



See Benefice E-newsletter for details of links for Zoom Prayer meetings etc. To receive mailing of **Coastline** and the newsletter email [st.gregs@btinternet.com](mailto:st.gregs@btinternet.com)

### This Magazine

If you are **not online** and would like to receive a hard copy, please enquire at each church for the arrangements that are being made. We encourage those who are on line to pass copies to those who are not!

### Senior Clergy Reflection – March 2023

March is a month that marks a change in the seasons. The clocks move forward an hour on the 26th. We lose an hour of sleep, and I wouldn't mind betting there will be more than one person turning up for church at the wrong time! 'Changes of seasons' happen in all sorts of contexts. Next month I enter a new season in my life as I retire as Archdeacon of Plymouth. Churches also go through seasons too. Some may feel they are in a spiritual winter. Others can see signs of Spring with new shoots appearing in their life in Christ. Many are enjoying the full bloom of Summer whilst some may think their congregations are in the autumn of their lives. Whatever season we may be in, individually or corporately, we continue to move forward taking that next step in our journey with Christ. St Paul expressed it this way when writing to the Philippian Church:

*Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup> Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:12-14)*

As we move through Lent and journey towards Easter may we press on in our life in Christ whatever season we find ourselves.

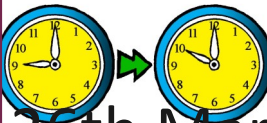
**Ven. Nick Shutt, Archdeacon of Plymouth**

### Fairtrade Events

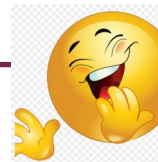
7th and 10th March—see page 7

### Mothering Sunday

19th March



26th March



A Shout out to Dill from St Greg's for spotting the deliberate (!) mistake on the front page of last month's magazine. Dallas' last service was of course the 29th January, not 29th June. Did anyone else spot that?! Ed

### If I were some kind of lamb,

soft, easy to attack, fragile in the field  
I would listen for the shepherd  
who loves the colour  
and texture of my wool  
and the way I raise my head  
when the sun shines:  
He would overlook  
the awkward way I run  
and hit my knees  
against protruding fences in the night



and he would pick me up  
for no good reason Tim Lenton

## High Days and Holy Days in March

*A selection!*

- 1 St David's Day
- 2 Chad – Bishop of Lichfield and missionary c 672
- 5 Eusebius—friend of St Jerome
- 7 Perpetua and Felicitas
- 8 Woodbine Willie
- 8 Felix of Burgundy – apostle to E Anglia, 648
- 17 St Patrick's Day
- 19 St Joseph of Nazareth (transferred to 20<sup>th</sup>)
- 19 Mothering Sunday
- 20 Cuthbert of Lindisfarne—687
- 21 Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, Reformation Martyr
- 24 Catherine of Sweden (1331 – 81)
- 24 Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, martyr 1980
- 25 The Annunciation
- 26 Harriet Monsell, compassion and humour
- 31 John Donne, the metaphysical poet

*There are brief biographies of two of these in this edition. Readers will have to look up any others! So that is where the town of Felixstowe got its name! Ed*

### 7<sup>th</sup> March: Perpetua & Felicitas, martyrs of Africa

This story could come straight out of modern Africa. Perpetua was a young married woman of 22 who had recently become a Christian. But the authorities had forbidden any new conversions, and soon she and some other catechumens were arrested and sentenced to death. This was not under Islamic State, nor Boko Haram, but under the emperor Septimius Severus in Carthage, in the year 203.

