

# Coastline



A Magazine for the Dawlish Coast Churches

**Edition 16 May 2023**

St George's Holcombe   St Gregory's Dawlish   St Mary's Cofton

**Rogation Sunday: 14th May**

**Ascension Day : 18th May**

**Pentecost : 21st May**

**Thy Kingdom Come**



Light up the world  
in prayer

18th - 28th May 2023

thykingdomcome.global



**Christian Aid Week :  
14th to 20th May**



## A Prayer for the King

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness,  
Bless our Sovereign Lord, King Charles,  
And all who are in authority under him;  
That they may order all things  
In wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace,  
To the honour of your name,  
And the good of your Church and people;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

See Benefice E-newsletter for more details of events. Including for **the Coronation on 6th May**. To receive mailing of **Coastline** and the newsletter email [st.gregs@btinternet.com](mailto:st.gregs@btinternet.com)

**This Magazine** Is available free electronically to those who subscribe. Hard copies are provided free of charge but donations to church funds are always appreciated! **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 – May 2023**

We knew our predecessors had a beautiful garden, but I have to say I was somewhat underwhelmed. We moved in 6 months ago and over winter it looked like they'd killed it all off before they left. I'm not a great gardener but I do know that things die back in the winter. All the same it felt like there was no chance of recovery. Then there were a few signs of life, the expected daffodils and others. But still most bushes were little more than dead twigs. I abandoned all hope of their recovery and then...a week or so later first one then another leaf became obvious. New life began.

For the disciples, they knew Jesus had spoken about coming back to life, but there was no hope of it and certainly no sign of it. They had given up everything to follow him and placed their lives in his hands. One of them had even said, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

But then they'd seen him arrested, tortured and killed. They were just left with the words and no hope of life. But then that morning, some of the women said that his tomb was empty.

Typically the men hadn't believed them and had gone to check it out. They were right. The first buds of hope. Then one, then another, then groups met Jesus alive again.

Jesus, God, had defeated death. And if he can do that, he can do anything. For many today there is more despair than hope. More to make you think things will never recover. But the historical events of Easter tell us that however hopeless things appear, it is not the end of the story. The risen Jesus is greater than our struggles and can breathe life into the midst of them.

If you've read 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' by C. S. Lewis, you will remember that winter wouldn't come to an end, that was until Aslan (representing Jesus) died and rose again. It includes the following allegory of the Easter promise: "Wrong will be right, when Aslan comes in sight, At the sound of his roar, sorrows will be no more, When he bares his teeth, winter meets its death, And when he shakes his mane, we shall have spring again."

*Rt. Rev'd James Grier, The Bishop of Plymouth*



## **New Archdeacon of Plymouth Finds Hope in Small Churches Making a Big Impact**

The new Archdeacon of Plymouth is the Rev'd Jane Bakker, who is currently Priest-in-Charge of a large parish in Southampton and was the former Area Dean. Rev'd Bakker grew up in Cambridge and joined the RAF as an assistant Air Traffic Controller before working in accounts and becoming a Management Accountant.

She felt called to ordination soon after becoming a Christian and trained at Trinity College, Bristol, where she met her husband, Greg. She was ordained in 2001.

She said "I am most looking forward to getting to know the people of Plymouth Archdeaconry and discovering the joys and challenges of ministry in Devon. It is not an area I know well, and I will enjoy exploring the region. I find hope when I see small churches, sometimes in challenging circumstances, making a big impact in their local community. When the resilient and resourceful congregations gather around a renewed vision of God's kingdom, then hope is irrepressible. The message of Jesus is one of transformation. In the thousands of small changes that follow the movement of God's spirit, hope grows."

Jane succeeds the Ven. Nick Shutt, who is retiring at Easter.

She said that she was looking forward to working with churches in both urban and rural areas and across the spectrum of church traditions "When churches respond to the needs of their community in imaginative ways, diversity and individuality emerge. The joy of being part of a broad church is that there is room for every expression of church – we are only limited by our imagination!"

