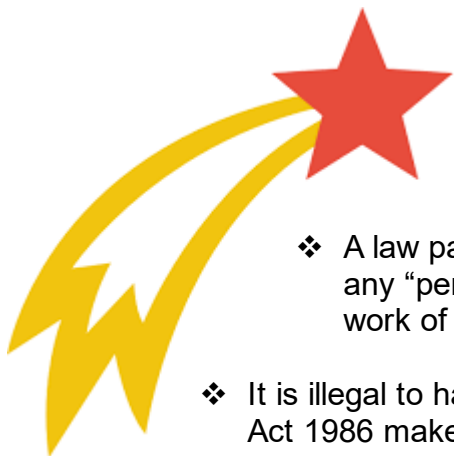


DAWLISH COAST MISSION COMMUNITY

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 21st December 2025

www.cofe-in-dawlish.org.uk



CHRISTMAS RULES! Our Rector, Rev Linda Cronin, writes:

Dear friends

Just for fun – some Christmas laws!

- ❖ A law passed by Charles II in 1677 makes it illegal on Christmas Day for any “person whatsoever to do or exercise any worldly labour, business or work of their ordinary callings.”
- ❖ It is illegal to handle fish in suspicious circumstances. Section 32 of the Salmon Act 1986 makes it an offence to handle fish in suspicious circumstances. The Act used to just apply only to salmon, but it was amended to include other fish by the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.
- ❖ It is illegal to ride or drive to church on Christmas Day. Edward VI's law of 1551 set this out, and it was modified by George III in 1780 allowing police to confiscate and sell any vehicle parked close to a church, the money being distributed to the poor and needy.
- ❖ It is illegal to eat more than three courses of Christmas dinner at a restaurant or hotel, according to a William IV law which was part of the People's Charter of 1836.
- ❖ It is illegal to eat mince pies on Christmas Day! (Well, it was in 1644, as 25 December that year fell on a legally-mandated day of fasting).

There's more - just take a google on the internet!

So, I'm not supposed to drive to Church on Christmas Day, eat more than three courses of Christmas dinner and definitely no mince pies! Well, I firmly believe we need to keep 'the main thing, the main thing!' Without Christ there is no *Christmas* is there? Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, with the name meaning “*Christ's Mass*”. We will celebrate Christ's mass across our Church's next week at various times and places.

I'd like to leave you with a question to ponder – in all the festivities, food, family, friends etc how will you keep 'the main thing, the main thing'?

“Dear Lord, don't let us miss You this Christmas season. Help us to simplify our activities and traditions so we can focus our celebration on Your birth. Thank You for being the Prince of Peace, and I ask You for that supernatural peace to reign in our hearts. Thank You for the simple but life-changing message of Your love for us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.” Melanie Chitwood



May you know the peace of Christ this Christmas and His blessing in the New Year.

Yours in Christ,
Rev'd Linda Cronin, Rector

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES FOR UKRAINE AND MOLDOVA

Ray Moore writes that Dawlish Water Rotary colleagues completed collections from near and far ready for the annual operations when the HGV was packed for its trip with the CR2EE charity (Christian Response to Eastern Europe). Both we and CR2EE are grateful for the contributions from St Gregory's. The Pudding Club boxes were joined by another 15 boxes from members of the St Greg's congregation, together with generous cash donations.



Ray Moore is pictured collecting shoeboxes from Tedburn St Mary Primary School – just one of many collections!

CR2EE tell how the eagerly awaited lorry, packed with 1000s of boxes has now arrived, cleared customs and been unloaded ready for distribution in time for Christmas. Hugh Scudder of CR2EE offers sincere thanks to everyone who put together a shoebox, all the churches and businesses who acted as collection points, the members of Rotary Club of Dawlish Water for collecting so many boxes on their behalf, the wonderful team of volunteers in Exmouth who sorted and packed several thousand shoeboxes and also to all those who contributed financially.

A CHRISTMAS EVE DITTY

I'd gaze at the chimney - perhaps he was there!
Be ushered to bed with my stocking hung near
Try staying awake but sleep closed my eyes,
For I knew in the morning there'd be a surprise!
And I wished it was Christmas each night of the year
Yes I wished it was Christmas each night of the year.

