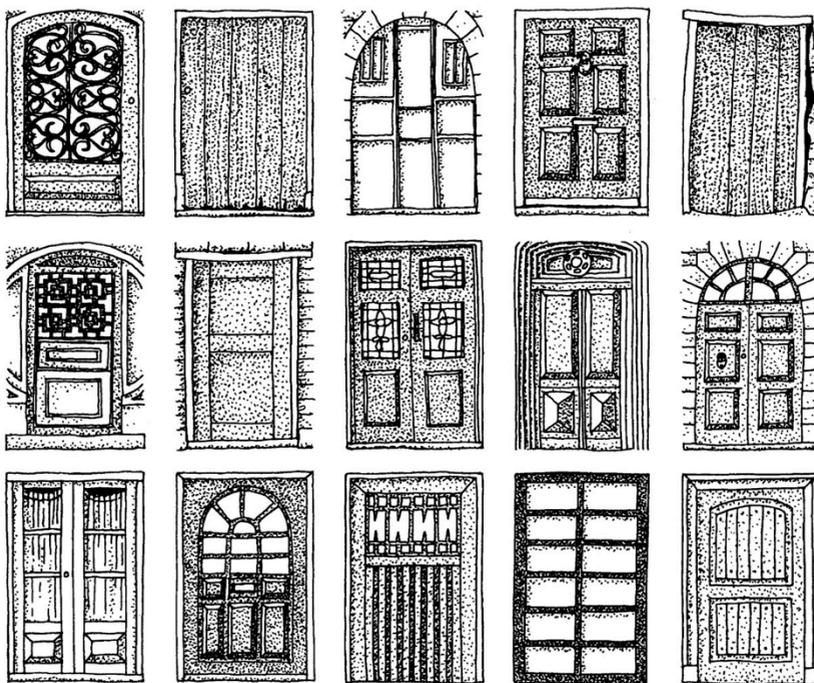


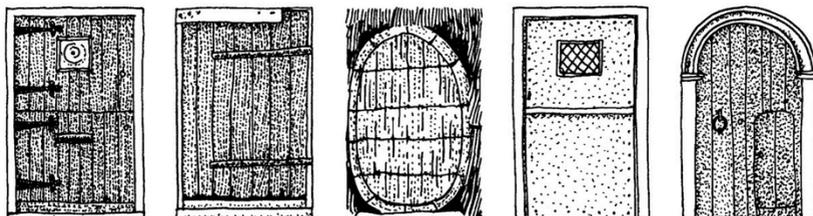
The Holsworthy Area Parish Magazine January 2017

For the Parishes of the United Benefice of
Holsworthy, Bridgerule, Hollacombe,
Pyworthy and Pancrasweek
www.holsworthybenefice.org.uk



Listen! I am standing at your door and knocking.

Revelation 3:20



Church Contacts

To prevent spamming issues this page has been removed.

*Holsworthy & Pyworthy Churches are usually open every day.
Come in and sit for a while and spend time with God.*

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Sorry about the slight delay this month. This was going to be a combined January and February edition of our magazine but just when we were ready to go to the printer before the Christmas and New Year holiday we had news of the postponed departure of Fr. Christopher. This meant changes had to be made to the magazine and in particular the planned service rota that we include in each edition and has of course delayed publication.

If you have anything you would like to be considered for publication in our magazine please give it to the editor by the 20th of the preceding month. It can be sent electronically or hand written. Our printer in Bude can usually reproduce photographs to a reasonable standard. If you want any hard copy or pictures returned please ensure your name and address is on the back.

This magazine is produced for the churches of St. Peter and St. Paul Holsworthy; St. Bridget's, Bridgerule; St. Petroc, Hollacombe; St. Swithun, Pyworthy; St. Pancras, Pancrasweek; and is the only publication promoting the views and vision of the benefice.

The contents of this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the individual PCC's but are those of individual contributors.

www.holsworthybenefice.org.uk

Reflections

By the Rev Paul Hardingham, Editor at the Parish Pump, on letting go of the past.

New Year, New Life

The month of January is named after the Roman god Janus, who is depicted with two faces. We may look back to the old year with sadness or regret, but how can we make a fresh start at the beginning of 2016? The apostle Paul writes 'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.' (Philippians 3:13,14).

Firstly, if you want a new start, you need to forget the things which are behind. Paul pictures himself as an athlete running for Christ, yet not looking back. He refused to allow his past sins and failures to define who he was. By God's grace, he no longer saw himself that way. The same can be true of ourselves, as we confess our sins and receive God's forgiveness and new life.

Secondly, we need to focus on the things that lie ahead. The athlete is entirely focused on winning the race and gaining the prize. Like Paul, we have to be single-minded in making Jesus the focus of everything we do. How can we go deeper in our prayer life and Bible reading this year? What will it mean to better serve Christ in our workplace and career, or family and children?

Paul looked forward to the day when he would stand before God, and God will say, 'well done, good and faithful servant'. In light of all that Jesus had done for him, Paul wanted to give his very best to Jesus. As we stand at the beginning of this New Year, let's ask ourselves, 'What can I do this year that will help me bring glory and honour to God?'

Canon David Winter considers the role of the Magi

We, three kings?

They're there in most Nativity plays, resplendent in regal gowns and cardboard crowns, carrying their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Actually, the Church celebrates the coming of these exotic people to the stable at Bethlehem not at Christmas but now, in January, in a season called 'Epiphany'.