The Bishop of Plymouth, the Rt. Rev'd James Grier, said "I am delighted that Jane is going to be the new Archdeacon of Plymouth and can't wait to work with her as we partner in serving the people of Plymouth Archdeaconry. She brings a fantastic combination of pastoral, administrative and strategic gifts, along with great faith and enthusiasm, which are all essential for an archdeacon! I look forward to this new season of

growing the kingdom in the wonderful west of Devon." Bishop of Plymouth

Jane, who enjoys being "a serial crafter" in her spare time, plans to move to Devon in May. She said "I like to walk with my dog Orla and my husband. We enjoy being by water, so we are looking forward to exploring Devon's rivers and coast-lines."

Jane will be collated (licensed) as Archdeacon of Plymouth in a special service at St Eustachius church, Tavistock, on Tuesday 13 June at 7pm. She will be installed as a member of the College of Canons at Exeter Cathedral during Choral Evensong on Tuesday 27 June at 5.30pm. Anyone is welcome to attend both services.

### **A Prayer for the Royal Family**

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness,  
Bless, we pray, Camilla the Queen Consort,  
William Prince of Wales, the Princess of Wales,  
And all the Royal Family.  
Endue them with your Holy Spirit;  
Enrich them with your heavenly grace;  
Prosper them with all happiness;  
And bring them to your everlasting kingdom  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

### **Julian of Norwich—8th May**

Many years ago, studying English literature at university, I was intrigued to be introduced to the work of Julian of Norwich. She was writing at the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, when our modern English language was slowly emerging from its origins in Anglo-Saxon and Middle English. Our lecturer was mainly concerned with her importance in the history of the language (she was the first woman, and the first significant writer, to write in English). But I was more intrigued by the ideas she was expressing. She was an anchoress – someone who had committed herself to a life of solitude, giving herself to prayer and fasting. St Julian's, Norwich was the church where she had her 'cell'. Her masterpiece, *Revelations of Divine Love*, reveals a mystic of such depth and insight that today up and down Britain there are hundreds, possibly thousands, of 'Julian Groups' who meet regularly to study her writings and try to put them into practise. She is honoured this month in the Lutheran and Anglican Churches, but although she is held in high regard by many Roman Catholics, her own Church has never felt able to recognise her as a 'saint'. This is probably because she spoke of God as embracing both male and female qualities. *Revelations* is an account of the visions she received in her tiny room, which thousands of pilgrims visit every year. Her most famous saying, quoted by T S Eliot in one of his poems, is 'All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.' These words have brought comfort and strength to many a soul in distress.



## George Verwer

died on Friday 14th April at the age of eighty-four. With his passing the church has lost a man who had an astonishing global influence on the way the

church carries out its vital task of sharing the good news of Jesus. In Operation Mobilisation – known as OM – that George started and led for over forty years, quite literally countless thousands of individuals have been brought to Christ and, no less significant, an equally vast number of Christians have been equipped to share their faith with confidence and boldness. Many church leaders that I know can say how formative their time – long or short – with OM has been for their lives and ministries.

It would take a very large book to do any kind of justice to the many extraordinary labours that George undertook for the gospel, ... George was born in New Jersey in 1938 and, through the remarkable influence of a praying neighbour and a gospel challenge from Billy Graham, came to faith at the age of sixteen. George began his Christian life as he was to go on: totally committed to spreading the gospel. He soon introduced many of his classmates to Jesus. Then, drawn to areas unreached by evangelism, he went on a mission trip to Mexico where he shared Christ and distributed Christian literature.

He studied at Moody Bible Institute where he instigated nights of prayer, organised evangelistic ventures and met and married Drena Knecht, who was to become his life-long partner, helper and encourager. As his missionary ventures extended to Spain, the Communist Bloc and the Muslim world, George, with his astonishing ability to motivate and lead others, created **Operation Mobilisation**. His dynamic and compelling advocacy and the fact that OM offered a variety of programmes of evangelism with few requirements, soon drew hundreds and then thousands. In 1964 George had the remarkable idea of using ships to visit countries, 'sharing knowledge, help and hope'.

The result was many years of extraordinarily fruitful ministry with a succession of vessels, the most recent being Logos Hope. In 2003 George stepped back from leading OM to work on special projects.

