

Benefice E-Newsletter
Dawlish with Holcombe and Cofton
21st January 2024

A Happy New Year from all at St Georges

The changes over the past few years have been very significant for St Georges. The loss of our vicar Chris, the appointment of a new vicar, Dallas, shared between four churches, the changes to worship during several years of Covid, the loss of Dallas and the appointment of Linda as a new shared vicar. We are very fortunate to have a number of retired clergy and lay readers around Holcombe, Paul, Fiona, Sue and Ceri who have looked after the services for us in an outstanding way. We are also very grateful to Ian playing regularly for us.

Holcombe, as a village, has few children and a large older population. As a result, the electoral roll has shrunk because of people dying or moving into nursing homes or to be closer to their family later in life. In spite of this the church is still flourishing with an average attendance at our weekly service of over thirty people. The majority of people stay for coffee after the service.

At the recent Carol Service and Crib Service this Christmas, over seventy people attended each service and we had lovely feedback from people.

We were fortunate to have a harpist, Sonia Mistely at our Carol Service (see photo further down the page). She played before and after, which created a very special service.

We look forward to the New Year with the arrival of Linda. In the meantime, church life continues. In addition to the services, we run a Drop In, for people to meet and chat. A Warmer Place which serves homemade soups for lunch and Eat and Enlightenment, an evening meal and discussion group at the Castle Pub.

The increase in electricity price over the last couple of years has meant we now do



not heat the church but only the people. We no longer use the night storage heaters and only switch the electric heaters on for a few hours before and during the services and any other use. This has enabled us to reduce heating costs even with the higher electricity prices.

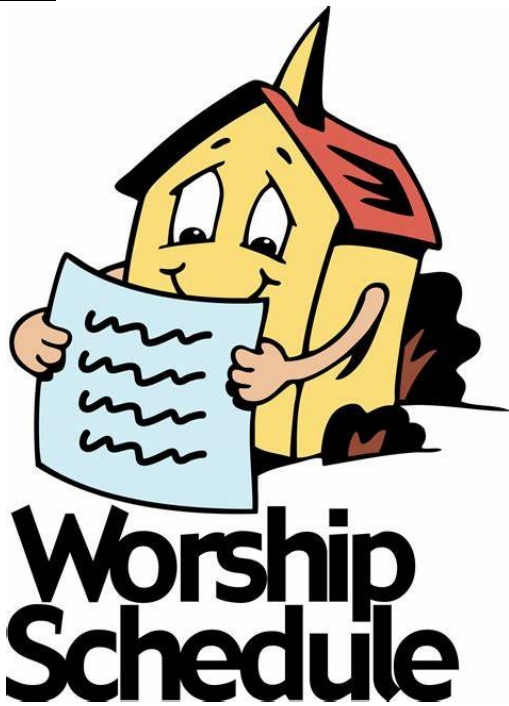
The church is open every day thanks to Brian and Vanessa who unlock and lock the church. In the summertime we get many visitors to both the church and garden in spite of being off the beaten track.

We wish Linda and her family all the best as they move into our churches.

Mike Burden
– St George's
Churchwarden



Services:



21st January 2024

9.30am St George's – Holy Communion
10am St Gregory's – Greg's @ 10
11am St Mary's – Morning Worship
6.30pm Benefice Telephone Service

24th January 2024

10am St Gregory's – Midweek Holy Communion

28th January 2024

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

Tuesday prayer meeting on Zoom

There will be no prayer meeting on Zoom this Tuesday, January 23rd. The next Zoom prayer meeting will be on January 30th at 9am.



Back
in a
week

Benefice Telephone service – 21st Jan

Our monthly evening telephone service will be on Sunday, January 21st at 6:30pm. To join the service just dial 0330 088 1927 and then enter the access code 2132492. We will be using a Night Prayer Service for the 3rd Sunday of Epiphany. Please contact Ceri Lee on 07739 936286 or Will Halse on 07974 755926 if you need a printed copy.



Coastline Deadline

The deadline for items for the February edition of Coastline is Sunday 21st January at the absolute latest – please send any items to Chris at prebchris2020@gmail.com; 07771842334.



Licensing of Rev. Linda Cronin

The licensing of Rev. Linda Cronin as team Rector will take place on Thursday 15th February at 7.30pm in St. Gregory's. Please do come and support Linda as she begins her ministry in the Benefice. Please pray for Linda and her husband Steve as they move to Dawlish.

St Gregory's Big Church Clean

St Gregory's will be having a big church clean on Saturday 3rd February at 9.30am – please come and help to clean the church. See Leena if you need any more information.



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
