

COLLECT

God our redeemer,
 who prepared the Blessed Virgin
 Mary
 to be the mother of your Son:
 grant that, as she looked for his
 coming as our saviour,
 so we may be ready to greet him
 when he comes again as our judge;
 who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 7:10-16

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying,
 "Ask a sign of the LORD your
 God; let it be deep as Sheol or
 high as heaven." But Ahaz said,
 "I will not ask, and I will not
 put the LORD to the test." Then
 Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house
 of David! Is it too little for you to
 weary mortals, that you weary
 my God also? Therefore the Lord
 himself will give you a sign. Look,
 the young woman is with child
 and shall bear a son, and shall
 name him Immanuel. He shall
 eat curds and honey by the time
 he knows how to refuse the evil
 and choose the good. For before
 the child knows how to refuse the
 evil and choose the good, the land
 before whose two kings you are in
 dread will be deserted."

PSALM Psalm 80:1-8. 18-20

[80:1-8] *Turn us again, O God;
 show the light of your countenance,
 and we shall be saved.*

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,
 you that led Joseph like a flock;
 Shine forth, you that are enthroned
 upon the cherubim,
 before Ephraim, Benjamin and
 Manasseh.

Stir up your mighty strength
 and come to our salvation. R

O Lord God of hosts,
 how long will you be angry at
 your people's prayer?
 You feed them with the bread of
 tears;
 you give them abundance of tears
 to drink.
 You have made us the derision of
 our neighbours
 and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
 R

Let your hand be upon the man at
 your right hand,
 the son of man you made so strong
 for yourself.
 And so will we not go back from
 you;
 give us life, and we shall call upon
 your name. R

SECOND READING

Romans 1:1-7

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ,
 called to be an apostle, set apart
 for the gospel of God, which he
 promised beforehand through his
 prophets in the holy scriptures,
 the gospel concerning his Son,
 who was descended from David
 according to the flesh and was
 declared to be Son of God with
 power according to the spirit of
 holiness by resurrection from
 the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Through Christ we have received
 grace and apostleship to bring
 about the obedience of faith among
 all the Gentiles for the sake of his
 name, including yourselves who
 are called to belong to Jesus Christ,
 To all God's beloved in Rome,
 who are called to be saints: Grace
 to you and peace from God our
 Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL Matthew 1:18-25

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
 The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

POST COMMUNION

Heavenly Father,
 who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
 to be the mother of the promised
 saviour:
 fill us your servants with your
 grace,
 that in all things we may embrace
 your holy will
 and with her rejoice in your
 salvation;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.





For all enquiries:

Holy Baptism, Holy Matrimony, Funerals, Pastoral or Confidential Matters

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The United Churches of Holsworthy Benefice.

People tell me that they don't like to ask me to visit because I am far too busy. I am never too busy to visit! If you need a visit, or know someone else who does, day or night at home, hospital or hospice please don't hesitate to call - and I will be there! Phone me at any hour, day or night, on 07941735318.

Fr. Christopher

SERVICES

Sunday 18th December 2016 - 4th Sunday of Advent

9.00 a.m. - Holy Communion at St Petroc, Hollacombe

9.30 a.m. - Morning Prayer at St. Swithun, Pyworthy

10.00 a.m. - Holy Communion at St. Peter and St. Paul, Holsworthy

11.15 a.m. - Holy Communion at St. Bridget, Bridgerule

6.30 p.m. - Carol Service at Bridgerule Chapel

Wednesday 21st December 2016

12.00 noon - Holy Communion at St. Peter and St. Paul, Holsworthy

Saturday 24th December 2016 - Christmas Eve

11.00 a.m. - Crib Service at St. Swithun, Pyworthy

4.00 p.m. - Carols Round the Tree in the **MARKET SQUARE**,
Holsworthy

11.15 p.m. - Midnight Mass at St. Swithun, Pyworthy

11.30 p.m. - Midnight Mass at St. Peter and St. Paul, Holsworthy

Sunday 25th December 2016 - Christmas Day

9.00 a.m. - Holy Communion at St Petroc, Hollacombe

10.15 a.m. - Holy Communion at St. Bridget, Bridgerule

11.00 a.m. - Holy Communion at St Pancras, Pancrasweek

Wednesday 28th December 2016

3.00 p.m. - Carol Service at St Petroc, Hollacombe

*Come and join us
for half an hour of Prayer*

8.00 a.m. Morning Prayer

Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday

At St. Peter and St. Paul, Holsworthy

Monday & Wednesday

At St. Swithun, Pyworthy.

NOTICES

THANK YOU! To all those who helped to make last Sunday's Carol Service such a success - both front of house and behind the scenes. All your hard work and effort was very much appreciated.

Come and join us at 4.00pm on Christmas Eve in the Market Square to sing Carols round the Christmas Tree.

*Have a very, Happy, Joyful, Peaceful Christmas
And may the love of the Christ Child dwell in your hearts*

Please take this sheet home with you