Always radical, OM has had – and continues to have – a global impact. It's no secret that in many of those countries where the Christian faith is forbidden and punished, there are men and women either from OM, or influenced by OM, who are building God's church ..risking their lives.

Throughout his life, George was a popular conference speaker and preacher of extraordinary power and a remarkable authority. I've no doubt that as news of George's passing spreads there are many people saying, 'Oh, I heard him speak forty years ago and I haven't forgotten the impact that he made on my life.' George's influence was spread even further by the punchy no-holds-barred books that he wrote and then by a presence on the internet.

I was privileged to know George and I have no hesita-

tion in using the word unique to describe him. Like many great people, George held together what could have been opposing aspects of life. He was a pioneer missionary but also someone who found an astonishingly fruitful niche as the creator and leader of an organisation. He was a passionate radical but without the criticism so often associated with radicalism. He was a man who always looked heavenward in prayer but at the same time was intensely focused on what was happening on earth. Although he took his role as OM's figurehead seriously, he had a compelling and sometimes outrageous honesty. I had George on one of my Facing the Canon interviews and I can honestly say it was one of the most unpredictable interviews I have ever had!

Above all, George was a man of mission and let me mention three areas that inspired me.

**First**, George modelled mission. He didn't simply subscribe in some intellectual way to the need to take the gospel to the ends of the earth; he gave everything he was, and had, to the task. If ever an evangelist truly 'walked the talk' it was George. He was supremely committed to missions to the extent of wearing clothes that almost everybody else would have consigned to the rubbish bin. He made a habit of turning up at conferences or preaching engagements wearing a flamboyant jacket displaying all the countries of the world. George set out a standard of discipleship and lived it.

**Second**, George was a motivator for mission. It was commonly held amongst Christian students and others that going to hear George Verwer speak on missions was a very risky business indeed. There was a very real danger that you would leave the meeting having signed up for serving on a ship or for distributing Christian literature in some country you couldn't even place on a map.

**Finally**, George was a mobiliser for mission. He didn't simply inspire people to become missionaries; he made it as easy as possible for that to happen. His choice of the phrase Operation Mobilisation for his organisation was utterly appropriate. Almost single-handedly, he threw the door open for people to try mission. He offered various opportunities in different places for different lengths of time, and insisted on little more than a willingness to share the gospel and to endure various inconveniences and risks. At a time where mission was becoming more and more 'professionalised' George somehow was able to throw open the doors for ordinary Christians.

There will be much said in praise of George Verwer and I have a suspicion it will almost all be merited. Yet above it all I hear George's own voice, echoing that of Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:1 (NIV), 'Follow my example, as I have followed the example of Christ.' promoted to glory.

J. John , Reverend Canon . [www.canonjjohn.com](http://www.canonjjohn.com)



### Barnabas Fund

A total of 1,400 filled Food.Gives boxes have been distributed among poor Christian families in Brazil by members of a church youth group from Germany.

The boxes were filled with dry food staples and hygiene items funded with donations from members of their church in Germany.

Many Brazilian Christians are among those who suffer from extreme levels of poverty.

**Give thanks** for the generosity of German Christians and youth group members whose support for Food.Gives helped so many Christians in need in Brazil. Ask that the Lord will continue to bless the work of Food.Gives as it responds to help hungry and suffering Christians around the world.

### Christian Aid

Soaring costs are affecting people here and around the world.

Families in Malawi are paying the price of this global crisis.

Food, fuel, fertiliser and school fees have doubled in price in the last 12 months. And hard-working farmers are seeing their harvests fail as the climate crisis brings increasingly erratic weather.

Cyclone Freddy, the longest-lasting tropical cyclone on record (lasting 34 days), has hit Malawi and Mozambique. This cyclone is the equivalent of a full North Atlantic hurricane season.

Our partners and team in Malawi have been responding to the immediate recovery needs of communities. This includes:

- Corn soya blend for porridge for breastfeeding mothers and children under 5 years
- Mosquito nets for families to provide protection against malaria
- Providing temporary toilets and bathrooms, water containers and water treatment to help prevent the risk of cholera
- Mobile clinics to help people process the emotional trauma of the cyclone
- Distribution of cash to 1,000 households so that families can purchase their immediate needs

Jen's oldest two boys have gained tertiary education places, which is very rare for young people from her rural area. One has a place at a prestigious polytechnic and one at a well-known college – it's even on one of Malawi's banknotes.

