

Benefice E-Newsletter
Dawlish with Holcombe and Cofton
3rd December 2023



This coming Sunday is New Year's Day! Really! This coming Sunday is Advent Sunday. And Advent is the first season of the Christian year. Advent means coming or arrival, and as the church year begins, we look forward to the coming of Jesus. And we remind one another that we must be ready to welcome Him when He comes again. Let's get ready!

We are looking forward to a weekend of celebrations but I must take the opportunity to wish you a happy new year now. Sadly, Leena and I will miss the coming celebrations – switching on the Christmas lights, the Christmas market, Greg's@10 with Ceri, and the Christians Together service at St. Agatha's on Sunday afternoon. That's because we will be attending a pre-Christmas gathering and celebration in Sheffield with our family. And that will include me running in the annual Percy Pud 10K race, especially in memory of our grandson Elijah, who died in May 2013 aged just 37 days. This year's race will be very special for us as Elijah's brother, Jonah, can run the race for the first time, now that he has turned 16 - three generations of our family running for Elijah! What a privilege - to be able to run with my grandson.



My thoughts have ranged far and wide as I considered what to include in this letter. I am greatly encouraged by the pastoral care and support which is evident in the lives of our churches. We have a growing team sharing Home Communions. If you know of anyone who cannot get to church and might appreciate a visit or communion, do speak to them and share the need with someone in the church's ministry team. Don't be shy – no one should be left out!



And how about some carol singing this Christmas? We could gather, say on the Saturday before Christmas, to go carol singing to some of the residential homes in the town; and we could also sing carols to some of those who cannot get out to church anymore. Is there anyone who would like to organise this?

I would also like to tell you how one church I know in India celebrates Christmas. I have received an email from my friend, Pranab, who lives in Odisha. He leads a church called New Life for India. Around 300 church members will gather near his home in Balangir on 14th December for a Christmas celebration meal and worship; some will travel long distances by bus or train. The get together will include the giving of gifts to each of the 20

missionary families in the church (about £20 each), and giving a dress and blanket to 87 orphan and semi-orphan children. Pranab asks for prayer and for financial support to cover the cost of travel, food, tent, sound system and Christmas gifts. Please collar me if you would like to know more.



I wish you well in your Christmas preparations. In my experience time accelerates as we move into December. But let's make an extra effort to slow down and get our priorities right – and, remembering the gospel reading from last Sunday, let's

put Jesus first - by noticing our neighbour; not just on Christmas Day but throughout this Advent season and the year ahead.

And again...Happy New Year!
With love in Christ
Will



Benefice Services

3rd December: 1st Sunday of Advent

8am – St Gregory's – BCP Holy Communion
9.30am St George's – Holy Communion
10am St Gregory's – Greg's @ 10
11am St Mary's – Morning Worship
4pm CTDD Advent Service at St Agatha's



6th December

10am St Gregory's – Midweek Holy Communion
7pm – Dawlish Funeralcare service at St Gregory's

10th December: 2nd Sunday of Advent

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

13th December

10am St Gregory's – Midweek Holy Communion
6pm – St Gregory's – Christmas Tree Festival Grand Opening

Tuesday Prayer Meeting on Zoom

Please do join us on Tuesday at 9am for a half hour of prayer. We meet on Zoom.

Just click on this [link](#) or go to <https://zoom.us/join> and enter: Meeting ID: 575 020 5964 and Passcode: 850653.



Benefice Men's Breakfast – St Gregory's

The next Men's Breakfast will be back at St Gregory's at 9am on Monday 4th December. If you're a man that enjoys breakfast and would like to go along, please contact Ray Williams to book: bevray@outlook.com;

Thanks from Mary May

Thank you so much for supporting the coffee morning on 25th November. It was well attended, with a lot of happy chatter and fellowship.

We raised the amazing sum of £295.75, including very generous donations both during and after the event. I have rounded this up to £300, making it possible to put £150 into the Flying Leaps bank account and to give £150 to the church office for the St Gregory's Organ Fund.

Thank you again to all the helpers who made this result possible.
Mary.



St Greg's Christmas Tree Festival

Applications for the Christmas Tree Festival are available from the church office – paper copies are available in the lower narthex or you may [email Sabrina](#) in the church office for an email copy. The deadline to submit an application to display a tree is **December 4th**, so if you, or someone you know is keen to be involved – please do get in touch as soon as possible! The grand opening of the festival will be at 6pm by the mayor on the 13th December, followed by a short carol service.

St Greg's Christmas Tree Festival Bric-a-Brac stall

Jill and Graham Reynolds kindly have agreed to run a Bric a Brac stall while the Christmas Tree festival is running. If you have any unwanted gifts or Christmas-themed Bric-a-Brac that could be donated, please contact Jill and Graham directly at: reynoldsgraham587@gmail.com or leave donations in the church office.

Christmas Tree Festival Stewarding

We will need volunteers to help steward/welcome visitors during the Christmas Tree festival. A sign-up sheet is in the lower narthex – please do put your name down. Without willing volunteers, we will find it difficult to run this event!



