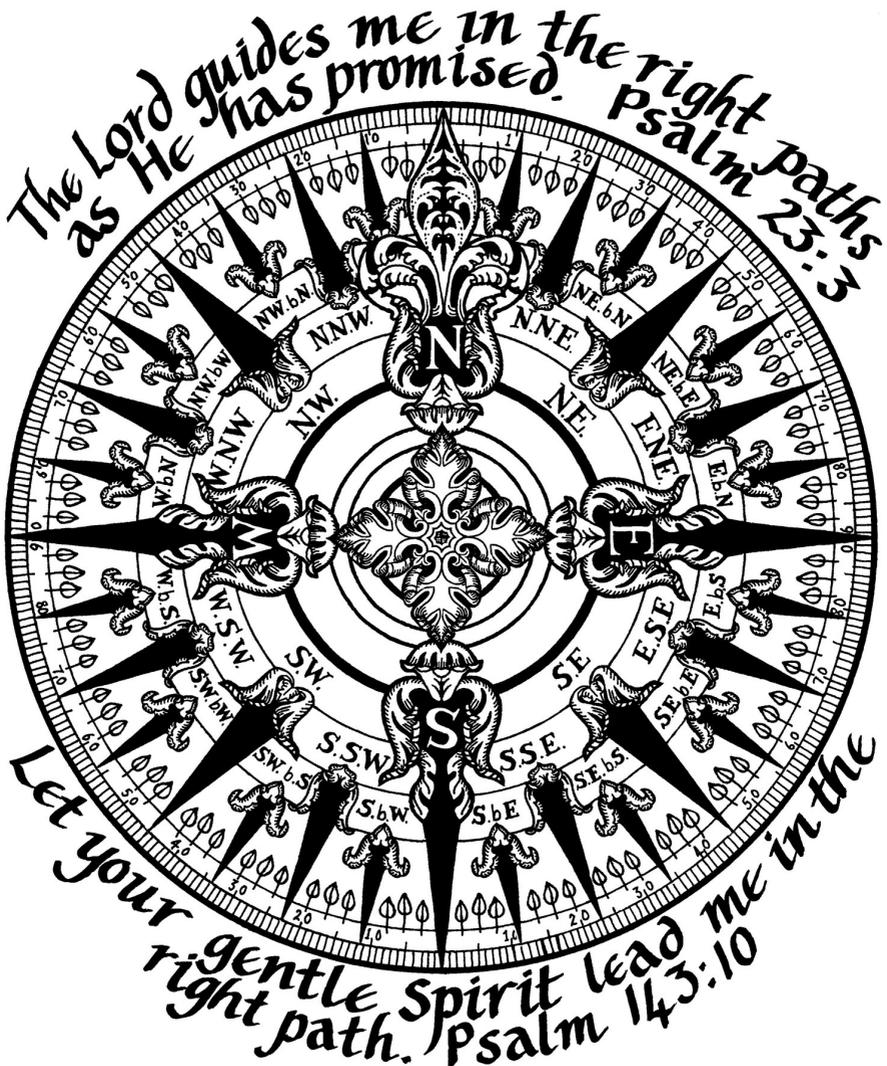


# The Holsworthy Benefice Magazine January 2018

For the Parishes of the United Benefice of  
Holsworthy, Bridgerule, Hollacombe,  
Pyworthy with Pancrasweek

[www.holsworthybenefice.org.uk](http://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**

<b>Church Contacts</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Contents</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>From The Rectory</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Benefice News</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>News From The Churches In Our Benefice</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>General News from the Parish Pump</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Quotes of the Month</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Service Chart for January 2018</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>St. James-the-Least-of All</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Some High Days and Holy Days in January</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>All in the Months of January</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>The January Puzzle Pages</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Smile Lines</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Some Useful Numbers</b>	<b>27</b>

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 by email 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.*

### **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

[www.holsworthybenefice.org.uk](http://www.holsworthybenefice.org.uk)

## **From the rectory**

As you read this I will have been the Holsworthy Benefice Parish Priest for two months. Time has flown. My first weekend was Remembrance and that was swiftly followed by all the Christmas preparations, celebrations and services. I've loved every minute of it; from carrying out an Assembly at Bridgerule Primary to leading the Holsworthy Town Carol Service. I've carried out my first Holy Baptism within the benefice at Pyworthy. I've also walked alongside those that are unwell, those that are bereaved and spent time visiting many local groups and activities.

