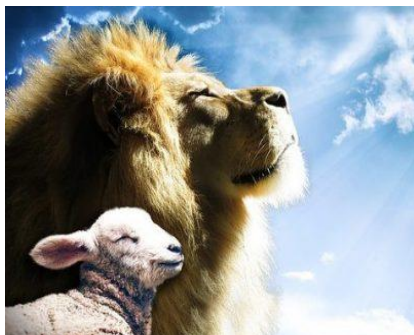


# DAWLISH COAST MISSION COMMUNITY

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 7<sup>th</sup> December 2025

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



## LIONS, LAMBS, LEOPARDS AND BEARS, OH MY!

Ceri Lee writes:

In preparing to lead Greg's@10 this coming Sunday (7<sup>th</sup> December) I spent time reading quite a few commentaries and reflections on the set readings for the day before deciding which way to go. I settled on Matthew's account of John the Baptist (Matt.3:1-12) BUT couldn't get the Old Testament reading (Isaiah 11:1-10) out of my mind. Here's an extract from it:

*'A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him – the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord – and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. ....  
The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.'* (NIV)

One of the reasons for the passage remaining on my mind is undoubtedly because its well-known words are a beautiful and profound prophecy concerning the future reign of the Messiah. Another reason is because I came across a reflection on the passage by Corenna Rae which resonated with me. After 25 years in her role as a vocational minister (in Rhode Island in the United States) Corenna describes herself as continuing to *'learn how to listen well and walk vulnerably'* as she endeavours to empower people to become confident, vulnerable, generous, Christ-like leaders. Her lifetime passions, she goes on, are for ministries of justice, reconciliation, restoration, and healing. She's not the only one. I dare say a few of us share her fervour for those ideals! Here are some of the thoughts Corenna shared on the Isaiah passage, and which made an impression on me:

*'Perhaps you have seen or heard of the videos, reels and pictures that not so long ago appeared on the internet, of a tiger nursing piglets or a sea lion hugging a penguin. Even though they've been proved to be generated by AI and, therefore, are false, we are still fascinated with such things, because they are so rare. If every tiger took care of piglets, it would not be noteworthy. In the same way, the parade of animal friends in Isaiah is remarkable because of its oddity: wolf and lamb, leopard with kid, calf with lion, even children who play without fear because snakes don't bite. Peace, Isaiah tells us, is possible when inconceivable, not only for odd animal friendships but in our lives. In fact, this vision grows out of something that appears finished, lifeless, and discarded.'*

*The sign of new life to come begins with a stump. There may be times when we look around and think our relationships are finished or that the world is more divided than ever. Yet generations before us, facing similar fear, violence and apprehension, have chosen to say "yes" to the invitation to move toward righteousness and reconciliation, as Isaiah envisioned here. Like the stump, this invitation has deep roots. We are reminded of the history of God's people and God's transforming presence in our world. This ancient text recalls the reality of the human condition and its possibilities. In so doing, it encourages us to remove any barriers to equity, to transformation, and to honouring our collective humanity. Friends, there is life here and new possibilities every day!'*

Isaiah tells us that prey will no longer fear their predators. The vulnerable will be protected. All of creation will be filled with the wisdom of God. We have reason to live joyfully together – let's do it!



# *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*





## NATIVITY AND LANTERN PARADE

Thank you to Will Halse for sending in this great picture (*below*) of three wise men (*allegedly!*) together with Maggie Webster and her grandchildren as characters from the nativity story. The parade was postponed (due to a weather warning) from Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November as part of the 'Christmas in Dawlish' event, including the Christmas light 'switch on'.



**ST MARY'S COFTON**  
EX6 8RP

## DECEMBER SERVICES

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

**Messy Church** at St. Greg's



*It's church, but not as you know it!*

You are invited to the:

## CHRISTMAS PARTY!

Thursday  
18th December  
3.30pm to 6pm

Messy Church values are about being Christ-centred, for all ages, based on creativity, hospitality and celebration.



## Christmas Tree Festival Concert

A fabulous afternoon of festive music & song featuring some amazing groups from our local community.

Featuring.....

Combined choirs of St Gregory's & St George's  
Gatehouse Primary School Children  
Chordettes Acappella Chorus  
Dawlish Rockwaves  
The High C's  
One Accord

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2025**  
**At St Gregory's Church, Dawlish**

**Concert starts: 3:00pm**  
**Free entry but all donations will be welcomed**

Proceeds from the concert will be equally split between the following local charities:





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## ST PAUL'S WINTER WARMER

Becky Bird writes:

The weekend of 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> November was a very busy (and enjoyable) time at St Paul's, Starcross, with our Winter Warmer sale raising over £1,300! An amazing amount of money, some of which will go towards our fundraising for re-ordering at St Paul's, which includes improved and additional toilets! Many thanks to all who helped make this such a success - including all those who came and spent money!

