

DAWLISH COAST MISSION COMMUNITY

A newsletter brought to you every fortnight throughout the year with information from the churches of St Gregory's (Dawlish); St George's (Holcombe); St Mary's (Cofton) and St Paul's (Starcross).

Issue date: Sunday 22 June 2025

www.cofe-in-dawlish.org.uk

ANGELS AND STRANGERS

Nadia Bolz-Weber is an American minister who was 29 years old and 6 months pregnant with her first child when her (former) husband and she moved to dry land wheat farming country for his first job as a Lutheran pastor; a town of 5,000 people in Eastern Washington (USA), several hours drive from what felt like anything. Nadia reminisces about that time, here: "I remember thinking that since the town had a library, a gym and access to an NPR (National Public Radio) station, I could make a go of it. *Maybe*. I had, at this point in my life, only ever *driven through* a small town, never stayed the night in one, much less moved there without knowing a soul.

The two and a half years we spent there were not unhappy ones, my days busy with nursing a baby (and eventually conceiving and birthing a second), washing the diapers, making our meals and hanging out the laundry on the backyard clothesline. The people at the church were kind folks, and I did my best to find a place for myself in a place I did not belong or understand.

I was not unhappy, as I said, but I was profoundly lonely. Which is why Sally meant so much to me.

Sally was the town's earth mama, the one who knew how to make anything, grow anything, fix anything. Her home had a warm feel to it, filled with herbs, knitting projects and laughter. She found bugs, especially beetles, to be beautiful, knew how to cut hair even though hers was so long, and had a stash of chocolate chips in a jelly jar she'd pull out when I visited, knowing I have a sweet tooth.

When this big city liberal tattooed smart mouthed very pregnant girl showed up, who was also somehow married to the new Lutheran pastor, Sally took me in. She taught me to knit, would watch the baby when I took a night class, and just about always seemed to be ok with me stopping by. Her home was a soft landing place. At Sally's I didn't have to be on my best behaviour.

She loved me. And let the reader understand, I had done precious little "personal work" at this point in time. I was a LOT. But still, even in all my bossy anger, dysregulation and self-centeredness, she loved me. And that love was nothing short of manna. Manna; enough to make a difficult time feel survivable.

I'm telling you all of this because last week I got to see Sally at an event for the first time in 24 years and tell her, albeit inadequately, what she meant to me. I was too immature at the time to be as grateful for it as I am now. Some things only come after getting them wrong enough. Of course she came bearing gifts: crocheted vegetables and something she'd sewn that I couldn't identify right away. "It's a dead house fly!" she said with cheer. And all I could offer her in exchange, was to say the words, "Thank you for loving me during a time when I really needed it. You'll never know how much it mattered". She just hugged me for a long time, said I love you, and went and found her seats.



There's a verse in Hebrews that says, *Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.*

Yes, I was the stranger - but Sally was the angel. And I may not have felt as grateful as I should have at the time, but I can feel it now. We get to do that. We get to embody the gratitude we lacked when young (or the humility, or wisdom, or patience) and hopefully it leads us not just to expressing it when possible, but also to a sweet compassion for our younger selves who just did the best they could with what they had before they knew better."

Editor's Note: Nadia writes regularly on www.substack.com.

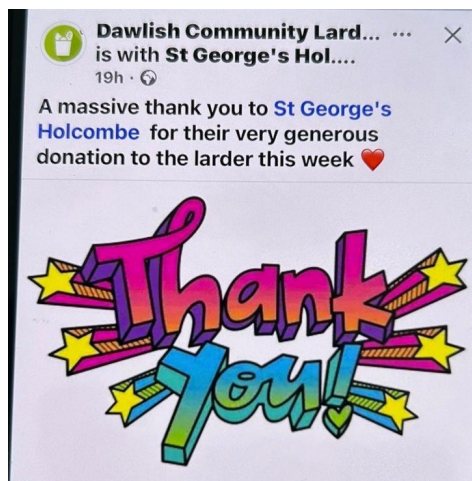
A RESPONSE FROM THE DIOCESE OF EXETER TO CONCERNS REGARDING THE FUTURE OF THE LAND KNOWN LOCALLY AS 'THE NEWHAY'

I am happy to confirm that this wonderful green space next to St Gregory's Church is Glebe Land owned by the Diocese of Exeter. We are happy to work with the Town Council, District Council, local church or other community group to find a short term or long term solution to ensuring the space continues to be available for the community. We have not been invited to attend the Town Council meeting on 2nd but could see if someone is available or to arrange a meeting at another time. My contact details are on the www.exeter.anglican.org website. I hope this gives a little clarity around ownership and the opportunity and possibilities we are happy to explore.