St Gregory's Christmas Tree Festival

Grand opening by the Mayor Wednesday 13th December 6pm
followed by festive music in church
(bring a torch!)

Thursday 14th 11am-1pm & 3pm-6pm

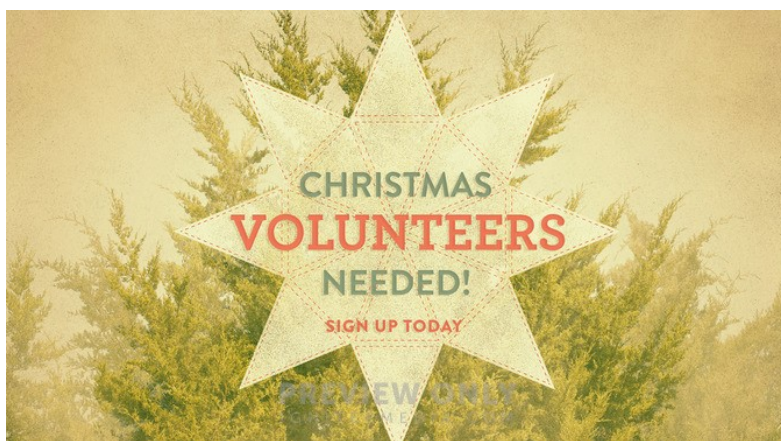
Friday 15th 2pm-6pm

Saturday 16th 11am-3pm followed by festival concert

Sunday 17th 12 noon-3pm

Sunday 17th Carol service 6.30pm

Monday 18th 12 noon-4pm



Christmas Tree Festival Concert

**A wonderful afternoon of festive music & song featuring
some amazing groups from our local community.**

Featuring.....

Combined choirs of St Gregory's & St George's
Gatehouse Primary Academy School
Chordettes Acappella Chorus
Dawlish Rockwaves
The High C's

Saturday 16th December 2023
At St Gregory's Church, Dawlish

Concert starts: 3:00pm

Free entry but all donations will be welcomed

All proceeds go towards Christians Against Poverty (CAP) in
Teignbridge, specifically to help families struggling in the
current financial crisis & spread some seasonal joy around
the Dawlish area.

CTDD Advent service

Christians Together for
Dawlish and District Advent
service will be at St Agatha's
RC church on Sunday 3rd
December at 4pm. All
welcome! Please do come
and support this event.



Service of Remembering

The service of remembering (Dawlish Funeralcare) will be
taking place at St Gregory's on Wednesday 6th at 7pm. All
welcome.

*In
Loving
Memory*



Mulled wine & Mincepies Evening

At

Powderham Church

On Saturday December 9th

at 4pm



Come & join us with Special Guests, including
'C.A.S.K' Shanty Singers & others for a treat of
Christmas words, music & Carols!!



Tickets £7 each to include mince pies & mulled wine

Children under 12yrs - £2 to include mince pies & drink

For Tickets Contact : 01626 891970 or pay on the door.

Proceeds to Powderham Church Fund & the NSPCC

Benefice Christmas Events in December

Friday 1 st	Lantern Parade and Christmas Lights Switch on in Dawlish
Saturday 2 nd	Exeter Diocese Day of Prayer in the Cathedral, 11am - 4pm
Sat 2 nd / Sun 3 rd	Christmas Markets on the Lawn and along the Strand, Dawlish
Sunday 3 rd	CTDD Advent Service, 4pm at St Agatha's RC Church
Wednesday 6 th	Dawlish Funeralcare service of Remembering in St. Gregory's, 7pm Drop In at St. George's Holcombe, 2-4pm
Tuesday 12 th	Ladies' Lunch at Amelia's, Cofton Holidays
Wednesday 13 th	Opening of the Christmas Tree Festival in St. Gregory's, 6pm
Thursday 14 th	Carols and Readings for Christmas at St Mary's Church Hall, 7pm with the High C's and followed by refreshments
Sunday 17 th	Carol Service at St, Mary's Cofton, 4pm Carol Service at St. Gregory's, 6.30pm
Wednesday 20 th	Carol Service at St. George's Holcombe, 4pm
Thursday 21 st	Service of the Longest Night, St Mary's, 4pm



Christmas Eve services in the Benefice

9.30am St George's – Christmas Communion
10am St Gregory's – Said Holy Communion for the 4th Sunday of Advent
4pm – St George's – Crib service
4.30pm St Mary's – Crib service
5pm St Gregory's – Crib service
6pm St Mary's – Christmas Communion
11pm St Gregory's – 'Midnight' Communion



Christmas Day

10am St Gregory's – Family Communion
NO SERVICES AT ST GEORGE'S
NO SERVICES AT ST MARY'S

31st December

10.30am Benefice Holy Communion at St Mary's.
THERE ARE NO OTHER SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE ON THIS SUNDAY

If you would like any support, or someone to talk to, or you are aware of someone else who would appreciate contact please ring one of the following:

Margaret Noel: 01626 863148

Will Halse: 01626 866054

Ceri Lee: 07739 936286
