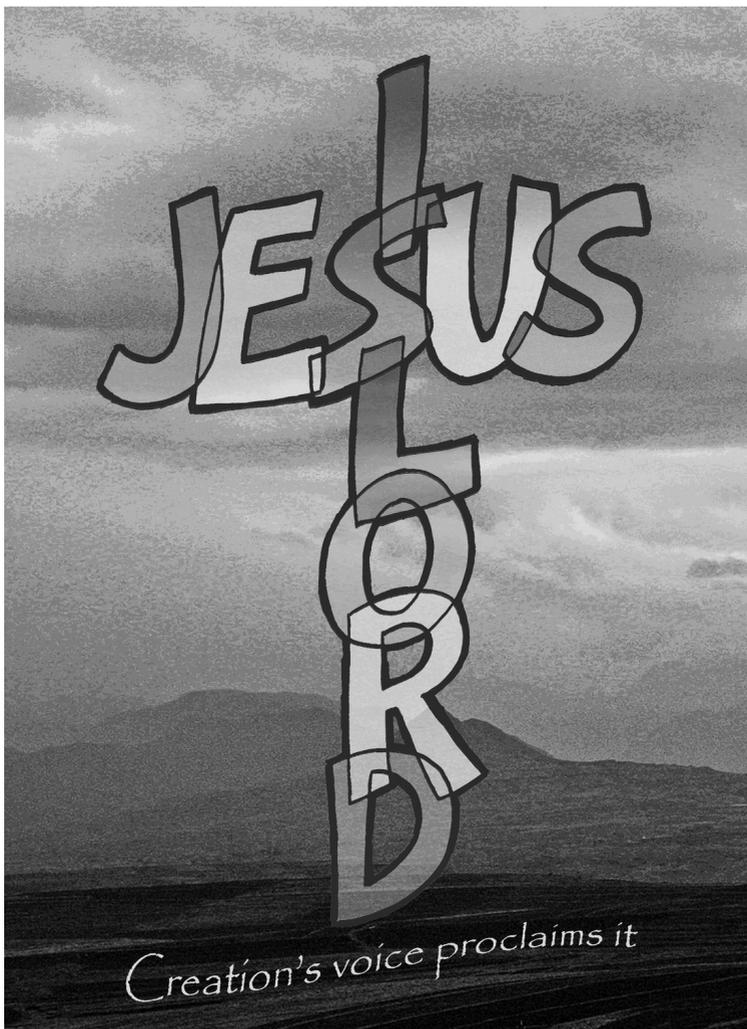


The Holsworthy Area Parish Magazine February 2017

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



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

Contents

Church Contacts	2
Contents	3
Reflections	4
News From The Parishes In Our Benefice	5
St. James-the-Least-of All February 2017	13
Service Rota for February 2017	15
From The Parish Pump – General News	17
All in the Month of February	19
Some of the High Days and Holy Days in February	20
The Puzzle Pages	24
Some Useful Numbers	27

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



February 2017

Reflection

Valentine's Day - The Rev Paul Hardingham considers Love...

How will you or did you express love this Valentine's Day?

Valentines' Day reminds us of the importance of expressing our love to those close to us. But how can we go beyond simply flowers and a card? Jesus says: 'A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another' (John 13:34). How can we express love in our everyday relationships like Jesus i.e. spouse, children, neighbours or work colleagues?

Listening We need to listen to others, just as Jesus did. He asked questions of people and waited for them to process their answer. According to James, 'everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry' (James 1:19). How well do we listen to others? When with somebody, do we find ourselves already thinking of what we want to say before they've finished speaking? Listening takes time; you can't rush it!

Touching Jesus reached out to touch the untouchables in his world, including lepers, the sick and children. This was completely out of character for rabbis of his day. One survey has suggested that we all need at least 8-10 meaningful touches a day to maintain emotional health! A warm handshake, touch on the arm or hug can be of real value. Of course, it should be appropriate touch – helpful for the other person, not just for ourselves.

Speaking Jesus' conversation was always full of grace and truth (John 1:14). Do we speak words of grace, by offering comfort, giving encouragement or expressing care and concern? However, we should also be ready to speak words of truth, in asking for forgiveness, seeking reconciliation or addressing conflict. As Paul urges us, don't avoid: 'speaking the truth in love'.

Where or what was the challenge for us in expressing love on Valentine's Day?