### Samara's Aid

Our team have been distributing food this Easter: it was Orthodox Easter on Sunday 16th and it was also the end of Ramadan. This year, they happened around the same time. The poor, displaced, and bereaved families we have distributed food to were thrilled to receive our flour (and other items), which enabled them to make some of the sweet treats that are traditional to eat at these celebrations.

Over the last few weeks our team have been distributing food to many in need: people affected by the earthquakes, war, economic crisis: to the poor, the displaced, the bereaved, the disabled... They have been giving flour, and other food, to between 150-200 people every day.

Jen works hard to provide for her children. But she can barely scratch a living from the soil. Soaring costs of food, fuel, fertiliser, school uniforms and school fees are crushing dreams and keeping her family in poverty.

Now, Jen has had to make a choice. One no mum should be forced to make. Rising costs mean Jen can pay for only one of her sons' college courses. Jen and her family are safe but had to abandon their home due to flooding. Some of her crops were destroyed. Jen reports that she has lost the equivalent of '2 bags' of yield, worth at least £79. These are vital funds that she'd planned to use to pay for the secondary school fees of one of her children.

"Due to the floods, part of my field has also been washed away. I grew maize and pigeon peas in this field... I would like to let people know that we are facing one of the biggest disasters in Malawi and we need their support for us to manage to move out of this. We pray that our God will also help us in getting across these problems. "





Can you lend us a hand?

Decarbonise Devon: A new one-stop-shop funded by Devon County Council to help your organisation save energy, money and carbon. A free service is offered to charities including churches and community halls.

On Thursday 20th April, our churches hosted a visit by Martin Slocombe of [Decarbonise Devon](#). All four of our buildings were visited, and thank you to Cliff, Ruth, PJ and Mike who made this possible. Boilers and heating systems were inspected and space measured with laser beam! Interesting conversations all round about the relative merits of heating and lighting systems and heating the people, not the space. We look forward to receiving comprehensive reports in due course and are very grateful to the Net Zero Carbon Officer in the Diocese, Sophie Philips, for making us aware of this free service funded by the County Council.

Peatlands are famous for their carbon capture capabilities and standalone moss is no different.

**Half a square metre of moss can absorb a huge one kilogram of carbon dioxide. ...**

This aptitude for absorption is partly because moss's surface area is 30 times its size.

This is a honey bee. The pollen on her legs is from **dandelions**. Her tongue is sticking out due to what killed her that was on the dandelions.



To mark His Majesty The King's Coronation thousands of organisations across the country are getting together to give us all the chance to help out in our own local communities. Starting on Monday 8th May there will be opportunities for everyone to join in. No matter what you are good at, there'll be something to suit helping hands of all shapes and sizes! From checking in on someone who'd like a bit of company or volunteering for a charity the more of us who join in, the bigger help we will be.

**Dawlish Town Council and Turn the Tide Teignbridge CIC present**

**Dawlish's Turn the Tide**  
Make a difference

**FREE ENTRY**

**Bank Holiday Monday 10am-5.30pm**

**Mermaid Stories Pirates Circus Skills**

**Dawlish Lawn - Monday 29th May 2023**  
"Our ocean and climate are in a state of emergency"

Healthy planet, healthy people.  
Activities, talks, music, wellbeing zone, a free event for all ages.

**RIFKA LUNABARGE**  
**MAMA TOKUS FM CLATTERS**  
**AMY HOPWOOD & TOBIAS RAVEN**  
**JACKIE JUNO C.A.S.K.**  
**STREET HEAT WRECKED AGAIN**  
**GAZ MUSIC SOLUTIONS**

Wellbeing with  
**Coastal Chiropractic**  
**Keen Soul Yoga**  
**Open Hand Taijiquan**  
**Lyme Bay Therapies**

Talks from  
**ENE ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP**  
**SHORES OF SOUTH DEVON**  
**WESTCOUNTRY RIVERS TRUST**

