

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026

[www.cofe-in-dawlish.org.uk](http://www.cofe-in-dawlish.org.uk)

## PRAY, GROW, SERVE 2035

Pray, Grow, Serve 2035 is the 10-year strategic plan based on the Diocese of Exeter's vision to grow in prayer, make new disciples and serve the people of Devon with joy. It is driven by our Diocese's five missional priorities: missional leadership, missional DNA, vocations, children and families and mixed ecology (varied missional expressions of church).



**Pray, Grow, Serve 2035** is being part-funded by a £10m grant to help churches across Devon grow, flourish and serve their communities well into the future. The grant, which is the largest the diocese has ever received, has been awarded by the Church of England's Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (SMMIB). The first phase is a grant of £10m missional investment followed by £2.5m implementation support from 2027 in phase 1. The diocese will then be able to apply for phase two funding of £10m plus £1.5m implementation support in 2028. Overall, the diocese could receive £24m over six years.

The Bishop of Exeter, the Rt. Rev'd Dr Mike Harrison, said: *"This is a fantastic springboard for new and creative mission and ministry across the diocese and a real vote of confidence in our plans from the national Church. My prayer is that this resourcing might lead many to know the love of God in Christ for them and to grow as followers of Jesus, joyfully witnessing and serving in His name."*

**FIND OUT MORE:** The grant funding is specifically targeted to help churches grow and make new disciples (one of the Diocese of Exeter's core aims.) Read and download an information booklet about Pray, Grow, Serve 2035 and how it will impact your mission community: [Click Here](#) Read the FAQs Document: [Click Here](#)



**God of mission**  
Who alone brings growth to your Church  
Send your Holy Spirit to give:  
Vision to our planning,  
Wisdom to our actions,  
Power to our witness.  
Help your Church here in Devon  
To grow deeper in faith and prayer  
To grow new disciples, to grow leaders,  
To grow younger and to grow  
in joyful service  
to the communities of Devon.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

## YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A PRAY, GROW, SERVE 2035 INFORMATION WEBINAR:

Bishop James Grier (Bishop of Plymouth) is hosting information webinars about Pray, Grow, Serve 2035 which include more details about the 10-year plan, the chance to ask questions and find out how you can get involved. The remaining dates are: **4 February at 9am- 10am** and **5 March at 7pm – 8pm**. [Please click here to book your webinar place](#) (Editor's Note: I joined one of the webinars this last week. It's well worth joining one of the other two dates if you can!)

## ANYTHING YOU CAN DO FOR A FAMILY IN CRISIS IN GAZA?

*Leonie Dunlop,  
a member of the St Mary's Church family, writes:*

I have been in contact with a family in Gaza for nearly a year and watched their conditions getting worse and worse. A friend set up a support group and we bought them a tent to live in. We all donate as much as we are able but everything is so expensive in Gaza that we are not able to meet many of their very basic needs.



The family are Moataz, his wife Nevin and their beautiful daughters, Linda, Lana, Mirna and I'm sorry to have forgotten the name of the other little girl. The littlest one was born during this terrible war. Moataz has been amazing the way he has protected the family and they are extraordinarily resilient, but he has just suffered a nervous breakdown from the pressure of everything. They already don't have enough food, clothes or bedding to keep them warm and their tent gets regularly flooded by the sea. Without Moataz and his warrior spirit, I am deeply worried about how they will be able to survive.

Moataz has been posting regularly on his Facebook page where there is also a link to his brothers PayPal account, through which the family can receive donations quickly. They are extremely grateful for anything they receive and immediately buy food with it, as they are always hungry and all look considerably thinner than when the above photos were taken. It is an incredibly sad situation and it would be amazing if any of you feel you would like to join us in offering some support and/or sharing with any friends who may be able to afford to help. If you are a Facebook user, you can visit Moataz' page by following this link [here](#)

With love and gratitude, Leonie

*Editor's Note: If you would like more information, please email me at [ceriflee@gmail.com](mailto:ceriflee@gmail.com) with your contact details, I will then forward your enquiry on to Leonie asking her to get in touch with you*

**FREE CAB 'ADVICE'  
FIRST AID TRAINING  
WITH ROC DAWLISH  
(i.e. 'signposting'  
first aid.....  
NOT medical)**

For anyone in direct contact with clients and members of the public. Bring-and-share lunch (with ROC providing a basic sandwich-making kit and hot drinks).

