

**Benefice E-Newsletter**  
**Dawlish with Holcombe and Cofton**  
**4<sup>th</sup> February 2024**



I write these notes as I prepare for the January PCC meeting which, among other things, has to agree the Annual Report and Accounts so they can be Independently Examined in time for the APCM in May. Yes, it really does take that long.

Financially we have had four difficult years, we have had deficits in our annual running costs over that period of almost £60,000, all offset by taking money from reserves and legacy funds, and but for some careful accounting it could have a lot more. But we've also managed some expensive repairs and improvements to the roof, the kitchen and the office. That's not to say there isn't more to come, there's always something that needs doing at St. Gregory's but I now feel (perhaps that should be hope) we are in a better place.



The last few years we have seen a reduction in the congregation which means reduced giving, but regular giving through the Parish Giving Scheme and Bank Standing Orders seems to have steadied over the last 18 months and that is really what sustains Church finances. A reduced congregation also means a reduction in our Common Fund commitment, albeit that it takes a few years to filter through, and for the first time in quite a while I feel that our 2024 Common Fund is actually an achievable target. Fuel costs hit us significantly last year and will probably do so again this year so perhaps we shouldn't get too complacent!



PCC are aware that we are likely to have some major fabric repairs to windows, stonework and the tower to contend with over the next few years. I'm hoping we can use some of the reserves the Diocese hold for us to help with those costs, thanks to legacies left to the Church by past congregations, but no doubt we will have to do our own fundraising as well.

I won't pre-empt the content of the Annual Report, particularly as PCC haven't seen it yet, but here is some information that may give you a flavour of our routine bills for last year:

	£
Gas (heating & hot water)	9988
Electricity (lighting)	3841
Water	423
Telephone & Broadband	531
Printer lease	720
Printer use	248
Common Fund	44392
Websites	215
Insurance	7411
Lift	760



Also, for the first-time last year we wrote NO cheques, everything was online, and we can now take donations by credit and debit card in the Church (see the machine outside the Office in the Lower Narthex). We have 30 people who give using the Parish Giving Scheme, and 31 who give using Bank Standing Orders for which I (we) are very grateful, it makes my life easier and more importantly gives the PCC a steady and reliable income. If anyone wishes to know more about Parish Giving, Bank Orders or indeed leaving a legacy to the Church please drop me a line or give me a call, it really does make a difference.



For those that are interested the Church Accounts are open to all for inspection, I encourage PCC to ask questions about the accounts, and

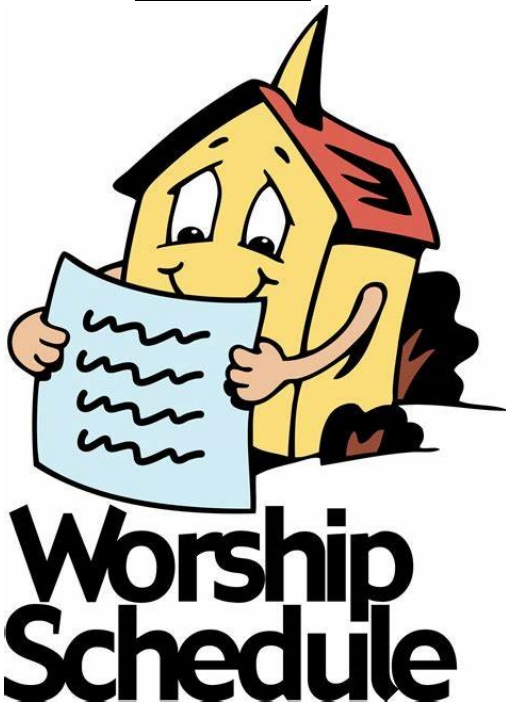
(without naming names) there are others outside the PCC who also take a regular interest. So, if anyone wishes to see the accounts, wants to know where our money goes or would like to know more, please feel free to ask.

I'd like to thank the Churchwardens and Graham Reynolds for their invaluable help, and a big thank you to all who give to the Church, however you do it.

Paul Jones



## Services:



### 4<sup>th</sup> February

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

### 7<sup>th</sup> February

10am St Gregory's – Midweek Holy Communion

### 11<sup>th</sup> February

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

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## Coming events in early February...

Monday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Men's Breakfast, 9am in St. Gregory's
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Kids' Swap Shop, 9-11am in St. Gregory's
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Drop In, 2-4pm in St. George's, Holcombe
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Shrove Tuesday Pancakes, 3-6pm at St. Paul's Starcross
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	ASH WEDNESDAY: Holy Communion 10am at St. Gregory's
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Licensing of Revd. Linda Cronin, 7.30pm at St Gregory's followed by refreshments

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## Tuesday prayer meeting on Zoom

Welcome to a half hour of prayer on Tuesdays at 9am. [Just click on this link or](https://zoom.us/join) go to <https://zoom.us/join> and enter: Meeting ID: 575 020 5964 and Passcode: 850653.

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## St Gregory's Flower Rota

A new flower rota is on display in the lower narthex – if you are able to help with this, please do sign up!

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### **Licensing of Rev. Linda Cronin**

The licensing of Rev. Linda Cronin as team Rector will take place on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> 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 and family as they move to Dawlish.

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### **St Gregory's Big Church Clean**

St Gregory's will be having a big church clean on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 9.30am: please do come along to help out!