Well now I am grown and I know what's the truth,
That Santa does not come from up on the roof.
No need to stay waking 'til sleep close my eyes,
For someone more glorious, holy and wise
And I know it is Christmas each night of the year
Jesus came! And is with me each night of the year
Yes, He came! and is with me each night of the year.

Marjorie Thorne



ST MARY'S COFTON
EX6 8RP

DECEMBER SERVICES

Sunday 7th Morning Worship, 11.15am
Sunday 14th Blue Christmas, 4pm
Thursday 18th Carol Service at St Mary's Hall, Dawlish Warren, 7pm
Sunday 21st Carols in Cofton Parish Hall, Cockwood, 3pm
Wednesday 24th Christmas Eve Holy Communion, 4pm
Sunday 28th Holy Communion, 11.15am

'Blue Christmas' is a quiet reflective service that acknowledges grief and loss for those who find traditional Christmas celebrations difficult.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU

AN INVITATION TO JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS WORSHIP IN DAWLISH AND DISTRICT

St Gregory's Church, Dawlish

30th Nov. 4pm Ecumenical service for
the beginning of Advent

21st Dec. 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight

24th Dec. 5pm Crib Service

24th Dec. 11pm Midnight Mass

25th Dec 10am Family Holy Communion

St George's Church, Holcombe

17th Dec. 4pm Carol Service

24th Dec. 4pm Crib Service

24th Dec. 6pm Holy Communion

St Mary's Church, Cofton

14th Dec. 4pm 'Blue Christmas'

18th Dec. 7pm Carols in St Mary's Hall
Dawlish Warren

21st Dec. 3pm Carols in Cockwood Hall

24th Dec. 4pm Holy Communion

St Paul's Church, Starcross

21st Dec. 6pm Carols by Candlelight

24th Dec. 5pm Crib Service

25th Dec. 9.30am Holy Communion

Dawlish Methodist Church

21st Dec. 10.30am Carol Service for all
ages

24th Dec. 4pm Christmas Eve
Communion

25th Dec. 10am Christmas Day worship
for all ages

The Strand URC Church Dawlish

21st Dec. 6.30pm Carol Service

25th Dec. Christmas Day lunch (pre-
booking)

Hope Church, Dawlish

18th Dec. 6pm Carols in the Café

21st Dec. 6pm Carol Service

24th Dec. 4pm Crib Service

25th Dec. 10.30am Christmas worship

St Agatha's RC Church Dawlish

24th Dec. 6pm Christmas Vigil Mass



SERVICES – 21st DECEMBER 2025 to 3rd JANUARY 2026



Sunday 21st December — 4th Sunday of Advent

9.30am	St George's – Holy Communion
10am	St Gregory's – Greg's@10
3pm	St Mary's – Carols in Cofton Parish Hall, Cockwood
6pm	St Paul's – Carols by Candlelight
6.30pm	St Gregory's – Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24th December

4pm	St George's – Crib Service
4pm	St Mary's – Holy Communion
5pm	St Gregory's – Crib Service
6pm	St George's – Holy Communion
11pm	St Gregory's – Midnight Holy Communion
5pm	St Paul's – Crib Service

Christmas Day, Thursday 25th December

9.30am	St Paul's – Family Holy Communion
10am	St Gregory's – Family Holy Communion

Sunday 28th December — 1st Sunday of Christmas

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

Wednesday 31st December

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

The
PRAYER HALF HOUR
that has been taking place at 6pm on a Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri. has now stopped.

It will restart at the beginning of Lent.

Watch this space!

DIARY DATES

DECEMBER

Sunday 21 st	Christmas Tree Festival – Last chance to see! St Gregory's, 2-5pm
Tuesday 23 rd	A Christmas Carol – Dramatic reading. The Strand Centre, 6pm.
Tuesday 30 th	Julian Group – St Gregory's, 2pm

JANUARY

Sunday 4 th	Choral Evensong – St Gregory's, 4pm. Followed by tea.
Thursday 8 th	Pudding Club – Upper Narthex at St Gregory's, 2.30pm

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

Steve Cronin (LLM): 07817 678774;

Will Halse (LLM): 01626 866054;

Ceri Lee (LLM): 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](#)