**Advice First Aid Free Training Session**

**CAB Teignbridge**  
CAB Teignbridge are part of a network of independent charities that offer free, confidential advice.

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026, 10.00 am - 4.00pm**  
**Rooms 4A & 4B, The Manor House, Old Town Street, Dawlish EX7 9AW**  
Bring-and-share lunch. Drinks will be provided

**eventbrite**

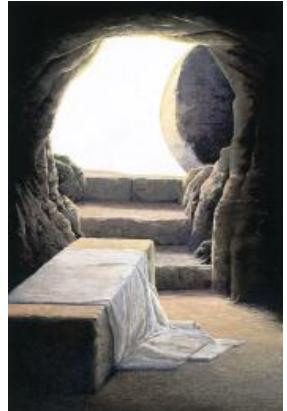
FREE event hosted by **ROC DAWLISH**  
REDEEMING OUR COMMUNITIES

Book online via [CABadvicefirstaidtraining.eventbrite.co.uk](https://CABadvicefirstaidtraining.eventbrite.co.uk) Contact Mark Jones 07729 998334, [rocdawlish@gmail.com](mailto:rocdawlish@gmail.com)

Friday 13th February 2026, Rooms 4A & 4B Manor House, Dawlish (10am - 4pm). Thanks to Cllr Martin Wrigley MP for helping to fund this for everyone's benefit. Here's the Eventbrite link: <https://CABadvicefirstaidtraining.eventbrite.co.uk>

## EASTER IS.....? Adam Gidney from ROC Dawlish writes:

We have started to prepare for this years 'Easter Is...?' experience. A new addition for this year is a life sized first century tomb being constructed by Steve from the Methodist Church. Steve has requested that we start collecting old newspapers for the tomb's papier maché outer layer. If you have any unwanted newspapers please either drop them off at the Methodist Church or contact me (i.e. Adam, *details below*) and I will collect. More details on 'Easter Is...?' will be appearing over the coming weeks. Blessings, Adam Gidney | 07711234948 | [rocdawlishschools@gmail.com](mailto:rocdawlishschools@gmail.com)



## WHAT PEOPLE IN THE UK THINK OF JESUS, CHRISTIANS AND EVANGELISM

The 'Talking Jesus' research was first carried out in 2015 for a group of leaders from across many denominations. When the results were first seen, they were so astonishing that the research had to be re-done to see if it really could be true!

- Did 43% of the population really believe in the resurrection?
- Were practising Christians really speaking about their faith to their friends and family on a regular basis?
- Was there a growing number of young adult Christians?

The answer was yes, and you'll be pleased to know that the answer is still yes. This session looks at the information in the report and will encourage and challenge traditional church thinking. *Come along and be amazed!*

**Note from our Rector, Revd Linda:** Dear Friends, May I warmly commend this meeting to you? Some of us went previously and found it very encouraging and insightful.

## BENEFICE ADMINISTRATOR NEWS

It has been agreed that a Benefice Administrator, based at the office in St Greg's, is to be employed to serve the churches. This part-time (12-16 hours per week) paid position will be advertised soon. If you know of anyone who may be suitable and interested, please speak with the Rector who will be able to supply more information.



## THE ANSWER LIES IN THE SOIL! *Preb Chris Curd, Benefice Eco Champion, writes;*

**“Despite all our accomplishments, we owe our (physical) existence to a six-inch layer of topsoil and the fact it rains.” Paul Harvey (1978) radio broadcaster**

On 17<sup>th</sup> January, Ceri Lee, Cathy Slade and I betook ourselves to the Cathedral for the Environment Film Festival. The nave was full as we watched **‘Six Inches of Soil’** and then **‘Wilding’**. I came away with my heart full of the beauty of creation and the interrelated nature of all life (*Editor’s Note: Me too!*). I can honestly say that I had not appreciated the wonder of the soil. I want, where I can, to buy fresh food from farms that feed the soil. And when it stops raining (!) I want to go out onto our land and smell the soil!

