

The Holsworthy Area Parish Magazine September 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.*

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Apologies for the late arrival of this edition. We wanted to include the Devon Churches Rural Forum Harvest 2017 Report that only arrived on September 1st.

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.

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September 2017

Reflection

The Rev Paul Hardingham remembers Diana, Princess of Wales...

‘England’s Rose’

This month marks 20 years since the funeral of Princess Diana on 6th September 1997. Recently Prince William described how his mother’s death was like an earthquake, the shockwaves taking time to sink in. When we remember the days leading up to the funeral, the whole nation seemed touched by her death. Over 32 million people watched the funeral on television. As we look back to this event, what is its continuing significance?

As those made in the image of God, we are called to reach out to show love to others. ‘Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.’ (1 John 4:7). Princess Diana did this, especially the vulnerable in our society, remembering especially her work with AIDS sufferers and landmine victims. However, she was also a flawed individual, who fought various ‘demons’ in her own life and struggled with relationships. People identified with her humanity as one like us: fallible, weak yet more than good enough.

There is always something powerful about vulnerability in others; we can identify with them because, like us, they don’t have it all together. God uses flawed people in his purposes, as we clearly see in the pages of the Bible: Abraham, Moses, David and Paul, to mention just a few!

Ironically, Mother Theresa died the day before Diana’s funeral. Again, she was somebody who was much loved for her work among the poor. However, despite being declared a saint last year, she openly talked about the vulnerability of her faith. Mother Teresa revealed that she spent nearly 50 years without a tangible feeling of God’s presence in her life! It’s not easy to be a perfect saint!

‘I think the biggest disease the world suffers from in this day and age is the disease of people feeling unloved.’ (Princess Diana).

Benefice Prayer for guidance during the vacancy

Good Shepherd, we put our trust in you. We pray for Elizabeth as she prepares to move to our Benefice. We pray too for the life of our Benefice. Help us to be open to your will for us and give wisdom all who guide our steps.

We thank you for everyone who has so generously offered help with our services and events, and we pray that you will bless us all in our worship, hospitality and mission and help us, in all our endeavours, to be faithful to you. In the name of Christ, Amen

News From The Parishes In Our Benefice

Benefice Interregnum News

Appointment

On Sunday August 6th 2017 the following notice was displayed at each church and read out where there was a service taking place.

The Bishop of Crediton, the Diocesan Board of Patronage, the Archdeacon of Barnstaple and the parish representatives, are pleased to announce that subject to the completion of all legalities and occupational requirements, the Rev'd Elizabeth Mary Ann Burke has been appointed Priest-in-Charge of the Holsworthy Benefice – Holsworthy, Hollacombe, Bridgerule, Pyworthy with Pancrasweek.

Elizabeth is currently Assistant Curate at Crownhill (Church of Ascension) Plymouth Benefice.

Elizabeth will be licensed by the Bishop of Crediton at 7.00pm on November 6th at St Peter & St Paul Holsworthy Church.

The churchwardens met at the end of August to look at the licensing service, which is supplied by the Diocese, and to establish what we as a Benefice are expected to do to ensure the service runs without a hitch. Over the coming weeks there will be several appeals for help of different kinds and hopefully you will be able to contribute in some way to making this event a joyous occasion.

Services

Sunday and other incidental services will continue during the interregnum, please keep a copy of the rota handy, look on the reverse of the weekly readings sheet for any changes and also check on the website if you use the internet.

Mission Community Prayer

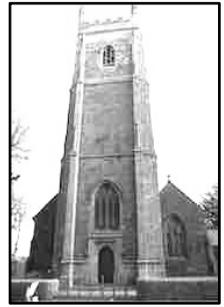
Lord of the Church, hear our prayer for the Holsworthy Mission Community:

Set our hearts on fire with love for you. Claim our worship and wealth, our abilities and our time, that we be worthy stewards of all that you have given. Save us from complacency and fear of new ways; inspire us with vision; make us a power-house of prayer, a community of loving service, and faithful witnesses to your kingdom as we grow daily in and through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

St. Peter and St. Paul, Holsworthy

Harvest Supper

We are holding a Harvest Supper in the Market Hall on the evening of Thursday 21st September at 7.00 pm. In addition to the supper you will have musical entertainment provided by the Bude Trio.