The word means 'revealing', and it reminds us that the Saviour was a gift to the whole world – even Gentiles from 'the East' were welcome at His coming. The story of the Wise Men, as we usually call them (but more accurately the Magi), is a 'revealing' – the 'new king' was to be the Saviour of the world, 'good news for all people', as the angels proclaimed to the shepherds.

The name 'Magi' should alert us to their true role. They were 'wise' in the sense that they knew and studied the stars, but their primary trade was fortune-telling. 'Magi' is the root of our word 'magic', and people like them held the ancient world in thrall to their predictions. In the Greek and Roman world of the time no major decision would be made without their sanction. Think of Shakespeare's Julius Caesar and the superstitious fear that dominated people's lives.

Yet when these powerful representatives of the world of magic, portent and fear came to the stable, they prostrated themselves before the infant Jesus, as they gave Him their gifts. Thus, as the first Christians saw it, the old world of fear and superstition gave way to the new world of love, grace and faith. That was the 'revealing' that we celebrate in Epiphany – not some elderly men bringing gifts to a baby, but a baby bringing to the world the greatest gift of all, a Saviour.

News From The Parishes In Our Benefice

St. Peter and St. Paul, Holsworthy

Christmas Services

Town Carol Service – This was really well attended, not a seat left in church and what an excellent service it was. As the welcoming sound of the church bells came to silence the carol singing got off off to a very good start with the first verse of Once in Royal David's City being sung by four children from Holsworthy Primary School. To do this in the dark was a challenge, which they met with confidence. Well done to them. The readings during the service were complimented by a good choice of carols with musical accompaniment from a mixture of Holsworthy Town Band and our two organists. Choir carol singing came from both the church and the augmented choirs. The evening ended with coffee and mince pies.

Thank you to everyone that attended, to the organisers and everyone who took part in any way to make this an excellent event.



School Christingle - On the Thursday following the town carol service we welcomed the children from Holsworthy Primary School for their Christingle Service. It was good to see so many parents in church, so many in fact that we had to put out extra seating.

Carols Round The Tree – Christmas Eve

Following the slight confusion as to where this was taking place last year the decision was taken to hold this in Holsworthy Square round the tree! What a great idea this was and so well attended. It looks like this may become the way it will always be in future, weather permitting of course. Like the Good Friday Walk of Witness it is good to show the people of Holsworthy that there is an active Christian presence in town.

Oil Tank News – As reported last month we now have permission from the Exeter Diocese to replace our damaged oil tank and on the Friday before Christmas we received notification from Torridge District Council that we have been granted Planning Permission to carry out the work. The contractors were informed and have ordered the tank. With the Christmas holiday shut down it will be a few more weeks before work can commence but as soon as the contractors take delivery of the tank they will be along to install it. The good news is that we have plenty of oil at the moment so we should be able to keep the church reasonably warm.

St. Petroc, Hollacombe by Margaret Stacey

CAROL SERVICE - Our annual carol service of traditional nine lessons and carols held on Wednesday 28th December under the leadership of Mr Paul Dymond once again saw a well-filled church. The weather was dry and bright, a lovely crisp afternoon which showed off the church nicely and made our newly cleaned and decorated belfry positively glow with the late afternoon sun coming through the beautifully coloured glass west window, not a sight we can usually enjoy. We had two little ones amongst us this year, 2 months and 15 months, lovely to have the youngsters particularly at this time in the church's year, the birth of another little one, Jesus.

A big thank you to the readers, the young lady who dressed the crib for us, the catering team and all of you who came along and joined in and supported our church. Special thanks to Paul for leading us. Everyone was part of the link,



without one the other would not have happened. THANK YOU EVERYONE.

OUR LOSSES

During December we have lost two of our Hollacombe people.

On December 8th Clifford Skinner was laid to rest in the churchyard following a funeral service at SS.Peter and Paul, Holsworthy. The eldest son of the Skinner family of Eastacombe Farm in the parish, he was laid to rest beside his parents within sight of his family home. Our prayers and thoughts go to his widow and family, his siblings still return to St Petroc Church for special services and we always look forward to seeing them back here.

December 6th was the funeral service again at SS.Peter and Paul for Russel Sanders who was one of our supporters at St Petroc, usually bringing his friend Betty Heale with him, always enjoying the seasonal services at Harvest and the Carol Service. Russel loved bidding for the fruit cake at the Harvest auction and would usually make sure there was one to be had beforehand. We will miss your humour Russel at the next auction.

Our next service will be Sunday 15th January, 2017, 9am Holy Communion, BCP. After that we hope to return to our usual pattern of 1st Sunday 3pm Evensong and 3rd Sunday 9a. H.C., both BCP

A look back at 2016

The last 12 months has been quite a year for St Petroc at Hollacombe. Firstly we had a baptism of little Archie Durling in February, the first baptism for quite some time at Hollacombe.

The roof has under gone extensive repairs and thankfully we took refuge at SS Peter and Paul at Holsworthy, and a big Thank You to them for allowing us generously to use the church not only for our usual 1st Sunday in the month 3pm Evensong from the Book of Common Prayer but also our well attended Harvest Service and supper plus auction in September with invited guest, the former now retired archdeacon of Barnstaple Fr David Gunn Johnson who spoke very warmly of his association with St Petroc.