**Vibia Perpetua**, c 182—March 7 203, Carthage, now a suburb of Tunis. Christian martyr who wrote *The Passion of Saints Perpetua and Felicity*, a journal recounting her trial and imprisonment that was continued by a contemporary who described Perpetua's death in the arena. Both her martyrdom and its account have been highly revered by ancient and modern Christians. Her text is one of the rare surviving documents written by a woman in the ancient world. Carthage in the 2nd century AD had a vibrant Christian community. Among those drawn to the growing church was a young mother, Perpetua, the daughter of a prosperous provincial family. Sometime after 201, the Roman emperor Septimius Severus forbade conversion to Christianity or Judaism, and in 203 the governor of Carthage, Hilarian, enforced this edict. Perpetua and four companions were arrested. Another Christian voluntarily joined the small group. The six were tried, refused to renounce their faith, and were

condemned to death in the arena. Perpetua began her diary with an account of her imprisonment and continued it with descriptions of her trial and her father's impassioned but fruitless plea for her to renounce her Christian identity. Most of Perpetua's text concerns her prison dreams (which she believed were prophetic) offering visions of her entry into heaven, her deceased younger brother Dinocrates, and her ordeal in the arena. On the evening before her scheduled death, Perpetua gave her diary to another Christian, who then continued the story of the martyrdom of Perpetua and her fellow Christians. He described how one of Perpetua's companions—the pregnant slave Felicity—gave birth while in prison; he also wrote of the young Christians' bravery in the arena when they were attacked by wild beasts and, finally, of Perpetua's voluntary acceptance of death by the sword.

*From Britannica online*

Perpetua's diary was read annually in Carthage's churches for centuries. In 1907 an inscription in their honour was discovered at Carthage in the Basilica Majorum, where they had been buried centuries before. Their memory still lives on: eight episodes of Perpetua's life are represented on a 14<sup>th</sup> century altar frontal at Barcelona.

### A final word from Dallas

*he last paragraph of her last sermon, which was on the "Water into Wine" at the wedding at Cana.*

And finally, generosity. We receive all of God's gifts to us through grace and by his generosity to us in all things. As Jesus says in Luke 6:

Don't pick on people, jump on their failures, criticize their faults—unless, of course, you want the same treatment. Don't condemn those who are down; that hardness can boomerang. Be easy on people; you'll find life a lot easier. Give away your life; you'll find life given back, but not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity."

I want to thank you for the generosity you have shown towards me and I thank God for his gifts, grace and generosity which he has poured upon me throughout my life, my ministry and in my time as Rector here. My prayer is that you will be generous – generosity overflowing – overflowing - to each other as you work together through the vacancy and into the future.



Snowdrops in  
St George's Church  
Garden.  
*Photo by Marilyn*

At the first Dust and Glory group looking at the book "Failure" we thought about how the saints were real people whom we might personally find difficult! Woodbine Willie was mentioned, as someone doing something of which we would not think good today! Jane from St George's shared that she had been privileged to be shown an actual packet of Woodbine given out by him!

### Smile Lines



- \* I am in shape. Round is a shape.
- \* I plan on living forever. So far, so good.
- \* I am having an out of money experience.
- \* What's the leading cause of dry skin?  
Towels.
- \* What's a perfect gift for a person who has everything? Storage space.

You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving. – Anon



### Samara's Aid in Syria after the earthquake.

Please pray for Dr A and see the newsletters for more information.

### St George's "Warmer Place"



A second "warmer place" held at St George's on 15th February attracted over 25 who are now connoisseurs of Homemade soups, enjoyed with rolls and scones. £98 was raised for Children's Hospice SW. The next "warmer place" will be on 22nd March, 12—2 pm. All welcome. *Marilyn*

**STOP PRESS! - news just in**  
**Both St George's and St Mary's Hall**  
**have been awarded the A Rocha**  
**Eco Church Bronze Award!**



### **8<sup>th</sup> March: Woodbine Willie, bringing love with cigarettes and the Bible**

Here's a 'saint' that the Church of England remembers from the 1<sup>st</sup> World War – the Revd Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy MC, or 'Woodbine Willie', as everyone knew this popular, much-loved army chaplain on the Western Front.