Join our pop up choir at 2pm

Come join our  
**Fancy Dress Parade**  
Starts at 4pm

**An eco celebration for all the Family!**

**PLUS: Stalls Talks Demos Displays Walks**

**Fringe Event Choral Tide**  
8.30 The High C's  
South Devon Singers  
Bawlish Rockwaver  
Bark Beach Boys  
Hops Church at 7pm

It's spring, **dandelions** are the bees first food. This bee is dead from weed killer spread on what we see as weeds, but what nature sees as food. Often weeds, flowers and fruit trees are bees' only source of food until middle of June. There are FAR more weeds than flowers or fruit trees, so it's their only food source. No bees, no food crops for us and we all starve.



## On the Ten Commandments

*Church of England Evangelist, Canon J John, is re-launching his series "Just 10".*

A survey of 1,200 people aged 15 to 35 found that most of those polled could name no more than two of the Ten Commandments – and they weren't too happy about some of the others when they were told about them! When you think of all the libraries of law books it is amazing how wide a span this simple rainbow of the Ten Commandments arches. Family rights, property rights, the rights of God and the rights of the individual are all included. Someone once said that humans are able creatures, that they have made 32,647,389 laws and haven't been able to improve on the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments are the best laws ever made and the basis for our legal system today.

Some, however, believe that the music needs a new arrangement. They dismiss the Ten Commandments as being no longer fashionable. Many have said that the Ten Commandments are obsolete. They insist that a new world needs a new ethic. Many have called for the development of a modern, secular Ten Commandments, because so few people are familiar with the old set anymore. So instead, calling them the Ten Suggestions would be more acceptable in today's society because this is the age of personal autonomy and few of us really wish to be pushed around by upstart commanders and their would-be commands. So instead of ten 'Thou shalt nots', one will suffice: 'Do not drink and drive.' And instead add punctuality, patience, do your best, a sense of fair play, keep your promises, care for the environment and always put the shower curtain inside the bath when you shower.

If we spruce up these 3,000-year-old commandments, we do so at our own peril.

People want to know why modern men and women should be burdened with the primitive code of a nomadic tribe that lived under skin tents in an ancient desert. The tents, the tribe and the desert are ancient – this is not in dispute – but if you change the tents to flats and houses, if you change the nomadic tribe to travelling executives in business suits and briefcases, if you change the desert to a city, it remains true that human nature is still what it always was. Of course things have changed. The clicking abacus has become the sophisticated com-

puter, the creaking ox-cart has become the super-jet, but fire is still fire, water is still water and humankind is still humankind. We still have the same pitfalls as ever.

According to social and economic trends our country is in deep decline. We are being confronted with a rise in crime, in family breakdown, debt and drug abuse. We live in a generation that has lost its fixed standards. It's lost its moorings. It's lost its compass. It's lost its anchor.

The Ten Commandments are not obsolete, they are absolute. And Britain cannot survive apart from a moral base. I come across many people who believe in God, but don't believe God. They believe in the Maker but do not accept the Maker's instructions. Law is at the heart of liberty. Laws do not restrict us; they free us to live in order and harmony. St Augustine phrased the Christian law as 'Love God and do what you like'. Many people have gone for a different motto: 'Do what you like and, soon after, rush to a psychoanalyst to find out why you no longer seem to like anything.'

The Ten Commandments are only like the embossed numerals on the dial of every person's conscience. They are not made for any particular period in history. They were based for human nature and therefore were commandments for all seasons, all centuries, for all cultures, as universal and perpetual as honour and truth.

God himself is the source of the Ten Commandments, and because the basis of the Commandments is God – THEY WORK. God knows human nature, he knows how we think. God's Ten Commandments can bring order and stability to the world. The Commandments are the most beneficial system of morality and ethics for humankind. Commandments one to four deal with our behaviour towards God. Commandments five to nine deal with our behaviour towards humankind. The tenth Commandment deals with our thoughts. The Commandments are concerned with what we think, not just what we do. Wrong ideas precede wrong actions. It's obvious we have strayed from the Commandments but if we acknowledge that, and are repentant, whether it is theft or murder we can be restored to God through Jesus Christ and renewed by the Holy Spirit to live by them today.

