

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 15th February 2026

www.cofe-in-dawlish.org.uk

'THE PRODIGAL GOD'

Revd Linda Cronin, our Rector, writes:

Dear friends,

In just a week's time we will begin the season of Lent — a time for reflection and penitence before God, as we remember Jesus' forty days in the wilderness.

For some, Lent is a time of sacrifice and discipline: giving something up, or perhaps taking on an act of service for the forty days. For others, it may mean setting aside intentional time to be with God in study and prayer.

As Christians Together in Dawlish and District, we will be offering a series of Lent Bible studies using the book *The Prodigal God* by the late Tim Keller.



Keller suggests that while the parable of the prodigal son is Jesus' best-known story, it is also one of His least understood. He invites us to look again at this timeless parable — not only at the wayward younger son, but also at the judgemental older brother and, most importantly, at the loving father.

This short but powerful book serves as a reminder to the faithful, an explanation to the seeker, and an invitation to us all — both "older" and "younger" brothers alike — to enter into the unique and radical nature of the gospel: the reckless, extravagant love of God.

The dates and times for the groups can be found elsewhere in this newsletter*. Each weekly session is identical, allowing you the flexibility to attend whichever group suits you best that week.

Whatever you are planning to do this Lent, may I warmly encourage you to consider joining one of these groups. Come and discover anew the unique and radical nature of the gospel — the reckless, spendthrift love of God.

Blessings,

Revd Linda Cronin, Rector

**See page 4 of this Newsletter for the Lent Bible Study dates, times and locations*

PRAYER HALF HOUR

Restarting from 24th February
Every Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri.
From 6.30pm on Zoom

To join – please click this link [HERE](#)

**VACANCY:
PART-TIME CHURCH
ADMINISTRATOR**

for the Dawlish Coast Mission Community

Location:

St Gregory's Church Office, Dawlish

Hours:

Part-Time (12-16 hours per week, negotiable)

Salary:

£13.45 p/hr (Real Living Wage)

Annual Leave:

28 days per annum pro-rata,
including Statutory Holidays

We are seeking a reliable and well-organised **Part-Time Administrator** to help in supporting the smooth running of three churches within the Dawlish Coast Mission Community (i.e. St Gregory's, Dawlish; St George's, Holcombe and St Mary's, Cofton).

This is a key role at the heart of the church community, providing administrative, communication and practical support to the clergy, ministry team, congregation and wider community.

The role requires someone with excellent organisational, interpersonal and IT skills, as well as the ability to manage a varied workload with accuracy and efficiency.

The individual will be committed to helping serve the churches and communities with warmth and professionalism.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of others and expect all staff and volunteers to share in this commitment.

The position is subject to a **3-month probationary period** and **annual appraisal**.

The **JOB DESCRIPTION** and **APPLICATION FORM** are available for download from the 'Vacancies' page of our website by clicking on this link: [HERE](#) or the 'WE ARE HIRING!' image at the top right of this page.

CLOSING DATE for applications: 27 February 2026

For more information, an informal conversation or to submit your application, please contact the Rector, Rev Linda Cronin, on: 01626 927281
or Email: revdlinda@icloud.com

WE ARE HIRING!

**Part-Time
Church Administrator**

📍 St Gregory's, Dawlish

🕒 12-16 hours per week (negotiable)
💰 £13.45 per hour + paid leave

For the full job description & to apply:
www.cofe-in-dawlish.org.uk/vacancies/benefice-administrator.php

📅 Closing Date: 27 February 2026

Please share to help us reach the right person.

Please share to help us reach the right person.

PLEASE PRAY AND SHARE TO HELP US REACH THE RIGHT PERSON!

Dawlish Coast Mission Community



**Christ of the Pots and Pans.....
in the footsteps of Brother
Lawrence**

an afternoon of quiet prayer
at St George's Church, Holcombe
on Saturday 28th February 2-4pm
2pm Opening worship and reflection
followed by an hour or so on our own in the stillness
3.30pm Closing worship
followed by tea and cake

No need to sign up! All are welcome!