Holsworthy Harvest Festival Supper

**Thursday 21st September, 7.00 pm
in the Market Hall**

**50 places only, £10 per ticket
see Mary, Helen or Bob for tickets
(Last day for buying tickets
will be Sunday 17th September)**

**Fork Buffet with a range of dishes
Selection of sweets,
Soft Drinks, Tea or Coffee**



Holsworthy Church Harvest Festival – this will be at **10am on Sunday 24th September**. Please note the time of the service; it has been later in past years when we went over to the Memorial Hall for a harvest lunch. Gifts to be displayed at the altar will be very welcome; unfortunately we are unable to accept fresh produce as the laws on food safety prevent us from passing the goods on. Tins and dried packet food are the best items to bring.

Holsworthy C of E Primary School Harvest Service

This will take place on Tuesday 26th September at 9.30. You are welcome to attend this service.

Samaritan's Purse - Operation Christmas Child

PRAISE GOD FOR 11,485,662 SHOEBOX GIFTS COLLECTED IN 2016!



We are taking part in Operation Christmas Child again this year; Mary Beckford will be our coordinator. Although we have not yet been notified of the exact date and location where we have to take the filled boxes we do know that it is likely to be the first week in November so it is probably a good idea to make a start on this as soon as possible.

A small shoebox can have a big impact. What goes into the box is fun, but what comes out of it is eternal. Be a part of changing children's lives all over the world in Jesus' name through the power of a simple gift with Operation Christmas Child.

Here is what you have to do

Prepare the shoebox

Get an empty medium sized shoebox, and wrap the box and lid separately in colourful wrapping paper. Attach the appropriate boy/girl label, marking if your gift is for a boy or a girl. Select an age category 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14 and attach the label to the top of your shoebox. The labels can be found at the back of the church and a few covered shoe boxes ready to be filled.

Fill with gifts

Fill your shoebox with a selection of fun toys, hygiene items and school supplies. If possible, include one or two special items you know a child will love such as a doll, cuddly toy or deflated football with pump.

Toys

Include items that children will immediately embrace such as dolls or stuffed toys (with CE label), toy trucks, harmonica, yo-yo, skipping rope, ball, small puzzles etc.

School Supplies

Pens, pencils & sharpeners, crayons or felt pens, stamps & ink pad sets, writing pads or notebooks & paper, solar calculators, colouring & picture books etc.

Hygiene Items

Toothbrush and toothpaste, bars of wrapped soap, comb or hairbrush, flannel.

Other Items

Hat, cap, gloves or scarf, sunglasses, hair accessories, jewellery set, wind up torch, wrapped sweets (best-before-date must be at least March of the following year).

Do Not Include

Used or damaged items, war related items such as toy guns, play soldiers or knives; chocolate or other food items; liquids or lotions of any type including bubbles; medicines; hand-made or knitted stuffed toys; anything of a political, racial or religious nature; sharp objects; glass containers, mirrors or fragile items; playing cards of the 4-suit variety; clothing other than as listed above.

Make your project donation

A suggested donation of £5 is essential to cover project costs, including shipping, to enable a local church or group overseas to lead a safe, well-organised children's event where your shoebox will be given to a child in need.

And to finish Place a rubber band around your closed shoebox and leave it in church where the boxes will be collated by Mary and taken to our designated collection point.



Coffee Morning Holsworthy Church



Wednesday 6th December.

Next Holsworthy PCC Meeting

Monday 25th September 2.00pm in the church

St. Petroc, Hollacombe

by Margaret Stacey

On Sunday, 10th September Hollacombe Church will hold its Harvest Thanksgiving Service beginning at 7pm with the usual sung service of Evensong and the traditional well known harvest hymns. Rev Stuart Wilson will be leading the service and giving



a sermon followed by the auction of produce and ending with a pasty and cider supper and other goodies and beverages. Everyone will be most welcome and we look forward to seeing as many as can make it. Please just remember, we are in the country so no street lights (bring a torch) and parking is a little cosy so car share if possible or come early to make sure and have a space.

