

Tuesday at Ten – Pause for Prayer

The church is now open again during the day. Carole Comber will lock it at 4.30 pm. If you are going to be in church past 4.30 pm please lock up and let Carole (863290) know. Our thanks to Carole for this.

Dedication of the New Rooms by the Bishop of Exeter – Thursday 12th April early evening.

What's on in February

Sunday 4th	9.30	First Sunday Service
Tuesdays 6 th , 20 th , 27 th	9.40	Quiet Prayer 10.00 Pause for Prayer
	10.30	Holy Communion
Wednesday 7 th	4.00	Messy Church in the Village Hall
Sundays 11th, 18th, 25th	9.30	Sung Holy Communion
Ash Wednesday, 14th	Holy Communion 10.00 am at St Gregory's, 7.00 pm at St Paul's Starcross	
Monday 19 th	12 noon	WW1 Commemoration, Reginald Bright
	12 to 2.00	Lent Lunch for Christian Aid, Strand Hall, Dawlish
Wednesday 21 st	2.00	MC Lent Course – Tuning into God, finding your wavelength in prayer. St Greg's upper room.
Monday 26 th	12 to 2.00	Lent Lunch – either Strand Hall or Methodist Church, Dawlish
Wednesday 28 th	2.00	Lent Course, see 21 st – Speak Lord, your servant is listening
	2.30	Forget-me-nots, St Mary's Hall, Dawlish Warren. This is a



special afternoon as it features a Dementia Friends Session after the short time of worship; Unfortunately, there is a clash of events, but these things happen. The Dementia Friends session is lead by Sally Farrant from the Diocesan Office of Social Responsibility. I have known her for nearly 20 years and know that the session will be very worthwhile. She assures me that it will be suitable for a mixed audience and we extend a warm welcome to all who might like to learn more.

Open Church "Drop in" Sessions for the village in the Church Rooms.

Tuesday 27th February 2.30 to 4. Hosts, Willi Armes, Chris and others.

Saturday 3rd March 3 to 4 – this will take the place of the Tea Service and all who attend this are welcome to afternoon tea at the Church. Hosts, Margaret Behenna, Chris and others.

The works on the Church Rooms have generated a fair amount of interest, and those living in the village have had to put up with some nuisance as the work progressed. An invitation will go to every house in the village itself, to come and enjoy tea and cake and have a look. If you would like to offer provisions or catering help, please see Willi or Margaret. See Chris if you would like to help in offering a welcome.

8.00 BCP Holy Communion starts again this month, but please see advance warning of changes:

Sunday 25th February – 8.00

Sunday 1st April, Easter Sunday – 8.00 – obviously to accommodate Easter.

Sunday 29th April – 8.30 followed by "breakfast" in the Church Room. More of this next month, but 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.

Taking "The Next Step". – Another date for your diaries.- a Kenn Deanery event.

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? **A workshop at St Mary's Hall, Dawlish Warren, Saturday April 21st** from 10.00am. Lunch included. More information to follow.

The next Messy Church is Wednesday 7th March at 4 pm probably in the Church Room!

Ladies Lunch – next date will be in March and will be announced on the pew sheet.



Do you pay tax and still use the envelopes? It would be of great practical help to us if you would consider using the **Parish Giving Scheme**. Please see Chris, Peter Dummett or Derek King for more details. **STOP PRESS – The Benefice will be gaining a curate.** Tim Collins will be joining us in the summer, first as a Licensed Lay Worker and then ordained in September. He and his wife will be living off John Nash Drive. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Sunday 18th March. Electoral roll forms available at back of church. Please pray for the right people for the right roles. THIS IS VITAL.**

Samara's Aid Appeal Boxes of Aid were distributed in the area of Deir Ez Zor recently liberated from IS; a very challenging task. "Three containers are being converted to "meditainers". On 4th Feb the World Health Organisation visited the first new hospital project, Al Rahmie which means "Mercy" and pledged support by providing some additional equipment and supplies. We have also been provided with a free building for our team to use alongside our Meditainers by the Ministry of Religion in Syria, for the patients who need to be hospitalised. These are such precious blessings which don't come easily in a place like Syria. We are so thankful! Over the last few days our team have been carrying out practical assessments of local doctors and nurses we have shortlisted, to choose the most appropriate to join our team. It is essential to use as many local qualified doctors and nurses as possible to provide employment for those who will serve their community long term. The 2nd small hospital will be called Al A'adel , "Justice" and the 3rd will be Al Eeman. "Faithfulness"." Please pray for "Dr A" the project director in Syria. He faces huge challenges.

We continue to get to know our new Church Rooms. There is still "snagging" to do and the work has revealed issues that were going to emerge sooner or later. **The electricity supply** may need updating but for the time being it is safe. However, we have been warned not to use all the overhead heaters at once or else we risk blowing fuses. Modern regulations need to be enforced with regards to fire safety (smoke detectors, emergency lighting and signs) and insulation standards. We have also had to use stronger (and more expensive) electric cabling than anticipated. **The roof over the new foyer** is in quite a bad state and may last up to 5 years but may not. One of the directors of Cofton Country, (son of Cofton's Church Warden Valerie) arranged for our gutters on the main north roof to be cleared. He had been very grateful to take away some of the stones that had come out of the wall and that were excess to requirements. I have relayed our thanks. **However, the first concern is the new water feature.** Is it an outside baptistry? A fish pond? I took a phone call from the builders the last week in Jan to hear – "Chris, we have a problem, we can't finish the tarmacking as a sink hole has opened up!" I confess my heart sank along with the hole. They had been applying the first "patching" coat of tarmac and tamping it down when the ground gave way. It had been noted by some that the ground had sunk slightly there, so we just thank God it did not give way when someone was standing on top. You can see the remains of the tarmac patch. It is likely to be an old well as it is under the archway in the stone work over which we have often puzzled. Whatever it is, it needs to be dealt with and we need to take advice. Please do pray for wisdom for the HAP team as we deal with this.

The pictures show the site foreman, firstly holding up the pole to show its length, then demonstrating how far back it goes. The hole itself is about 3' or 4' deep, (well over a metre), extends under the arch, and the ground at the bottom of the hole is soft. We have dubbed this "St George's Well!"



Now for more enjoyable things and we praise God not only for the donors and legatees so far, but for the ongoing generosity. Donations have covered the cost of the loo roll holder, the second kettle, the baby change unit and some of the chairs. Pans for the kitchen, a microwave and

box files for the vestry have been offered. The Celia Trust has covered the cost of a new flag pole; cheaper than repainting the old one. More mats will appear. Thank you everyone. Hopefully order emerges! **Extra expenditure still up for sponsorship:** (1) Wall units in flower area: £240; (2) Blinds to the windows and back door, supplied and fitted: £311.84; (3) Fitted storage on vestry wall and insets in stair well: @ £1,500; (4) upgrade to kitchen @ £1,500; (5) new desk for vestry £50.

We will also need new noticeboards; mirrors; wall cupboard for WC; back door mat; work top savers for the kitchen work surface. Over the next few weeks you will see gradual changes and will be things we haven't thought of yet! Remember **Fair Trade** and **Plastic Reduction** ; let's work towards phasing out single use plastic, including glitter (!) and use refillable bottles for cleaning materials.