To the repentant thief on the cross beside him, Jesus said, 'Today you will be with me in paradise' (Luke 23:43 NIV). The thief on the cross knew what he was and he was sorry for it. Jesus received

him into his kingdom.

Zacchaeus was a notorious, despised tax collector who over-charged people and pocketed the difference. Jesus met Zacchaeus and Zacchaeus repented (Luke 19), which meant a completely new direction for his life. The thief on the cross had no opportunity to put right what he had done wrong, but Zacchaeus had the opportunity and took it. Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, 'Lord, Lord! Here and now I give half my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times that amount.' Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house.' (Luke 19:8-9 NIV)

Zacchaeus and the thief on the cross met with Jesus – that's what made the difference.

The amazing thing about God is that he can even forgive murder.

King David was a murderer.

Moses (who was given the Ten Commandments) was a murderer.

Paul was a murderer.

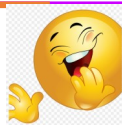
Isn't it interesting that God used three ex-murderers to write most of the Bible? God used three people who murdered because they repented and turned to him and, with God's power, changed. And if that is true for Moses, David and Paul, it can be true for us too

*Revd Canon J John*

### General Observations on Life

- ♦ When you talk, you only repeat what you already know, but if you listen you may learn something. – *Amish school proverb*
- ♦ Every path has its puddle.- *Anon*
- ♦ Plenty of people wish to become devout, but no one wishes to be humble. – *Anon*
- ♦ If you want the rainbow, you've got to put up with the rain.- *Anon*
- ♦ Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.- *Anon*

When the late Dean of York was asked why he called his stumpy-tailed fox terrier 'Mark', he explained: "The New Testament contains the life-stories of our Lord by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Mark's is the shortest tale!"



## Twin your Throne!

Toilet Twinning is a project of the Christian relief organisation Tear Fund

Toilet Twinning helps thousands of people to get access to clean water and sanitation



0300 321 3217  
Toilettwinning.org

By donating £60 to twin your toilet, you help fund a project in a community that will enable families to build a basic toilet, have access to clean water and learn about hygiene – a vital combination that saves lives.

When you twin, we'll send you a certificate to hang in your loo – showing a photograph of your overseas toilet twin and GPS coordinates so you can look up your twin's location on Google Maps!

**WHY NOT TWIN TODAY?!**

Here, and on page 4, there are details of groups and organisations to which we can give. It has been asked, would you be convicted of being a Christian by how you spend your money?

BUT—if you are struggling financially and are being hit hard by the cost of living, please understand that not everyone can give financially all the time. But please pray and share the information around so that the need is known.

**Don't get rid of Moss and**

**Dandelions—See page 5!**



## Special Coronation Edition of Coastline

Last year we produced a special "souvenir" edition of Coastline for the Platinum Jubilee, with photos of our Churches' Celebrations & some local events. We plan to do the same for the Coronation of King Charles. Please send photos & text to the editor as soon as possible after the event. Photos jpg or on memory stick. Text in Word or longhand.

## Ukrainian Orthodox Easter

Cliff and Chris Curd had the privilege of joining their guest and her little sister at the Ukrainian Orthodox Easter Service in Exeter Cathedral on 16th April. It is traditional to prepare an Easter basket with decorated eggs, traditional baking and a lighted candle. There were scores of these which had been brought. The Cathedral was full. The service was sung unaccompanied by the priest and a lady cantor, later joined by 2 others. It was beautiful even though we did not understand the language. Although Alleluia is the same! At the end the priest asperged the whole congregation and kept repeating a phrase to which there was a hearty response. We were not surprised when our guest told us that it meant "Christ is risen. He is risen indeed". The priest did read a Gospel reading in English, John 1: 1-14. We were told it was like being back in Ukraine, So very moving.

Here is an account from the  
Devon Ukrainian Association :

For the first time in the South West of England here in [Exeter Cathedral](#) - the Cathedral Anglican Cathedral of St. Petra. Exeter we organized a Ukrainian Orthodox Easter service, which was sent in Ukrainian. More than 500 Ukrainians have gathered who have now found refuge in Devon County in the southwest of the United Kingdom due to Russia's war against Ukraine. Until recently, there was no Ukrainian organization here. Now a year has become a great Ukrainian community. Incredible feelings embrace when you see how people cry, hearing the prayer in native Ukrainian language... For Ukraine and the Ukrainian army, for innocent victims of Russian aggression and for victory...

