

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 29th March 2026

www.cofe-in-dawlish.org.uk

ALLELULIA! THE PROMISE OF NEW LIFE

Rev Linda Cronin writes:

Dear Friends,

As we look to gather to celebrate Easter, we are reminded that this joyful proclamation lies at the very heart of our faith. After the sorrow and stillness of Good Friday, the dawn of Easter Day breaks with hope, light, and new life. The resurrection of Jesus is not only a moment in history—it is a promise that continues to shape our lives today.



Alleluia!!!

In a world that can often feel uncertain or burdened, Easter speaks gently but powerfully: darkness does not have the final word. God brings life out of death, hope out of despair, and renewal where we least expect it. This is the good news we are called to live and share.

Here in our parish, it has been a blessing to journey through Lent together with Christians across Dawlish and District, as we've studied together 'The Prodigal God'. If you didn't manage to get along to any of our groups, there is a book of the same name, which I would encourage you to read. I could even lend you a copy!

Our Easter services will be wonderful celebration but there are many opportunities to walk through Holy Week too across our Churches. (take a look inside)

Remember - The resurrection of Jesus is not only a moment in history—it is a promise that continues to shape our lives today.

Alleluia, Christ is risen – He is risen indeed! So may the joy of the risen Lord fill your hearts and homes this season and always.

With every blessing,

Rev Linda



DIOCESAN NOTICE: FIRST READ IN BENEFICE CHURCHES ON SUNDAY 15th MARCH

The **Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee** has prepared a draft Pastoral Scheme for: the establishment of a **team ministry** for the benefice of **Dawlish with Holcombe, Cofton and Starcross** in the diocese of Exeter, for the cure of souls to be shared by a **team rector and one team vicar**, for the appointment of the team rector and the selection of the team vicar, for the future housing arrangements for the team and for the future patronage arrangements for the benefice.

The 2026 'Easter Is...?' Church Experience

Now running for its 4th year in Dawlish, the 'Easter Is...?' experience has been adapted so that not only our local school children can enjoy it but also the wider church!

Come and explore the first century Jerusalem temple filled with Easter story characters, who you'll 'interview' and build up a rich understanding of the impact that Easter had on them all. The experience also interactively includes ceremonial foot washing, temple sacrifice, a full-sized cross that can be hammered, a full sized first century tomb to be entered and a Passover table to explore. A time to reflect afterwards with the characters including refreshments will also be provided. Spaces are limited, so book in today!

Children are welcome with an accompanying adult, and it is encouraged that folk consider bringing a non-Christian friend

EVENT HOSTED BY **ROC** DAWLISH REDEEMING OUR COMMUNITIES **HOPE CENTRE**

Wednesday 1st of April, 6:30pm – 8:30pm at the Hope Centre, Dawlish. Tickets are FREE and available through the Hope Centre website - www.hopechurchdawlish.org/whats-on

CHURCH WARDENS AT ST GREG'S

Both St Greg's Church Wardens are stepping down at the next APCM in May. Anyone who feels called to be a Church Warden at St Gregs, should realise that an **application process** exists as follows:

1. Obtain a Nomination Form
2. Get a Proposer and Secunder to fill out the form
3. Submit completed form to the PCC Secretary
4. Forms must be submitted before the date of APCM on **17th May 2026**
5. Election will take place during the APCM

BISTRO ST GEORGE'S!

The final '**A Warmer Place**' for the current winter session was held in St George's Church Rooms on Wednesday 18th March. Delicious homemade soups and cheese scones were on the Menu. Donations raised £127 - which was equally divided between St George's current supported charities - Devon Air Ambulance and Children's Hospice South West. Thanks to all Soup and Scone makers who've made soups for the Warmer Place events held during the winter period.

Look out for further 'Bistro at St George's' occasions.

St George's Church, Holcombe

A 'Warmer Place' at ...

BISTRO

... BISTRO ST GEORGE'S!

MENU
HOME-MADE SOUPS

* Mushroom * Leek & Potato
* Carrot & Sweet Potato

A selection of buttered French bread and cheese scones, with tea and coffee to follow

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM REVD LINDA

I am delighted to share some good news within our benefice community and thrilled to announce that, subject to references and DBS checks, **Rachel Hammond** has been invited and has accepted the role of our new Benefice Administrator. We are very much looking forward to welcoming Rachel into this important role. The Benefice Administrator plays a vital part in the smooth running of our churches. Please do keep Rachel in your prayers as she prepares to join us. Every blessing, Revd Linda

ST GREGORY'S EASTER CROSS

Our Easter Cross will be outside St Greg's Church from the end of Palm Sunday and throughout our Easter celebrations. As in previous years, everyone is welcome to come to the Cross at any time during Holy week to hang a red ribbon to one of the nails on the cross as a way of remembering that Jesus died for each one of us and that in so doing our sins are forgiven. (If you haven't a red ribbon to hand, there are plenty by the cross to use so just help yourself to one)



Please just tie the ribbon so that the ends hang down loose i.e. don't tie your ribbon in a bow. Good Friday of course is not the end of the story – so do come back and visit our cross again on Easter Day or the days and nights thereafter to see its transformation! Light and Love will flow from it to

help us remember that Jesus is risen and that despite everything God loves us all so much and just wants us to know this and be able to love him and each other too.

Please spread this message to everyone and encourage as many folks as possible to come and interact with our Cross God Bless and Happy Easter!

Cath Chappell xxx

Dawlish Coast Mission Community

Holy Week and Easter

Join us as we journey through Holy Week and celebrate the joy of Easter together.