He was a great strength to us especially when the dreaded fungus problem arose soon after the terrible and devastating time of Foot and Mouth disease, closing our church for some considerable time. But, thankfully we, like Phoenix, arose from the ashes.

The roof and tower now being completed is another step forward to preserving our little church and thanks to all concerned who have made this possible. There are a few things outstanding but hopefully this will be resolved shortly. The ladies did a grand job clearing and cleaning up afterwards.

We have seen two interments in our churchyard this year. In May, Ronald Reader, interred behind his in-laws and then in December Clifford Skinner interred beside his parents and overlooking his birth place and family home of Eastacombe Farm, so very fitting a resting place for him, back to his roots.

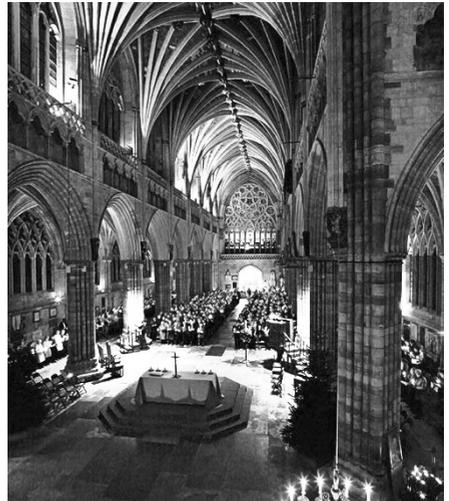
The carol service saw not only Archie in church again and taking 'an active part' (now 15 months old) but the 2 month old granddaughter of Arleen Gould, great supporter and attendee in years previous so we feel the church is beginning to have new and fresh blood.

It gives us great heart to stride forward and makes us feel, 'We are needed' to keep up the good work and keep going.

BISHOP ROBERT'S CHRISTMAS SERMON

The devastating fire that engulfed the Cathedral Green in October and which destroyed the Royal Clarence Hotel has affected all of us who live or work here in the city. What continues to strike me is the impact that the fire has had on the public imagination, and just how many people far and wide share our sadness at the loss of one of our most treasured landmarks.

The fact that the hotel, reputed to be the oldest in Britain, should have survived the war and Hitler's Baedeker raids, but succumbed to this fire is a huge sadness.



If you are visiting Exeter today, you will have seen the burnt out shell of the hotel as you approached the cathedral. There is no room in that particular inn this Christmas, nor will there be for some years to come.

Mary and Joseph must have been similarly desolate arriving in Bethlehem at the end of their long journey from Nazareth in the north of Israel. Bethlehem was Joseph's home town and it was there that the couple were required to register for the census ordered by the occupying Roman authorities.

The couple arrive, exhausted by the journey, only to find doors shut in their face. Doubtless the town was packed with strangers and visitors who had descended on the place for the same reason with the result that, in St Luke's evocative phrase, 'there was no room for them in the inn'.

No one had compassion on this couple, even though Mary was obviously heavily pregnant. No one was able or willing to offer hospitality and welcome these strangers.

And so it was that the child Jesus ends up being born in squalor, in some sort of outhouse amongst animals.

The Jews looked forward with eager expectation for the coming of a Messiah who would deliver them from oppression. Many of the Hebrew scriptures point to the coming a messiah, a king, a prince of David's line who would rebuild their nation.

The Jewish royal family had been exterminated by Babylonian invaders some 150 years earlier. But perhaps a remnant of the old Davidic line had survived? Perhaps, as the prophet Isaiah hoped, a 'shoot from the stock of Jesse', Jesse being King David's father, would emerge on the stage of world history and save them?

But for all their prophecies and their hoping against hope, no one expected the messiah to be born at the margins, on the very edge, in a stable.

Contrary to what T. S. Eliot says in his poem 'Journey of the Magi', this birth was not satisfactory. Indeed St Matthew tells us that, following Jesus's birth, Joseph had to take his wife and newly-born son and flee to Egypt for safety. King Herod was so intimidated by rumours of the birth of a king who might grow up to challenge his dynasty that he orders the murder of all male children under the age of three in Bethlehem and its surrounding district. It would not be the first or the last time in history that despots have used violence to subjugate a population.

If Jesus Christ is the human face of God, as Christians believe, then beneath the tinsel and the carols, the Christmas story confronts us with bitter realities: the uncomfortable fact that our God was not only born on the margins, but ended up a refugee.

This year I have met three people from our churches who have been to Calais to help distribute food and clothes to refugees in what was called 'The Jungle'. I found the stories they shared with me of human anguish profoundly moving, but

so too are the acts of kindness that reach into the misery and bring hope to vulnerable people.

The people of Torrington in North Devon this month organised a massive collection of clothes and toys for Syrian refugees in their area. Hundreds took part in the collection, and they filled a local theatre with provisions.

Some local children challenged the refugee children to a game of football. They noticed that one of the Syrian boys playing wasn't wearing any shoes or boots. When questioned, he said:

'I have walked all the way here from Syria without any shoes; so to play football barefoot isn't a problem.'

In Dawlish one Syrian family has been attending a local church at the weekend. When asked about this they said, 'We go to church on Sunday and Mosque on Friday!'

Hope is often in short supply in this world. But stories like this are full of human kindness and they cheer my heart. They speak to me of a God of hope who prizes open hardened hearts to the stranger in our midst so that our hearts don't go rusty.