Before moving to Holsworthy I was in Plymouth. I finished my training as a curate there at the Church of the Ascension, Crownhill. It was very different and although I enjoyed it greatly I'm glad to be out of the city! I'm from Crediton and I love the moors and the coast, especially the north coast. Before being ordained my career was in commercial and change management. Change is hard for most people, and the Church is no different. As the Bishop of Exeter has said; "We cannot stay the same". I'm looking forward to getting to know you all and being alongside of you all as our lives change, as we grow older, as we lose loved ones, as we celebrate new born children, as we cope with what life throws at us.

Change should never be for the sake of change, and when it comes to Church any changes should be to help us to grow in our relationship with God. The first change that is taking place within the church community is that all the Sunday morning services will either be at 9.30am (Holsworthy, Hollacombe & Pancrasweek) or 11.15am (Bridgerule & Pyworthy). Please do take a look at the table of services later on in the magazine. I have also added some different services and hope that people that might not normally come to church might try one of these. There is also a new Benefice Calendar on the website [www.holsworthybenefice.org.uk/benefice-calendar/](http://www.holsworthybenefice.org.uk/benefice-calendar/) and a new Facebook Page (thanks to Bob Beckford).

Jesus changed lots of things. He changed the social order of things. He changed how we should view power and poverty. He changed how women should be treated. He changed how we should live our lives. He taught us that love and forgiveness, not wealth or power, are of the utmost importance. Coming to Holsworthy is proving to be a really good change for me. I've felt very warmly welcomed both within the church

communities and also the wider communities. I really feel that this is where God wants me to be. Is there something in your life that you need or want to change? If there is, offer it to God in prayer and let yourselves be changed.

With Love and blessings,

*Mother Elizabeth*

## Benefice News

### Change in Times of Services

The times of the services across the Benefice are changing from Sunday 7th January. They will be as follows;

Church	1st Sunday of the month	2nd Sunday of the month	3rd Sunday of the month	4th Sunday of the month
Bridgerule St Bridget	11.15am Family Holy Communion	11.15am Morning Prayer	11.15am Holy Communion	11.15am Family Service
Hollacombe St Petroc	3pm Sung BCP Evening Prayer		9.30am Sung BCP Holy Communion	
Holsworthy St Peter & St Paul	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer 6pm Meditative Eucharist
Pancrasweek St Pancras				9.30am Holy Communion
Pyworthy St Swithun	11.15am Family Service	11.15am Holy Communion	11.15am Morning Prayer	11.15am Family Holy Communion

We hope that having the same time at the different churches will make things simpler. This will also allow Mother Elizabeth some time with each congregation after services.

The 5th Sunday of the month will be rotating around the Benefice as follows;

- 29th April 2018 - Bridgerule 11.15am with guest preacher The Revd. Hannah Alderson (Exeter University Chaplain and Vocations Officer for the Diocese)
- 29th July 2018 - Pancrasweek 9.30am with guest preacher The Venerable Dr Mark Butchers (Archdeacon of Barnstable)
- 30th September 2018 - Pyworthy 11.15am with guest preacher Mr Mark Neave (Reader in the Black Torrington Benefice)

## **Magazine**

Apologies for the slightly later arrival of this edition. It is unfortunate that our press date of 20<sup>th</sup> December meant we were too close to the Christmas holidays of our printer and we were just too busy with events taking place in the Benefice to get the copy prepared for this edition in time for it to be ready for the beginning of January. To make matters worse we had a major computer software update that went wrong!