February 2017

News From The Parishes In Our Benefice

St. Peter and St. Paul, Holsworthy

Communion Wafers



The PCC would like to remind you that we are able supply special communion wafers for those who suffer gluten intolerance. Please let the churchwardens or Fr. Christopher know before the start of the service if you would like to receive this type of wafer.



The Oil Tank

Hopefully the new oil tank will be in place by the time the magazine is out. At the time of writing we are expecting the installation to take place on February 3rd. If all goes to plan the work should take a day without any interruption to church services.

CHOIR

by Margaret Stacey

The choir have a meeting planned for Wednesday 8th February 2017 at 14.30 in the rear of Filter Thro Coffee Shop, two doors down from the church in Fore Street.

Anyone interested in joining us lively ladies, especially any Gentlemen would be very welcome. It does not have to be 'an EVERY Sunday' commitment, when you can manage suits us perfectly.

Equally if anyone has any suggestions etc. for the choir but cannot or does not wish to come to the meeting, if you leave a note with me personally, on the organ stool or any choir member we will discuss it at the meeting.



The choir is available for a small charge for weddings, funerals etc. but a decent time of notice would be appreciated.

The Common Fund Request for 2017 by Helen Narborough, PCC Treasurer

Before anything else I must thank everyone for their hard work in 2016, although we did not quite manage to achieve our full Common Fund request of £18,542, we have managed to pay 90% of it. Well done to everyone who contributed to this excellent result, whichever way you chose to donate to support your church.

If the word Common Fund does not mean a great deal to you here is a brief summary of what it is about.

The work of the diocese throughout all of its parishes and congregations is funded in a variety of ways. The majority of the income of the Diocese of Exeter comes from the generosity of congregations through the Common Fund. This co-operation allows for the Diocese truly to be the Church of England in Devon, all of Devon.

The function of the Common Fund is to be the primary source of funding for the provision of ministry across the Diocese. The Common Fund system is intended to apportion, in an equitable and understandable way, the contribution being requested from each parish.

The most significant factor in our parish's Common Fund assessment is the number of participants, which your churchwardens are asked to declare as accurately as possible on a Participation Survey Form each year. The assessment for 2017 will use the average number of participants for 2014, 2015 and 2016. Our average last year was 42 participants and this year is 43.67 participants.

Adjustments

Socio-economic adjustment

This part of the assessment places each parish in one of 13 socio-economic bands, based on the English Indices of Deprivation for 2010. (Holsworthy is one of the more deprived areas of the county) The band for our parish will determine the amount requested per assessable participant.

The Indices of Deprivation are produced by the government and adjusted by the Archbishops' Council Statistics Department to match ecclesiastical parishes. They measure the degree of deprivation in parishes from 0 (no deprivation) to 100 (total deprivation), based on statistics covering:

- Employment
- Education, skills and training
- Barriers to housing and services
- Crime
- Income
- Living environment
- Health deprivation and disability

Church buildings allowance

In recognition that church buildings need to be maintained - and the fewer the participants, the greater this burden becomes, an allowance of £2,000 is made in respect of each licensed place of worship, which is maintained at the expense of the PCC.

Minimum Allocation

The minimum assessment is £250.

The 2017 request

The Common Fund request for Holsworthy St. Peter & St. Paul for the year 2017 is £19,781. That is quite a considerable sum of money for us to find. To this must be added the cost of heating, lighting, compulsory insurances and maintenance of our lovely church.

This coming year, if we were to rely solely on the generous donations from participants, each of us would have to contribute almost £453.00, or put another way, £8.71 a week just to cover the Common Fund let alone any additional cost for heating, lighting and repairs etc. For some that is going to be a great deal of money to find, and for some impossible.

What to Give

Proportionally: whether our income is small or large, giving a proportion means we give in a fair way.

'Each of you is to put aside some money in proportion to what you have.'

1 Corinthians 16:2

Realistically: we need to compare what we give to the church, to God's work, with what we spend on other things. What priority do we set on it?

'For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.' Luke 12:34

How can we compensate for a possible shortfall?

1. Regular Giving

Gladly and willingly, not out of compulsion or duty, but because our heart is in it.

'Each one should give what they have decided in their heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.'

2 Corinthians 9:7

Regularly, in a planned way. Not from what is left over, but 'first to the Lord.'

The assurance of a regular income helps the church to plan.

'On the first day of the week, each of you is to put aside some money.'