Studdert Kennedy (1883 –1929) had been born in Leeds as the seventh of nine children. After reading divinity and classics at Trinity College Dublin, he'd studied for ordination at Ripon Clergy College, and served his curacy at Rugby. By 1914, Kennedy was vicar of St Paul's Worcester. He soon volunteered to go to the Western Front as an army chaplain. Life on the front line in the trenches was a desperate affair, but soon Studdert Kennedy hit on a way of bringing a few moments of relief to the stressed-out soldiers: as well as good cheer he gave out copious amounts of 'Woodbines', the popular cheap cigarette of the time. One colleague remembered Kennedy: "he'd come down into the trenches and say prayers with the men, have a cuppa out of a dirty tin mug and tell a joke as good as any of us. He was a chain smoker and always carried a packet of Woodbine cigarettes that he would give out in handfuls to us lads. That's how he got his nickname. He came down the trench one day to cheer us up. Had his Bible with him as usual. Well, I'd been there for weeks, unable to write home, of course, we were going over the top later that day. I asked him if he would write to my sweetheart at home, tell her I was still alive and, so far, in one piece... years later, after the war, she showed me the letter he'd sent, very nice it was. A lovely letter. My wife kept it until she died."

Kennedy was devoted to his men, so much so that in 1917 he was awarded the Military Cross at Messines Ridge, after running into no man's land in order to help the wounded.

During the war, Kennedy supported the British military effort with enthusiasm, but soon after the war, he turned to Christian socialism and pacifism. He was given charge of St Edmunds, Lombard St, London, and wrote a number of poems about his war experiences: *Rough Rhymes of a Padre* (1918) and *More Rough Rhymes* (1919). He went on to work for the Industrial Christian Fellowship, for whom he did speaking tours. It was on one of these tours that he was taken ill, and sadly died in Liverpool in 1929. He was only 46.

*It may seem strange to us to celebrate someone who gave out cigarettes, but of course they did not know what we know now!*



## "Are We Earth's Custodians?"

At the beginning of February, Cliff and Chris Curd attended the launch of the Gaia Exhibition at the Cathedral, arranged by the Friends of Exeter Cathedral. The speaker was Professor Dame Julia Slingo who previously was the chief scientist at the Met Office.

Julia used "Gaia" as a shorthand for all the interlinked life on earth. It is not infrequently used in that way without "buying into" the more detailed hypothesis (see separate box) "Gaia" is useful to describe the whole of the interacting eco systems of God's creation; to highlight the complexity and interdependence of all the systems as opposed to just being a lump of rock which happens to be our home!

Here are just a few quotes and "headlines" from what she said, standing in front of the Earth!

**Planet Earth** is different from other planets and moons because

- It has an atmosphere – without this blanket the average temperature would be -18C
- Water can exist in all three of phases, ice, ocean and clouds. Ice and clouds reflect back radiation. Water is a major factor in regulating temperature – it's all about water.
- It is in just the right place in the solar system and rotates just right for the self-regulating bio systems to exist; water, plants, rock/soil.

**Soil** is the foundation of life on earth, and the interaction of ALL Earth's systems enable "Gaia" to exist.

**Carbon** in the atmosphere – in ice ages was 280 parts per million; in 1970 was 320 ppm, today it is. 420 ppm But it is not just about carbon and climate change, but about the healthy interaction of all the eco systems. The Eden Project talks about an awesome recycling system powered by the sun which provides fresh air, clean water and fertile earth But we are upsetting the ancient linkages between different parts of Gaia and exploiting ancient carbon.

**1859 – the Royal Charter Storm** – 800 lives and 133 ships were lost, mainly in the Irish Sea. Robert Fitzroy, who had been captain of the Beagle and was head of the founding Met Office, wrote that if we could predict



the weather, we could save lives. We **are** predicting the weather/climate. We are taking Gaia into uncharted territory. The temperature forecast for the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> C will not have been seen for 20 million years.

**It is not just about climate change** – extinction, land use change and exploitation, pollution. It is about the scale of human enterprise. We are almost an invasive species on the planet. "Make Peace with Nature" – United Nations. – Top priority for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Capitalism, whether mercantile (the old trading ships), industrial or consumer, means growth The elephant in the room – there are too many on the planet.

The Wikipedia definition of the "Gaia Hypothesis".

*The Gaia hypothesis posits that the Earth is a self-regulating complex system involving the biosphere, the atmosphere, the hydrospheres and the pedosphere (the soil mantle of the earth - Ed), tightly coupled as an evolving system. The hypothesis contends that this system as a whole, called Gaia, seeks a physical and chemical environment optimal for contemporary life.*



### **Opposite**

Positive ideas to help the Planet.



