

DAWLISH COAST TEAM MINISTRY

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 7th June 2026

www.cofe-in-dawlish.org.uk

This year the Mothers' Union (MU) celebrates 150 years. Here is the second article from Ann Leigh (in a series of three) with some more of the MU story.

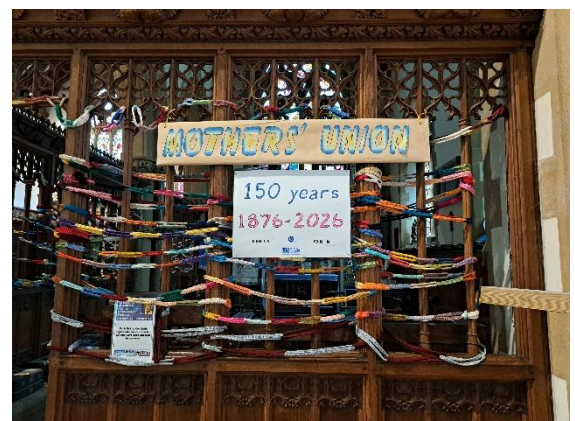
By 1889, 13 years after Mary Sumner spoke to ladies from her parish in Old Alresford, the new organisation had reached Exeter Diocese, and the first members were enrolled in Dawlish Mothers' Union in 1898. By then there were nearly 170,000 members in practically every diocese in the country and even in some of the British colonies. Mary was the President, with Queen Victoria as the Patron, but the world was changing. The Queen was reaching the end of her long life. As industry developed, more and more people had moved from the country to the new and growing towns. Elementary education had been made compulsory and free, but standards were very low. The divorce rate was increasing, and family life was being threatened. Mary insisted that England's greatness depended on belief in the Bible, the observance of Sunday as the Lord's Day, and faithful marriage.

In 1898 Mary and George had just celebrated their Golden Wedding. Bible reading and prayer had always been central to her life, and she wanted them to be the basis for every branch and every member. A Wave of Prayer was started in 1921, the year that Mary died, and it continues today. For 3 days in the year each Diocese is linked with 4 or 5 others and prayed for by all members in the world. Exeter is remembered 10th–12th September, together with our special Link Dioceses: Pretoria in South Africa, North Mbale in Uganda, Oke-Osun in Nigeria and Barbados.

But in the first 60 years of our Branch's existence, life changed enormously: the tragedy of WW1, the hardships of the General Strike in 1926, the Great Depression, and then WW2 which brought widespread upheaval of accepted patterns of behaviour and the disruption of a settled home life. Many people no longer respected the sanctity of marriage and divorce was becoming common. Mothers were struggling to bring up families alone while their husbands were away fighting, and all faced dreadful shortages and fears for their own safety and for the lives of their loved ones. We have membership records and logbooks of the 1950s and 1960s which remind us of the problems faced, and you will find some of them in our display in St. Gregory's, in the Lady Chapel throughout June. We remember particularly the faithful and incredibly long membership of Margaret Murch who was enrolled in Dawlish MU in 1961 and died only a few weeks ago. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

150 YEARS OF
Mothers' UNION
Join us, Join in

Lighting the way for
generations to come



CHURCHES COUNT ON NATURE! 6th - 14th JUNE - CAN YOU HELP?

Churches Count on Nature 2026 takes place from 6–14 June, inviting churches across England and Wales to record and celebrate wildlife in their churchyards. It is an annual biodiversity survey encouraging churches to open their churchyards and burial grounds to the public to observe and record plant and animal species. The initiative is jointly run by A Rocha UK, Caring for God's Acre, the Church of England, and the Church in Wales and forms part of Love Your Burial Ground Week.



Churches of all denominations register to participate for free, and registered events appear on the national events map, helping local communities find and join activities. Churches are encouraged to involve schools, wildlife groups, and community members, including those who may not have visited churchyards before. In 2025, over 380 counting events were held with more than 6,000 participants, resulting in 8,668 records of 1,670 species. These records help map species distribution and guide churches in enhancing biodiversity and managing their land sustainably. Churchyards often provide important habitats for wildlife, including wildflowers, lichens, mosses, pollinating insects, birds, and small mammals.

If you would like to help with this year's count at any time within the 8 days of the event (during daylight hours) then **please contact Jacqui Andrews on 07804 639999** who would be very happy to hear from you and can give you more details on how to get involved.

SCOUTS IN THE CHURCHYARD!

Jacqui Andrews writes with news from the Eco-Group:



The 1st Dawlish Scout Group came to St Gregory's a couple of weeks ago to help plant up ready for the Pollinators Trail. They were an amazing, really lovely and friendly group of children. They planted lots, and started to tidy up the raised flower beds.

They also made some bird boxes and hung them on the trees, and some bug hotels (see aside) which they have placed around the churchyard. This was the first of what we hope will be many such visits.






**People's
Emergency
Briefing
Community Screening**

What's happening with climate and nature, and what does it mean for everyday life in the UK?

Come and hear the latest evidence from the UK's top scientists and experts

 Audience Discussion to follow

Thursday 11th June 2026 7pm.