Whilst thinking about these few words about the Harvest here at Hollacombe, my mind strayed to many years ago. When I first came to live nearby and went to a Harvest Supper at Hollacombe, I seem to think there was a service on the Sunday and again on the Monday evening after which everyone crossed the road to Bernard Isaacs' barn, sat on straw bales covered by sheets when the auction took place and then the supper, carried in from Bernard and Pauline Isaacs' kitchen across the road. They were happy times.

By the early 1990's things had changed somewhat and support had diminished along with many of the old stalwarts. When it was suggested to try and revive a Harvest Service along with a supper the churchwarden's wife at that time, Mrs Ann Thompson invited the church to hold the supper in their home. Although Mr Thompson was not too agreeable with this he never the less fetched and carried and borrowed chairs, tables and goodness knows what else and it was a great success. Poor man then had to turn around and return all the bits and pieces. Added to this Buck Horn Chapel was still going strong so dates had to be juggled not to clash with them as several came over from there. Hence the early date for our church and we have stayed with it. This was continued with an invitation by Jackie Nutt and Helen Dewhurst to have the auction and supper in their well appointed barn at Westcombe which we all enjoyed for several years and worked well until they moved away upon which it was decided to carry on the tradition and hold the same service, auction and supper in church which we still do today.

There have been two alterations to this usual pattern, the first was during the closure of our church during the dreadful foot and mouth year. A fungus/rot attacked the building, thought maybe to have been caused by the building being closed for a fairly long time during the spring of that year. The barn at Hayne Barton was made available to us for the evening and it was greatly supported and appreciated. The second was last year when the roof repairs were under way and Holsworthy Church kindly made us very welcome and we held the Harvest celebration, sale and supper there. Many thanks go again to Holsworthy for their kindness. It was nice to have the choir help us with the singing also. And so....with quite a history of our Harvest at Hollacombe celebrations we look forward to another year of thanking God for his good and plenteous supply of the harvest fruits and hope as many of you as possible will come and join us in this year's Harvest Thanksgiving.

Services for September at Hollacombe

Sunday 3rd Sept 3pm Evensong
Sunday 10th Sept 7pm Evensong, Auction and Supper
All Book of Common Prayer
Sunday 17th Sept 10am Holy Communion
Sunday 1st Oct 3pm Evensong

We are pleased to hear Rev Elizabeth Burke will be our Priest on Charge from November 6th and look forward to welcoming her at St Petroc, Hollacombe.

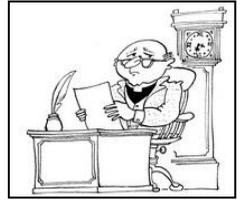
St. Swithun, Pyworthy - from Liffy Lowes

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September 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 plums, dull sermons, falling leaves and Harvest

From: The Rectory,
St. James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

It is good to be back from my holidays – even if I discovered on arriving home that, as I motored back with my car full of my exchange colleague's plums in the boot, he was doing the same with my apples; I had expected better of him.

I was equally disappointed that he insisted on inviting parishioners back to the Rectory after Mattins for a sherry, as it creates a dangerous precedent. That he entertained them on my sherry was a step too far. I think a letter of reproach will be called for – or at least as soon as I feel he will have got over the discovery that I liberated the plums from his own orchard.

One of the main reasons I allowed him to come here was that I remembered his sermons being long and memorably dull. Sadly, he has had a conversion experience and they are now short and interesting, which was definitely not what I wanted. I am already making tentative plans to exchange with a colleague next year who has a heavy Welsh accent and speaks with a stutter.

You rather smugly commented that at least on the Norfolk coast I didn't have to worry about marauding pythons, as you did in your somewhat more exotic holiday. But had you had to deal with an irate dowager marchioness whose flower arrangement had been moved from the pulpit to the font without her permission, you would understand where real danger lurks. You can be inoculated before your holiday against typhoid; there is no known medical

protection against a lady of substance in full charge.

So the Autumn round approaches. Afternoons are occupied in sweeping up leaves from the lawns and evenings, after dark, of tipping them over the wall into Colonel Adamson's garden. That will be an activity quite foreign to you, I know. Imagine your morning collection of discarded take-away containers dumped in your garden and you have a close parallel.