Maundy Thursday
6pm for 6.30pm Remembering Jesus' Last Supper with his friends
 Includes Communion and a light supper of soup and bread
 (sign up if possible)
 • St Mary's Hall, Dawlish Warren

Good Friday
10am Quiet reflective service
 St Gregory's Church, Dawlish
12 noon Quiet reflective service
 St Paul's Church, Starcross
2pm Quiet reflective service
 St George's Church, Holcombe

Easter Day
8am BCP Holy Communion
 St Gregory's Church, Dawlish
9.30am Holy Communion
 St George's Church, Holcombe
9.30am Holy Communion
 St Paul's Church, Starcross
10am Holy Communion
 St Gregory's Church, Dawlish
11.15am Holy Communion
 St Mary's Church, Cofton
 (Refreshments from 10.30am)

All are warmly welcome

150 YEARS OF MOTHERS' UNION!

The Mothers' Union Exeter Diocese marked its 150th anniversary with a special service at Exeter Cathedral in March 2026, celebrating a century and a half of supporting families and communities worldwide. Members from across the diocese gathered for the occasion, with banners



representing both active and former branches. A highlight of the service was the enrolment of Bishop Mike and his wife, Rachel, into the Mothers' Union by Diocesan President Nikki Sweatman. The churches of Cofton, Starcross and Dawlish were all represented at this joyful and significant celebration. The Mothers' Union continues its vital work addressing poverty, injustice and isolation, living out its calling to serve as "Christ's hands and feet" in communities, under the 2026 theme: "Join Us and Join In."



LOVE YOUR BURIAL GROUND WEEK - with Churches Count on Nature 2026

Registrations are open on the Caring for God's Acre website for [Love Your Burial Ground Week with Churches Count on Nature](#), their annual initiative to celebrate and monitor the wildlife to be found in churchyards, chapel yards and cemeteries across the UK. The dates this year are **Saturday 6th – Sunday 14th June**.

It is promoted by Caring for God's Acre in partnership with the Church of England, the Church in Wales and A Rocha UK. It coincides with National Cemeteries Week, hosted by the National Federation of Cemetery Friends, as well as with the Great Big Green Week run by the Climate Coalition.

Burial Ground managers, PCCs and Friends groups are encouraged to get together with congregations and local residents to run events observing and recording wildlife, whether hosted by a local expert, as a fun activity for families, or any number of options in between. Feedback from 2025 was overwhelmingly positive, with 97% of participating groups giving either a 4-star or 5-star rating. A fantastic 58% said that attendees included people from outside their usual community, indicating that running an event helped to bring in new people to appreciate the wildlife treasures to be found. When asked to describe the highlight, quotes sent in by participating groups included "*Finding hedgehog poo in our city centre churchyard!*" and "*A lovely evening looking for nature at its best.*"



Records can be submitted to CfGA via the [iNaturalist app](#), an enjoyable and straightforward way to document findings that also assists in species identification, enhancing wildlife encounters. Simply visit the CfGA website to find out how to join the Beautiful Burial Grounds Project within the app and start submitting your records. In 2026 CfGA are specifically focusing on swifts, and the first 500 to sign up can request a booklet supplied by Action on Swifts, as well as the option to request copies of our Starter Guide to Burial Ground Heritage and Wildlife, plus a Guide to the Wildlife of Burial Grounds specially produced by the Field Studies Council.

LITTLE GREG'S AND KIDS' SWAP SHOP are on a break during the Easter school holidays.

Both return for their first sessions of the new term on **TUESDAY 21st APRIL**.

Swap Shop is on each 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month in school term time from 9am to 11am and their stock is now full of Spring and Summer things to wear for babes in arms up to 16-year-olds – come to have a browse for your children or grandchildren. **Little Greg's** runs from 9.30am to 11.30am every Tuesday.



SERVICES – 29th March to 11th April



Sunday 29th March — Palm Sunday

10.30am St Gregory's – Benefice Service
(No services in other Benefice churches today)

Wednesday 1st April

10am St Gregory's – Midweek Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

6pm St Mary's Hall - Meal and Communion
6.30pm St Paul's – Agape meal and communion

Good Friday 3rd April – Reflective services

10am St Gregory's; 12 midday St Paul's; 2pm St George's

Sunday 5th April – Easter Day

6.15am Dawlish Beach – Sunrise service (followed at
6.45am by breakfast at the Strand Centre)
8am St Gregory's - Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am St George's – Holy Communion
9.30am St Paul's – Holy Communion
10am St Gregory's – Holy Communion

Wednesday 8th April

10am St Gregory's - Midweek Holy Communion

DIARY DATES

MARCH

Sunday 29th **CLOCKS GO FORWARD (1 HOUR)**

Tuesday 31st **Little Greg's –**
Upper Narthex, St Gregory's, 9.30-11.30am

APRIL

Wednesday 1st **'Easter is....?' – ROC Dawlish Easter**
experience, Hope Centre, 6.30pm
See page 2 for more details

Thursday 2nd **Pudding Club –** Upper Narthex, St Gregory's, 2.30pm

Good Friday 3rd **CTDD offering free coffee, hot cross buns and gift bags**
- outside Strand Centre, 11am

Monday 6th **Mens' Breakfast –** Upper Narthex, St Gregory's, 9am



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

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

REMEMBER – 29th March

Tonight we move the clocks ahead
one hour and spring forward.



After the winter we've had,
I'm all for anything with the
word "spring" in it!

Visit Jim Hunt at [facebook.com/huntcartoons](https://www.facebook.com/huntcartoons)

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](#)