### A Rocha UK's Eco Tip

Go Green(er) for Lent. The weeks leading up to Easter are a great time to start or give something up that benefits nature and helps address climate change. Is there a change you can make to better care for creation and improve our lives and the lives of others through healthy, eco-friendly and sustainable living?

For more eco-tips, sign up to A Rocha UK's Wild Christian email at: [arochoa.org.uk/wild-christian](mailto:arochoa.org.uk/wild-christian)

### Buy Fairtrade –love your neighbour

It really is better for people and planet

- Sainsbury's and Co-op Bananas are all fairtrade
- Buy fairtrade coffee and tea (not Sainsbury's Fairly Traded)
- Buy fairtrade sugar when you can afford it.
- Look out for Fairtrade chocolate



### Be Positive for the Planet



### Plant for the Planet

Even if you only have a pot or two, now is the time to plant and sow, depending on the variety of plant of course. It was a real eye opener to me a couple of years ago to learn that not all popular garden plants do anything for our wildlife. When I looked at my lavender swarming with different types of bees last year, I wondered if that bush had saved those bees' lives!

Easily obtainable plants include antirrhinum as well as penstemon and lavender, but there are many other possibilities such as the flowers of most herbs and some "daisy" shaped flowers like cosmos.

- Wash up wisely, using biodegradable cleaning materials — many sponges are plastic.
- Use ethical, recycled loo rolls to avoid contributing to the cutting down of trees
- Buy local - locally sourced food and other items when possible, minimise carbon from transport.
- Try to avoid polyester when buying clothes. Polyester is plastic.

### Cultivate an awareness of Carbon.

This month's question: Cement production just by itself makes up what % of the world's total greenhouse gas footprint?

4.5%. That is before any other emissions associated with building.

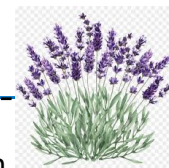


**Did you Know?** There are different types of **Lavender**, the most common three being

**Lavender Angustifolia** (eg Munstead and Hidcote)

**Lavender Stoechas** (French Lavender)

**Lavender x Intermedia** (Lavandin)



If you can get hold of it, (Available easily on line) the **Intermedia** flowers much the longest and is the most vigorous.



The dandelion—from David Attenborough's FB page. One of the most vital early spring nectar sources!!

**Encourage and Pray** for our leaders and all who can influence and make decisions. Write letters and send emails.

**The King met global political and financial leaders at Buckingham Palace on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February to support action on restoring the natural world.**

In December nations promised to prevent what scientists call the "sixth mass extinction event". Biodiversity - the variety of living things - is declining faster than at any time in human history. The UN has warned that up to a **million species are at risk of extinction by 2050**. Human activity plays a big role on this. In 2019, a UN report said that harvesting, logging, hunting and fishing are causing overexploitation, of animals, plants and other organisms. **The UK is one of most nature-depleted nations in the world**, according to experts. *BBC*

**Any other hints and ideas?** Please send them in for inclusion in the next edition.

Return inhalers to the chemist for safe disposal, rather than in the ordinary recycling.

If you are struggling to eat or heat, some of these ideas will not be for you.

**REMEMBER**—to ask if you need help—see the contact box on the back





*Victoriia Klimashevskia, 21, a Ukrainian Translator came to Exeter through the Diocese of Exeter's Ukraine Refugee Support Scheme. She lives with a host family in the city.*

Excerpt from The Diocesan website

"I don't want the world getting used to this war. Yes, it is far from you, and you can get tired of it, but please do not get used to our pain. Tolerating war, not wanting to hear about it means forgetting universal human values. I understand that the energy bills are soaring, the cost of living has become more expensive, but the same thing is happening in Ukraine. Everything is getting more expensive, but at the same time, people are being killed there. Therefore, when you count how much money you have left in your account, we count our dead. But we cannot surrender. All the more so to our opponent, Russia. Ukraine is our home and freedom is the air we breathe. That is why we are fighting for it and will continue to do so until our last breath.

