HAP work** – there is still quite a bit to be done. It is likely that by Easter the “well” will be capped over and this looks as if it will cost just under £2,000. We need to consider the front roof and north side roof and the possible upgrading of the electrical supply. Many of the details in the February TT still apply. Active consideration is being given to the shed to go behind the church to house garden equipment, paint pots etc. We still need to fit bespoke storage in the store room and generally do more work around the place. However, we are pleased to report that the first phase of storage in the vestry is now complete and we now know where the communion wafers, candlesticks, offertory bags and so on are stored! Thank you to all those who are still working hard on this and how grateful to God we are for all the donations and bequests, especially that of Harold Hayden. The annual report gives some reflections on this.



Samara asks for ongoing prayer for the medical team leader in Syria “Dr A” and for the development of the medical projects. Detailed news for prayer please visit the website or Facebook. Excerpts from a recent email, in which in the light of recent news, she outlined their **safeguarding policy**. *We are aware of many other groups distributing aid on the ground. Many have a reputation for issues in the way they work. We have one specific team on the ground - all have a criminal record check and are referenced more fully than anyone would be in the UK. We are in daily contact with them. We spend many hours planning each project to ensure that we carry them out to the highest standards. We work with small teams from different communities, so we can regulate them better as there is little chance of anyone ignoring anything they feel is inappropriate. All distribution and assessment teams have a 50% female presence. We separate the work into different stages: the team collecting data about people in need have no authority to decide who will receive the aid and we don’t distribute to all listed. The team who assess and distribute are not connected to those they are meet and must follow our criteria for assessment and procedures of working. The team who make up the deliveries in the warehouse do not know those who receive each bag. Three employees need to be present at any one time in the warehouse so there is no opportunity for any of them to abuse their access to our aid. Each team works independently the others and help to regulate each other. Almost all our distributions are supervised by an official who is completely independent. Afterwards, we have full lists of all recipients and an independent person contacts a random sample for feedback. It is essential to us that we regulate every aspect of our work closely. Sadly, humanitarian aid has gained a poor reputation on the ground in Syria for many different reasons. We set ourselves apart, and any NGO's on the ground find our way of working laborious and time consuming so prefer not to work with our teams. **NB the knitting basket has appeared again at the back of church!***