**‘SIX INCHES OF SOIL’** is the story of British farmers standing up against the industrial food system and transforming the way they produce food - to heal the soil, benefit our health and provide for local communities. If you “do” Instagram, look for Anna Jackson (@annaracheljackson) Ben Thomas at Trevedoe Farm, Bodmin farms beef on a small regenerative farm of 90 acres of pasture and woodland - home to native-breed cattle, pigs and an abundance of wildlife. The farm absorbs more greenhouse gasses than it emits. At Shimpling Park Farm in Suffolk John Pawsey says *“We take our responsibility to tread lightly on our farm incredibly seriously. Since we have been farming organically, we have doubled our soil’s organic matter, sucking CO2 out of the atmosphere at a greater rate than we are emitting through the process of farming and growing food, meaning that we are a carbon sink.”*

**‘WILDING’** is based on the book by Isabella Tree and tells the story of a young couple that bets on nature for the future of their failing, four-hundred-year-old estate. Ripping down the fences, they entrust the land’s recovery to a motley mix of animals, tame and wild. It is the beginning of a grand experiment that will become one of the most significant rewilding experiments in Europe. Isabella and her husband Charlie Burrell, own the Knepp Estate in West Sussex. Years of previous intensive farming had brought them to their knees, financially. But instead of following conventional wisdom by using more pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers, they chose to do less, and return 3500 acres to nature. The speed with which the degraded land regenerated astonished them. It took nerve, at times, not to intervene. The film is worth seeing for such visually striking moments as the occasion in 2009 when the land was infested with the fast-spreading creeping thistle, which can easily come to dominate grassland if not controlled. That same year saw a huge migration of painted lady butterflies from North Africa into Europe, with an estimated 11 million arriving in the UK alone. It just so happens that creeping thistle is the favoured food plant of painted lady caterpillars, who promptly cleared Knepp’s fields and left them free of thistles from that time on. Clever retrospective photography in the film dramatises the magical moment when the butterflies arrive.



### DID YOU KNOW?

Farmers receive just 10% of the food £. Profit is sucked out at the farm gate. We have come to believe that money is more important than the soil. Nine retailers have 94% of the UK food market.

The biodiversity of our soil is haemorrhaging. We should not treat soil as dirt. Healthy soil smells quite different to unhealthy: sweet rather than rancid.

Britain is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world with 1 in 6 species threatened with extinction.

*When it stops raining, I must smell the soil!*

## COMPETITION NEWS: A MESSAGE FROM 'TURN THE TIDE TEIGNBRIDGE'

Dawlish took a battering from Storm Ingrid. Black weather warning. Railway line in disarray again. Teignmouth pier washing up on our shores. Trees down. The sea is central to life in Dawlish. It is our view, our heritage and part of our identity. But storms like this show how exposed our town is and how quickly the places we love can take a hit. When the seafront looks battered and grey, the whole town feels it. But this is also where Dawlish is at its best. We pick ourselves up, we look after our place, and we make it brighter again.

This spring, we are inviting Dawlish to do something small but powerful together: take part in our first Wild Pollinator Trail. It is a community competition and trail throughout May that we hope will bring colour and life back into the town after this harsh winter. These spaces also support bees, butterflies and other pollinators, helping wildlife recover.

Everyone can take part: homes, schools, businesses and community groups (*Editor's Note: And churches!*). You do not need a garden. Pots, baskets, containers and small corners all count.

All entries will appear on a public trail map for visitors to explore, with prizes announced at the Turn the Tide festival in May. Sign up by 31 March and let us help Dawlish bloom back!

For more information, go to this link: <https://www.turnthetidefestival.uk/.../wild-pollinator...>

**WILD POLLINATOR TRAIL**

May 2026 | Dawlish

Help Dawlish bloom for pollinators this spring.  
Enter by 31 March 2026

**TURN THE TIDE**

**DAWLISH TOWN COUNCIL**

## **Lent Challenge - Just One Thing**

The Eco Group proposes a Lent Challenge, or a “menu” of Challenges from which people could choose, to change just one purchasing choice in a way that helps Creation.