1 Corinthians

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)

We now have 18 members in our Parish Giving Scheme. Thank you to them for joining. If you are not yet in the scheme please consider joining. By joining the scheme you will ensure that even if you are away from Holsworthy one Sunday we will still receive your weekly contribution. There is also the benefit of being able to Gift Aid your donation if you are a taxpayer. If your income is below the tax threshold don't let that put you off from joining the scheme, our treasurer finds it much easier to balance our budget if we have some idea of our expected income.

Remember also that you can leave the Parish Giving Scheme at any time by phone or email or by giving written notice.

Some of our existing users of the scheme have also opted to increase their donation in line with inflation on an annual basis. This ensures their donations increase enough to keep up with the cost of living. It also helps our treasurer to budget for the future. The Retail Prices Index (RPI) is used as an independent and well-known measure of inflation. You are written to 30 days in advance of any increase with the revised amount. If you are unable to meet it you simply let them know. The inflation increase last year was 13p on a donation of £10.00.

The amount of your donation can be as small or as large as you like and you can even donate anonymously. You can even donate if you don't or can't get to church on a Sunday. By doing that you will help to ensure the church is still there when you are able to use it.

One final thing. You may have noticed the little plastic cards in the collection plate; this is what members of the scheme put in so that their gift can be blessed each week along with the cash in the plate.

Please speak to our treasurer or the churchwardens if you are interested and would like information pack, or pick up a pack from the back of church.

2. Fund Raising

Your PCC is always looking for ways to raise funds. They may be on the PCC but that does not mean they have all the answers and it does not mean it is just them that have to do the fund raising. So here is where you can be very helpful. Do you have any bright ideas for fund raising? Please give it some thought and if you have an idea please speak to a member of the PCC about it.

Finally, a way you can be very helpful is to support any fund raising activity being organised, by helping, which many of you do already, and by encouraging your friends and relatives to join in.

Events in the pipeline are coffee mornings in the Memorial Hall on 1st March and 6th December and St Peter's Fair on Wednesday 5th July.

Leaving a Legacy

Once you have made provision for your loved ones, you have the opportunity to make a lasting gift to God, by leaving a legacy to His church. Leaving a gift in your Will to your local church is one of the most valuable and lasting ways you can continue to support the mission and ministry in your community.

A gift can be an expression of your gratitude and thanksgiving towards God, and can help keep your local church alive, and help transform its future.

For many churches, regular giving is absorbed in 'keeping the show on the road'. This usually involves everyday activities such as paying the common fund, insuring and heating the building, repairing the roof etc.

No matter how large or small, each gift can make a significant impact on our mission and ministry, and maintaining our spiritual heritage.

Please consider how a gift in your Will could help the Church meet the needs of future generations.

For more information please speak to our treasurer. There is also a Church of England website dedicated to this topic and it can be found at

www.churchlegacy.org.uk

'But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.' 1 Chronicles 29:14

If you want to contribute to Holsworthy Parish Church by using the Parish Giving Scheme and have access to the Internet you can request an information pack on the Benefice website.

www.holsworthybenefice.org.uk/planned-giving/

You can also contact me, Helen Narborough (Holsworthy PCC Treasurer)
Lyndhurst, North Road,
HOLSWORTHY
Devon
EX22 6HB

St. Petroc, Hollacombe

by Margaret Stacey



Services

Our usual rota of services continues for February and are as follows:

Sunday February 5th 3pm Evensong
" " 19th 9am Holy Communion
" March 5th 3pm Evensong

All the above from the Book of Common Prayer.

Winter is upon us, **IF** we should have a fall of snow or freezing and therefore black ice conditions, it would be worth checking with our churchwardens that the service is taking place before you leave home. Being in the country and off the main road does mean our little church can be 'cut off'.

Speaker/Amplifier

We are a happy little 'band' at Hollacombe with a small electronic organ, most adequate for our usual services BUT, when we have our big events, e.g. Harvest Thanksgiving, Carol Service, even hopefully the next Sankey Style Evening etc, we need a bit of a boost.

I spoke to 'someone in the know!' and was told to think of £200+ maybe for a speaker/amplifier type of device to help at these events. Apparently, the congregation at the back (and no, they cannot all move to the front because the front is already full) cannot hear the organ and no, the organ cannot go to elsewhere because that is where the congregation sit.



So, if anyone has a sound system type device that can be plugged into our organ, (there is a jack for it) lurking in their attic, garage or wherever and could either lend/sell etc. to us for such events we would be very grateful. Equally, someone may come up with an alternative solution. Thank you in advance of an offer of help or advice.

