
Holsworthy Benefice ~ News Sheet No 1

Bridgerule, Hollacombe, Holsworthy and Pyworthy with Pancrasweek

29th March 2020 ~ PASSION SUNDAY, Fifth Sunday of Lent

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Dear all,

it is sad, and for some heart breaking, but really important, that all churches are now to be closed until further notice. There will be no services of Holy Matrimony or Holy Baptism, Funerals will be at the graveside or in the crematorium with limited numbers.

We must remember that the building is not the church, but that we are the church. We continue to be the church by being the hands and feet of God today. This includes being a listening ear on the phone and supporting people. It includes being patient when queues are long. It is by not taking the last loaf of bread when you have some in the freezer.

Today on this Passion Sunday we look towards the Cross to remind us of the agony Jesus went through for us because he loves us so much.

One of the things we can all do during this difficult and worrying time is to pray. Pray at home alone and pray with one another on the phone.

*O God,
help us to trust you,
help us to know that you are with us,
help us to believe that nothing can separate us
from your love revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

If you are struggling please do be in touch.

Yours in Christ

Mother Elizabeth

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

Passion Sunday 29th	For the containment of Covid-19. Exeter Cathedral clergy and
Monday 30th March	Those in authority, especially our Government at this time.
Tuesday 31st March	For the witness of all Christians
Wednesday 1st	For lawmakers
Thursday 2nd April	For the leaders of the Church
Friday 3rd April	For social justice
Palm Saturday 4th	For vocations to the Priesthood

Worship - For today's worship at home go to page 4.

Whilst we are unable to use our church buildings for worship there are other resources available.

Daily at 9.30am Morning Prayer is available on the Facebook page.

A copy of Morning and Evening Prayer and the Eucharist for Lent are available on the website. If you don't use the internet and would like a copy of the services please contact Mother Elizabeth.

[Sunday Worship on BBC Radio 4 at 08:10](#)

[Sunday Service from BBC Radio Devon at 06:30](#)

[Sunday Mornings - Donna Birrell on BBC Radio Cornwall at 06:00](#)

[Songs of Praise - BBC at 1.15pm](#)

[The Daily Service on BBC Radio 4 LW at 09:45](#)

Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCM)

These have all been postponed. A new time frame has been looked at and it is hoped that we will have them during late Autumn.

The Holsworthy Benefice Magazine

Unfortunately we are having to suspend publication of our monthly magazine until such time as we can safely distribute it again. In the meantime you can still email Bob Beckford or Mother Elizabeth with information to go on this news sheet. So that we reach as many people as possible we will publish the News Sheet through email, the Benefice Website and also produce printed copies for those people who do not have access to a computer.

www.holsworthybenefice.org.uk is the website address. If you are on the internet please go to this website for the most up to date information. Look for **Online Church** at the top of the Home page for links to useful resources.

Breath of Fresh Air Lung Support Group

Our April meeting and all further meetings until further notice are cancelled. I would point everyone with Lung conditions who want specific advice, to the British Lung Foundation website and Helpline number 03000 030 555. Also of course, the NHS website.

Wendy Millar Group Leader



Urgent Message From The North Devon Hospice

Due to the corona virus, Nightwalk in May has obviously been postponed, the safety of everyone in our community is of paramount importance, walkers, volunteers, staff. We will get back to you with news of a future date in due course. Where deadlines allow, would you please withdraw all mention of Nightwalk in your April edition.

We would like to express our very sincere thanks to you for your long-standing support of North Devon Hospice. We will be in touch with wider news about our Hospice care and any fundraising in due course, but as the situation is constantly changing we want to be able to give you our comprehensive update.

Please all of you stay safe and we look forward to working with you in the coming weeks.

Many thanks, Gerard, Fundraising Team

World day of Prayer 2020

At 2.30 pm on Friday 6th March, 35 people gathered at the Methodist Church in Holsworthy to take part in the 2020 World Day of Prayer service. Formerly the Women's World Day of Prayer, and now simply the World day of Prayer, this is a women led global Ecumenical movement and each year the service is written by a different community. The day of prayer is always the first Friday in March and the wave of prayer begins as the sun rises over Samoa in the Pacific. It ends some 36 hours later back in the Pacific as the sun sets over American Samoa and involves people in over 120 countries round the world.

The service this year was prepared by the Christian women of Zimbabwe who took as their themes Love, Peace and Reconciliation and asked us to reflect on the difficulties and unrest that have plagued their country over many years. With interwoven stories, songs, prayers, music and a bible reading, we were encouraged to consider all aspects of healing and challenged to "Rise! Take your mat and walk". Many of the congregation read parts of the service and the music was ably masterminded by Martyn Squires. A collection taken during the service raised £145 for the work of the movement. After the service, a tea was enjoyed in the schoolroom.

Please do consider joining us next year on Friday 5th March for the service prepared by the Christian women of Vanuatu.

Helen Young



Holsworthy Electoral Roll

A message from Mary Beckford (Electoral Roll Officer)

Fortunately this is not a year for a major electoral roll update but if you would like your name added to the Holsworthy Electoral Roll you will have fill out an application form, this will give you voting rights at the APCM. You can obtain a form by writing to me at 31 Kingdon Way, Holsworthy, EX22 6FN. Alternatively, give me a phone call and I will send you an application form. Tel: 01409 254804

Holsworthy Church Cleaning

A message from Sue Bumby

As services have been suspended for the duration of the Corona Virus Pandemic please note we are suspending the Church Cleaning Rota. When we are able to return to normal service pattern we will have a BIG SPRING CLEAN in which we can all participate and return the church to its sparkling condition! After that we will return to the rota for the following weeks of 2020. Thank you to all of you who help in keeping the church clean and tidy.