On the first anniversary of the Invasion of Ukraine, 24th February, there was a gathering at the Plaza in Dawlish. After an introduction by the Mayor, prayers were said in Ukrainian and English, the Ukrainian flag was raised and the National Anthem was sung.

The event was arranged by Dawlish Town Council and Dawlish and Teignmouth Homes for Ukraine.

### **An Invitation to Visit the Bishop's Palace Garden**

The garden of the Bishop's Palace in the centre of Exeter covers three acres and is one of the most ancient in Devon. Bounded by the old Roman bank and city wall to the east, and by the Cathedral to the west, it is a haven of peace in the middle of the city. In Spring it is a picture with wave after wave of spring flowers, starting with carpets of snowdrops, crocus, daffodils, narcissi and finally bluebells under the copper beech trees. The garden is rarely open to the public, but this year Bishop Robert, who says he is privileged to be its custodian, is opening the grounds in aid of Devon Historic Churches Trust, a county-wide charity that offers grants for the repair and upkeep of our churches. **The garden will be open on Sunday 5 and 12 March, and the 2 April 2023, from 2-4pm. The entry is £4 for adults, children are free. Please note, children must be accompanied.**

### **Dust and Glory is**

the "Lent Course" of the Church of England and can be followed in several different ways.



### **Daily Reading Booklet £1.99.**

#### **Daily #DustAndGlory social media**

posts from Ash Wednesday to Easter Day.

#### **Church of England App**

An update to the award-winning Church of England campaigns app for iOS and Android – including daily audio – will be available in mid-February.

**Daily email.** The reflections will be available via email. Sign up here. <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/sign-our-emails>

#### **Phone**

The daily reflections will be available on the free Daily Hope phone line (0800 804 8044).



### **The Archbishop's Lent Book—Failure.**

There is a small group looking at this together. It is not too late to join in. Any queries, or for a lift, contact the Editor.

Venues for the meetings: Weds at 2.30

**8th March**—Woodbury, Barton Terrace (opposite the Hospital—Joan)

*What is Failure?*

**15th March**—St George's Church Room  
*Sin, guilt and human nature*

**22nd March**—St George's Church Room  
*The failing church*

**29th March**—2 Middlewood EX6 8RN (Chris) - *The greatest failure of all*

**5th April**—Venue TBC

*How to fail really well.*

*At the first gathering the group considered how the following had failed: Noah, Sarah, Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Miriam, Moses, the Israelites, Samson, David, Jesus' disciples. Then looked at Hebrews 11! How did Jesus define success and failure? How does God's view of failure differ from that of society?*

**Dawlish  
Fairtrade  
Friends**

**invite you to  
Afternoon Tea  
Strand Centre Dawlish**



**Tues 7th March  
from 3pm**

**Men's Breakfast.** On Mon 6 Feb, 19 of us met for breakfast to hear Mark Jones explain about the good work being done by the Dawlish Food Larder, and the relationship with Hope Church and ROC - Redeeming our Communities. We meet again on Mon 6 March 9am at The Mount Pleasant and hope to have Tim Wigley from Christians Against Poverty-Teignbridge. All welcome - ring 07539 083989

**Dawlish  
Fairtrade  
Friends**

**CONCERT**

THE HIGH C'S Dawlish Rockwaves

Strand Centre, Dawlish

**Friday 10th March  
7.30pm (doors open 7pm)**

Tickets £7 from The Strand Centre

Ticket price includes Fairtrade refreshments  
tea/coffee/wine/snacks

Concert in aid of Fairtrade  
and The Strand Centre, Dawlish



**March 25 & 26  
2023**

**Celebrating Songs of the Sea**

**6 LOCAL VENUES  
Over 30 Shanty Crews from around the UK**

**The Anchor Inn, Cockwood  
The Ship Inn, Cockwood  
The Village Hall, Cockwood  
The Swan Pub, Cofton  
St Paul's Church, Starcross  
The Atmospheric Railway Inn, Starcross**



SCAN ME

With live music from 11am - 11pm  
Please scan the QR code to see the  
event details and programme



Or search on facebook:  
Cockwood Shanty Festival

**Local Community News—Cockwood Shanty Festival**

St Paul's Starcross is being a venue and is inviting singers to their Service on Sunday Morning. The Festival runs from 11.00 am to 11pm on both days and the Swan Pub at Cofton Country is also a venue.

