

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 23 November 2025

www.cofe-in-dawlish.org.uk

TALKING JESUS *Steve Cronin writes:*

Recently, several people from the Benefice attended a conference held at Hope Church. The conference was run by The Evangelical Alliance and Hope Together (different from Hope Church), the conference was called 'Talking Jesus'. It looked, in an exciting way, at the information gathered during recent research of the current trends in people coming to church - many people coming to church for the first time. As ever it's people's stories that leave an impression when you go to these things. One story that has stayed with me, was about an elderly lady in Iran.



There is an organisation, based in the UK, that ships bibles to Iran. Their most prolific distributor is an elderly lady, who is not very mobile and has difficulties both seeing and hearing. The amount of bibles that she wanted for distribution far outweighed their other contacts and so they asked if she still needed to receive so many. She said yes that she DID need them. They were intrigued, how was this lady able to pass on so many bibles? They asked her.....

She said that each day she gets her shopping trolley and fills it with bibles and goes to the bus stop. When the bus comes, she gets on and as Iranian buses are segregated, sits in a seat where women are allowed to do so. She gets out her bible and asks the woman sitting next to her to read it to her, explaining that her own eyes aren't too good. Invariably the woman sitting next to her will oblige and start to read. Then the elderly lady will ask her newly met companion whether she could speak louder as her hearing isn't too good either.

The woman is effectively reading the bible to the whole bus! This generally causes a stir. "What is this she is reading?" people ask. The elderly lady replies "It's the bible". The other bus passengers react with wonder, and they ask where they might be able to get a bible so they can read it, too. Surprise, surprise! The elderly lady opens her shopping bag and gives bibles to any that want one. A fantastic true story, especially if you consider that to distribute bibles in Iran is illegal and could possibly end in the death penalty to whoever might be caught doing it. It must take real courage to do this every day.

The 'Finding Jesus' research in 2024 took a sample of 280 people who had come to faith in the previous 5 years. It asked questions about how they had come to their decision and what were the significant factors that influenced them. The sample had people aged from 18 right up to people in their 80s. 27%, the largest cohort of the sample were Anglicans.

When asked what sparked their journey the top answers were:

- I needed help with life
- I was looking for meaning
- A difficult or painful experience
- I wanted to be a better person.

The second most significant factors were the actions or deeds of Christians they know:

- 29% A Christian spoke to me about their faith
- 29% Seeing the impact of Christian faith on someone I know
- 26% the actions of a Christian

Surprisingly a significant number of the people asked said that they were happy to be invited to church. Have we got the courage to start that conversation and invite someone to church?



A REPORT ON 'REACHING DAWLISH 7'

'Reaching Dawlish 7' was held on Saturday 8th November in the Dawlish Methodist Church Hall. 46 people attended and a team drawn from across the churches hosted, cooked together and served everyone. It really was a very powerful and deeply encouraging time together. Updates were given from a wide range of current Dawlish-based mission, outreach and evangelism initiatives, including the ROC Dawlish Schools' Project (Adam Gidney), Dawlish Community Larder and CAP Money Course (Jo Jones), St Greg's Messy Church and Kids' Swap Shop (Ceri Lee), CAP Teignbridge (Tim Wigley), The Hub Store (Simon Dunn), Dawlish Methodist Church Warm Welcome (Naomi Merrall), Hope Cafe (Mike Atkinson), Hope Friends (Margie Laing), and Rockhaven Adventure (Roger Helyar). Needs were shared and offers of help were given. If you'd like to find out more about any of these initiatives, please just ask and we'll seek to link you up with the relevant person.



Mark spoke briefly from Jeremiah 29:7, reminding us that, just as the exiles in Babylon were told to "seek the peace and prosperity" of their community (Jeremiah 29:7), we too are called to engage fully where God has placed us. To advance the Kingdom further we must all work together — churches, ministries, and believers united.

During an open time of prayer, the Holy Spirit moved powerfully, and we felt the Lord speak to us directly about the priority of working in unity and love as his disciples, and about our shining as lights as we go out into our community. If you weren't able to be there and you'd like to get involved, we'd love to have a coffee with you, hear your heart and share more together over prayer.

God bless.

Mark Jones, ROC Dawlish Local Coordinator
rocdawlish@gmail.com 07729998334)



NOT ME LORD

A poem by Marjorie Thorne

I cannot see my sin it was the other's fault
I will not look within to see the lie I bought
I can't escape my hurt, despite that healing verse
Don't want to give it up, it is so sweet to nurse

Don't ask ME to forgive - you do not understand
The anguish that I live is from the other's hand
For surely you can see it wasn't me to blame?
That it most certainly was to the other's shame!

Oh Jesus! Give us grace the more to recognise
and Jesus help us face - the log within our eyes
Our logs became your cross of suffering and shame
So, for each one of us - forgiveness may be gained

Lord, help us to forgive and let your healing in
Then henceforth choose to live, victor and not victim



The blame game still happens in most places - even in churches - let's all try to recognise it and Jesus's words *"Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called children of God"* (Matt 5:09)

christians
against
poverty

**CAP Teignbridge
Debt Centre
Fundraiser**

CAP

CAN YOU HELP?

We are raising funds to continue running this vital service with the support of Aviva's Community Fund.
Aviva will MATCH FUND every donation up to £250 **only until 2nd December 2025!**

Please could you prayerfully consider whether you could support us? Thank You.

With the support of churches and befrienders, we provide free debt help, practical and emotional support to families across Teignbridge.