### *Vacancy for a Business Manager*

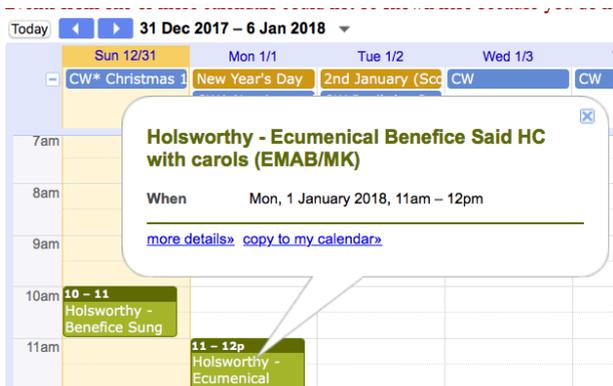
When we agreed to take on the editing and distribution of the Parish/Benefice Magazine it was to free up some time for Fr. Christopher. The magazine production and distribution takes up about four days a month. We took on the job on the understanding that we would not be involved in the selling of advertising space. Unfortunately, when Fr Christopher left we had no option other than to take on this work but we could now do with some extra help. With the addition of the website to keep up to date and now a Facebook page we just don't have the spare time to go out and get advertisers. We don't want too many adverts, just enough advertising space sold to cover the cost of production, we don't really want to start charging for the magazine because we want it to be freely available outside of our churches so that we can get our news to the wider community. If you think you could sell advertising space in our magazine we would love you to contact us. If you don't want to be recognized as 'The Business Manger' there is another way you could help. How about asking someone you know who is in business if they would like to advertise in our magazine. We have the application forms ready, send us the details and we will contact them.

## **Website News**

During December, our website was viewed by 395 different visitors, 379 from the United Kingdom, 5 from the USA, 4 from South Korea, 2 from Australia and 1 each from, Botswana, Canada, India, Italy and Peru. Each month about 45% of these are returning visitors.

At the start of the month we put a new page on the website and called it ‘New Benefice Google Calendar’. This calendar is linked to the Benefice Calendar maintained by Mother Elizabeth. In theory, this should be the most up to date and correct calendar in the Benefice. Not only does it display Sunday services but also other events such as funerals and PCC meetings. It is possible to display this calendar a week or a month at a time in the style of a calendar or display it as a list of items by picking Agenda, it is also possible to print the calendar if you want to have a paper copy with you and also you can add items from the Benefice calendar to your own computer calendar. The advantage of this calendar is that when you pick on an item, say Epiphany 4, you can see all the reading, collects, set prayers, psalms etc. for that day.

As with most computing information, describing what it can do is never as good as having a go so get out your iPad, iPhone, Samsung Tablet or Phone, Kindle Fire, your PC or whatever it is you have and experiment.



## News from the Churches in our Benefice

### St. Peter and St. Paul, Holsworthy

by Bob Beckford

#### Holsworthy Town Carol Service

The annual Holsworthy Town Carol Service which took place on December 10<sup>th</sup>, was once again well attended. Music was provided by the Holsworthy Town Band and Martyn Squire played the church organ. Soloist for the opening carol was Alice Banks, Pretty Maid 2017.



Thanks to the hard work of the organizing committee the whole event ran like clockwork. After the service we were served with coffee and mince pies. Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to making this event the success it was.

Margaret Stacey was particularly keen for us to pass on her grateful thanks to members of the Augmented Choir for the great performance they gave. Not

only did they do a great job on the night but also took the trouble to attend the many practice evenings beforehand, especially the one without heating! Thanks must also go to Martyn for his many hours of learning and practicing the necessary music for the choir items and Pat for keeping us all in time and order! and giving extra time to members who requested a little extra help, a good team effort all round.