We've all seen the terrible pictures of the relentless bombardment of Aleppo this week. The on-going conflict in the Middle East has destabilised whole communities and nations. As a result, not simply thousands, but millions of individuals and families continue to flee for safety.

The experience for many of them as they travel from town to town and from country to country seeking refuge is not unlike that of the holy family: 'no room in the inn'.

I do not have a solution to this humanitarian crisis which is international in its dimensions. I certainly don't envy the politicians and negotiators who are trying to broker some sort of peace.

As we celebrate the birth of the Christ-child, we can't ignore these realities even if we might wish that it would all go away. Sadly, unlike in a Christmas panto, there is no fairy godmother with a magic wand to magic this problem away.

You will know the old story about two friends walking along the seashore and discovering the beach littered with hundreds of starfish washed up by the

incoming tide. One of them starts picking up the starfish and throwing them back into the sea.

‘What’s the point of that?’ asks the other, gesturing to the hundreds of starfish marooned on the beach. ‘What difference is that going to make?’ ‘Quite a lot to that one,’ replies the first friend.

We do indeed feel overwhelmed by the magnitude of this crisis, but we can make a difference person by person, family by family.

As we journey into the New Year the challenge is not to pull up the drawbridge, but to give energy to building a fairer, kinder more hospitable world that is not frightened by our glorious human diversity.

As individuals, communities and nations we need to be more generous and more tolerant in the face of difference, not less.

Rab Butler, one time aspiring British Prime Minister, famously described politics as ‘the art of the possible’. His description has entered the lexicon of politicians the world over.

Our British pragmatism needs to be infused by the Christian vision of a God who takes risks; a big God who is to be found on the margins, on the edge, in the jungle; a God whose generous, hospitable heart embraces the stranger as ‘brother, sister’.

Christmas celebrates the birth of the Messiah and the coming reign of God, a counter-cultural kingdom in which the first shall be last and the last first.

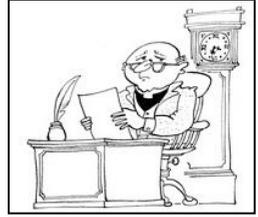
Not everyone can tolerate this big God who confounds us with his generosity and unlimited mercy. But, as St John says in his Gospel, ‘to all who do receive him, who believe in his name, he gives power to become children of God’. At the heart of Christmas is this invitation to open ourselves to this big God and be transformed. Christmas is a celebration of the abundance of grace, not the reduction of life to the art of the possible.

And for those who make space for the Christ-child in their lives there is the promise that they will discover at the heart of the universe not randomness, but relationship. In the words of St John, they will become ‘children of God’. May that be our experience and may God give us his blessing of peace this Christmas.

+ Robert Exon

January 2017 - Letter from St. James the Least of All

Happily, the Church of England still retains some singular parish clergy. Take the parish of St. James-the-Least in the county of C..... for example. Here the elderly Anglo-Catholic vicar, Eustace, continues his correspondence to Darren, his nephew, a low-church curate recently ordained...



On the perils of the crib service

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I was pleased to hear that you enjoyed your first Christmas in your parish, although a little disappointed that you replaced the 'boring' Crib Service with a 'more exciting' alternative. I have yet to understand the theology - or even point - of your 'Bananarama' celebration. I'm sure your bishop would be interested to hear of its biblical authority.

Having said that, our own Crib Service proved to be a little unorthodox, and far from boring. Choosing the cast from the Sunday school is always a delicate process. One of the youngsters who wanted to be Joseph was only given the part of the innkeeper. He seemed to accept the disappointment with good grace, but had clearly made his plans.

On the evening of the performance, Joseph knocked on the innkeeper's door and asked if there was any room. This was our innkeeper's great opportunity. He threw open the door and told Joseph and Mary that there was plenty of room and they were both welcome. The cast and audience froze, while the teacher responsible contemplated early retirement.

But Joseph hadn't got the star part for nothing. He pretended to look round inside and then turned to Mary and said, "Nah, it's too crowded in there; we'll use the stable round the back." And so the nativity was rescued by one nine year-old. There's episcopal

material in that boy.

Christmas would not be the same without carol singing round the village. There is the annual dilemma of deciding just the right moment to go and sing in the pub. Too early, and the customers aren't sufficiently maudlin to give generously; too late and they drown out the choir with their own variations of 'Silent Night'. We are offered mulled wine at most of the houses we visit. Mr Prentice's solo as Balthazar became ever more operatic with his "sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying," as the evening progressed. By the time of our last call his delivery of 'bleeding, dying' was so harrowing that Mrs Brody, the village librarian, went pale.

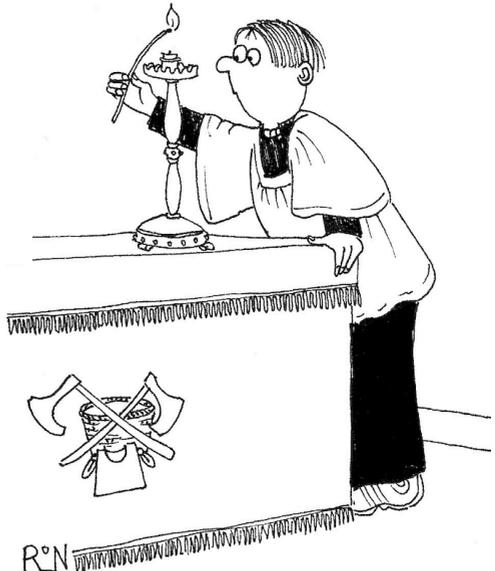
And so to the climax of it all, with the midnight Service. We had a full church lit only by candles, which ruin many a good coat every year. However, Mr Onion's decision to put up his umbrella as he stood under the great nave candelabra on his way to receive Communion was regarded as being a little de trop by most of us.