**TO DONATE PLEASE VISIT
WWW.AVIVACOMMUNITYFUND.CO.UK/P/CAP-TEIGNBRIDGE-DEBT-CENTRE**

AVIVA
Community Fund

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT!**

**CAP
DEBT
HELP**

Crafting and Chatting

Embroidery Knitting

First Monday of the month 1.30-3.00
in the Church Rooms at St Paul's.

Do you like to chat with others while knitting or crocheting? Crochet

Would you like someone to teach you how?

Do you love crafting of any sort, or want to learn a new one, peg looming or spinning?

Embroidery or something else?

Do you have young people in school?

Then this is the date and time for you.

Tea, coffee, biscuits,
and a space to craft together.

Join us for laughter, fun,
and creating together.

Contact Georgina
for more information 07950989916

Card making Crafting

AN UPDATE ON SCHOOLS WORK

The academic year has started with a bang! In the primary schools we had a lot of access to the classroom supporting students and staff across the year groups with contributions on subjects such as, 'What is the Trinity?' and 'What does it mean to belong to a faith community?' The children were great at asking thoughtful questions and enjoyed being challenged to think differently. This coming half-term we have plenty of Christmas themed classes to access and we will be running our Christmas puppet show for EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage).

We also led many assemblies, covering 'Forgiveness Day', 'Harvest' and what it means to have a 'Fresh beginning'. We now look forward to Advent, Christmas and some more Catholic flavoured assemblies.

Our after-school club, BeDazzled, is currently at capacity with 10 lovely children and we spent the half-term learning about the different names of God. This half-term we will of course be bringing home the meaning of Christmas.

In Dawlish College, we got off the ground our ROC Champion's peer-to-peer program by training up our Year 9 children to become 'champions' to the Year 7 Buddys they'll be supporting. This half-term, we now bring them together running weekly relationship building workshops that run until Christmas.

Hope Connection is going from strength to strength with both the 'Friends' and 'Toddlers' groups meaningfully supporting Year 9 students to be better servants. It's been such a success that the College wants a third session!

Our Kintsugi Hope small group, wellbeing sessions start up again this half term with Mark Jones and myself running them for 10 students.

And finally, hopefully new to this half-term will be supporting Dawlish College students on a one-to-one basis - a program we are coining 'ROC Solid'. Your prayers for this would be appreciated.

For further information or if you'd like to get involved, please contact me, Adam Gidney, **ROC Dawlish School and Family Mentor Coordinator** on 07711234948 or rocdawlishschools@gmail.com



DAWLISH TOWN COUNCIL PRESENTS



Christmas In DAWLISH

**Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th
November 2025**



- Christmas Lights Switch On
- Market Stalls
- Live Music
- Father Christmas
- Christmas Carol Sing-along
- Lantern Parade
- Saturday Late Night Shopping

Your Cheer Starts Here!

Dawlish Coast Mission Community



Be Still and Know.....

an afternoon of quiet prayer
at St George's Church, Holcombe
on Saturday 22nd November 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

St Gregory's Church *Christmas tree festival* *2025*

Grand opening
Wed 10th Dec 6.00 pm

Thu 11th 3-5pm

Fri 12th 2-5pm

Sat 13th Dec Festival concert 3-6pm

Sun 14th - Tue 16th Dec 2-5 pm

Fri 19th Dec - Sun 21st Dec 2-5 pm

Carol Service

Sunday 21st Dec 6.30 pm

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 – 23rd November to 6th December 2025



Sunday 23rd November — Christ the King

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 26th November

10am St Gregory's - Midweek Holy Communion
1pm St Gregory's – Funeral of Kathleen Carmalt

Sunday 30th November — 1st Sunday of Advent

10.30am St Paul's – Benefice Service
(NB: No morning service in the other churches of the Benefice this Sunday)
4pm St Gregory's - CTDD Advent Service

Wednesday 3rd December

10am St Gregory's - Midweek Holy Communion
2pm St Gregory's – Funeral of Anthony Dillon-Everest

Thursday 4th December

7pm St Gregory's – Dawlish Funeralcare Memorial Service

Friday 5th December

12pm St Gregory's – Funeral of Pat Sharland

DIARY DATES.....

NOVEMBER

Tuesday 25th Little Greg's – St Gregory's, 9.30 -11.30am
Julian Group – St Gregory's, 2pm

Saturday 29th Christmas in Dawlish - Lantern Parade led by live Nativity scene, 4.30pm.
Switch On of Christmas Lights, 5pm.

DECEMBER

Monday 1st Mens' Breakfast – St Gregory's, 9am
Crafting and Chatting – St Paul's, 1.30-3pm
(see page 2 for details)

Tuesday 2nd Kids' Swap Shop – St Gregory's, 9 -11am
Little Greg's – St Gregory's, 9.30am-11.30am
Choral Society Concert – St Gregory's, 6.30pm

Thursday 4th Pudding Club – St Gregory's, 2pm



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

PRAYER HALF HOUR

For the winter months
6pm on Zoom
Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri.
Until further notice.

Follow the link [here](#)
Meeting ID:
892 3582 4923
Passcode: 0jagzd

FOLLOW THESE LINKS

St Greg's [Facebook](#)
[Instagram](#)

St George's
[Facebook](#)

St Mary's [Facebook](#)
St Paul's [Facebook](#)

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

Revd Patrick Parkes (Minister at Starcross) : 01626 685709 ep@sky.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](#)