St. Swithun, Pyworthy

by David Robinson and Liffy Lowes



CHRISTMAS 2016 at St SWITHUN'S

Christmas seems a long time ago now but thanks are due to many people who made the season such an enjoyable one.

Early in December we held our annual Christingle – this was well attended and seemed to be enjoyed by everyone who came. I would like to thank all the children who read so well (they had practised really hard at home and I was most impressed), the ladies who made the Christingles and all parents, grandparents and friends who came along. Due to the congregation's generosity, we were able to send £94.00 to The Children's Society who promote Christingles in this country.

The church was, as ever, beautifully decorated by the “Flower Ladies” (who probably had just a little help from a number of gentlemen!); there were so many deft touches and effective arrangements which all helped to make Christmas so meaningful. All who helped in any way are thanked most sincerely. Special thanks are due to Jeanette Orr for the loan of her wonderful quilting works of art – a close look at these shows the skill in her work.

Attendances at the Carol Concert, the Crib Service and the Midnight Mass of the Nativity were very encouraging – St Swithun's was almost full of people of all ages on each occasion. It was really uplifting to see so many in church. Our “special” charity for the Christmas period was “The CHSW Special 25th Anniversary Appeal”; it was pleasing to report that we were able to send £670.00 in total to a most deserving cause and our thanks are due to the generosity of the audience and congregations. Thanks are also due to Rev Dougie Adams who led the congregation on Christmas Eve, Father Chris officiating at Holsworthy's own service.

All in all, Christmas was a most enjoyable time at St Swithun's; we would like to wish everyone a peaceful and healthy 2017.

ST SWITHUN'S CHURCH PYWORTHY

SUNDAY LUNCH - 26th FEBRUARY

in

PYWORTHY VILLAGE HALL

2 COURSE LUNCH

Braised Beef in a Red Wine Sauce

Chicken in White Wine or Mushroom Sauce

Salmon Fillet in Hollandaise Sauce

Vegetarian Alternative

Homemade Desserts/Cheese & Biscuits

Bring your own Wine

12.30pm for 1.00pm

Cost: £12.50p adults; £6.00p 12 and under

Bookings please, by February 19th

to Carol on 01409 253174 or Liffy on 01409 254423

Please specify Main Course choice

All Proceeds for St Swithun's Church

February 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 Plough Service and the Lamb

The Rectory
St. James the Least

Your plans to devise special Services that will involve local industry does you credit, although I cannot imagine what a church decorated with bathroom suites, double glazing frames and airplane wings will look like. Were we to do something similar in this parish, we would have to devise suitable symbols for merchant bankers and property developers. Perhaps wads of banknotes among the flower arrangements may look rather splendid. Our practice is, naturally, to continue with more traditional ways.

We have just had our annual blessing of the plough and new-born lamb. We always have a packed church - mainly of parishioners hoping to see the lamb ruin the Rector's surplice. The only disconcerting part is to be upstaged by the wretched animal as it bleats piteously throughout my carefully crafted sermon, which becomes lost as the congregation wonders if the poor creature may be hungry, or is missing its mother.

The plough always comes from Colonel Wainwright's garden. It stands ornamentally by his lake for eleven months of the year and then rotates round four of our local churches for their services in

January. It must be the best blessed, least used plough in the county.

At least this year, I got several of our local farmers to carry it into church. Last year our Verger pushed it up the aisle, accidentally ploughing a perfect furrow along the red Axminster. The sight may have looked all very well in a field, but was not appreciated in the nave. It did, however, provide a worthy project for our Ladies' Guild. They will be much occupied over the coming months knitting tea-cosies and making jam for sales of work before we can replace it.

Our only other occasion when we have animals in church is the Summer Pets Service. Invariably one escapes and our hymn singing gradually disintegrates as the younger members of the congregation try to catch over-enthusiastic dogs chasing cats and rabbits up and down the aisles. The only true disaster happened some years ago, just after we had restored the organ, adding that splendid trumpet stop. Our organist decided to start the service with a brilliant trumpet fanfare. The drama of the introduction was somewhat spoiled by all the animals in the building simultaneously relieving themselves, out of shock.