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### **St Gregory's Men's Breakfast**

Dear Breakfasters,

After successful meetings of over 20 of us in Dec/Jan, we meet again at St Gregory's for breakfast on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Feb at 9am. Jacqui will be ably assisted by some volunteers and anyone who wants to help is welcome at 8am.



Please let me have your reservations by Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb, you can email me at: [bevray@outlook.com](mailto:bevray@outlook.com). This allows for shopping for the provisions. We don't want to under/over cater. As well as normal/veg requests, if you have any allergies, please let me know.

Please bring crisp or golden cash as usual for the voluntary donation, for as well as the cost of provisions, we hope to be able to make donations to worthy causes as the year rolls on. Please also come with your thoughts on a day out this summer, as some of us had an idea for a railway outing with a difference.

We look forward to seeing you.

Ray Williams





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## Mothers' Union

On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February there will be the MU AGM meeting in the Upper Narthex. There will also be time and space given to planning for the rest of 2024.



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### St Gregory's Electoral Roll

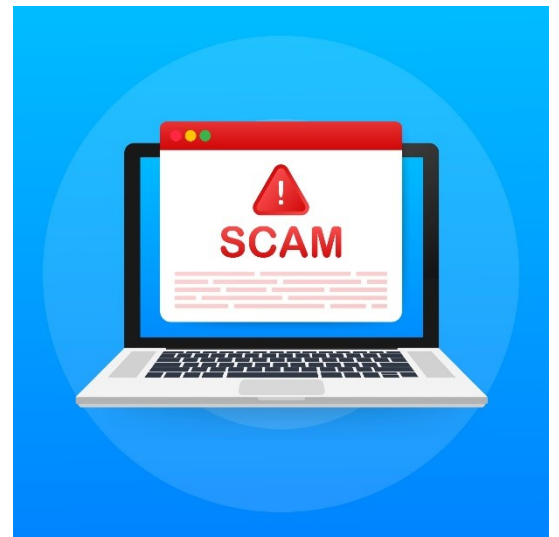
If there is anyone who comes to St Gregory's church on a regular basis but is not yet on our Electoral Roll, we can easily include you! Just contact Graham Reynolds on 01626 772249 and he will be able to give you a form to be added.

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### Scam email alert

Churches in Devon are being warned to be on the alert for an email scam in which fake emails are being sent out which look like they are from a bishop or the local vicar.

In fact, they are a fraud, designed to trick recipients into doing the sender a 'favour' by buying online gift cards for them. Some people have lost thousands of pounds before realising their bishop or vicar has not really emailed them and they have been conned.



### **Police Advice**

Action Fraud, a national police scheme, offers the following advice about scam emails:

The first email typically reads something like “[name], are you free at the moment?” or it may be more detailed, such as “Do you have a moment I have a request I need you to handle discreetly. I am currently busy... so no calls just reply to my email.”

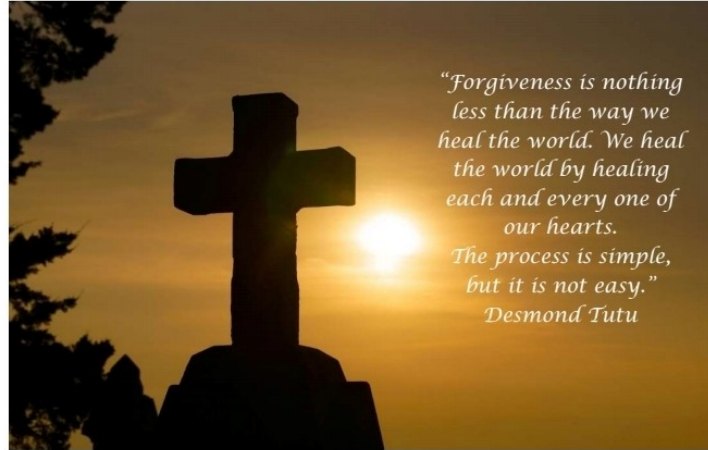
A reply then draws the recipient into a dialogue in which they are encouraged to buy vouchers, and ultimately send images of their serial and security numbers to the fraudster. If you think you have received one of these messages, **please report it to the police via their non-emergency line 101.** [You can read more about this by clicking this link.](#)

# *The gift and challenge of forgiveness*



A Lent Christian Day Retreat

*with Christian mindfulness, guided meditation, and creative spirituality.*



*"Forgiveness is nothing  
less than the way we  
heal the world. We heal  
the world by healing  
each and every one of  
our hearts.  
The process is simple,  
but it is not easy."  
Desmond Tutu*

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2024

10am – 4pm

St Mary's Church Hall,

Dawlish Warren

£40 including refreshments and hot homecooked vegetarian lunch.

This Lent retreat day, inspired by the wisdom and lived experience of Desmond and Mpho Tutu, offers a chance to consider where we are on our own path of forgiveness, with no pressure or expectation. This is for all those struggling to find forgiveness for others or to accept the forgiveness we are offered by God and those we have hurt.

For more information or to book a place please contact Abigail on [abigailhardiman@protonmail.com](mailto:abigailhardiman@protonmail.com) or 07300 106560.



Beyond self retreats are led by Abigail Hardiman, a qualified counsellor (MBACP) and accredited local (lay) preacher with the Methodist Church.

Find us on Facebook or at

<https://abigailhardiman6.wixsite.com/beyondselfretreats>

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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

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