

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 5th May 2024

THY KINGDOM COME

Will Halse writes:

Linda has a gift for using practical aids to help us respond to her sermons. These have included a piece of cloth to represent something we were giving up to God. We each brought our cloth forward and laid it on the Communion table. On Good Friday we were given two sticks to make a cross; and then she told us to break them, remembering how Jesus was broken, and how he died for us. Then on Easter Sunday we lit a candle from the Easter candle during Communion to receive the light of Christ for ourselves.

On the fourth Sunday in Easter (April 21st) Linda baptised Charlie Parsons in our Greg's@10 service. She invited us to write words of prayer for Charlie on small coloured wooden bricks. And then we brought them forward and together we built a wall of prayer for him. That was such a good picture of prayer. It was simple – just a few words. It was something we each did as individuals. It was something we did together. What words can we pray? Few words and simple when we are alone. What words can we say when we pray together? Few words, simple words. Can we step out in faith and lay our prayers before God?

Those of us who were in St. Greg's for Linda's first Greg's@10 service will remember that she spoke about her return to DEVON – and she used each letter to stand for an important part of her vision for our church life. The N was the most memorable for me, probably because it came with a bit of a twist – it was N for Pray. How does that work? Well we **Need** to Pray! You have probably worked out where I am going. If we haven't got a prayer we sure need one!

We are approaching Ascension Day, 40 days after Easter Sunday. It falls on May 9th this year. It's a public holiday in Finland. Do come to our special Ascension Day service at St. Greg's at 7 pm. Pentecost Sunday is the birthday of the church and will be ten days later, on May 19th. Each year since 2016 there has been a Worldwide call to pray under the banner 'Thy Kingdom Come', words from the Lord's prayer. This began very simply - in the ten days from Ascension Day until Pentecost we are all encouraged to pray for five people we know to come to know Jesus. So let's pray for five.

But under the banner of Thy Kingdom Come there are many more things that we can pray for. So let's do that, too. Let's make an extra effort to pray 'Thy Kingdom come' for those ten days. We can do this at home, or when we are out walking; at work or at rest. We can pray alone or with others, in a church, in a pub, in a shop, on Zoom or on the phone. In simple faith and with simple words let's pray 'Thy Kingdom come' between Ascension Day and Pentecost in this year of our Lord Jesus 2024.

With love in Christ, Will



As part of 'Thy Kingdom Come' there will be a 'phone in' each day for this Mission Community.
At 12noon from Fri 10th May up to and including Sat 18th May, just phone 01200 480091 to join in with saying the Lord's Prayer together.

YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!

Many members of the community desperately need support overcoming loneliness and isolation.

'Volunteering in Health' are pleased to be able to

help, with an individual approach, to help them move forward with their lives. Here is a rewarding opportunity for those of you who are willing to become Face to Face Befrienders or Drivers, visiting members of your community or driving them to hospital and GP appointments. From just one hour per week – YOU can help people in your local community to live fuller and less lonely lives. Volunteers are asked to give as little or as much time as they like, playing such a vital role.

All volunteers are given training and the opportunity to become part of a larger volunteer group. Volunteering has proved so beneficial in terms of mental health and wellbeing. Volunteers meet regularly at local cafes in the Teignbridge locality – perhaps you would like to find out more? As Volunteer Coordinator with 'Volunteering in Health', **Annabelle Murray (Volunteer Coordinator)** would be delighted to meet with you to have a coffee and a chat about the very rewarding opportunities.

For more information, or to know the date and location of the next coffee catch up, have a look at the newsletter on the Volunteering in Health website [click here](#) or email Annabelle at annabelle.murray@volunteeringinhealth.co.uk. You can also find them on Facebook. Alternatively call **01626 771695** or **pop in for a chat any Tuesday from 10.00am-2.00pm at the ViH Hub based at Teignmouth Hospital**, Mill Lane, Teignmouth, TQ14 9BQ. The 'Volunteering in Health' Team hope to have the opportunity to chat with you soon.

TURN THE TIDE, DAWLISH (as you know from the last

Newsletter) is happening this year at the beginning of the Big Green Week on Sat 8th and Sun 9th June and we are going to be involved on the **Saturday (10.30am to 3.30pm)**. It's World Oceans Day and will feature plenty of activity including a true-to-life 50ft (18m) inflatable

Sperm Whale on the Lawn! We'll be in the marquee to give information

about what we do for Eco Church, including the Kids' Swap Shop at St Greg's. **Please let Revd Linda or Chris Curd (07771 842334) know if you're able to offer an hour or more on the day to help out.** You can read more about the Turn the Tide event itself on their website [click here](#)



A SHORT POEM ON ROTAS

Written (scarily!) by Artificial Intelligence

In schedules penned with thoughtful care,
Helpers listed, a team so rare.
Each task assigned, a role to bear,
In rotas formed, they're always there.

A dance of time, in shifts they share,
To ease the load, in work's great square.
With hands to help, and hearts to dare,
In rotas' rhythm, a bond declare.

See aside for how you could join a rota!

COULD YOU HELP AT ST. GREGORY'S?