Then on Sunday morning we had a packed church for the baptism of Arabella - I think one of the best-behaved babies we have seen being baptised! She was quite interested in Patrick's microphone!



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## CLERGY AND LLMS GATHER FOR BISHOP'S STUDY MORNING

On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November licensed clergy and LLMs from across Devon came together at St Peter's Church of England Aided School for the second annual Bishop's Study Morning. This year the theme was *Discipling*. Making new disciples is one of the Diocese of Exeter's three vision aims and the morning was about enabling ministers to go deeper in their own discipleship and help others to do the same.

The keynote speaker, Brian Draper, Associate Lecturer at the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity and fresh from BBC Radio 4's 'Thought for the Day' that morning, invited participants to pause, embrace silence and solitude, and be open to God.

The morning also featured practical examples of discipleship from churches across the Diocese and worship led by Canon John Bennet, from Ilsington. Bishop Mike began the morning by saying: "Gratitude flows from the absolute wonder of remembering I am here. What a thing it is this morning to be present."

*Editor's Note:*

*Will and I (Ceri) were lucky enough to be there. It was inspirational.*





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

### **St Gregory's Church, Dawlish**

30<sup>th</sup> Nov. 4pm Ecumenical service for the beginning of Advent  
21<sup>st</sup> Dec. 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight  
24<sup>th</sup> Dec. 5pm Crib Service  
24<sup>th</sup> Dec. 11pm Midnight Mass  
25<sup>th</sup> Dec 10am Family Holy Communion

### **St George's Church, Holcombe**

17<sup>th</sup> Dec. 4pm Carol Service  
24<sup>th</sup> Dec. 4pm Crib Service  
24<sup>th</sup> Dec. 6pm Holy Communion

### **St Mary's Church, Cofton**

14<sup>th</sup> Dec. 4pm 'Blue Christmas'  
18<sup>th</sup> Dec. 7pm Carols in St Mary's Hall Dawlish Warren  
21<sup>st</sup> Dec. 3pm Carols in Cockwood Hall  
24<sup>th</sup> Dec. 4pm Holy Communion

### **St Paul's Church, Starcross**

21<sup>st</sup> Dec. 6pm Carols by Candlelight  
24<sup>th</sup> Dec. 5pm Crib Service  
25<sup>th</sup> Dec. 9.30am Holy Communion

### **Dawlish Methodist Church**

21<sup>st</sup> Dec. 10.30am Carol Service for all ages  
24<sup>th</sup> Dec. 4pm Christmas Eve Communion  
25<sup>th</sup> Dec. 10am Christmas Day worship for all ages

### **The Strand URC Church Dawlish**

21<sup>st</sup> Dec. 6.30pm Carol Service  
25<sup>th</sup> Dec. Christmas Day lunch (pre-booking)

### **Hope Church, Dawlish**

18<sup>th</sup> Dec. 6pm Carols in the Café  
21<sup>st</sup> Dec. 6pm Carol Service  
24<sup>th</sup> Dec. 4pm Crib Service  
25<sup>th</sup> Dec. 10.30am Christmas worship

### **St Agatha's RC Church Dawlish**

24<sup>th</sup> Dec. 6pm Christmas Vigil Mass



## SERVICES – 7<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2025



### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December — 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

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  
5pm St Paul's – Christingle

### Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December

10am St Gregory's - Midweek Holy Communion

### Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December

10.30am St Gregory's – *Funeral of the late Sylvia How*

### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December — 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

9.30am St George's – Morning Worship  
9.30am St Paul's – Holy Communion  
10am St Gregory's – Holy Communion  
4pm St Mary's – Blue Christmas  
6pm Telephone Service - *to join by phone dial 0330 088 1927 and then enter the access code 2132492# or, to join online, follow this link [here](#)*

### Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December

10am St Gregory's - Midweek Holy Communion  
4pm St George's – Carol Service

### Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December

11am St Gregory's – *Funeral of the late Noel Thorne*  
3.30pm St Gregory's – Messy Church  
7pm St Mary's Hall, Dawlish Warren – Carol Service



### 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

## DIARY DATES in DECEMBER.....

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>** Little Greg's – St Gregory's, 9.30 -11.30am  
Ladies' Lunch – Amelia's, Cofton Holidays, 12noon

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Tree Festival opens – St Gregory's, 6pm  
*The Festival runs until Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December. For all opening times and further information see page 2 of this Newsletter*

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Tree Festival Concert – St Gregory's, 3pm

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>** Little Greg's – St Gregory's, 9.30 -11.30am  
(NB: There's no Kids' Swap Shop until January)

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>** Messy Church Christmas Party – St Gregory's, 3.30pm

### 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](mailto:revdlinda@icloud.com)

Revd Patrick Parkes (Minister at Starcross) : 01626 685709 [epp@sky.com](mailto:epp@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](#)