

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 12th April 2026

www.cofe-in-dawlish.org.uk

SHATTERED GLASS

Imagine having been in the Upper Narthex at St Gregory's when the glass panel broke — before it shattered it was clear, flawless, letting the light shine through and letting us all see the structure of the body of the church in all its beauty, strength and glory. Imagine hearing the crash as, in a single moment, it shattered into countless pieces.

Life can feel exactly like that. A sudden loss. A relationship that ends or sours. A dream that collapses. We find ourselves surrounded by the sharp edges of brokenness, wondering if anything beautiful can come from the pieces.

Scripture is filled with stories of brokenness — broken people, broken promises, broken nations. Yet in every case, God steps into the mess, not to sweep the pieces away, but to reconcile and redeem them. Psalm 147:3 says: *"He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds."*

Broken glass can remind us of just how frail and fragile we are. Our human nature and the culture we live in means we often try to hide our weakness, but God invites us to bring it into the light. We can often, mistakenly, think that God needs perfect vessels to work through. But the truth is that when we recognise and acknowledge our brokenness, we open the door for God's strength to be made perfect in our weakness. God often works through the broken fragments of our lives.

Jesus' body was broken on the cross so that hope and salvation could be poured out for the world. What at the time felt and looked like the end to many, including some of those closest to him, was actually the beginning of God's greatest work.



When life shatters like glass, we have choices:

- we can sweep it under the carpet and pretend it never happened; we can sit in the shards and stay stuck in discomfort, anguish, anxiety or pain; or we can take some practical steps to place the pieces in God's hands and trust him to create something new:

Pray honestly - God can handle raw emotions!

Don't struggle alone, seek community - healing often happens in the presence of others.

Look for the light – ask God to show you how he is working even now.

Broken glass can cut, but it can also catch the light. Our lives, even in their fractured state, can reflect the beauty of God's grace in ways we can never imagine. So, if you feel like you're standing among the shards, today or in the future, remember: God sees every piece, he knows how to fit them together and, when his light shines through, our brokenness can tell a story of his love that could not have been told any other way.

Ceri Lee

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF ST. GREGORY'S – AN UPDATE

As previously informed (*by email last weekend*) one of the large glass panels in the Upper Narthex at St Gregory's has shattered. *Please see photo here and another on page 1.*

Until things can be made safe the church needs to be temporarily closed and no-one is permitted to enter. This is to remain the case for at least the next fortnight.

You will see (*on the back page*) that similarly to Easter Sunday the 10am service this coming Sunday (12th April) has been relocated to St Mary's Hall at Dawlish Warren. Midweek services, events and groups have been unavoidably cancelled. Updates and information for future dates will be forthcoming as soon as possible.

*Leena Halse and Richard Sulch
St Gregory's Church Wardens*



THANK YOU TO HOPE CHURCH Sincere and grateful thanks are due to Hope Church for helping out on Wednesday 8th April in accommodating the funeral of Mo Selley which had to be relocated from St Greg's.



Images of
**ST. MARY'S
AT EASTER**



*A couple of
photos from*
**ST.
GEORGE'S
AT EASTER**



Preb Chris Curd with a visiting Ukrainian family

A LITURGY FOR THOSE CONSUMED BY MEDIA

Thank you to Prebendary Chris Curd for
sharing this piece from the SPCK website -
www.spckpublishing.co.uk



Amid the glowing screens
and talking heads
and blaring headlines
and laymen-turned-experts,
our hearts grow weary and our fingers turn sore as we refresh our feeds,
scrolling to quell the swelling tide rising within, threatening to topple and overwhelm.
Liberate us, Oh God, from our gluttonous tendencies to hoard knowledge
and feast upon information as if it is our daily bread.
Remind us, Oh Father, that our screens are but clouded mirrors.
Sift the important news meant to equip us for movement and compassion
from the distorted facts and fearmongering headlines
designed only to divide us and destroy the hope we have in You.
Keep us from banging our gongs and clanging our cymbals.
If we post with the tongues of men and angels but have not love,
help us to log out.

Oh Loving God,
You see the gravity
with which the world's suffering pulls us inward.
Extend us grace to grieve
for the broken world You adore,
then wash our faces and turn,
clear-eyed, to our windows,
through which we can see the trees still clapping,
the sparrows still flying.
the stones still crying out praise to You.
Grant us wisdom to discern what You deem true
and right
and noble
and pure
and praiseworthy
and lovely,
and give us grace to share accordingly.
Amen.

DAWLISH CHORAL SOCIETY

SPRING CONCERT

**Excerpts from Handel's Messiah;
Schubert's Mass in G and Faure's
Requiem, and several well known
classical melodies, including
"Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring" "Ave
Maria", "O for the Wings of Dove".**

**Guest soloists and instrumentalists,
directed by Nicholas Gardiner**

Tuesday 14 April 2026 at 7.30 pm.

Now relocated from St Gregory's Church, Dawlish to:
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, BISHOPSTEIGNTON TQ14 9QH
Tickets £12 on the door, £10 in advance
from Dawlish Book Shop, Queen Street
(accompanied children free) Interval
refreshments in aid of Rowcroft Hospice.

DCS Registered Charity No 1094785



SERVICES – 12th to 25th April 2026



Sunday 12th April — Easter 2

- 9.30am St George's – Morning Worship
9.30am St Paul's – Holy Communion
10am St Gregory's – TEMPORARILY CLOSED
*Holy Communion service relocated to:
St Mary's Hall, Dawlish Warren*
11.15am St Mary's – Holy Communion

Wednesday 15th April

- 10am St Gregory's - TEMPORARILY CLOSED
Midweek Holy Communion CANCELLED

Thursday 16th April

- 10am St Gregory's – TEMPORARILY CLOSED - Messy Church CANCELLED

Sunday 19th April – Easter 3

- 9.30am St George's – Holy Communion
9.30am St Paul's – Morning Worship
10am St Gregory's - TEMPORARILY CLOSED
*Any alternative arrangements –
to be advised in due course*
11.15am St Mary's – Morning Worship

Wednesday 22nd April

- 10am St Gregory's – TEMPORARILY CLOSED - Midweek Holy Communion CANCELLED



TUESDAY PRAYER MEETING ON ZOOM

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

Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri.
PRAYER HALF HOUR
From 6.30pm on Zoom
Please follow [this link](#) **HERE** to join

DIARY DATES IN APRIL

- Monday 13th** **Craft and Chatting –**
Church Room, St Paul's, Starcross 1.30pm-3.30pm
- Tuesday 14th** **Choral Society Spring Concert –** St John's Church, Bishopsteignton 7.30pm
Relocated from St Gregory's due to temporary closure – see page 3 for more information
- Thursday 16th** **Messy Church – CANCELLED** due to St Gregory's temporary closure
- Saturday 18th** **St George's Day Celebration –** Strand Centre, 6.30pm
- Tuesday 21st** **Kids' Swap Shop – CANCELLED** due to St Gregory's temporary closure
Little Greg's – CANCELLED due to St Gregory's temporary closure
Ladies' Lunch – Amelia's, Cofton Holidays, 12pm for 12.30pm

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

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](#)