But a New Year is now upon us; after the joys of Christmas, Lent comes hard on its heels. Precisely my philosophy: every silver lining contains a cloud.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

There were many signs of economic turndown



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Holsworthy United Benefice - January 2017 Services

Holsworthy, Bridgerule, Hollacombe, Pyworthy and Pancrasweek

Date	Holsworthy	Bridgerule	Hollacombe	Pyworthy	Pancrasweek
Sun 1 st Jan Naming of Christ	10.00 am Holy Communion	No Service	No Service	9.30 am Family Service	
Wed 4 th Jan	12.00 Holy Communion				
Fri 6 th Jan Epiphany	7.00 pm BENEFICE Holy Communion				
Sun 8 th Jan Epiphany 1 Baptism of Christ	10.00 am Holy Communion (followed by refreshments)	11.15 am Morning Prayer		9.00 am Holy Communion	
Wed 11 th Jan	12.00 Holy Communion				
Sun 15 th Jan Epiphany 2 Plough Sunday	10.00 am Holy Communion	No Service	9.00 am Holy Communion	No Service	11.15 am Plough Service
Wed 18 th Jan	12.00 Holy Communion				
Sun 22 nd Jan Epiphany 3	(8.00 am No Service) 10.00 am Morning Prayer	11.15 am Holy Communion		9.30 am Holy Communion	
Wed 25 th Jan	12.00 Holy Communion				
Sun 29 th Jan Epiphany 4 Fifth Sunday	10.00 am BENEFICE Holy Communion (Followed by refreshments)				

Morning prayer is celebrated at 8.00am on Mondays and Wednesdays at St Swithun, Pyworthy, and on Tuesday and Thursday at St Peter & St Paul, Holsworthy.

On Saturday, Morning Prayer is celebrated at 8.30am at St Peter & St Paul, Holsworthy.

Please check the website for any last minute changes.

www.holsworthybenefice.org



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Holsworthy Church

New Bellringers



Are you interested in ringing
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**Wednesday night is practice
night! (7.30pm)**

Contact: Tower Captain: Mr Ralph
Chapman 01409 253040

From The Parish Pump – General News

Friday Focus 2017 – calling on Christians across the UK to join in Churches across the UK are preparing for mission together in 2018 to make Jesus known. A major new initiative, ‘Friday Focus 2017’ provides the opportunity for us to pray where we are, and unite across our nation on Fridays (whenever possible), supporting all on-going mission across the UK and preparing the way for HOPE 2018.

Many Christian denominations, agencies and churches are already part of HOPE 2018 (www.hopetogether.org.uk) There are many local and national initiatives being planned to make Jesus known to people in our villages, towns and cities during 2018. The aim is to see the entire church mobilised to work together for a year of mission, so that the good news of Jesus Christ is shared in words and action. The dream is to see 10 per cent church growth in these next two years. Without prayer and seeking the empowering of the Holy Spirit, our work will not be as fruitful.

Each week Friday Focus will be taking a different theme: supporting national initiatives of prayer and mission; key seasons in the church’s calendar; the different people groups highlighted in the Talking Jesus report (www.talkingjesus.org); the people we know and meet; the communities we are part of, and the places where we live.

Leaders from denominations, mission and prayer organisations and networks are writing the reflections based on a Bible passage, and there will also be a written prayer to accompany each theme. Use Prayer Focus for private prayer or in church services and prayer meetings.

Colossians 4 verses 2-3 sums up what Friday Focus longs to see from this year of praying together. We want to see every individual and church devoting itself to prayer – being watchful and thankful. We want everyone to be asking God to open the doors for mission opportunities, and asking for clarity as we talk about Jesus. We want to encourage each other to make the most of every opportunity, to give the reason for the hope we have, with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15).

Do join in – and be part of the answer! Download the prayers from www.hopetogether.org.uk/prayer

Tackling hate crime

The Church of England has welcomed the Government's recent announcement that it will be funding schemes to tackle hate crime in communities and also to protect places of worship. A spokesperson for the C of E said: "Practical support to ensure that places of worship, including churches, continue to be safe spaces helps our work in uniting communities, breaking down barriers and encouraging friendship."

The Church of England already supports a number of initiatives to encourage friendship between communities including 'Near Neighbours' and 'Love Your Neighbour'.

Changes for religious broadcasting at the BBC

The former Labour minister James Purnell, who is the BBC's head of radio and education, is to take on responsibility for its religious affairs programming. BBC Director General Tony Hall said that the decision meant the BBC was taking "one of the big issues of our times" seriously.

The BBC seems set to diversify its religious programming, with increased multi-faith coverage, to better reflect the "role of religion in modern Britain". Director General Tony Hall, Lord Hall of Birkenhead, has said he will soon invite religious leaders to a round table to discuss how the broadcaster can improve on its existing output. A senior executive will also be appointed to design new programme concepts alongside what is currently delivered, such as Songs of Praise and Thought for the Day.

