

Advent Sunday Churches Together Services: 12.30 on Dawlish Bandstand; 6.30 St Agatha's.

December Sunday Morning Services, at 9.30 9th – Sung Holy Communion; 16th Said Holy Communion; 23rd Said Holy Communion (BCP) **NOT AT 8.00**

Sunday 30th 10.00 – Benefice Service for our 4 churches at **St Gregory's**. Chris is preaching.



Tuesdays 4th and 11th - 9.40 Quiet Prayer; **10.00 Pause for Prayer**; 10.30 Holy Communion (BCP on 11th)
The next Tuesday morning prayers and services will be on January 9th, pattern as above, with BCP HC. The same timings on 15th, and 29th January with Sacred Space at 10.00 on 22nd January.

Drop Ins 2-4 Church Rooms: Wednesday 5th and 12th (the latter to include cleaning and assessing our Christmas decorations. We might even decorate the tree in time for the Carol Service.) You are more than welcome to Drop In to be social, but it will not be as calm as on 5th! January dates are 9th and 23rd.

Christmas Tree Festival, St Gregory's, Thurs 13· Fri 14 (11-4). Sat 15th from 11 with free concert at 3.30. Donations to charity after expenses.



Messy Church Saturdays 8th December and 12th January at 2.30

Bible Study (Jane and Brian Pearce), Holcombe Lunch (Pearces, Mike and Pam Burden, Derek and Mary King), Eat and Enlightenment at The Castle (Pearces, Burdens, Mike K etc) – if you don't know about any of these exciting opportunities, or if you want to check the timings over the festive season, then please talk to those whose names appear. If you don't know who they are, then please talk to Chris!



The Ladies' Lunch is back by popular demand! The first date is booked for **Thursday 3rd Jan, from 12 noon**, Amelia's, Cofton Country. Just turn up. Choose what you want from the standard menus. Upstairs in the pool complex. Lift.

Parking on site. We will be in the far corner next to the windows overlooking the outside pool.

Christmas "Specials"



Carol Service 4 pm Sunday 16th December

Followed by seasonal refreshment

Service of the Longest Night, Friday 21st at 4 pm.

Christmas always seems to be accompanied by jolly songs, ringing bells, and the expectation that you will have a good time. But that's not how it feels for many people. Maybe your year has been hard for whatever reason - (bereavement, illness, estrangement, worry) – and Christmas seems to highlight the difficulties. Or maybe in an over busy life, you just want space to reflect, recall, regroup. Whatever the reason, whatever the need, you are welcome. We hope that you will find the space and hope which the Christmas story offers

Christmas Eve 4 pm Crib Service/Scratch Nativity. *Children are invited to come dressed as shepherds or angels. Children of all ages (9 months to 99 years!) enjoy this service.*

Followed by a light seasonal tea, bring and share, all welcome until 5.45.

6 pm Holy Communion for Christmas

Christmas Day 9.30 Church Family Gathering - Carols round the crib

Children are invited to bring a present they have received (not too noisy!!) to show us all.



Christmas Collections and Offerings.

During the Sunday morning services and at 6 pm on Christmas Eve, there will be the usual offering for the mission and ministry of the church. In addition, after all the "Christmas Specials" there will be the opportunity to give to a retiring collection which will be shared between 3 causes, **HITS** (Homeless in Teignbridge which operates the local foodbank), **Children's Hospice SW**, **The Nineveh Seed Project** (FRRME, see notice board at back of church, resettling Christian villagers back home on the Nineveh plain after they fled from IS and assisting in creating jobs, mini industry again).

Follow the Star is the Church of England's Christmas and Epiphany "campaign". Here is the message from the Archbishops.