Hopefully you will all join us again next year and if you feel you could not this year but would like to for 2018 please let one of us know and we will include you on the list.

### **Heating**

If you have been in church you will know that the heating system has been working. The additional collections we held at the end of Sunday services leading up to Christmas have helped immensely towards the cost of the repair. Thank you so much for your generous contributions. Our Treasurer tells me that the collections totalled £394.00, with gift aid added the total will be £492.50.

### **John and Maggie Cridland**

You probably know by now that Maggie Cridland had to go into hospital before Christmas and undergo some rather complex surgery. It was good to see Maggie back in church for the midnight mass. John and Maggie want to say a massive thank you to everybody who prayed for them during Maggie's recent stay and various operations in Barnstaple and Bristol Hospitals. They both felt surrounded by prayer which really helped. Thank you all.

### **Holsworthy Church Coffee Morning**

The amount made at the coffee morning on December 6<sup>th</sup> was £445.39, thanks to all involved especially Kath Durling.

The Christmas Hamper raised a further £200 so our total was £645.39. Congratulations to the Hamper winner, Dave Whittaker.

### **OUR NEXT Coffee Morning in the Memorial Hall is on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February**

*Message from Kath Durling*

Please do come along and bring your friends or make new ones at our next coffee morning which is being held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, it's a joint one with Hollacombe church. Once again could we ask for donations of raffle and tombola prizes. As well as produce for the cake stall.

Also, a preliminary notice for June the 20<sup>th</sup>, this coffee morning is solely for Holsworthy church funds.

## **Gutters, Rainwater pipes and Drains**

The Churchwardens and the PCC are once again very grateful to Andrew Chidley and Chris Osborne for clearing the church guttering, rainwater pipes and gullies of leaves and debris. This is not the most pleasant of jobs, particularly this year when we seem to have rain to contend with for days on end. Thank you, gentlemen, for your hard work.

## **St. Petroc, Hollacombe**

*by Margaret Stacey*

By the time you are all reading this, Christmas will have 'happened' and the various Carol Services taken place and hopefully everyone will have had a peaceful and enjoyable time, ready to look forward to the New Year, 2018 and all that it may hold for each and every one of us.



Hopefully our Carol Service will have gone as planned on Thurs 28th Dec and I want to take this opportunity to Thank EVERYONE who has helped in any way.

Scheduled Service for Hollacombe for January are:

Sunday 7th January, 3pm Evensong

Sunday 21st January 9.30am Holy Communion, both from The Book of Common Prayer.

The services can always be checked on The Holsworthy Benefice web site which is updated as events arise. [www.holsworthybenefice.org.uk](http://www.holsworthybenefice.org.uk)

### **Advance Notice**

Tuesday 6th February 2018, 10am. Special Prayers at St Petroc Church, Hollacombe for the church. All most welcome. Coffee afterwards.

## **General News from the Parish Pump**

### **British want cathedrals and churches protected for future generations, new poll reveals**

Castles, cathedrals and churches and royal palaces are the historic buildings that the British public think it is most important to protect for future generations. These are the findings of a recent opinion poll, carried out for the National Churches Trust, the UK's church buildings support charity, by ComRes.

Out of ten key types of historic buildings, British adults are most likely to say that castles should be protected for future generations (34%). This is closely followed by cathedrals and churches (20%) and royal palaces (18%). Other building types and their ranking in the poll included country houses (4%), transport buildings and structures (4%) and government and civic buildings (3%).

Claire Walker, Chief Executive of the National Churches Trust, said: "At the heart of communities in cities, towns and villages, cathedrals and churches are a treasure trove of architecture, history and faith."

With 42,000 church buildings, the United Kingdom's religious heritage is a unique part of its national story, with 45% of all England's Grade I listed buildings cathedrals and churches.