The rota for preparing the 'after service' coffee on Sundays could do with a few more names on it. This is not an onerous commitment as it means your turn only comes round approx. every 6 weeks, and if you can't make it on your allotted Sunday then you can swap. **Speak to Leena or message her on 07779 968543.**



In addition, we are grateful for the core group of people who now help at **Kids Swap Shop** which runs for two hours on Tuesday mornings twice a month plus on an occasional Saturday. However, we could do with a few more names to call on, on an 'ad hoc' basis when regular 'staff' members are unable to come.

Speak to Ceri or message her on 07739 936286

“ALL SHALL BE WELL AND ALL SHALL BE WELL AND ALL MANNER OF THING SHALL BE WELL”

Helen Bays writes:

This is probably the best known saying of Julian of Norwich whose festival we celebrate on 8th May. This was the date in 1373 when aged around 30 and mortally ill, the woman who came to be known as Mother Julian, experienced a series of ‘shewings’ of Christ crucified.



We know little of Julian’s earlier life, her family or even her name, but we do know that after this profound experience, she recovered her health. In time she became an anchoress, living for the rest of her life in a cell within the church of St Julian in Norwich, from which she took the name by which we know her. She spent many years reflecting on the sixteen shewings and eventually wrote about them in two editions of ‘Revelations of Divine Love’. This is the first book known to be written by a woman in English and has become a spiritual classic. In recent years it has been translated from the original middle English into modern language, so we are able to read for ourselves Julian’s insights into God’s love revealed by Christ on the Cross, in which, through all suffering, she found deep joy.

Her reconstructed cell has become a centre for prayer and ‘Julian groups’ have spread throughout the world. Ours is not affiliated to the organisation, but in our monthly meetings, we follow their pattern of an opening prayer and reading (often but not always taken from Julian’s writings), followed by a period of silence before a closing prayer. It is a simple format but we all find that, counter-intuitive though it might seem, it is easier to enter into deep silence in the company of others than in our own at home where we can be too easily distracted.

We meet in St Gregory’s at 2pm on the 4th Tuesday of each month (next meeting 28th May) and welcome people from across the benefice or beyond. On Wednesday 8th May, we will also celebrate the festival of Julian of Norwich at the midweek Communion in St Gregory’s at 10am.

If you would like to know more, do come along or speak to Janice Smith (on 01626 866935) or to me, Helen Bays (on 01626 863098).

THY KINGDOM COME PENTECOST CELEBRATION ***Exeter Cathedral, Sunday 19th May, 6pm***

‘Renovation’ is an ecumenical event which will be an inspiring evening of prayer, learning and worship led by Bishop Jackie and Bishop James.

Music will be led by Andy Flannagan, and there will be input from Tearfund’s Ruth Valerio and Churches Together’s Rev’d Dr Ben Aldous. It’s hoped that the worship together will draw you closer to God, and inspire you to pray for God’s kingdom here in Devon.

Please [click here](#) to book your free ticket on Eventbrite.



ADVANCE NOTICE:

The Telephone Service on Sunday 19th May will be at the earlier time of 4pm.

This is to avoid a clash with the special Renovation event at the Cathedral.

DAWLISH COMMUNITY LARDER

Mark Jones writes:

ROC (Redeeming Our Communities) Dawlish runs Dawlish Community Larder in support of local individuals and families struggling with food poverty through the cost-of-living crisis. In the two years from January 2022 we directly helped 2,000 local people in need, by providing emergency food and groceries, and provided surplus food to thousands more through our waste food deliveries to local schools.



We currently have a crowdfunding campaign, which runs until early June to seek funding for a community food waste coordinator. Aviva Insurance will match fund any donation made, pound for pound, up to a maximum of £250, so if you give £10, Aviva give £10 of their own money; if you give £100, Aviva match it with £100 - you get the idea. Here's the link where you can find out more and give, if you feel led by the Lord to help feed the hungry [click here](#)

Isaiah 58:10 ...if you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

God bless, Mark Jones (Local Coordinator, ROC Dawlish) 07729 998334

JOIN IN THE FUN AT THE DEVON COUNTY SHOW

Volunteers are being sought to help meet and greet people visiting the Churches Together area at the County Show from the 16-18 May.

The Diocese will be promoting [Mission Shed](#) and [Thy Kingdom Come](#), plus there'll be Cheeky Pandas children's resources and creative prayer ministry being offered. There'll be plenty of talking to people about Jesus and a whole lot more!

If you'd like to help out you'll get a free day ticket to the show and free parking.

To register an interest in volunteering at the show, please [click here](#) to fill out an enquiry form. Volunteers are particularly needed on Thursday 16th, and to help set down on Saturday 18th (4-6pm).



THE GATHERING YOUTH
Saturday 11 May from 6-9pm at
Belmont Church, Exeter

The Gathering Youth is a termly youth event in the heart of Devon, for anyone aged 12-18 years old. It aims to create a space for young people to connect with others, worship together and grow in their faith in Jesus. The theme for this year's event is 'Good God: Tough World', exploring how God can relate to us in a world with loss, pain and violence.

To book tickets, please [click here](#).