For information, phone Helen Bays 01626-863098

Text 07391-594867 spiritualdirections264@gmail.com

The highly-acclaimed LIVE nationwide tour

**jonathan.
veira**

jv

An uplifting, musical
celebration – full of life,
love and laughter!

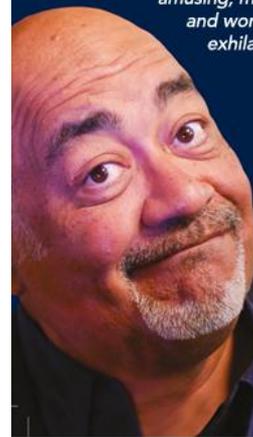
"West End quality... the
whole place was buzzing.
Don't miss this amazing,
amusing, moving
and wonderfully
exhilarating show!"

★★★★★

**Saturday, 28th February 2026
at 7.30pm**

Hope Church
Swift Road, Dawlish, EX7 0FS

Tickets: £10.00
01626 923365
hello@hopedawlish.org
[hopechurchdawlish.org/whats-on](https://www.hopechurchdawlish.org/whats-on)



VERGERS AT ST. GREG'S

A message from the Rector

As part of our transition with
Leena and Richard standing down
as Churchwardens this year,

Andrew Fuller and Martyn Andrews will be
coordinating and leading our small team
of Vergers at St Greg's.

JONATHAN VEIRA is a world-renowned musician. Come and join Jonathan for this inspiring and memorable show at Hope Church Dawlish! Be delighted as he plays and sings a rich variety of beautiful and well-known songs across many musical styles. And be enthralled as, in his relaxed and easy-going way, he shares his faith in God and recounts captivating, moving, and often hilarious anecdotes from his professional and personal life. You'll laugh and cry... and go home with a song in your heart!

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

Dear all,

We are well on our way with preparations for this year's 'Easter Is...?' experience that we put on for our local schools - for those unsure what this is, think 'Open the Book'. There are currently some 'actor' roles that still need filling (*no lines to learn!*) and I'd love it if some Anglicans (men and women) 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 call Adam Gidney
by February 24th on 07711 234948
or email rocdawlishschools@gmail.com*

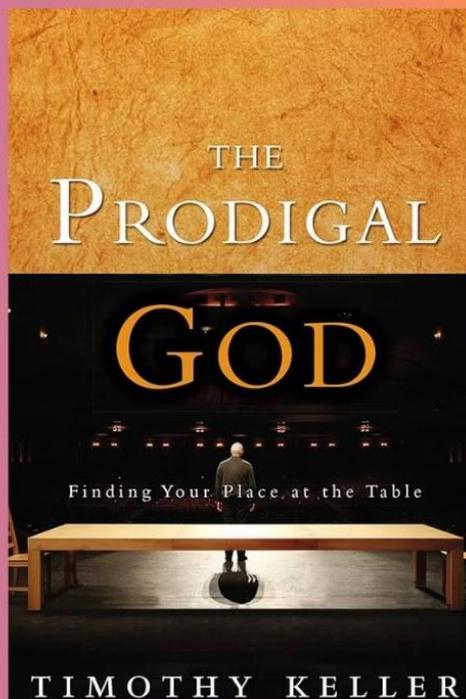


Christians Together
in Dawlish and
District

Lent Bible study groups

Tuesday 2pm St Paul's Starcross
Wednesday 2pm Dawlish Methodist
Wednesday 7pm ask for venue
Thursday 2pm St George's Holcombe

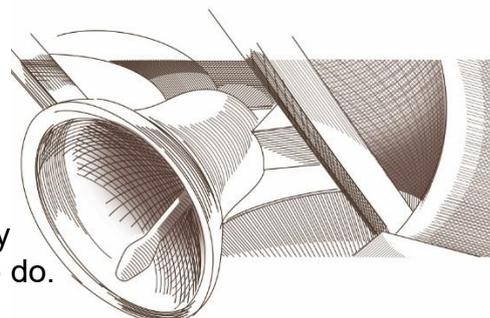
BEGINNING THE W/C 23RD FEB FOR 6 WEEKS
EACH WEEKLY SESSION IS IDENTICAL
SO YOU CAN GO TO ANY GROUP IN EACH WEEK
FOR MORE INFO CONTACT
07534369035