More details at: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/bbc-christian-bias-plans-diversify-faith-programming-a7416141.html>

Not passing it on

It seems that almost a quarter (23%) of religious parents are not passing on their faith to their children, for fear they will be alienated at school, according to a recent survey. The ComRes research for Theos think tank also found that the greatest concern parents had was about social media, with 34% saying they felt it would have 'more of an impact on my children's beliefs than my input.'

When parents misbehave at school

A recent report has found that more than half of the 1,188 head teachers who replied to a survey by the schools management service, The Key, say that parents' online social media behaviour is a problem. And 15% say they have themselves suffered from negative behaviour. The NASUWT teachers' union

says the online bullying of teachers by pupils and parents is a growing trend.
More at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-37940465>

All in the Month of January

It was:

300 years ago:- on 4th Jan 1717 that Britain, France and the Dutch Republic signed a Triple Alliance with the aim of preventing Spain from becoming a super-power in Europe.

200 years ago:- on 8th Jan 1817 that Sir Theophilus Shepstone, British colonial statesman in South Africa, was born. He is best known for annexing the Transvaal and helping to instigate the Anglo-Zulu War.

175 year ago:- on 6th – 13th Jan 1842 that the first Anglo-Afghan War took place when 4,500 British and Indian forces and their camp followers (a further 12,000) were forced to make a long retreat from Kabul and headed for the safety of a garrison in Jalalabad. They were intercepted and massacred by Afghan tribesmen.

125 years ago:- on 2nd Jan 1892 that Sir George Biddell Airy, British mathematician and astronomer, died. He was Astronomer Royal 1835-81 and established Greenwich as the location of the prime meridian.

100 years ago:- on 31st Jan 1917 that Germany resumed unrestricted submarine warfare in the Atlantic, and said it would attack any ships, including civilian passenger liners.

90 years ago:- on 15th Jan 1927 that BBC launched its first live sports broadcast on BBC radio. Teddy Wakelam commentated on the England vs Wales rugby match from Twickenham.

80 years ago:- on 1st Jan 1937 that speedometers and safety glass in windscreens became compulsory in all vehicles in Britain.

75 years ago:- on 26th Jan 1942 that the first US troops arrived in Europe. 4,508 soldiers from the 34th Infantry Regiment docked in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Also 75 years ago:- on 29th Jan 1942 that the first episode of Desert Island Discs was broadcast on BBC radio in the UK. It is Britain's longest-running radio show.

70 years ago:- on 6th Jan 1947 that US President Harry S Truman gave the first televised State of the Union address.

60 years ago:- on 16th Jan 1957 that the Cavern Club opened in Liverpool. This jazz venue became an important rock venue when the Beatles played there during their early years.

50 years ago:- on 27th Jan 1967 that the Apollo 1 tragedy took place. Three US astronauts were killed when their command module caught fire during a pre-launch test at Cape Canaveral, Florida.

40 years ago:- on 6th Jan 1977 that former British Home Secretary and Chancellor of the Exchequer, Roy Jenkins, became President of the European Commission. He was the first – and only – Briton to hold this role.

30 years ago:- on 20th Jan 1987 that Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy in the Middle East, was kidnapped in Beirut, Lebanon while on a peace mission to negotiate the release of hostages. (Released November 1991.)

25 years ago:- on 21st Jan 1992 that the United Nations ordered Libya to hand over two intelligence agents accused of the Lockerbie airliner bombing, or face sanctions. (Sanctions were imposed 31st March, and lifted April 1999, when the agents were handed over.)

20 years ago:- on 20th Jan 1997 that Bill Clinton was inaugurated as President of the United States for a second term.

15 years ago:- on 1st Jan 2002 that the Euro became the official currency of Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain.

Also 15 years ago:- on 29th Jan 2002 that President Bush first used the term 'Axis of Evil' to describe countries which sponsor terrorism and seek weapons of mass destruction. (The countries were Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea and Syria.)

10 years ago:- on 1st Jan 2007 that Bulgaria and Romania joined the European Union.



Some of the High Days and Holy Days in January

1 January The naming of Jesus

It is Matthew and Luke who tell the story of how the angel instructed that Mary's baby was to be named Jesus - a common name meaning 'saviour'. The Church recalls the naming of Jesus on 1 January - eight days after 25 December (by the Jewish way of reckoning days). For in Jewish tradition, the male babies were circumcised and named on their eighth day of life.

For early Christians, the name of Jesus held a special significance. In Jewish tradition, names expressed aspects of personality. Jesus' name permeated his ministry, and it does so today: we are baptised in the name of Jesus (Acts 2:38), we are justified through the name of Jesus (1 Cor 6:11); and God the Father has given Jesus a name above all others (Phil 2:9). All Christian prayer is through 'Jesus Christ our Lord', and it is 'at the name of Jesus' that one day every knee shall bow.

6 January Epiphany

On 6 January we celebrate Epiphany - the visit of the wise men to the baby Jesus. But who were these wise men? No one knows for sure. Matthew calls them 'Magi', and that was the name of an ancient caste of a priestly kind from Persia. It wasn't until the third century that they were called kings - by a church father, Tertullian.

Another church father, Origin, assumed there were three - to correspond with the gifts given. Later Christian interpretation came to understand gold as a symbol of wisdom and wealth, incense as a symbol of worship and sacrifice, and myrrh as a symbol of healing - and even embalming. Certainly Jesus challenged and set aright the way in which the world handled all three of these things. Since the eighth century, the magi have had the names Balthasar, Caspar and Melchior.