For many of us, Christmas brings up so many emotions, memories and expectations. We have one nativity story, but it can seem like we all have very different Christmases. For you it might be a time of joy and togetherness. Or perhaps it's all about planning and to-do lists. Many others can find it a sad and lonely time – nagged by the feeling that your Christmas is not

like those ‘perfect’ ones we see in the media. But just like the unexpected assortment of people who were invited to meet the baby Jesus, #FollowTheStar doesn’t ask you to be perfect. It says: *come just as you are to take the life-changing Christmas journey. Wherever you are this Christmas, you are invited to follow the star and to be with Jesus. You are welcome. You are deeply known and truly loved.* Mary and Joseph and all those caught up in the Christmas story were surprised by the astonishing way that God chose to live among us. Each Christmas we are reminded of God’s longing to surprise us with his gift of joy, love and new life. It’s the greatest present we can receive and share with others!. *Archbishops Justin Welby, John Sentamu.*

<https://www.churchofengland.org/followthestar> Sign up for daily “thoughts” into your email in box. There will be some of the Follow the Star booklets which give readings from Christmas to Epiphany available at the back of Church. Also other helpful literature, so please look out for them.

Sunday 6th January 9.30 First Sunday Service for Epiphany; **Epiphany Party, for the Holiday Coast**



Mission Community, St Mary’s Hall, Dawlish Warren 3.30 – 5. Accessible building, ample parking, at the far end of the inland Council car park. Games (bring a favourite for adults or children), social time, bring and share tea, short informal act of worship to finish. All are welcome, all ages. Perhaps bring a gift to help make a Care Pack for Samara’s Aid (see below)

Sundays 13 and 20 January, Epiphany 2 & 3, Sung Holy Communion 9.30. 20th – Revd Sue Knight

Sunday 27 January 8.00 Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30 Sung Holy Communion. This is the Sunday of the annual CTDD Pulpit Exchange and we welcome the Methodist minister, the Revd Catherine Wagstaff. Sue Knight will lead both services as Chris has been asked to take the service at Starcross. Please continue to pray for the new appointment to fill the vacancy in the staff team.

Sunday 3 February 9.30 First Sunday Service for **Candlemas**. (We celebrate the infant Jesus being presented in the Temple and Simeon’s declaration that he was the light to lighten the nations of the world.)

Please wear something flame coloured! Could be a tie, handkerchief, scarf, or a larger garment!

Advance Notices

2019 Lent Groups are likely to be Tuesday afternoons and Thursday evenings. Ash Weds – 6 March. The **Combined Benefice service** which should have been on the last Sunday in March has been moved as this date is Mothering Sunday. The next Combined Service will be on “Low Sunday”, **28th April**, at 10.00 here, in **St George’s Holcombe**. It will be a Communion Service.

Churches Together in Dawlish and District. As well as the ministers meeting together, there is a “Forum” of Church reps which meets 4/6 times a year, usually over lunch. There is a need for a Forum Secretary to take the minutes and send out Agendas etc. If anyone feels they could help or knows anyone else, please speak to Chris or Ann Leigh.

100 Years On

A big thank you to everyone who made this possible. It is difficult to single people out, but special thanks to Mike and Marilyn who did all sorts of things from looking after the Quilt to finding the Trench cake recipe. They have also produced a lovely photo book of the occasion which will be in the Church Library.

Items for the next Samara’s Aid appeal may be left in the back of Church from Christmas Eve to January 8th. Remember items must be worth the transport costs and be gifts of love. Why not ask friends or neighbours if they have donations, or use Nectar points to buy new? Especially underwear and men’s. Or buy a small item each time you shop. At the end of November Samara visited Syria. She worked in one of the small field hospitals (she is a highly qualified nurse) and oversaw donations in Ghouta. under siege until last Spring. She saw the container which was packed in Somerset being unloaded, so the contents of “our” boxes etc have just been distributed there! There is just too much to include here. Photos will be on the board in Church, but this 18 month old girl played in the mud while her parents worked in a polytunnel. Flyers will be in the back of church with fuller information for the distribution. This time the Smiley bags have been replaced by School bags and some specific stationery can be contributed as well. **Gifts for Epiphany.** At the Epiphany Party (see above) we want to pack a couple of Baby Care Packs so people can see what is involved. To bring a gift for a baby at Epiphany, even if you can’t come to the party (which would be a shame!) please take the gift tag with your chosen item to purchase from the back of Church. **Knitting** – now we have finished knitting poppies, we can turn our attention to knitting for the Appeal. 6” squares to be sewn into a blanket or any garment however simple for any age or size, but not “fish and chip” jumpers. These are designed as a single layer for new borns in Africa and do not suit what is needed in the Middle East. We have been given some wool, so if you want some, it is in the store room.