Our team of cleaning ladies were much occupied that week - and the congregation, for once, raised no objection when I used lots of incense at the following Sunday's service. So good can come out of evil, after all.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



Holsworthy United Benefice Holsworthy, Bridgerule, Hollacombe, Pyworthy with Pancrasweek

Pattern of Service for February 2017

Date	Holsworthy	Bridgerule	Hollacombe	Pyworthy	Pancrasweek
Wed 1st Feb	12.00 Holy Communion				
Thurs 2nd Feb Presentation of Christ				7.00 pm Benefice Holy Communion	
Sun 5th Feb 4 before Lent	10.00 am Holy Communion	11.15 am Holy Communion	3.00 pm Evensong	9.30 am Family Service	
Wed 8th Feb	12.00 Holy Communion				
Sun 12th Feb 3 before Lent	10.00 am Holy Communion	11.15 am Morning Prayer		9.00 am Holy Communion	
Wed 15th Feb	12.00 Holy Communion				
Sun 19th Feb 2 before Lent	10.00 am Holy Communion	11.15 am Holy Communion	9.00 am Holy Communion	9.30 am Morning Prayer	
Wed 22nd Feb	12.00 Holy Communion				
Sun 26th Feb 1 before Lent	10.00 am Morning Prayer	11.15 am Family Service		9.30 am Holy Communion	11.15 am Holy Communion

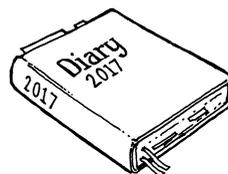
Morning Prayer is celebrated at 8.00 am on Mondays and Wednesdays at St Swithun, Pyworthy, and on Tuesday and Thursday at St Peter & St Paul, Holsworthy.

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

Please note that, reluctantly, the decision has been made to stop offering the 8.00 am Communion service on the 4th Sunday of the month at Holsworthy.

Please check the website for any last minute changes.

www.holsworthybenefice.org



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From The Parish Pump – General News

Church Knitters Make 100 Blanket For South African Orphans

Members of the 'Knit-a-square' group at St Pancras Church in Plymouth have just sent their 100th blanket for orphans in South Africa.

The blankets are made up from 35 knitted squares, which are sent separately and sewn together by women in South Africa before being distributed to the orphans.

Most members meet together to knit on Wednesdays in the church but some people knit at home and a local hairdresser also has wool and needles for people as they wait for their haircuts.

Being present

by Rt Rev Robert Atwell, Bishop of Exeter

Do you have a favourite novel? In a recent survey of the 'Top Ten' novels in the English language, Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* came out top. No surprises there. But what did surprise me was the absence of any novel by Charles Dickens or George Eliot. So much for democracy.

Likes and dislikes are incredibly subjective, but one of the greatest sentences in English literature, at least in my view, is in George Eliot's *Middlemarch* when Dorothea (the heroine) says: 'If we had a keen vision and feeling of all ordinary human life, it would be like hearing the grass grow and the squirrel's heart-beat, and we should die of that roar which lies on the other side of silence.' That one sentence speaks to me the wonder of life, its mystery and its supreme gift.

February isn't the jolliest of months with its leaden skies and cold winds. But the snowdrops are out, the grass is growing and the squirrels' hearts are beating as they forage for food. As a generation we yearn for new experiences. We get easily bored. But the antidote to boredom is not to rush off after new experiences, but to recover a 'vision and feeling for all ordinary human life', and we will only achieve this if we are present to it.

One of the reasons prayer goes stale is not 'the absence of God' but the 'absence of me'. We are simply not present to God or to life itself. Our attention wanders off and we end up thinking about work or what's for supper or the problems with the car. The same thing can happen in our relationships and it can turn them sour. This month let's discipline ourselves to be present to the world and to the people around us in all their mundane 'ordinariness'. Let's pray for grace to be less self-absorbed. Let's hear it for ordinary human life in all its messiness and fun and tragedy and tenderness.

And who knows, we may discover that God is in the midst of it too.

CONNECT FUNDRAISER

SAFARI LUNCH

26th FEB • 12.30pm

£10 per adult
£5 per child
£25 Family ticket

Starter at Halwill Junction Baptist Church
Main Course at Ashwater Parish Hall
Dessert at Chilsworthy Village Hall

All proceeds will go towards the work of Connect, a Christian charity working within the community to support young people in the Holsworthy area.

To book your ticket phone Jane Lucas 01409 211205
or Alison Skinner 01409 221363 or Sue Banks 01409 253788
(or text 07779560083)



partnering local churches - serving local communities

All in the Month of February

It was:

300 years ago, on 19th Feb 1717 that David Garrick, British actor, playwright, producer and theatre manager was born. He was manager of London's Drury Lane Theatre for 29 years, and made it one of the leading theatres in Europe.