Andrew, Archdeacon of Exeter

THANK YOU TO ST.GEORGE'S

Back at the beginning of the month St George's, Holcombe were pleased to be able to deliver three large bags of food and toiletries to Dawlish Community Larder, and to receive this colourful thank you (*below*) from them on Facebook. If you would like to know more about the work of the Larder you can follow this link to their website [Help with Food | Helping Dawlish](#) or search for 'Dawlish Community Larder' on Facebook.



Church of England Parish Church in Dawlish presents....

A Mid-Summer Night's Theme!

An evening of music & song by four amazing groups from our local community.

St Gregory's Church Choir
One Accord
The High C's
Dawlish Rockwaves

Saturday 5th July 2025

at 6:00pm

**St Gregory's Church,
Dawlish**

Entry is free but donations will be welcomed on the night

Light refreshments provided during the interval

Proceeds from the concert will be for the benefit of the St Greg's Fabric Fund

ST. GREGORY'S CHURCH COFFEE MORNING



Come with friends or to meet new ones!

CUPPAS & CAKES

Promoting the St Greg's 200th Anniversary Celebration and Flower Festival in September 2025



Saturday 19th July

10am -12.30pm

Coffee, Tea and Cakes (to eat-in or takeaway)

PLUS: Bric-a-Brac Stall; Raffle; Kids' Craft Activities

EXETER CATHEDRAL PACKED FOR PENTECOST 'MAKING ROOM' SERVICE

Exeter Cathedral was packed with around 850 people from across Devon for the Thy Kingdom Come *Making Room* service on Pentecost Sunday.

The service, which explored themes of hospitality, welcome and inclusion was led by the Bishop of Exeter, the Rt. Rev'd Dr Mike Harrison and Dr Ysanne Marville, from Rediscover church in Exeter. It included contributions from representatives of different denominations in Devon. For the first time a translation app was used to enable people to hear the service in their own language. The service included music, prayers, a panel discussion and a talk.



The worship was led by singer songwriter Andy Flannagan and included his new song 'Making Room', written specially for the service. A children's choir from St Michael's and All Angels church in Heavitree also sang a John Rutter anthem at the start of the service. The Cathedral's main doors were opened to allow more people to hear the service outside.

You can read more about the service on the Diocesan website.

DO YOU FANCY A DAY OUT?

Join [Dawlish Community Transport](#) on our [Tuesday Trips](#)

Door to Door Transport

Picking you up/returning you to/from your home

JULY 2025:

1 st	Brixham	£19.00
8 th	Ashburton/Dartmoor	£15.50
15 th	Cockington Court, Torquay	£15.50
22 nd	Sidmouth/Donkey Sanctuary	£15.50
29 th	Dartmouth	£15.50

AUGUST 2025:

5 th	Otter Nurseries	£15.50
12 th	Buckfast Abbey/Butterfly Farm	£15.50
19 th	Mystery Trip	£19.50
26 th	Trago Mills	£12.50

SEPTEMBER 2025:

2 nd	Totnes	£15.50
9 th	IKEA/Dunelm	£12.50
16 th	St Marychurch/Babbacombe	£12.50
23 rd	Topsham/Dart's Farm	£12.50
30 th	Tavistock	£21.00

'BINGO & BUS'

Wednesday's 2nd JULY, 6th AUGUST, 3rd SEPTEMBER 2025

Arriving for 7.30pm/eyes down from 8.00pm at Ashcombe Village Hall
Vehicle available for Dawlish passengers who can benefit from Community Transport support (FREE for a limited time) - book in advance/limited spaces
Pick-up time confirmed on day of travel

For more information or to book please
Call the office on: 01626 888890
Barton Hill Car Park, Dawlish, Devon, EX7 9QH
www.dawlish-mobility.co.uk



Find us on [facebook](#)

A Quiet Day in the Bishop's Garden with St Clare of Assisi

10.30am - 3.30pm on Tuesday 19th August 2025

led by Demelza Henderson



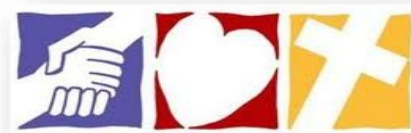
St Clare of Assisi lived a life of poverty, simplicity and prayer in the 13th century, sharing a deep love of God's creation with her contemporary, St Francis. The Bishop of Exeter has kindly offered his garden for this Quiet Day, which will explore aspects of Clare's life through prayer, poetry, music and, of course, her own writings. There will be plenty of silence throughout the day for you to reflect on how Clare's witness might continue to inspire your own Christian life today.