THE 'DEATHLY SILENCE': HOW TO BE A VOICE FOR NATURE'S VOICELESS

Sunday 5th May is 'Rogation Sunday'.

Hannah Eves (Policy and Campaigns Manager at A Rocha UK) takes a timely look at how churches can respond to the biodiversity crisis:



Experts are warning of a 'deathly silence' falling over the natural world as species numbers continue to plummet. As a soundscape recordist, Bernie Krause has been recording the sounds of the natural world for over 30 years. He has noticed changes in the density and variety of natural sounds, but in April last year his recordings unearthed something chilling – silence. The sound of nature had been snuffed out. It's what experts are calling the 'deathly silence'. Scientists who work with ecoacoustics are saying that silence is falling across thousands of habitats as we experience an unprecedented loss of species. It's something you may not notice until it's gone: the humming of insects, bird songs and calls and the snuffle of mammals moving through undergrowth. When we talk about the biodiversity crisis we don't always think about the *sound* of nature, but without urgent intervention we risk losing more and more of our natural world, and more and more of the sounds of the British countryside.

The UK is one of the most nature-depleted parts of the world. Just 3% of land and 8% of sea in England is well protected. The latest *State of Nature* report, published in Autumn 2023, showed that approaching one in six UK wildlife species are at risk of extinction. In 2019 it was one in ten. Despite this, targets to restore nature have been missed. In 2020, the UK met just three out of ten global targets for nature recovery. We had gone backwards on six targets. In 2022, the UK government committed to halt the loss of wildlife and manage 30% of land and sea for nature by 2030. But these commitments have not always been backed up by urgent action and losing the sounds of nature is just another example of not enough being done to protect the natural world. It's easy to feel discouraged at the scale of the problem. What on earth can we, as Christians, do in the face of a 'deathly silence'? Actually, more than you might think. We can begin by creating a home for nature in the land around our churches and by speaking up to remind politicians of their obligation to meet international commitments on nature restoration.

Church land has huge scope to help nature. Collectively churches are one of the UK's largest landowners. Across Christian denominations total church land holdings in the UK easily exceed 200,000 acres. The Church of England is estimated to hold about 75,000 acres within dioceses, including churchyards, glebe land and burial grounds. The Church Commissioners have an additional 100,000 acres including 17,000 acres of woodland. From bats in belfries and swifts in vestries, to the flowers and insects living in church burial yards, the land around our churches is nature's home. We can begin to restore the nature around our churches by engaging with the Eco Church award scheme.

And we can speak up. As nature falls silent, we can voice our indignation at this injustice, speaking up for God's creation and calling for better from our political leaders. Without urgent action we are looking at a future devoid of the natural world's hum, buzz, tweet and song. Nature needs our next general election to be a turning point. That's why, through the Nature 2030 campaign, we're calling on all political parties to put nature at the heart of their manifesto. ***The campaign's next step is to make an unprecedented noise for nature. We'll be taking the key asks of the campaign on to the streets of London on 22nd June to demonstrate the public support for nature restoration and hope to bring more information on that to you in a subsequent newsletter.***

SERVICES 5th to 18th MAY

Sunday 5th May: 6th Sunday of Easter

8am St Gregory's—Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am St George's – Holy Communion
9.30am St Paul's – Holy Communion
10am St Gregory's – Greg's @ 10
11am St Mary's – Morning Worship

Wednesday 8th May

10am St Gregory's - Midweek Holy Communion

Thursday 9th May

11.30am St Gregory's - Funeral of Maby Ford
7pm St Gregory's - Ascension Day service

Sunday 12th May: 7th Sunday of Easter

9.30am St George's – Morning Worship
9.30am St Paul's – Morning Worship
10am St Gregory's – Holy Communion
11am St Mary's – Holy Communion

Wednesday 15th May

10am St Gregory's - Midweek Holy Communion

Saturday 18th May

1pm St Gregory's - Marriage of Edward (Ed) Davis and Elizabeth (Beth) Porch



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St Greg's [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#)

St George's [Facebook](#)

St Mary's [Facebook](#)

St Paul's [Facebook](#)



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY coming up soon

MAY

Monday 6th	Bell ringing at St Greg's, by Exeter branch of bellringers 3.30pm-4.30pm
Tuesday 7th	Little Greg's at St Greg's, 9.30am-11.30am Kid's Swap Shop at St Greg's, 9am-11am
Saturday 11th	BIG church clean at St Greg's, 10am-1pm Monthly Sale at St Paul's (Starcross), 11am-3pm
Sunday 12th	Annual Parochial Church Meetings at St Greg's & St Paul's Following the service, so at St Paul's (around 11am); St Greg's (11.30am) <i>NB: A Bring-and-Share Lunch will be held following the St Greg's APCM</i> Bell ringing at St Greg's, by Kingsteignton & Combeinteignhead bellringers 2.30pm-3.45pm
Monday 13th	Men's Breakfast at St Greg's, 9am
Tuesday 14th	Little Greg's at St Greg's, 9.30am-11.30am



**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: 01626 927281 or email: revdlinda@icloud.com
Margaret Noel: 01626 863148; **Will Halse:** 01626 866054; **Ceri Lee:** 07739 936286