### **Cut stake on Fixed Odds Betting Terminals to £2, Bishop urges Government**

The Bishop of St Albans, Dr Alan Smith, has responded to the Government's recent announcement of The Triennial Review of Stakes and Prizes. He said: "The Triennial Review of Stakes and Prizes has proposed a range of possible stakes for fixed-odds betting terminals. While a reduction in stakes is welcome, any stake higher than £2 does not go far enough to address the harm these machines cause to families and communities around the UK.

"In our broader response to the consultation, the Church of England will urge the Government to consider the experiences of those affected most by these machines, and to choose to lower the stake to £2.

"This will bring order to the regulatory scheme and improve our high streets. At present, FOBTs are the only betting machines on the high street which take a stake of more than £2.

"The £100 stake has been a disastrous anomaly. I urge the Government not to replace one harmful anomaly with another at the expense of the poorest and most vulnerable."

### **The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

This year the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity runs from 18th to 25th January. The theme of the week this year comes from the churches of the Caribbean, and addresses some of the problems which affect the people there, but also worldwide.

Thus, as abuses of human rights are found across the region, the week will challenge us to consider our manner of welcoming the stranger into our midst. Human trafficking and modern-day slavery continue to be huge issues. Addiction to pornography and drugs continue to be serious challenges to all societies. The debt crisis has a negative impact upon the nations and upon individuals – the economies of the nations and people have become precarious. Family life continues to be challenged by the economic restrictions which lead to migration, domestic abuse and violence.

What are Christians to do, in the face of such vast problems? The Caribbean Churches work together to heal the wounds in people's lives, but also know that reconciliation demands repentance, reparation and the healing of memories. The whole Church is called to be both a sign and an active agent of this reconciliation.

## **28th January: Homeless Sunday**

If you go into any large city in the UK today, you are very likely to see homeless people lying on the pavements, or in shop fronts. Sadly, homelessness is a growing problem throughout the country.

Which means that this year, Homeless Sunday will be a good opportunity for Christians to join together to pray, reflect and plan some very practical action as to how we might help the homeless in our own communities. Churches are also being encouraged to act together, to send a message to policy makers that in Britain, the sixth richest economy in the world, no one should be without a home.

*With your Christmas decorations barely back in the box, it may seem silly to think about Easter, but all the same, late January will be an excellent time to order your Real Easter Eggs for 2018.*

### **The egg that shares the Easter story**

The new look 2018 Real Easter Egg range is available to order. People are being asked to buy one as a special gift for a family member or friend as a unique way of sharing the story of Easter.



Out of the 80 million Easter eggs sold in this part of the world every year, The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has a copy of the Easter story in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and which supports charitable projects.

This year the Original and Dark eggs come with an A5 Easter story activity book which has 24 pages. Illustrated by Martina Peluso, the book will delight children and adults. The Special Edition comes with an olive wood holding cross keyring from Bethlehem and a simple guide to Easter.

A Hunt Box is also available with six midi eggs and a 12 page cross shaped Easter story-activity booklet. For larger groups, the Sharing Box comes with 30 midi eggs and 30 copies of the cross shaped Easter story-activity booklet.

The Real Easter Egg was launched in 2010 but the supermarkets turned down the idea at first. It was left to churches and church schools to place orders to fund The Meaningful Chocolate Company to make The Real Easter Egg.

To date, more than one million eggs have been sold with 750,000 of these sent through the post directly to churches and schools. The rest have been sold through independent retailers and supermarkets.

The success of The Real Easter Egg has meant that the production of Fairtrade chocolate has moved to the UK. Over £250,000 has been raised from sales for charitable causes.

The whole range can be ordered online at [www.realeasteregg.co.uk](http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk) or from Traidcraft, Eden.co.uk, TLM trading.com, Embrace the Middle East. Christian bookshops and some cathedrals also have stock.

You can also buy the blue Original egg from Tesco, Waitrose, Morrisons and Asda.