Demelza Henderson leads Quiet Days and longer residential retreats across the UK through her work with the *Association for Promoting Retreats*. She is also an Oblate of the Society of Our Lady of the Isles, which combines her love of contemplative prayer with her joy in the natural world.

Some practicalities:

- Location:** Bishop's Palace Garden, Palace Gate, Exeter, EX1 1HY
- Parking:** There is no parking at the Bishop's Palace; please use a public car park.
- Refreshments:** The day will start at 10am with tea/coffee. You will be able to use the kitchen to make your own drinks throughout the day, but please bring a packed lunch.
- Seating:** There are a few benches scattered around the Bishop's garden, but it would be helpful if you could bring your own fold-up chair or a rug if you are able.
- Toilet facilities** will be available inside the Bishop's Palace.
- Disabled Facilities** are limited; sadly the gravel paths and lawn are uneven and thus unsuitable for wheelchairs, but there is an accessible toilet inside for those who need it.
- Cost:** The day will cost £10 to cover expenses, payable in advance to Demelza.
- Bookings:** All bookings (and any other questions) must be made through Demelza, either by email on QuietDaysinDevon@gmail.com, or by phone on (01395) 272243.

SERVICES & EVENTS – 22nd June to 5th July 2025



Sunday 22nd June — 1st Sunday after Trinity

9.30am St George's – Morning Worship
9.30am St Paul's – Morning Worship
10am St Gregory's – Holy Communion
11.15am St Mary's – Holy Communion

Wednesday 25th June

10am St Gregory's - Midweek Holy Communion

Friday 27th June

12.30pm St Gregory's - Funeral of Michael Davenport

Sunday 29th June—Trinity 2 (Peter and Paul)

10.30am St Paul's, Starcross—United Benefice Service
There are no morning services at the other churches today
4pm St Gregory's - Choral Evensong, *followed by tea*

Wednesday 2nd July

10am St Gregory's - Midweek Holy Communion

DIARY DATES

JUNE

Tuesday 24th Little Greg's at St Gregory's, 9.30-11.30am
Julian Group at St Gregory's, 2pm
Carnival Volunteer's Evening
at the Swan Inn, 7.30pm

Wednesday 25th to Sunday 29th

Flower Festival at St Michael's, Teignmouth

Saturday 28th Craft Fair in the Strand Centre, 10am-2pm

JULY

Tuesday 1st Kids' Swap Shop at St Greg's, 9-11am
Little Greg's at St Greg's, 9.30-11.30am
PCC Meeting at St Greg's, 7.30pm

Saturday 5th Midsummer Night's Theme
(Choirs Concert)

St Gregory's, 6pm - see page 2 for details

If you would like any support, or someone to talk to, or you know of someone else who does, please contact one of the following:

Revd Linda Cronin (Rector): 01626 927281 or email: revdlinda@icloud.com **Revd Patrick Parkes (Minister at Starcross):** 01626 685709 epp@sky.com **Steve Cronin (LLM):** 07817 678774; **Will Halse (LLM):** 01626 866054; **Ceri Lee (LLM):** 07739 936286.

Safeguarding Officer at St Greg's: Tess Hickson 07376 658440

tessh@btinternet.com

Information and contact details for Safeguarding Officers in the other churches can be found on our website [here](#)



TUESDAY PRAYER MEETING ON ZOOM

All welcome to a half hour of prayer online on Tuesdays at 9am.

Just click on [this link](#) or go to <https://zoom.us/join> and enter:

Meeting ID: 575 020 5964
and Passcode: 850653.

The Lady Chapel is available for quiet prayer from 9.30am, before the 10am Sunday service at St Greg's.



This is for ANYONE who would like to join those praying for the ensuing service and those taking any part in it.

St Mary's Church Cofton

is open throughout May and June from Monday to Friday
10am – 3pm,
and with a Coffee Morning every Tuesday from 10-12noon.

FOLLOW THESE LINKS

St Greg's [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#)
St George's [Facebook](#)
St Mary's [Facebook](#)
St Paul's [Facebook](#)



CHILDRENS' CARNIVAL COMPS

Carnival is on from 9-15th August. There are two children's competitions being run ahead of the week. Both with June deadlines. There's 'Design an Ice Cream'. Entry forms can be picked up at the Local Scoop. *Deadline 30th June.* Or does a child you know fancy being the first 'Dawlish Junior Town Crier'? If so, pick up an entry form at Dawlish Library or the Manor House. *Deadline 27th June.*