Although not a venue, arrangements have been made for St Mary's Cofton to open from 11.00 to dusk.

Celia serving us at the last Ladies' Lunch at Cofton Country Holidays. Next dates 21st March 18th April. Valerie on 07970255712 or Chris on 07771842334.



Taking shape—the new area at St Mary's Hall; the shape of the pond, the raised bed being planted with sensory plants, the space where the unsafe play structure was taken down, the "new" bench donated by Dawlish Town Council, for which we are very grateful.

**DOES ANYONE HAVE**

These items that they would be prepared to donate?

- 1) Picnic table (wood)
- 2) Bamboo, willow or similar garden privacy screen

Contact Cliff 07881442031



## **Holy Week and Easter—advance information**

*These arrangements reflect the fact that all the Communion Services are being taken by those who have retired and that the overall pattern is one that is being sustained by the ministry team of Licensed Lay Ministers and retired priests.*

### **Palm Sunday**

The services follow the usual pattern and timing in the 3 churches:

Greg's @10, St George's Holy Communion 9.30; St Mary's Morning Worship 11.00

### **Maundy Thursday Evening**

Supper and Holy Communion at St Mary's Hall, Dawlish Warren. Please see the newsletter nearer the time for details

### **Good Friday**

There will be services at either end of the Benefice. In Dawlish, the Christians Together Service on the Lawn. Please see details nearer the time.

Stations of the Cross—11.00 am St Mary's, Cofton; use adjacent Holiday Park car park

The Last Hour—2.00 pm St George's Holcombe; use Village Hall car park.

Both these churches are easily accessed from the no 2 bus.

**Easter Sunday** Holy Communion; 9.30 St George's, 10.00 St Greg's, 11.00 St Mary's

The world cannot bury Christ. The earth is not deep enough for his tomb, the clouds are not wide enough for his winding-sheet. — Edward Thomson

All items for  
April  
Coastline to  
Editor by  
23rd  
March,  
please.

There is currently no Rector or Licensed member of the clergy in our three churches. Services are being taken by the Ministry Team (Lay Ministers and retired priests). The service rota is being put together by the Revd Helen Bays.

Contact details during the Vacancy are as follows.

**Church Office 01626 864322.** usually open Tuesday and Thursday mornings. At other times messages can be left. [st.gregs@btinternet.com](mailto:st.gregs@btinternet.com).

**Baptism and Marriage**—enquiries should be made to the Church Office as above.

**Funerals**—contact Lay Minister Mrs Margaret Noel—01626 863148; [oldstokeroad57@outlook.com](mailto:oldstokeroad57@outlook.com)

### **Other urgent or pastoral enquiries**

Please contact one of the Lay Ministers:

Margaret Noel: 01626 863148 Will Halse: 01626 866054 Ceri Lee: 07739 936286

- St Mary's Cofton: If you would like to receive regular news from St Mary's, please contact the Churchwarden, Valerie Jeffery, 01626 890401, [valerie@coftonholidays.co.uk](mailto:valerie@coftonholidays.co.uk)
- **St Mary's Hall bookings:** Rachel Hammond; 07713 929148; [bookstmaryshall1@gmail.com](mailto:bookstmaryshall1@gmail.com)

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

**Coastline Editor** and Benefice Eco Champion

Revd Preb Christine Curd, 07771842334; [prebchris2020@gmail.com](mailto:prebchris2020@gmail.com);

*All clipart is believed to be free to use on a non profit making basis. Non attributed articles and clips from the Parish Pump"*

**Find us on Facebook**

**St Mary's Cofton; St Mary's Church Hall, Dawlish Warren;**

**St George's Holcombe; St Gregory's Dawlish**