And then there is Harvest to prepare for. The plums that I brought back from my colleague's trees that remain uneaten should find a good home on the church window sills – which may almost compensate for the absence of the Rectory apples. They will sit, totally upstaged, alongside Miss Fanshawe's Harrod's hamper – which she always makes sure everyone knows she donated anonymously. Some, as they say, have their reward already.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Just One of the High Days and Holy Days in September

14th Sept Holy Cross Day

On Holy Cross Day the Church celebrates the Cross as a symbol of triumph, as the sign of Christ's victory over death. Holy Cross Day goes right back to 14 September 335, and we have the mother of a Roman Emperor to thank for it.

Helena was a devout Christian, and after her son, Constantine, was converted, they agreed that she should travel from Rome to Israel, and seek out the places of special significance to Christians.

Of course, much of Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Romans around 135 AD. But even so, Helena finally located what she believed to be the sites of the Crucifixion and of the Burial (and modern archaeologists think she may well be correct). The sites were so close together that she built one large church over them - the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

That church, built in honour of the Cross, was dedicated on 14 September 335.

The sign of the Cross has been used by Christians since early times. Tertullian, writing his *De Corona* (3:2) around AD 211, noted that Christians seldom did anything significant without making the sign of the cross.

What is its significance? Well, people often put their initials or some sort of personal mark on something to show that it belongs to them. The Cross is the personal mark of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we mark it on ourselves as a sign that we belong to him. Even in the book of Revelation, we read that the servants of God are 'sealed' or 'marked' on their foreheads as a sign that they are His.

A preacher once put it this way: if you were explaining to someone how to make a cross, you would say: "Draw an I." That is you standing before the Lord, saying, 'here I am'. Then cancel that vertical stroke with a horizontal stroke – as if to say: "Lord, I abandon my self-will and make you the centre of my life instead. I abandon myself to your love and service."

On Holy Cross Day, we recall Jesus' wonderful promise: "And when I am lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." (John 12:32)

All in the Months of September

It was 50 years ago: on 30th Sept 1967 that the BBC reorganised its radio network. BBC Radio 1 was launched; the BBC Light Programme became BBC Radio 2; the BBC Third Programme and BBC Music Programme were merged and became Radio 3; and the BBC Home Service became Radio 4.

It was 65 years ago: on 6th Sep 1952 that the Farnborough Air Crash took place in Hampshire. A de Havilland fighter jet broke apart and fell into the crowd, killing 31 people.

It was 20 years ago: on 5th Sept 1997 that Mother Teresa of Calcutta died. She was a Macedonian-born Albanian Indian nun and humanitarian. She founded the Missionaries of Charity and was winner of the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize. Beatified October 2003.

Also 20 years ago: on 6th Sept 1997 that the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, took place in Westminster Abbey, London.

Also 20 years ago: on 29th Sept 1997 that scientists announced they had established a link between BSE (mad cow disease) and the human brain disease vCJD.

Holsworthy Benefice Service Chart

September 2017

Date	Holsworthy	Bridgerule	Hollacombe	Pancrasweek	Pyworthy
Sun 3 rd Sept Trinity 12	9.30 am Holy Communion (SW)	11.15 am Holy Communion (SW)	3.00 pm Evensong (SW)		9.30 am Family Service (LT)
Sun 10 th Sept Trinity 13	10.00 am Holy Communion (DA)	11.15 am Family Service (LT)	7.00 pm Harvest Festival (SW)		9.00 am Holy Communion (DA)
Sun 17 th Sept Trinity 14	10.00 am Morning Prayer (MA)	No service Bridgerule Lunch	9.00 am Holy Communion (DA)	11.15 am Holy Communion (DA)	9.30 am Morning Prayer (LT)
Sun 24 th Sept Trinity 15	10.00 am Harvest Festival	6.30 pm Harvest Festival (DA)			9.30 am Holy Communion (DA)
Tues 26 th Sept	9.30 am School Harvest Festival (SW)				
Fri 29 th Sept				7.00 pm Harvest Festival (DA)	

We are very grateful to everyone who is helping us during the vacancy, especially to Rev'd Douglas Adams, Rev'd Richard Freeman, Rev'd Jane Lucas, Rev'd Stuart Wilson, and Readers Mary Aicheler and Jim Williams.