Sincere thanks to the ruling Anglican Bishop Revd Robert Atwell and the clergy of the Exeter Diocese of the Anglican Church for their assistance, support and given the opportunity to meet Easter Christ by Ukrainian Orthodox tradition in the cathedral Exeter.

When we together with the Association of Ukrainians in Devon ordered a permission to go to the Cathedral of the Orthodox Service, we thought that no more than 100 people would come. I still doubt whether to order a cathedral for this, or if a smaller church in Exeter was better. However, un-

expectedly, the number of people exceeded all expectations. The Cathedral was crowded so there were no seats available. Many Ukrainians came from the most remote villages and settlements in the county and even booked hotels in Exeter to catch the Ukrainian Easter service in the morning. When we arrived at the cathedral half an hour before the announced time, we saw that hundreds of people have been waiting for a long time with traditional Ukrainian woven Easter baskets around the temple...

It was noticeable how the English with great interest and even enthusiasm watched how Ukrainians meet Easter. They saw our distinctive national and religious traditions for the first time not somewhere on the BBC but with their own eyes, near here in England. This is also an important element of our testimony about Ukraine in the world, when our people lead a self-sacrificing struggle for freedom and independence. In exile, abroad, Ukrainians especially feel the need for unity around our sanctuaries and traditions. Nostalgia and longing for the homeland intensify this inner thirst. Faith, culture and language - "three whales", on which any nation is founded. Among them, the religious factor has always been the determining factor. Especially in the face of war, grief and loss, when hope is sometimes lost, trusting in God helps. She drinks with new life-giving forces that help her recover and move forward. The symbol of the desire for such renewal and recovery is Easter. Ukrainians (do not) call this holiday Easter for nothing. For us, this is the most important, the greatest unifying holiday of nationwide importance. Easter traditions are deeply rooted in our national and religious identity and identity. They are a peculiar so to speak "genetic code" of the Ukrainian nation, vividly distinguishing us from other peoples, ensuring our national self-preservation and preventing assimilating. So it was at all times, including under the yoke of the Russian Empire and the USSR. I remember well, as during Soviet totalitarianism and reigning atheism, when the very mention of religion, faith in God and Ukrainian identity were forbidden, it was our Ukrainian folk Easter traditions with their indispensable attributes - Easter cakes and krashankami (decorated eggs) helped us not to forget who we really are. Not to lose our national and religious face. In the end, do not lose faith in God. Now, abroad, I experienced the (cont back page)





Photos:  
Devon  
Ukrainian  
Association  
Facebook page.



Photos left  
and right:  
Chris Curd  
Right—the  
basket pre-  
pared by our  
21 year old  
guest.





same feelings for the second time as once in my youth, during the USSR. Easter for us, Ukrainians, is truly the Easter that unites in hope and desire for recovery and resurrection.

It's a family holiday at the same time. Therefore Ukrainians abroad on this day especially need to meet him together in the Ukrainian family. Watching this makes sure that our people cannot overcome and destroy any enemies. For our strength is in our spirit.

Special thanks for the organization of the holiday [Devon Ukrainian Association](#) and the London Diocese of the UOC diaspora - [Катедральний Собор Святого Преображення](#) (Cathedral of the Holy Transfiguration) [Господнього УАПЦ Лондон](#) (of the Lord's Ukraine Autocephalous Orthodox Church, London) Fr Eugene and the wonderful half Valentini Malaspini, [Лидія Лозова](#) and [Daria Morozova](#) Everyone sincerely congratulations on the bright holiday of the Resurrection of Christ!

Сергій Шумило (Serhii Shumylo)  
Ph.D. in History, Th Dr.,  
Associate Professor, Honored Worker of Ukraine Culture.  
Visiting Researcher Fellow at [University of Exeter](#)



Photo—Anna Tahibekova—at the celebration after the service.

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)

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



All items for  
June  
Coastline to  
Editor by  
21st  
May please.