VISITING RINGERS AT ST. GREG'S

Cath Chappell, St Greg's Ringers' Tower Secretary writes:

A band of visiting ringers will attempt to ring a peal on our St Greg's bells on Monday morning 16.2.26. This means they are aiming to ring competently and continuously for 3 hours (from 10am to 1pm) ie the ultimate ringing challenge, especially because it's such a mentally and physically demanding thing to do.



For those of you who enjoy hearing our bells rung - this will be a great opportunity to hear them rung well and for those who aren't so keen - we really hope you aren't disturbed too much and thank you for your kind understanding and patience. *Please do share this info with your neighbours - especially anyone living close to St Greg's church.*

REDEEMING OUR COMMUNITIES – SOUTH-WEST GATHERING – 21st MARCH

Mark Jones, ROC Dawlish, writes:

Dear Friends,
We're delighted to invite you to the Redeeming Our Communities (ROC) South-West Gathering on Saturday 21 March, 6:00–9:30 pm, at the Hope Centre in Dawlish.



National Director and Founder of ROC (roc.uk.com), Debra Green OBE DL, will bring a prophetic call to the church, helping us reflect on how we live out our faith, in unity, and on mission in today's rapidly-changing context.

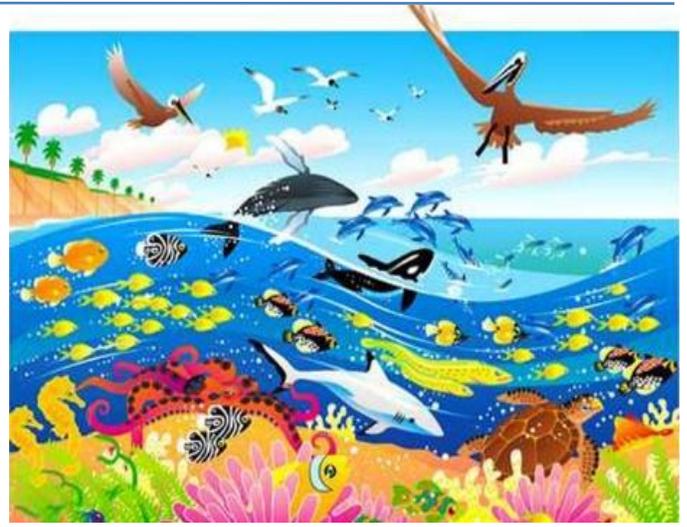
This **FREE** evening is open to churches, leaders, and church members from across Devon and the South West and will include worship, teaching, prayer, and space to respond together.

Follow this link to book your FREE ticket: redeemingyourcommunity.eventbrite.co.uk
Here's a short invitation video for you to share: <https://youtu.be/A7KiAZJ8dHc>
Here's Debra in action to give you a flavour: <https://fb.watch/EVP0IxRGIQ/>

We'd love you to join us. Grace and peace, Mark

CREATOREM CAELI ET TERRAE (Creator of Heaven and Earth)

*A poem by Revd. Jon Swales
from the collection 'Creed'*



Thank you
to Preb
Chris Curd
for sharing
this
beautiful
poem

The recycling lorry grinds past.
Children head to work
and school.
Then stillness returns.

After prayer, I step outside.
The dawn leans in,
dew on grass,
a robin's sermon,
breath rising like incense.

Creator of heaven and earth,
the words arrive not as theory
but as touch, taste,
trembling:
light through leaf,
the smell of damp soil,
the world alive with God.

Once I thought
creation a thing,
a stage, a backdrop
for redemption's play.
Now I see communion,
each creature a syllable
in the endless
language of praise.

The heavens declare.
The trees clap their hands.
Even the stones
Rehearse hallelujahs.
This is no random sphere,
but a temple vast as the stars,
Eden at its heart,
each river a hymn,
each mountain an altar,
each breath a prayer.