Doors open at 6.30 pm

Free entry @ Teign Heritage Centre
29 French Street, opposite Teignmouth Station

Book your **free** tickets on eventbrite.co.uk
Search: emergency
location: Teignmouth

Or scan the QR code below:



This event is organised by:
Newton Abbot Constituency
Climate and Nature Bill
Support Group



WE ALL APPRECIATE THE CHURCH BEING THERE FOR US

We are looking for volunteers to help with some of the regular and ad hoc tasks that need to be done and that keep the church services, events and activities going, week-by-week, month-by-month and year-by-year at St Greg's. Keep reading!



There are opportunities to join our wonderful team of volunteers who already help in so many different ways: prayer groups, kids' group leaders and teams, care home visitors, music, catering, flower arranging, welcoming, the communications team, mid-week home group facilitators and PCC members to name just a few! We acknowledge not **EVERYONE** loves an upfront kind of role. However, we're also sure that **EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU** have many varied skills of your own that are just as vital. We dearly hope you will want to put them to good use and be there for the church!

In giving up just a little of your time you would be playing an **ESSENTIAL** and **HIGHLY VALUED** part in support of your parish church. When enough people come forward to help then these tasks can be completed on a rota basis – as the old saying goes '*Many hands make light work*'. Training or instruction will be provided, where necessary, and no specific experience is required. We are just looking for those who have a little time to volunteer to help us serve the church and the community here in Dawlish – and to the glory of God.

Here's the list of general and regular tasks for which help is required:

Hospitality and Cleaning Team Organiser(s)

to make a plan/rota for what's being cleaned each week, when and by whom!

Hospitality and Cleaning Team Group Members

to take on one or two tasks regularly including:

1. Cleaning the toilets;
2. Checking the towels (in the toilets and the kitchen) and taking them home to be washed;
3. Vacuuming throughout the church regularly and specific areas after events (especially where food has been involved);
4. Keeping the cleaning cupboard stocked with cleaning materials, toilet paper and tissues.
5. Keeping the kitchen stocked with coffee, tea, sugar, kitchen towels etc;
6. Being responsible for the recycling, including emptying and care of the recycling boxes.

Electoral Roll Officer

To keep the electoral roll up to date and report any changes to the PCC. While for much of the year the position is unlikely to be onerous there are times when tasks need to be undertaken to quite a strict time schedule.

If you would like to volunteer or just want to find out a bit more about the roles and responsibilities, please speak to one of the Church Wardens or contact Rachel Hammond (Benefice Administrator) and she will ask someone to contact you. Rachel can be called on 01626 864322 (Tues-Fri 10am-2pm) or emailed on addawlishcoasttm@outlook.com

SEEKING FAMILY FUN AND FRIENDSHIP FOR MARGO

Hugh Scudder, from Christian Response to Eastern Europe (cr2ee), and a member of the church family at St Paul's, Starcross writes:

Margo is a delightful fifteen-year-old girl and the eldest of three children of Pastor Andrii in Ukraine. She has been studying English, is relatively competent in conversation, and is coming to England to improve it. I am looking for suitable families who may be willing to accommodate her for one or two weeks this summer or to take her out for the day occasionally.

The schools in Ukraine break-up for the summer at the beginning of June and Margo will be coming to England on 25 June for about six weeks.

Margo will be staying with my wife and I in Starcross but I am old and Margo is a young teenager! I feel it would be good for her to spend some time with families who have children or grandchildren of a similar age. The photo of Margo (*aside*) was taken when I took the family to dinner in Ukraine to celebrate her 15th birthday.

If you feel you may be able to help please contact me, Hugh Scudder, on 07970 204506, for further information. www.cr2ee.org



Dawlish Coast Team Ministry



Finding Our Way in a Confusing World: drawing on the wisdom of Ignatius

an afternoon of quiet prayer
at St George's Church, Holcombe
on Saturday 13th June 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

ECO-GROUP WIN FIRST PRIZE



Many congratulations to the Benefice Eco-Church Group who won first prize for their entry to the Pollinator Trail.

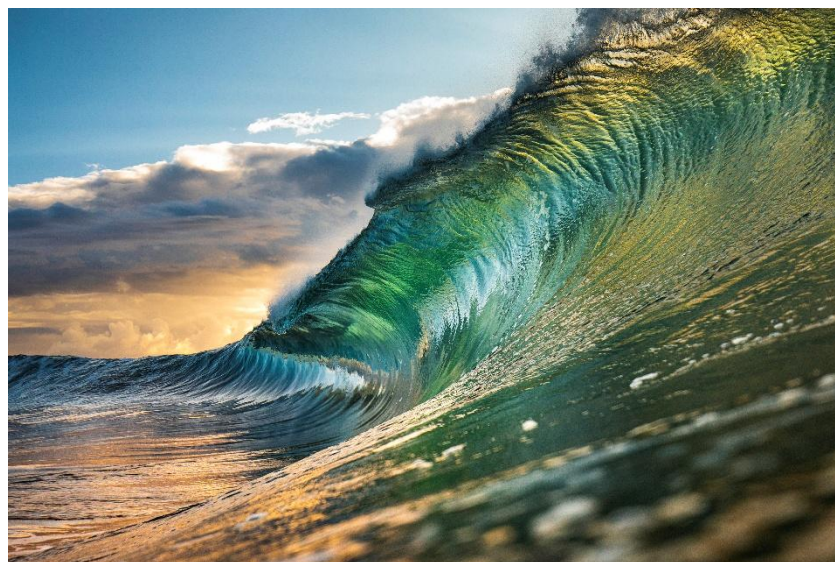
Pictured above are (from L to R) Cathy Slade and Chris Curd with Martin Wrigley MP who presented the winners' certificate at the Turn the Tide event which took place at Dawlish College.