Please check the back of the service sheet or the website for any last minute changes.

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Devon Churches Rural Forum

Harvest 2017 - 'Up Horn, Down Corn'

This report has been compiled with insights from Joanne Jones (Farming Community Network), Andy Jerrard (Methodist Rural Support Workers), David Moore (dairy farmer and Church Warden) and Rev'd David Ursell (organic farmer and minister) – to whom many thanks.

Devon Churches Rural Forum Farming Notes – Harvest 2017 Summary

- I have been introduced to a new farming phrase this week – “Up Horn, Down Corn” – it seems to summarise the year so far – that it has been a slightly better year for livestock than arable.
- Though it may not seem like it, for the year ending August 2017, rainfall levels have actually been below average. September to December 2016 and January and February of this year were all well below average – and with mild temperatures this meant a good winter with the fields for the sheep remaining in good condition and lower energy costs.
- In March rainfall was slightly higher than average, but April and May were very dry, which affected seed germination. The rain in June made up for some losses and the crops revived and went forward well, especially the maize. July was wet and warm, and the maize continued to grow well.
- The dry months of March and April have had an effect on the corn yields – even winter wheat planted in October needed rain to grow well in spring.
- The weather in August – although not so wet – has been difficult for harvesting because there have not been enough continuous days of dry weather to dry the corn.
- Prices for livestock have in general either increased or held well, and the milk price has increased much closer to the cost of production. TB continues to be a major heartache for our dairy farmers, with some very large numbers of cattle lost from single herds.
- Exports of farming products in general have increased 18% in the past six months – not least because of the low value of the pound.

Cereals

- Summer came and went very early with lovely sun and record temperatures, but this has since changed back to unsettled weather, with no prolonged dry spells.
- In some areas, temperatures were so high and the weather so dry, that corn seed struggled to germinate. As a result, some farmers are reporting yields down by as much as 25% from last year – though others will have fared better depending on local conditions.
- This could lead to short supplies this winter but may help to keep prices stable in a global over-supply situation.
- It has been quite difficult getting the harvest in – getting the corn dry for harvest and the straw for baling.
- As a result, harvest is behind schedule for many in Devon with lots of corn still to combine.
- If the corn is flattened by wind or heavy rain, or gets too damp, it may spout before harvest, which results in lower quality seed.
- A significant amount of corn has needed drying this year, which adds to energy costs.
- It's looking like a very good year for maize – used mainly for silage for feed. It grew fast with the early sun and warmth and the showers and rain came at the right time – though it still has to ripen and will harvest into October.
- A few weeks of dry weather over the next few weeks would help greatly with all the remaining harvesting.

Grass

- Silage is arguably becoming even more important as farmers seek to produce more home grown fodder for their animals and thus reduce the cost of buying in feed.
- It has been a wonderful year for grass growth, with sunshine and showers, there has been abundant grass all summer and there is more hay and silage still to be made than is usual.

- The weather was so dry and warm in spring and early summer that some early grass, intended for silage, dried so fast the farmer carried on and made it into hay, which is unusual.
- Early cut grass made particularly good silage, but quality has generally been good all season.
- Harvesting windows have been tight, particularly since July, and some moorland areas, who don't have early grass, are now struggling to get it in.

Thatching Reed

- A significant amount of thatching reed is grown in Devon – some is wheat and some Triticale (a hybrid of wheat and rye) and if you see sheaves and stooks in the fields – this is likely to be what you are seeing.
- However, some of the wheat grown has not been suitable for thatching this year because the stalks became twisted by the winds in June – and some sheaves have had to stand longer than usual to dry – which makes them vulnerable to damage.

Beef

- Beef prices are up from 12 months ago – around 5-7% - but profit margins are probably unchanged as the price of store cattle remains high.
- With both beef and lamb, there is a strong export market due to the low value of the pound and more home demand as supermarkets pledge to use more UK stock.

Lambs and Sheep

- It has been a good year for lambs with a dry lambing season and the price of lambs holding up well. One farmer received the highest price for a single lamb he had ever received.
- The price has dropped from its (usual) highest levels around May/June but decreased more slowly than usual, and prices are now similar to last year.

