

COLLECT

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 40:1-11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like

a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

PSALM Psalm 85:1-2. 8-13 (or 85:8-13)



R Show us your mercy, O Lord.

Lord, you were gracious to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. You forgave the offence of your people and covered all their sins. *R*

I will listen to what the Lord God will say, for he shall speak peace to his people and to the faithful, that they turn not again to folly. Truly, his salvation is near to those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. *R*

Mercy and truth are met together, righteousness and peace have kissed each other; Truth shall spring up from the earth and righteousness look down from heaven. *R*

The Lord will indeed give all that is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness shall go before him and direct his steps in the way. *R*

SECOND READING

2 Peter 3:8-15a

A reading from the second letter of Peter.

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming

of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

GOSPEL Mark 1:1-8

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

POST COMMUNION

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Show us your mer-cy, O Lord.

Holsworthy Benefice

Bridgerule, Hollacombe, Holsworthy and Pyworthy with Pancrasweek

Priest in Charge: Mother Elizabeth Burke

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MON 11th Dec	Christians Together Carols	Deer Park	3pm
TUES 12th Dec	Christians Together Carols	Bodmeyrick	3pm
WED 13th Dec	Carol Service	Abbeyfield	7.30pm
FRI 15th Dec	Primary School Christingle	Holsworthy	9.30am
	Said Holy Communion & Advent course	Holsworthy	11am
	Christmas Carol Concert	Pyworthy	7.30pm
SUN 17th Dec	Holy Communion	Hollacombe	9am
	Morning Prayer	Pyworthy	9.30am
	Holy Communion	Holsworthy	10am
	Ecumenical Carol Service	Bridgerule	7pm
FRI 22nd Dec	Holy Communion & Advent Course,	Holsworthy	11am
SUN 24th Dec	Said Holy Communion (Advent 4)	Holsworthy	10am
CHRISTMAS EVE	Crib Service	Pyworthy	11am
	Holy Communion with Carols	Pancrasweek	11.15am
	Crib Service	Bridgerule	3pm
	Carols around the trees	Holsworthy Square	4pm
	Midnight Mass of the Lord's Nativity	Pyworthy	11.15pm
	Midnight Mass of the Lord's Nativity	Holsworthy	11.30pm
CHRISTMAS DAY	Sung Holy Communion	Hollacombe	9.00 am
	Holy Communion with Carols - bring a Christmas present to show and tell	Bridgerule	10.00 am
	Holy Communion with Carols	Holsworthy	10.00 am
ADVANCE DATES			
NEW YEAR'S DAY	Benefice Holy Communion with Carols followed by bring & share lunch	Holsworthy	11am
SAT 6th Jan EPIPHANY	Benefice Sung Holy Communion for everyone, do bring your nativity wise men to be blessed	Holsworthy	4pm

Coffee Morning A very big "thank you" to Kath for organising this and to everyone who worked so hard before and on the day on the stalls, waitressing and "manning" the kitchen. The profit from the event was £445 which is a tremendous result. Thank you, Mary, for organising the hamper, which raised nearly £200 and thank you everyone who donated goods for it. Here's to the next Coffee Morning on 28th February.

Last Chance to have your say about changing the times of services on Sundays. For Mother Elizabeth to be able to take two services on a Sunday morning and to be there for the congregations after the service the times need to change to around 9.30 or 11am. There are some examples at the back of the church. Please do have a look at these. Please pray about what is best for the whole Benefice and then, by the end of today (10th December), let any member of the PCC know your thoughts.

Mid Week Holy Communion - Holsworthy. Throughout December there is a Eucharist on Fridays at 11 am with refreshments afterwards, followed by an Advent course for about an hour. Everyone welcome to some or all of the morning. The course is in the tower room with two heaters! If you can't make all the sessions, pop in for the ones you can. On 22nd Dec there will be an opportunity to receive prayers and anointing for healing.

Christmas Carol Concert at Pyworthy St Swithun's Church at 7.30 pm on Friday December 15th, featuring the Derriton Singers. Proceeds to Children's Hospice South West. Everyone welcome.

Holsworthy Town Band Concert The band have a Carol concert in the Chapel, Bodmin Street, Sunday 17th December, 7.30pm, with guest soloist Kevin Ackford. Tickets (£3.00) available from any band member or 'phone Sue Lyle, 254617. Tickets at the door, £4.00.

Lay Worship Leaders Across the Mission Community there is a need for lay worship leaders. There will be a short training course which consists of one midweek evening and the following Saturday morning. Places are limited to six. If this is found to be helpful the course will be run again. The initial course will be Thursday 18th and Saturday 20th January. Anyone interested in becoming part of the lay worship leaders team at Holsworthy please speak with Mother Elizabeth.

Laying on of hands and Anointing for Healing will be offered monthly during a Holy Communion service. In Scripture the physical, emotional, social and spiritual well-being of people are closely interconnected. The Gospels use the term 'healing' both for physical healing and for the broader salvation that Jesus brings. Healing, reconciliation and restoration are integral to the good news of Jesus Christ. For this reason prayer for individuals, focused through laying on of hands and anointing with oil, has a place within the public prayer of the Church. God's gracious activity of healing is to be seen both as part of the proclaiming of the good news and as an outworking of the presence of the Spirit in the life of the Church.