8 January Nathalan - an early farmer in Scotland

Many saints have fed the poor, but not many were interested in actual food production. Nathalan (died c.678) was, so perhaps he might be the patron saint of anyone who produces food - and gives most of it away to those in need.

Scotland in the 7th century must have been a hungry place, especially as far north as the Aberdeen district.

According to his Legend in the Aberdeen breviary, he was a nobleman who decided to cultivate his land as a way of serving God. He wanted to feed the people in times of famine. It is not known what food he managed to grow so far north, but Nathalan was well-loved for providing what he could.

14 January Felix of Nola (d 260) – saved by a spider’s web

What do you do when you find a large spider web in your house? If you ever feel some sympathy for the spider who went to all that trouble, then Felix is a good patron saint for you. He was saved by such a spider, spinning such a web. Felix had been born to a Syrian soldier who had retired to Nola, near Naples in Italy. When his father died, Felix gave his property and money away, and was ordained by St Maximus of Nola. Felix went to work with him, ministering to the people of Nola.

Then Decius, the Roman Emperor, began another persecution of the Christians. Maximus escaped to the mountains, but Felix was arrested and badly beaten. Legend has it that he was rescued – and freed from captivity - by an angel. In any case, Felix followed Maximus and found him sick and in need. Felix hid him in an empty building, and prayed for God’s protection. The soldiers were out looking for the two men, but then a spider arrived at the door of the building where they were hiding. The spider spun such a magnificent web across the door that it fooled the imperial soldiers into thinking the building was long abandoned. The spider save Maximus and Felix that day, and the two men stayed on the run until Decius’ death in 251.

After that, the people of Nola wanted Felix as their bishop. But Felix refused, and returned to farming his lands; giving the poor most of the food that he managed to grow. Though Felix went on to die naturally, he was still thought of as a martyr, or ‘witness’ because he had suffered torture, imprisonment and privations in the persecution. Felix did not mind: he served a King who was not of this world, and he looked forward to a better future life with that King in a new heaven and a new earth.

25 January The Conversion of St Paul

January is a month of the beginning of great things! As well as the naming of the Son of God, we celebrate the conversion of the greatest ever apostle of the Christian faith. Many books have been written on Paul, and here is the briefest of introductions.

He was a Jew, born as 'Saul' at Tarsus, and brought up by the rabbi Gamaliel as a Pharisee. A devout, fanatical Jew, Saul persecuted the Christians, and watched with satisfaction the first Christian martyrdom, the stoning of Stephen. Then on his way to Damascus Saul had a vision of Christ that stopped him, literally, in his tracks. He realised that this Jesus whom he was persecuting was in fact the Messiah for whom he had longed.

Saul changed overnight. He took a new name, Paul, and became an evangelist for the cause of Christ. He became a leader in the early Church, and his special calling was as an apostle to the Gentiles. He wrote many epistles to the young churches he founded - and thus, inadvertently, wrote a great part of the New Testament.

Life as the greatest apostle was hardly full of perks: he was stoned, beaten, mobbed, homeless, hated, imprisoned, and finally martyred. Tradition has it that he was beheaded in Rome during the persecution of Nero in AD 64, and buried where the basilica of St Paul 'outside the walls' now stands. His mighty faith in Christ has kindled similar belief in many hundreds of millions of people down the centuries.

31 January Maedoc of Ferns

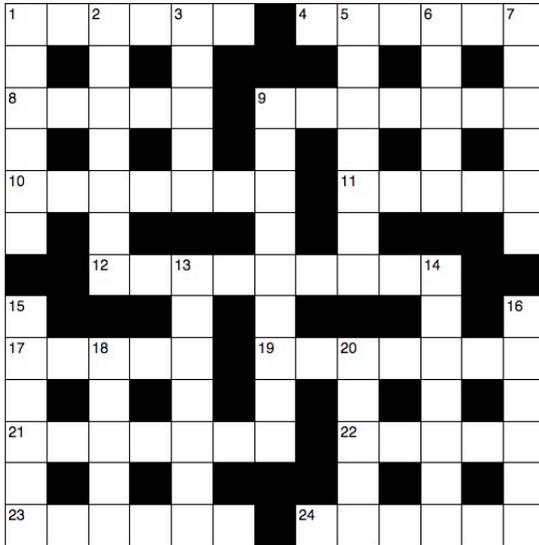
Are you wondering about which charities to support this year? Does it matter to you if your money is used wisely or not? If so, then Maedoc of Ferns is the patron saint for you this month. He certainly knew how to deal with people who would waste his money.

Maedoc (d 626) was born in Connacht, and educated in Leinster and St David's Pembrokeshire before returning to Ireland in the early 7th century. He founded a small monastery on land given by Brandrub, prince of Leinster, at Ferns, in Co. Wexford. He also founded monasteries at Drumlaane and Rossinver. He must have been loved, because after his death his bell, his staff and reliquary were carefully preserved – you can see them today in the National Museum (Dublin) or the Library of Armagh cathedral.