- Breeding ewes have not sold so well – though of course this is good news for those buying in. Most of the breeding sales are yet to come, so we do not have a full picture yet.

Pigs

- Much improved compared to last year.

Dairy

- The milk price has risen this summer, back to near cost of production.
- There is a wide spread of milk prices paid to individual farmers depending on the type of contract and the speciality value of the milk (e.g. extra cleanliness or fat content specifications) so quoting individual milk prices isn't easy, but the price has been rising very gradually since April in general.
- However, the price always falls quicker than it rises and is still several pence per litre short of what the price the processors are achieving.
- Milk price economics are complex – milk supply looks tight in the short term so prices may rise further and hold for the rest of the year at least, but world prices are not truly reflected in the price paid to UK farmers at present.
- Longer term dairy farmers need to plan for volatility in the market, some milk buyers are now looking at offering contracts at a fixed price for a percentage of what the farmer produces to help business planning and to cope with price fluctuations.
- Many contracts are now including a lot of stipulations about the way people farm – for example the number of days a cow must be out on grass. However, sometimes animal welfare means they have to come in – if the fields get very wet and churned up – and for calving for example. Dairies are also asking for tight monthly predictions on production, which can be affected by many factors outside the farmer's control.
- The cow price has risen due to a shortage of cows, this is for reasons such as TB, so good if you are thinking of retiring but difficult if you need to purchase cows lost to TB.

- The number of dairy farmers in the UK is now 9,383 – down another 5% in the past year, and is still declining. This is largely due to the low milk price paid to farmers and though it has increased, the knock on effect is significant, with continuing uncertainty for the future.

TB

- TB Continues to have a major impact in Devon and in north Devon one herd lost over 500 head of cattle.
- This is devastating to the business with both loss of animals and income and also causes great stress, anxiety and depression to the farming families involved.
- Many farms are having to test their stock every 60 days which puts both the animals and people under stress.
- The compensation paid doesn't cover the cost of replacing the animal and doesn't figure in the value of the calf if the animal is pregnant. It also doesn't cover the loss of milk sales from a dairy cow until a replacement is purchased.
- Movement restrictions continue to cause huge headaches for managing stock and cash flow for farmers. The rules & regulations around TB are constantly changing, making business planning for the future very difficult.
- It is harder for farmers to set up isolation units to house cattle from TB infected farms meaning many businesses, especially dairy farms, are unable to sell their calves – this leads to increased financial costs of feed, housing and the labour to care for them.

Organic Farming

- Demand for organic poultry increased dramatically over last few months but has now stabilised – there is some concern for those who have made large investments in new units.
- The beef market is stable with good returns.
- The market for grass fed organic lamb is particularly strong.

- Corn – as sprays cannot be used, the crop needs to be dry as there is green matter mixed in with the crop which makes it difficult to combine.

Brexit

- Although some sort of support payment is in place for the next 2 years, what will happen after Brexit remains unclear. It is likely to have a high environmental component. As 25% of farmers are living below the poverty line and especially those living in upland areas such as Exmoor & Dartmoor finding it difficult to make a living, a degree of support payment is essential to manage the environment and make a profit if stock numbers/area planted to cereals has to be reduced. The only other option is producers getting a fair price to cover the cost of production for what they produce from the consumer, but are people willing & able to pay more?
- Brexit should also offer some positive opportunities of new export markets, especially the Middle East, North Africa & Asia markets.
- We need to look at our level of self-sufficiency: currently if we relied on home grown food, we would run out on the 6th August each year.
- There may also be more opportunities for those wanting to enter the agriculture sector if changes encourage some retirement and succession planning to take place.

Food issues

- There is some concern that a health scare around Hepatitis E found in some imported pig meat may have an impact on our own market – if it is cooked properly, there is no cause for concern.
- Use of pesticides in imported eggs led to withdrawals from supermarkets of eggs and sandwiches, hopefully this will encourage people to buy British as we have some of the highest welfare standards in the world.
- There are some who are trying to convince people to give up milk and many untruths have been told about welfare standards in the UK. Milk is crucial for a healthy balanced diet.