See the full shop list or order at [www.realeasteregg.co.uk](http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk)

## **Growing, but ageing**

John Humphrys, the Radio 4 Today presenter, recently lost his bet! He had bet £5 that more people attended football matches on a Saturday than people went to church on a Sunday with Giles Fraser, an Anglican priest who sometimes gave “Thought for the Day” on the Today programme. But 5% of the population go to church on Sunday whereas only 3% watch a football match according to [sportingintelligence.com](http://sportingintelligence.com). John said he would make his bet into £50 for a charity.

It is true that church numbers are declining but the figures in the latest (third) edition of UK Church Statistics, just published as the “2018 Edition,” show that the church isn’t about to die anytime soon. Forward estimates in the book suggest there are likely to be 4% of the population still attending church in 2030.

The group growing fastest, however, often seen not as churches in themselves but as part of a church’s outreach, are the Messy Churches, with almost 100,000 in attendance across the UK in 3,200 separate units, accounting for 6% of all the churches in the country, and growing in attendance at the rate of 11% per annum!

In 1980, 10% of the English population went to church, and 17% of the Scottish population. By 2015 these percentages had become 5% and 8% respectively and are projected to both be 4% by 2030, showing that Scottish churchgoers which include far fewer pro rata growing immigrant and Pentecostal churches, as a whole is declining faster than in England.

The two fastest growing groups of denominations, the Pentecostals and New Churches, have the highest percentage of men in their churches, respectively 49% and 50%, against an overall average of 43% in England. (In Scotland, the percentage is 40%). In England, the denominations with the lowest percentage of men are the Methodists and United Reformed Church with percentages 36% and 35% respectively. This suggests that to have an above-percentage of men helps church growth.

## **Quotes of the Month**

### ***With New Year in mind, we think of time and the future...***

Every man’s life lies within the present; for the past is spent and done with, and the future is uncertain. *Marcus Aurelius Antoninus*

If you are leaping a ravine, the moment of take-off is a bad time to be considering alternative strategies. *John Cleese*

Men never plan to be failures; they simply fail to plan to be successful. *William A Ward*

Nothing is particularly hard if you divide it into small jobs. *Henry Ford*

Life is what happens to you when you are busy making other plans. *John Lennon*

Please check on the back of your weekly service sheet for any last-minute changes or take a look at the website. [www.holsworthybenefice.org.uk](http://www.holsworthybenefice.org.uk)

Date	Holsworthy	Bridgerule	Hollacombe	Pancrasweek	Pyworthy
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan	<b>Holsworthy 11.00am BENEFICE Holy Communion with Carols and Bring and Share lunch</b>				
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan	11.00am Holy Communion				
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan EPIPHANY	<b>Holsworthy 4.00pm BENEFICE Holy Communion and Blessing of the Wise Men</b>				
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	9.30am Holy Communion	11.15am Family Holy Communion	3.00pm Evensong		11.15am Family Service (LT)
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan	11.00am Holy Communion				
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	9.30am Holy Communion				11.15am Holy Communion
	<b>Pancrasweek 3.00pm BENEFICE Evening Prayer with blessing of Tractors and farm equipment</b>				
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> Jan	11.00am Holy Communion				
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	9.30 am Holy Communion	11.15am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion		11.15am Morning Service (LT)
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	11.00am Holy Communion				
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan	9.30am Morning Service 6.00pm Meditative Eucharist with Anointing	11.15am Family Service (LT)		9.30am Holy Communion	11.15am Family Holy Communion



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## **Do You Enjoy Singing?**

**Then come and join the choir at St  
Peter and St Paul Holsworthy**

**If you are interested please contact  
Margaret Stacey and discuss with  
her what you may be able to do.**

**Mobile: 07971930294**

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**Whether it is every Sunday or just  
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welcome.**

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[www.clarehuntertherapy.co.uk](http://www.clarehuntertherapy.co.uk)

## Holsworthy Foodbank and Pop-in Centre

### Sponsored by Christians Together

Holsworthy food bank supports the local community by providing 3 days of **emergency food supplies** to local people in difficult circumstances. We are here to help Holsworthy District families in a crisis on a short term basis.