150 years ago, on 15th Feb 1867 that Johann Strauss's waltz The Blue Danube was performed for the first time, in Vienna, Austria.

125 years ago, on 22nd Feb 1892 that Oscar Wilde's comedy play, Lady Windermere's Fan, was performed for the first time, in London.

75 years ago, on 8-15th Feb that the WW2 Battle of Singapore took place. This Japanese victory led to their occupation of Singapore until Sep 1945.

70 years ago, on 7th Feb 1947 that the first of the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in caves in Khirbat Qumran (now in the West Bank, Palestine).

70 years ago, on 12th Feb 1947 that Lord Louis Mountbatten, 1st Earl Mountbatten of Burma, became the last Viceroy of India.

65 years ago, on 6th Feb 1952 that King George VI died, and was succeeded by his daughter, Elizabeth II.

Also 65 years ago, on 17th Feb 1952 that Winston Churchill announced that Britain had developed its own atomic bomb.

40 years ago, on 4th Feb 1977 that Fleetwood Mac released its album, Rumours. It became one of the best-selling albums of all time, selling more than 45 million copies worldwide.

25 years ago, on 7th Feb 1992 that the Maastricht Treaty was signed, establishing the European Union (with effect from 1st Nov 1993).

15 years ago, on 4th Feb 2002, that Cancer Research UK was founded. It is now the world's largest independent cancer research and awareness charity.

Also 15 years ago, on 13th Feb 2002 that the former mayor of New York City, Rudolph Giuliani, received an honorary knighthood from the Queen, in recognition of his work following the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Some of the High Days and Holy Days in February

1st Brigid of Ireland - compassion and love

Brigid, you could say, was the female Patrick of Ireland.

Historical facts about this first abbess of Kildare (d.c. 525) may be scarce, but her 'Lives', written from the 7th century, tell many anecdotes and miracles which over the centuries have become deeply rooted in Irish folklore. Brigid came from a village near Kildare, of parents of humble origin, and is said to have been baptised by Patrick and become a nun at an early age. She is credited with founding the monastery of Kildare, a powerful influence for Christianity in Ireland.

The miracles attributed to Brigid show her to have been a woman of great compassion and generosity. There are stories of how she could multiply food, especially butter, for the poor. Other stories tell of her changing her bath-water to beer, in order to satisfy the thirst of unexpected visitors. Even her cows gave milk three times the same day, to enable visiting bishops to have enough to drink.

Brigid's cult grew rapidly in Ireland, where it became second only to that of Patrick. In England, there were at least nineteen ancient church dedications in her honour (the most famous is St Bride's Fleet Street). There is also St Bride's Bay, Dyfed, which underlines the strong connection between Irish and Welsh Christianity. St Brigid is patron of poets, blacksmiths, and healers. She is usually depicted with a cow lying at her feet, which recalls her phase as a nun-cowgirl.

2nd The Presentation of Christ in the Temple/ Candlemas

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2 February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell

into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.

8th Kew and the wild boar

St Kew has nothing to do with gardens or the 'Q' of James Bond fame. This Kew was a girl who lived in Cornwall in the 5th century, and should be the patron saint of girls with difficult older brothers.

Kew's older brother was a hermit who felt his younger sister was not worthy to even visit his cell. But big brothers often underestimate their younger sisters, and he was no exception. One day Big Brother saw a wild boar charge out of the woods towards his sister. Kew spoke to it kindly in tones of such purity and sweetness that it immediately slowed down to a peaceful walk.

Big Brother was so shaken by this that he repented of his superior attitude. When he then bothered to spend time talking with young Kew, Big Brother discovered her nature to be of "rare virtue and holiness". Other people thought so too, and after her death they decided Kew had been a saint, and should have the parish church named after her.

Perhaps the moral of all this is that if you want to win over a difficult older brother, you should first practise on wild boars.

14th St Valentine's Day

There are two confusing things about this day of romance and anonymous love-cards strewn with lace, cupids and ribbon: firstly, there seems to have been two different Valentines in the 4th century - one a priest martyred on the Flaminian Way, under the emperor Claudius, the other a bishop of Terni martyred at Rome. And neither seems to have had any clear connection with lovers or courting couples.

