

Dundry Church News

March 2026



A major retrospective of the artist Gwen John recently opened in Cardiff, following on from the excellent touring exhibition hosted by the Holburne in 2024. Gwen John was a woman of talent and determination who quietly stepped beyond the borders of convention to paint her vision of the world. Born in Pembrokeshire in 1867, she trained at the Slade in London, then, eschewing the circles of her flamboyant artist brother, Augustus, walked to Paris, rented a single room Montmartre flat, earned money as a life model to Rodin, became his lover, mixed with the cream of the early twentieth-century artists and died in 1939.

Absorbing the artistic revolution occurring in Paris at the time, she developed her own distinctive style, subjects and focus. Converting to Roman Catholicism, she calmly sketched while attending Mass, much to the annoyance of the clergy, and painted a series of stunning portraits of Mère Poussepin, founder of a chapter of Dominican sisters, who were her near neighbours.

Gwen John's paintings, whether they are of a beloved cat, herself, other women or her apartment, shine with an interior light. Her muted yet pellucid colours convey confidence, stillness, sureness of her ability, depth of observation and understanding of her subjects. Her local priests were wrong – sketching during services was for her an aspect of prayer, part of her connection to the deeper things of life, to both the divine and her surroundings.

In 2026 the Diocese of Bath and Wells is focussing on enabling us to grow in our prayer lives. For many prayer is asking God for help for ourselves, loved ones and the world. But prayer is chiefly about deepening our connection with God, opening us to a different way of living and loving. Photography, painting, sketching, knitting, gardening, shaping wood with plane or lathe, can all offer elements of repetition, tranquillity, close observation, that clear our minds of bustling thoughts, offering room for the still, small voice of God to be heard. In our family of churches we are looking to provide opportunities for reflective, contemplative prayer that is not about asking but encourages openness to the vastness of God's universe and the depth of God's lovingkindness. We will give more details in due course. In the meantime, you might like to take a camera, or sketch book and pencil to a quiet church, woodland, lake or room, focus in on what you see, smell, hear, create your own images, and make time to bring stillness to mind and soul.

Richard Greatrex



September 12-14, 2026

*The Third Annual
Chew Valley Nature Photography Festival*

NEW CATEGORY:

A one-minute length
film on any aspect
of Chew Valley
wildlife



Start taking your
photographs today!

Three age groups: Adults; Year 7 to 18yrs; Year 6 and under
For more details watch this space or check out the website:
<https://chewvalleynpf.wordpress.com/>

**EASTER FOOD BANK
COLLECTION**

Saturday 7th March

10.30am-12.30pm

At Dundry Church

We welcome donations of
Easter eggs, Easter treats &
non-perishable food,
for the Salvation Army to distribute .



Could you lead a service in your local church?

We are looking for people across our family of churches who feel that they have the interest, the skills or the calling to lead worship. Through our baptisms we are all called to be involved in God's mission and ministry.

Lay Worship Assistants (LWAs) play a vital part in the worshipping life of our churches and communities. They help lead services such as morning and evening prayer, alternative non-Eucharistic worship, and assist clergy in leading Eucharistic celebrations (Holy Communion). By doing so, they bring variety, flexibility, and a regular rhythm of worship to our congregations.

Each LWA carries out their role with the support and guidance of the Rector. This relationship provides both theological grounding and practical encouragement, helping LWAs grow in confidence and use their gifts to serve others in worship.

LWAs are helping to make worship more accessible and sustainable in local churches. Their ministry increases the number and range of services that can be offered – ensuring people can continue to gather and worship in their own communities.

All those who go on to exercise ministry on behalf of the church are safely recruited following DBS checks and safeguarding training.

If you are interested, in the first instance please contact

Richard (rectorcve@gmail.com; 01275 461179) for a chat about the role.

Training follows a six session course produced by the Diocese which we hope to run after Easter.



SPONSOR A LILY

In memory of a loved one.

These will be displayed in the church
for Easter.

£5.00 each.

Please contact Jane Swyer
07826 821569
dundrychurchsocial@gmail.com

The lilies will be available to view
at the Café on
Easter Saturday
4th April
10.30am-12.30pm

Easter Raffle

tickets £1 each
to be drawn on the 4th April
at the Tower Café
in the Church.

Tickets available
at the cafes on the
7th March &
4th April
10.30am-12.30pm



**Dundry Church is a
Grade 1
Listed Building**



**It costs over £1,000 per month
or £264 per week
to maintain this church.**

**We receive no money from central
or government sources:
we are entirely funded by our local
church community.**

**We would love your help in keeping
this beautiful ancient building open.
If you are able to give, please scan this
QR code and follow the link:**

**Thank you for any help
you can give.**



Tower Café @ Dundry

Saturday 7th March

10.30am~12.30pm

Hot Drinks, Cakes, Savouries

Jam & Pickle Stall

Sweets, Raffle Tickets, Easter Lily orders being taken

Your Parish Church in Chew Valley East

lakesidegroup.org.uk

Services for March 2026

	1st March Lent 2	8th March Lent 3	15 th March Mothering Sunday	22nd March Lent 5 Passion Sunday	29th March Palm Sunday
Chew Magna		10.00am Holy Communion Revd Richard Greatrex		8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) Revd Richard Greatrex	
Dundry	9.30am Half Hour Holy Communion Revd Richard Greatrex				
Norton Malreward		10.00am Morning Worship Ruth Day		10.00am Stations of the Cross Revd Richard Greatrex	10.00am Group Service Procession of Palms, Passion Narrative & Holy Communion Revd Richard Greatrex
Stanton Drew	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) Revd Richard Greatrex		10.00am Mothering Sunday Group Service Revd Richard Greatrex		

**Dundry Church is registered with
the
Parish Giving Scheme,
which allows you to give a one off
or regular donation
to this church,**



**Please use the QR for
your donation,
Thank you**

Contact Information

Rector Revd Richard Greatrex
rectorcve@gmail.com 01275 461179
The Rector's day off is normally Tuesday

Readers Mrs Ruth Day ruth@daysinc.co.uk 07773373829

Parish Administrator Alison Hill
(Mon, Weds and Fri mornings)
01275 331061; cvechurches@gmail.com

Churchwarden Alison Hill - 01275 475352
Fundraising Team dundrychurchsocial@gmail.com

WEB PAGES

Chew Valley East - www.lakesidegroup.org.uk

Facebook - www.facebook.com/ChewValleyEastCofEChurches

YouTube - www.youtube.com/channel/UCQ7Hp6zU_3YbxuzDV7aq78w