And yet we, the clever ones,
split atoms, dissect meaning,
name everything,
and forget to kneel.

The left brain
measures, masters.
The right remembers wonder,
the God who walked
in the cool of the day,
who speaks
not through equations
but through things
seen and unseen.

"Where were you,"
says the Voice to Job,
"when the morning stars
sang together?
Have you seen
the storehouses of snow?
Told the eagle to soar?"
The answer is silence,
and silence is worship.

For we are dust and stardust,
a little lower than angels,
a little higher than earthworms,
and kin to both.

Still, grace breathes
through our nostrils.
Still, the Spirit hovers,
calling forth light again.

Heaven is not beyond Mars,
but woven through this world,
a hidden pulse,
divine presence
threaded through all things.

Yet the rivers groan,
the forests sigh in smoke,
the soil remembers
every wound.
The earth waits,
not for dominion,
but repentance,
for sons and daughters
to join creation's aching hymn.

This temple longs for renewal,
its veil torn not in ruin
but revelation,
when heaven and earth
meet again,
and glory fills the dwelling.

From time to time
the veil still thins,
and the ordinary
shimmers
with the weight
of the holy.

I look up.
A red kite
wheels
through bronze
mystery.
The wind hums psalms
through the trees.
My lungs fill
with borrowed breath.

I whisper again,
half prayer, half wonder,
at the miracle of life.

I believe in God,
the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven
and earth,
the One
in whom all things
hold together,
whose wisdom
births galaxies,
whose tenderness
cradles the sparrow,
whose beauty will one day
make all things new.

And somewhere
in the distance,
the robin sings again.



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 – 15th to 28th February

Sunday 15th February — Sunday next before Lent

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
6pm Telephone Service – *to join dial 0330 088 1927 followed by access code 2132492*

Ash Wednesday – 18th February

Holy Communion *with imposition of ashes*
10am at St Gregory's and 2pm at St George's

Thursday 19th February

3.30pm-6pm St Gregory's – Messy Church

Friday 20th February

1.30pm St Gregory's – Funeral service: *Nesta Thomas*

Sunday 22nd February — 1st Sunday of Lent

9.30am St George's – Morning Worship
9.30am St Paul's – Holy Communion and Confirmation *with Bishop Moira*
10am St Gregory's – Holy Communion *with Archdeacon Andrew*
11.15am St Mary's – Holy Communion

Wednesday 25th February

10am St Gregory's - Midweek Holy Communion

Saturday 28th February

12pm St Mary's – Marriage of *Ben Chafer and Faith Perry*
2-4pm St George's – an afternoon of quiet prayer, *see below and page 3 for more details*



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

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

Restarting from 24th February
Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri.
PRAYER HALF HOUR
From 6.30pm on Zoom
Please follow this link [HERE](#) to join

DIARY DATES IN FEBRUARY

Monday 16th Visiting Bellringers – St Gregory's, 10am-1pm
Tuesday 17th Little Greg's – St Gregory's, 9.30-11.30am
Mothers' Union – Upper Narthex, St Gregory's, 2pm
Wednesday 18th Warmer Place – St George's, 12noon-2pm, enjoy a delicious bowl of soup, £7 in support of Devon Air Ambulance and Children's Hospice SW
Thursday 19th Messy Church – St Gregory's, 3.30-6pm
Monday 23rd CTDD Lent Bible Study Groups 'The Prodigal God' begin this week – *see page 4 for details*
Tuesday 24th Little Greg's – St Gregory's, 9.30-11.30am
Julian Group – Upper Narthex, St Gregory's, 2pm
Prayer half-hour – 6.30pm every Tues, Wed, Thur, Fri on Zoom resumes – *see notice above right for the link to join*
Saturday 28th 'Christ of the Pots and Pans' in the footsteps of Brother Lawrence
Afternoon of quiet prayer - St George's, 2-4pm *See page 3 for details*
Jonathan Veira - Hope Church, 7.30pm *See page 3 for 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

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](#)