So why has Valentine become the patron saint of romantic love? By Chaucer's time the link was assumed to be because on these saints' day - 14 February - the birds are supposed to pair. Or perhaps the custom of seeking a partner on St Valentine's Day is a surviving scrap of the old Roman Lupercalia festival, which took place in the middle of February. One of the Roman gods honoured during

this Festival was Pan, the god of nature. Another was Juno, the goddess of women and marriage. During the Lupercalia it was a popular custom for young men to draw the name of a young unmarried woman from a name-box. The two would then be partners or 'sweethearts' during the time of the celebrations. Even modern Valentine decorations bear an ancient symbol of love - Roman cupids with their bows and love-arrows.

There are no churches in England dedicated to Valentine, but since 1835 his relics have been claimed by the Carmelite church in Dublin.

24th Matthias the Apostle - the chosen one

Have you ever been in the position where someone is desperately needed – and you fit the bill perfectly? It is almost as if all your miscellaneous qualifications that never made much sense before now make PERFECT sense. And you sense that you have been chosen by God for the task....

If so, then Matthias is definitely the patron saint for you! Matthias came into the picture shortly after the suicide of Judas. The early church was missing an apostle, and so the remaining 11 apostles prayed for guidance on who to choose as a replacement for this key role.

The qualifications for the job were specialised: the person had to have been a follower of Christ from his Baptism to his Ascension, and a witness of the Resurrection. There were two possibilities: Joseph Barsabas and Matthias. How to choose?

Again, Matthias' experience may mirror yours: the decision was out of his hands, and up to others. In this case, the apostles drew straws – and the 'lot' fell to Matthias. He had been chosen to replace Judas! The tragedy of Judas' betrayal had led to an opportunity for service by Matthias – and he was well prepared for the task. Are you prepared for any task that God might suddenly open before you?

Like the other apostles, Matthias had been in Jerusalem and had received the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and he went on to do a good job. It is said he preached the Good News first in Judea, and then maybe in Cappadocia and by the Caspian Sea. It is thought he was martyred by the axe or halberd, and his relics eventually ended up being taken to Rome by the empress Helen.

Matthias is an encouragement to us to be faithful in small things - because you never know what the future might hold!

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Chapman 01409 253040



"To think we grumbled when the Church
used unintelligible archaic language!"

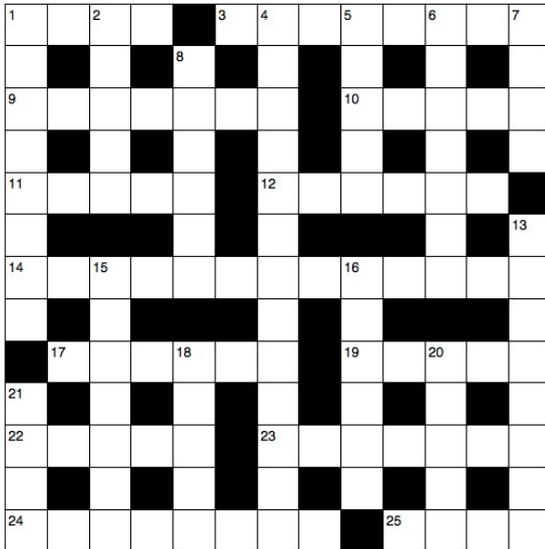
Sunday 12th February
is
Connect Sunday



Please pray for Jonathan
and the work being
undertaken at
Holsworthy College

The Puzzle Pages

February 2017 Crossword



Across

- 1 Salary (Isaiah 19:10) (4)
 3 Question Jesus asked of those healed of leprosy, 'Were not all ten — ?' (Luke 17:17) (8)
 9 Wide, elevated level area of land (Joshua 13:9) (7)
 10 'So you also must be — , because the Son of Man will come... when you do not expect him' (Matthew 24:44) (5)
 11 '[He] said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He — — , and his hand was completely restored' (Luke 6:10) (3,2)

- 12 'Who has gathered up the wind in the — of his hand?' (Proverbs 30:4) (6)
 14 Not born again (13)
 17 'Again and again he — the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins' (Hebrews 10:11) (6)
 19 Mails (anag.) (5)
 22 'He — — here; he has risen' (Matthew 28:6) (2,3)
 23 Defeated (Judges 20:43) (7)
 24 Soldiers' quarters (Acts 21:34) (8)
 25 'Pillars of marble' were how the Beloved described those of her Lover (Song of Songs 5:15) (4)