Farming Community Network Update

- FCN as seen more & more people coming forward for help both locally and nationally and two thirds of cases now have a financial element
- In Devon, two Young Farmers Club members have died in farm accidents this year and we are working with their members to offer support.
- In the UK, one farmer dies every eleven days due to a farm accident. We are also supporting YFC campaigns to make farm machinery safer and encourage farmers to wear seatbelts in tractors.
- With mental health problems on the increase and long waiting lists for help, we continue to support those affected.
- Across the UK, one farmer dies each week by suicide – both FCN & YFC members have undertaken suicide awareness & prevention training to help reduce these figures
- We are more than happy to come to Churches to talk about our work & if you would like to host a future Plough or Lammas Service, then do get in touch!
- Resources for use at services can be found on our website: www.fcn.org.uk

How we can all help British Farmers?

- Buy local Buy British
- Look for the Red Tractor

Conclusion

Farming, as a business sector, is still difficult. The good news is that there has been a hardening of prices generally, and those who have come through recent difficulties are exceptional business people. Costs have been trimmed to the bone, with output increased, and in some cases diversification, including into renewable energy, has made the difference.

The science involved in farming today is immense - from being able to determine the gender of calves born to dairy cattle, to exact measurement of application of fertiliser and selection of varieties of wheat to make thatch or for eating. But as one of our contributors said: “You can do everything right from a husbandry and scientific point of view, but then there is only a very short window to get the harvest in. So much is beyond our control. The weather can make everything right – or a disaster.”

Farming, like all our lives, is a partnership with God. We none of us know what is round the corner – we do our bit and then trust in his goodness and mercy, and thank and praise him for all the good things he has given, for our food, and our farmers, who work so hard and long for all of us.

“We plough the fields, and scatter the good seed on the land; But it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand”

Further information

- Farming Community Network FCN helping with business, farming, financial and family issues and our Devon FCN co-ordinator Joanne Jones
- Andy Jerrard – Methodist Rural Support Worker and Agricultural Market Chaplaincy Co-ordinator
- Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution RABI supporting farming families
- Addington Fund providing homes for farming families
- National Farmers Union web site with in depth farming articles

Devon Churches Rural Forum is an ecumenical group supporting Devon's rural churches and the communities they serve through networking, sharing knowledge, ideas & encouragement.

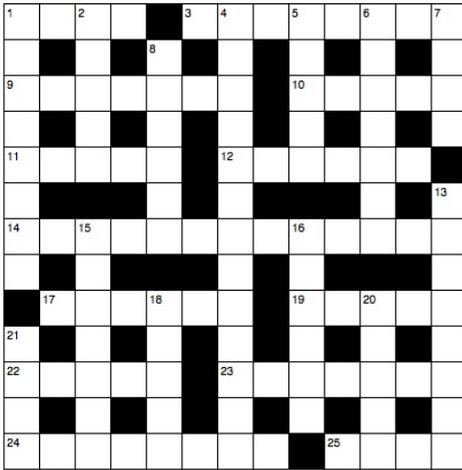
Chair: Archdeacon of Barnstaple The Ven. Dr Mark Butchers Secretary and editor: Rev'd Penny Dobbin

The next newsletter will be out in January 2018.

The Puzzle Pages

September 2017 Crossword

The solution to this crossword puzzle can be found on page 27



Across

- 1 'A little later someone else saw Peter and said, "You — are one of them"' (Luke 22:58) (4)
3 Giving (1 Peter 2:5) (8)
9 They came to Jerusalem seeking an infant king (Matthew 2:7) (3,4)
10 'An athlete... does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the — ' (2 Timothy 2:5) (5)
11 Pacifist, temperance advocate, open-air preacher, leading 20th-century Methodist, Donald — (5)
12 'Come quickly to — — , O Lord

my Saviour' (Psalm 38:22) (4,2)

14 'The God of Abraham, — — — , the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus' (Acts 3:13) (5,3,5)

17 Sear by intense heat (Revelation 16:8) (6)

19 'It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust — — ' (Psalm 118:8) (2,3)

22 Goods (Nehemiah 13:15) (5)

23 i.e. train (anag.) (7)