The Friends of Holsworthy Parish Church, St Peter's Monthly Jackpot Draw

The winners of the Draw, drawn on 20th March were -

1st Prize, £27.50 - ticket number 66, Mandy c/o Staddon Road

2nd Prize, £5.50 - ticket number 8, Jean from Bradworthy

You can now purchase a ticket and join in for the next 12 months.

The price of the 12 month ticket is £12. Please send a cheque to Helen Narborough made paid out to 'The PCC of Holsworthy Parish Church. Or make a bacs transfer Holsworthy A/c no. 05007216 Sort Code 53-50-52 stating you name and 'draw'.

St. Petroc, Hollacombe

by Margaret Stacey

On Sunday 15th March Holy Communion was taken by Canon T. Newcombe. He had experienced difficult road conditions on his drive to us from Okehampton and as we were few in number it was unanimously agreed to have a said service which in the current state of the country suffering the effects of Corvid-19 was very sincere with the peace & tranquillity combined with a meaningful & thoughtful sermon. Thank you Father Tim.

On Friday 13th March the funeral service for Jill Durling took place at Holsworthy Church. Over recent years Jill had become a frequent worshipper at St. Petroc, Hollacombe. We will miss her particularly at special events but our love and prayers go to her family, Stephen, Katherine & grandchildren at Manworthy.

A message from Holsworthy Methodist Church Thursday Group

Sadly we have had to cancel the remaining meetings in our programme due to the coronavirus. We wish you well and look forward to offering a new programme later in the year.

Some Useful Numbers	
Need help during this troublesome time - please contact Holsworthy COVID-19 Mutual Aid	TEXT: 07340 633055 Facebook: Holsworthy COVID-19 Mutual Aid Email:mutualaidholsworthy@protonmail.com
Age UK	0800 678 1602. Lines are open 8am-7pm
Health Centre	253692
Holsworthy Hospital.	253424
Boots the Chemist	255295
Lloyds Pharmacy	253461
Town Clerk	253312
Stagecoach South West	01392 42 77 11
National Rail Enquiries.	03457 48 49 50
Revd. Richard Freeman (Bradworthy Benefice & Rural Dean)	01409 241315
Primary School	253700
Holsworthy Community College	253430
Citizen's Advice Bureau (Weekdays 9.30 am - 4.00 pm)	02444 111 444
Samaritans	116 123

Prayers to use at this time;

For those who are ill

Merciful God,
we entrust to your tender care
those who are ill or in pain,
knowing that whenever danger threatens
your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.
Comfort and heal them,
and restore them to health and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For hospital staff and medical researchers

Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work
many will be restored to health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Worship on Passion Sunday

We turn our attention to our Lord Jesus Christ's passion, death and resurrection.

At this time when we are not able to gather in Church for the celebration of the Eucharist, you are invited to pray the Collect of the day, read and reflect on the readings and Gospel, and offer some prayers of intercession printed below.

Then pray the Lord's Prayer and the Act of Spiritual Communion below - a special prayer for those who cannot be present to receive Christ in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Once you have done this pray the prayer for all who suffer at this time written by the Church of England for this crisis, and conclude with the Grace.

THE COLLECT FOR PASSION SUNDAY

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE READINGS FOR PASSION SUNDAY

Ezekiel 37:1-14

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.
The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.' So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring

you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

Romans 8:6-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.
To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law - indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

THE GOSPEL FOR PASSION SUNDAY

The Gospel reading, the raising of Lazarus, is worth reading closely. At the grave of Lazarus, Jesus weeps. We are going through a complex and worrying time. Jesus knows our fear and pain. But though we are isolated and not with each other the story of the raising of Lazarus reminds us we are not alone: Jesus is with us whatever happens, and surrounds us with his love.

John 11:1-45

A reading from the Gospel according to John.
A certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been

speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.' When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.' When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?' Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said

to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.' Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. *This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

INTERCESSIONS FOR PASSION SUNDAY

Let us pray to God,
who alone makes us dwell in safety.

For all who are affected by coronavirus,
through illness or isolation or anxiety,
that they may find relief and recovery:
Lord, hear us, Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who are guiding our nation at this time,
and shaping national policies,
that they may make wise decisions:
Lord, hear us, Lord, graciously hear us.

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers, that
through their skill and insights many will be
restored to health:
Lord, hear us, Lord, graciously hear us.

For the vulnerable and the fearful,
for the gravely ill and the dying, that they may
know your comfort and peace:
Lord, hear us, Lord, graciously hear us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

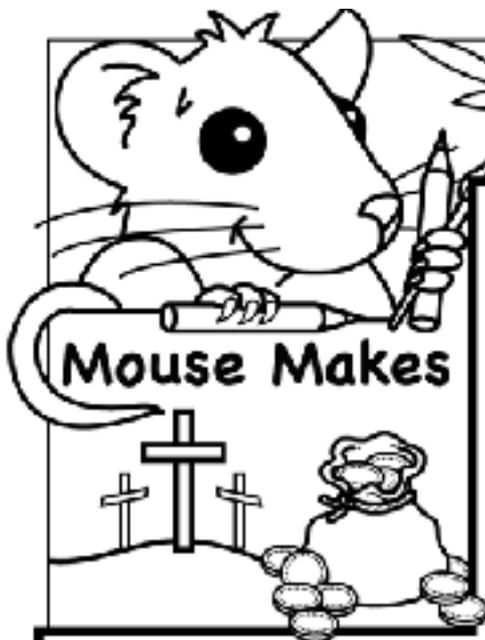
My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there, and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR ALL WHO SUFFER AT THIS TIME

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

THE GRACE

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.



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