Down

- 1 Totally destroyed (Genesis 7:23) (5,3)
 2 What the Philippian jailer was told to do with his prisoners Paul and Silas (Acts 16:23) (5)
 4 Object of ridicule (Job 12:4) (8-5)
 5 In most years, the month in which Easter falls (5)
 6 For example, Caesarea, Joppa, Tyre, Sidon (7)
 7 '[Jesus] was in the desert for forty — , being tempted by Satan' (Mark 1:13) (4)
 8 'Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power — to our God' (Revelation 19:1) (6)
 13 Mend dots (anag.) (8)

15 Purifier (Malachi 3:3) (7)

16 Attacked (I Samuel 27:8) (6)

18 The good Samaritan to the innkeeper: 'When I return, I will reimburse you for any — expense you may have' (Luke 10:35) (5)

20 How Matthew described the crowds who followed Jesus (Matthew 4:25) (5)

21 For example, one of 25 Across (Judges 19:29) (4)

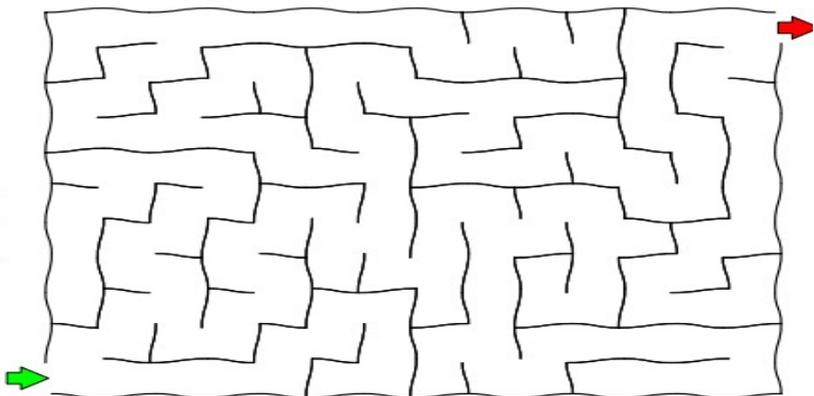
February 2017 Sudoku

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

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February 2017 Maze

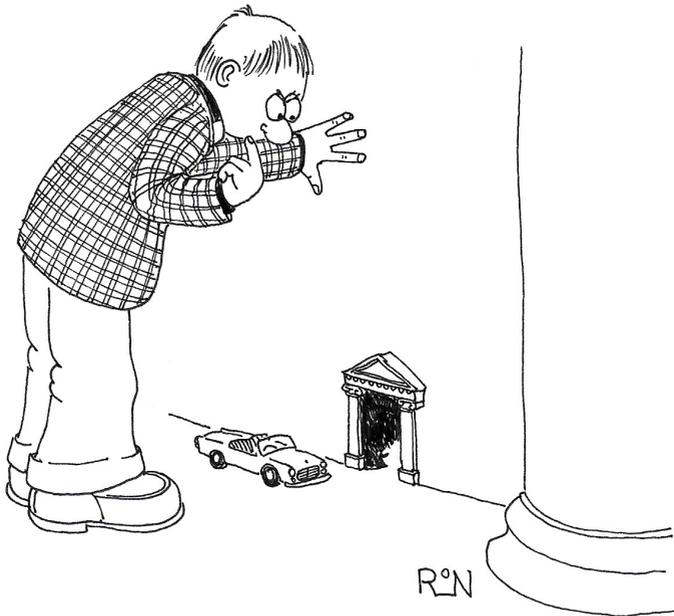
Start in the bottom left and out top right



Solutions to the January 2017 Crossword and Sudoku

A	R	M	O	U	R		T	W	E	L	V	E	
Q		I		N			R		E		V		
U	L	R	I	C		I	M	I	T	A	T	E	
I		A		L		G		T		V		R	
L	E	C	T	E	R	N		T	R	E	E	S	
A		L				O		E				O	
		E	N	D	U	R	A	N	C	E			
S				A		A				R		O	
H	A	R	E	M		N	E	W	B	O	R	N	
A		A		A		C		H		S		W	
D	I	V	O	R	C	E		E	R	I	C	A	
O		E		I				A		O		R	
W	I	S	E	S	T			S	T	O	N	E	D

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



*...and yet the Church Mice still put it about
that they were poor*

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Guides (Jane Crocombe)	211319
Scouts (Cathy Withall)	254803
Town Clerk	253312
Memorial Hall	255450
Holsworthy Play Group (Dawn Bewes)	253825
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