WAVES

A poem by Marjorie Thorne

I stood arrested, watched in wonder and in awe.
Waves rolling in as one with thudding crash
against the wall,
raw untamed force against man-made structure
which that day did not yield but held portent of future rupture
Beauty, as foamy deluge cascaded high into the air
a myriad droplet prisms, threw minute rainbows up like prayer!

And I mused - if prayer like waves in
uniformity could be
not criss-crossed, at odds,
dissipating energy.
Then concrete stony attitudes
might yield
and lives,
yes, even nations could be healed
and enmity might all
be washed away,
If men as one,
would to our Maker pray.



Dawlish Community Transport, Dawlish Town Council
and South West Ambulance Service

are working together again to offer more

Defibrillator Awareness Sessions

You could save a life – don't miss this opportunity

on

Tuesday 7th July 2026

from

7.00pm to 9.00pm

and

Saturday 11th July 2026

from

10.00am to 12 noon

at

The Manor House, Old Town Street, Dawlish, EX7 9AP

Sessions are free of charge and open to all*

If you would like to attend, please phone to reserve a place

01626 888890

Dawlish Community Transport

*any person under 16 yrs of age is very welcome to attend accompanied by an adult



MONTHLY SALE



St Paul's Church, Starcross 11am - 1.30pm

Saturday 13th June Saturday 11th July

Refreshments - pasties - savouries
cakes - tea - coffee
books - bric-a-brac - jigsaws
children's magazines, raffle

plus plants for sale



*Do you want to sell some items?
You can book space on a pew, half or a full one
No fee but donations welcome if you are successful*

To book email claire@goshayes.com



NEW INITIATIVE!

DIOCESE OF EXETER

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN DEVON



First Friday @ St Gregs

All ages welcome!



For fellowship ♥ Friendship
Food ♥ Fun



Friday 3rd July



7pm



St Greg's

COME ALONG FOR:



Board games



Card games



Chill and chat



Light supper

Bring a friend!



FREE
Everyone welcome!



All are welcome here!



SERVICES – 7th to 20th June 2026

Sunday 7th June - Trinity 1

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

Wednesday 10th June

10am St Gregory's – Midweek Holy Communion

Sunday 14th June – Trinity 2

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 17th June

10am St Gregory's – Midweek Holy Communion

Friday 19th June

11am St Gregory's – Funeral of Susan Brown

DIARY DATES

JUNE

Monday 8th Knit and Natter – 1.30-3.30pm, Crafting and chatting at St Paul's, Starcross

Tuesday 9th Mothers' Union – 2pm in St Greg's

Thursday 11th People's Emergency Briefing – Community Screening (see page 2)
7pm at the Teign Heritage Centre, opposite Teignmouth Station

Saturday 13th Monthly Sale - 11am-1.30pm in St. Paul's, Starcross (see page 5)
Afternoon of Quiet Prayer – 2-4pm in St George's, Holcombe (see page 4)

Tuesday 16th Kids' Swap Shop – 9-11am in St Greg's

Sat 20th & Sun 21st Open Garden - 1-5.30pm at 2, Middlewood, Cockwood

LOOKING AHEAD INTO JULY

Friday 3rd First Friday @ St Greg's – 7pm, Friendship, fellowship, food, fun (see page 6)

Saturday 4th Massed Choir Concert – 6pm at St Greg's

Tuesday 7th Defibrillator Awareness Session – 7-9pm, The Manor House (see page 5)

Saturday 11th Defibrillator Awareness Session – 10am-12pm, The Manor House (see page 5)

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 from the Ministry Team:

Revd Linda Cronin (Rector): 01626 927281 or email: revdlinda@icloud.com
LLMS: Steve Cronin: 07817 678774; **Will Halse:** 01626 866054; **Ceri Lee:** 07739 936286.

Benefice Administrator: (Tues-Fri 10am-2pm): **Rachel Hammond** 01626 864322
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](#)



TUESDAY PRAYER MEETING ON ZOOM

A half hour of prayer online
Tuesdays at 9am.

For 9th June: click on [this link](#) or go to <https://zoom.us/join> and enter:

Meeting ID: 575 020 5964
and Passcode: 850653

From 16th June: click on [this link](#) or go to <https://zoom.us/join> and enter:

Meeting ID: 891 1433 5818
and Passcode: Wedlake

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