*(Of course, you don't have to stick to just one thing, the more the better!)*

### **Menu**

#### **Drink Fair Trade Tea and Coffee only during Lent, if you do not already do so.**

*There is now a wide range available from supermarkets, independent retailers and online. If you have tried some in the past and did not like it, try another brand. Sainsbury's Red Label tea is now Fairtrade and their Blue Label Decaf tea is reported to be much better than Clipper Decaf. Or try, M&S, Co-op, Waitrose, to name a few.*

Why? It is a simple matter of justice v. exploitation. Most tea and coffee workers work long hours for a very low wage and produce a commodity that is traded to make a profit for others.

#### **Rethink What's Under Your Sink**

*Several choices here*

Why? The following is taken from the Home Things website, but their products are just some of many options

CLEANING PRODUCTS  
ARE 90% WATER PACKAGED  
IN SINGLE-USE PLASTIC.  
**THAT'S BONKERS.**



Pre-diluted products are heavier and take up more space during transport, which means up to 92% more CO2 emissions.



Harmful chemicals like phosphates, phosphonates, and chlorines from traditional cleaning products can find their way into the environment.



In the UK alone we use over 460 million plastic cleaning sprays every single year.



Only 9% of the plastic ever produced has been recycled.

1. Choose a nontoxic brand for washing up or cleaning which offers refills of the plastic bottles
2. Switch to Laundry Sheets – but check they are nontoxic to aquatic life – not all brands are
3. Look for brands such as Smol, Purum, Home Things, Peace with the Wild which offer non plastic bottles refillable with a capsule to which is added tap water.

#### **Look at your Lotions and Potions**

*Several choices here*

Why? For example, 252 million tubes of toothpaste sold in the UK every year

1. Can you experiment with “toothpaste” that is not in a plastic tube?
2. Find a deodorant that is refillable (available Sainsbury's) or sold in cardboard (e.g. Wileda)
3. Experiment with different shampoo bars – now widely available including in Poppadums
4. Avoid Shower Gel and use soap!
5. If you need to use hand wash lotion in a pump bottle for hygiene reasons, find a firm that either refills or has a capsule to which water can be added.

## SERVICES – 1<sup>st</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> February

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February — Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

8am	St Gregory's – Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am	St George's – Holy Communion
9.30am	St Paul's – Morning Worship
10am	St Gregory's – Greg's@10
11.15am	St Mary's – Morning Worship

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

10am	St Gregory's - Midweek Holy Communion
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### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February — 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent

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

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

10am	St Gregory's - Midweek Holy Communion
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### TUESDAY PRAYER MEETING ON ZOOM

All welcome to a half hour of prayer online on Tuesdays at 8.45am.

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 at St Greg's is available for quiet prayer from 9.30am, before the 10am Sunday service*

## DIARY DATES IN FEBRUARY

Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mens' Breakfast – Upper Narthex, St Gregory's, 9am Craft and Chatting – St Paul's Church Room, Starcross <b>1.30-3.30pm</b>
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Kids' Swap Shop – St Gregory's, 9-11am
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Pudding Club – Upper Narthex, St Gregory's, 2.30pm – with a talk and information from the Dawlish-based charity 'ASSIST Teignbridge'
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Little Greg's – Upper Narthex, St Gregory's, 9.30-11.30am Mothers' Union – Upper Narthex, St Gregory's, 2pm
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Drop In – St George's, 2-4pm
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>FREE CAB 'First Aid' Signposting Training</b> – Manor House, 10am-4pm See page 2 for more details
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>'Talking Jesus' Report</b> – St Gregory's, 2-4pm (refreshments from 1.15pm) See page 3 for more 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](mailto:revdlinda@icloud.com)

**LLMS: Steve Cronin:** 07817 678774; **Will Halse:** 01626 866054; **Ceri Lee:** 07739 936286.

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

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

**STOP PRESS:** Preparations for this year's 'Easter Is...?' experience that ROC Dawlish puts on for our local schools is well under way - for those unsure what this is, think 'Open the Book'. There are currently some 'actor' roles that still need filling it would be great if some Anglicans took part and complemented those already signed up from Hope Church, MC Family and the Methodist Church. If you'd like to find out more, please contact Adam Gidney on 07711 234948 [rocdawlishschools@gmail.com](mailto:rocdawlishschools@gmail.com) by February 10th.