Maedoc had a reputation for self-denial, holiness and charity. But he was not 'stupidly good'. The story is told of how one day some spurious beggars hid their fine clothes and dressed in rags, and came to the monastery pleading for his help to buy new sets of clothes. Maedoc invited them in, and did some investigating. When he discovered their fine clothes hidden outside, he gave them away to real beggars nearby, and then sent the imposters off in their dirty rags, with neither new clothes nor alms. Rather cleverly done!

The Puzzle Pages

January 2017 Crossword



Across

- 1 Protective covering recommended to the Ephesians (Ephesians 6:11) (6)
 4 The number of apostles (Matthew 10:2) (6)
 8 Tenth-century Bishop of Augsburg for 48 years, who became the first saint to be canonized by a pope (5)
 9 'Do not — what is evil but what is good' (3 John 11) (7)
 10 Reading desk in a church (7)
 11 'He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like — walking around"' (Mark 8:24) (5)

12 One of the qualities that Paul exhorted Timothy to pursue (1 Timothy 6:11) (9)

17 One of the meaningless pleasures acquired by the Teacher (Ecclesiastes 2:8) (5)

19 'Like — babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation' (1 Peter 2:2) (7)

21 Jesus said that Moses allowed this only because men's hearts were hard (Matthew 19:8) (7)

22 Girl's name (5)

23 Most sagacious (Judges 5:29) (6)

24 How Stephen, the first Christian martyr, died: after being — (Acts 7:59) (6)

Down

1 A Jew whom Paul met in Corinth, whose wife was Priscilla (Acts 18:2) (6)

2 For example, turning water into wine, feeding the five thousand, walking on water (John 7:21) (7)

3 Abram's relationship to Lot (Genesis 14:12) (5)

5 'Jesus answered, "It is —: 'Man does not live by bread alone.'"' (Matthew 4:4) (7)

6 'Peace I — with you; my peace I give you' (John 14:27) (5)

- 7 'May the Lord deal with me, be it — — severely, if anything but death separates you and me' (Ruth 1:17) (4,2)
- 9 Lack of knowledge (Acts 17:30) (9)
- 13 This woman 'followed Paul and believed' after his words to the Areopagus in Athens (Acts 17:34) (7)
- 14 Or noise (anag.) (7)
- 15 'Even though I walk through the valley of the — of death, I will fear no evil' (Psalm 23:4) (6)
- 16 ' — Christian soldiers, marching as to war' (6)
- 18 Saver (anag.) (5)
- 20 'Unless a grain of — falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed' (John 12:24) (5)

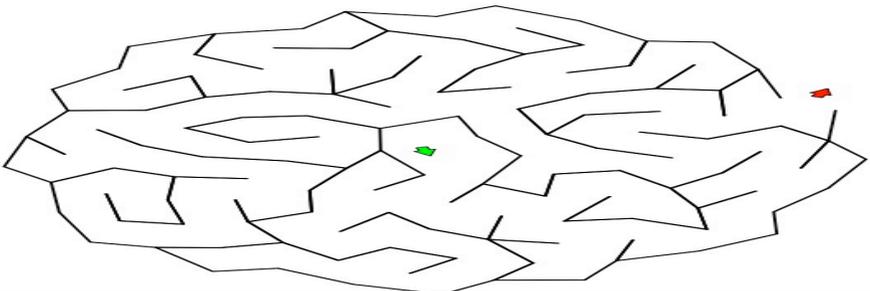
January 2017 Sudoku

2	4	9						
						6		
5	6	7		8	9	3		2
		2	8		5			6
7	5	3	1		6	8	2	4
8			2		7	9		
9		4	5	1		7	6	8
		5						
						2	5	3

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January 2017 Maze

Start in the centre and out on the right



Solutions to the December 2016 Crossword and Sudoku

L	A	M	E		O	B	T	A	I	N	E	D	
O		A			R		C		E			A	
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K		N		P		A		O		R		E	
B	U	R	D	E	N	S	O	M	E				
A		O		S		T		P		B		T	
C	R	A	F	T	Y		P	L	E	A	S	E	
K		D		I		A		I		S		T	
				B	L	A	C	K	S	M	I	T	H
A		C		E		T		H		L		E	
S	P	L	E	N	D	I	D		T	I	E	R	
A		A		C		O				C		E	
S	I	N	G	E	I	N	G			H	A	N	D

6	9	8	7	2	4	5	1	3
7	4	3	5	1	9	6	2	8
2	5	1	6	8	3	7	4	9
1	6	2	9	7	5	3	8	4
9	7	5	3	4	8	1	6	2
3	8	4	1	6	2	9	5	7
4	1	6	8	9	7	2	3	5
8	3	7	2	5	1	4	9	6
5	2	9	4	3	6	8	7	1



The vicar's hoping providing a really strong mobile signal will attract more young folk to the church

Some Very Useful Numbers

Primary School	253700
Holsworthy Community College	253430
Connect Youth Worker (Jonathan Schnarr)	07445 750835
Library	253514
Health Centre	253692
Sports Hall	254013
Holsworthy Visitor Centre	254185
Brownies (M Galjardt)	254727
Guides (Jane Crocombe)	211319
Scouts (Cathy Withall)	254803
Town Clerk	253312
Memorial Hall	255450
Holsworthy Play Group (Dawn Bewes)	253825
Methodist Church	259850
Holsworthy Hospital	253424
Boots the Chemist	255295
Lloyds Pharmacy	253461
Stagecoach South West	01392 42 77 11
National Rail Enquiries	03457 48 49 50



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