24 Surrounding area (Luke 24:50) (8)

25 'Righteousness will be his — and faithfulness the sash round his waist' (Isaiah 11:5) (4)

Down

1 Elegant and creative (Exodus 31:4) (8)

2 'Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all — , but we will all be changed' (1 Corinthians 15:51) (5)

4 'I... delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your — — — is' (Colossians 2:5) (5,2,6)

5 Enlist (2 Samuel 24:2) (5)

6 Of the Muslim faith (7)

7 Sharp intake of breath (Job 11:20) (4)

8 Woven cloth (Ezekiel 16:13) (6)

13 Plentiful (Romans 5:17) (8)

15 CIA char (anag.) (7)

16 Paul and Silas stopped him committing suicide after an earthquake in Philippi (Acts 16:27–28) (6)

18 One of the ingredients in the making of incense for the Lord (Exodus 30:34) (5)

20 Episcopal headwear (5)

21 Inhabitant of, say, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia or Bulgaria (4)

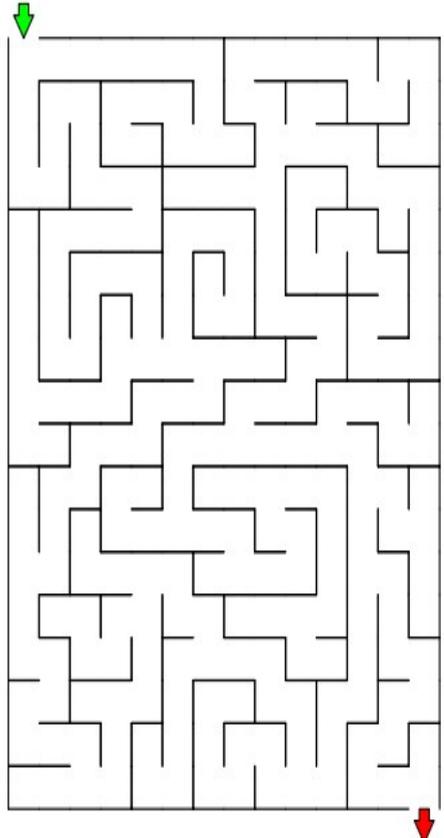
September 2017 Sudoku

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

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September 2017 Maze

Start top left and exit at the bottom right



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

Solution to the August 2017 Sudoku

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Holsworthy Church New Bellringers

Are you interested in ringing
Holsworthy Church Bells?
We would love to meet you and
teach you the skill of ringing.

If you are interested
please Contact The
Tower Captain:
Mr Ralph Chapman
01409 253040



Smile Lines



...I take it our local supermarket has a rather good
offer on tinned peas at the moment!

Share

There are only two things a child
will share willingly - communicable
diseases and mum's age.

Music

Two young vegetarians were
getting married and had to choose
their wedding music. The minister
suggested the voluntary: 'Sheep
may safely graze.'

September 2017 Crossword Solution

ACROSS: 1, Also. 3, Offering. 9, The Magi. 10, Rules. 11, Soper. 12, Help me. 14, Isaac and Jacob. 17, Scorch. 19, In man. 22, Loads. 23, Inertia. 24, Vicinity. 25, Belt.

DOWN: 1, Artistic. 2, Sleep. 4, Faith in Christ. 5, Enrol. 6, Islamic. 7, Gasp. 8, Fabric. 13, Abundant. 15, Archaic. 16, Jailer. 18, Resin. 20, Mitre. 21, Slav.

Some Very Useful Numbers

Primary School	253700
Holsworthy Community College	253430
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
Rev'd Jane Lucas (Ashwater Benefice)	01409 211205
Rev'd Kathy Roberts (Black Torrington Benefice)	01409 231279
Rev'd Richard Freeman (Bradworthy Benefice)	01409 241315
CAB (Citizen's Advice Bureau) (Weekdays 9.30 am – 4.00 pm)	02444 111 444
Samaritans	116 123

Printed by: EASYPRINT (SW) Ltd
Unit 1 Red Post Workshops
Red Post
Bude
Cornwall
EX23 9NW
Phone 01288 381700



September 2017

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