If you think you need food from the food bank, you will need to seek advice from one of the following agencies who may then fill in a food bank voucher for you.

- The Citizens Advice Bureau (by appointment only)
- The Job Centre (for reasons of benefit delay or unemployment)
- Ministers of religion
- The Police
- Medical Centre
- Schools



## January 2018 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 what clergy do after Christmas

The Rectory  
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I am glad you enjoyed your post-Christmas break from the parish, although a week of skiing in the Alps does seem a little excessive. In my day, an extra hour in bed on Boxing Day was considered quite sufficient. Curates are clearly paid too much. While your week after Christmas was spent falling down mountains at

excessive speeds, mine was used with the traditional activity of making apologies.

Apologies are always sent out to all those ladies who had fur coats ruined by guttering candles at the Carol Service. But as I feel obliged to point out, at least they were ruined with the best beeswax money can buy. Had they attended Saint Agatha's, our next-door parish, they would have been ruined by paraffin wax, which is most inferior.

A general apology was also necessary in the parish magazine. That our thurifer was slightly over-zealous with the incense at the midnight Service was quite excusable at such an important Service; that the organist improvised during Communion on the tune "Smoke gets in your Eyes" was not.

I also felt duty-bound to apologise to the landlord of the public house which adjoins the church, as his customers were blocked in the pub car park with cars of those attending our midnight Service. But since his customers were obliged to stay in the pub for an extra two hours, he asked if we could make the same mistake in future years. I also received several letters of thanks from those who were unable to return home until the early hours. One even made a donation to the church in appreciation.

Apologies were also made to the 8am Christmas morning congregation, the Service having been taken by Canon Rogers for the last 25 years. Now in his 97th year, he is becoming somewhat forgetful. Beginning the Service by wishing the congregation a very happy Easter was not entirely helpful. I may have to think about finding him a replacement.

My final apologies were given to Lady Duckworth who, having tumbled her returning children to church, discovered that strangers were sitting in her pew. Since her family has sat there for the last 400 centuries, she has always assumed squatters' rights, and so being obliged to sit at the rear of a side aisle was not at all appreciated.

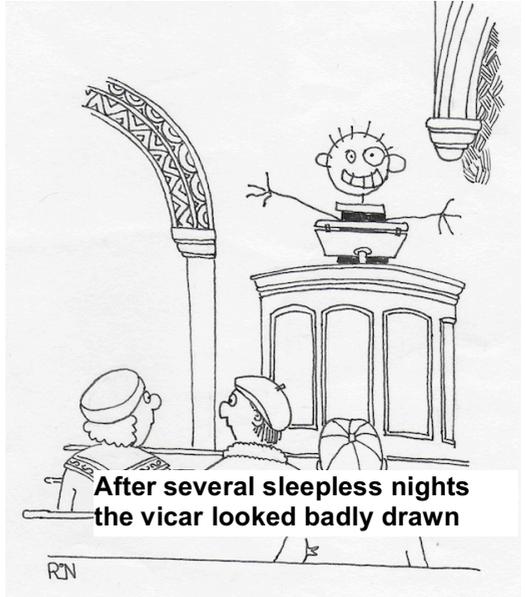
And so we both begin a new year, you exhilarated from a week's strenuous activity and me energised by knowing that I will not have to apologize to anyone about anything for another 12 months.

Your loving uncle,

*Eustace*



"Given the state of our heating system, your name seemed rather appropriate."



## Some High Days and Holy Days in January

### 6 January - Epiphany - Where did the Wise Men come from?

Magi from the East – it isn't a lot to go on. The Magi had originally been a religious caste among the Persians. Their devotion to astrology, divination and the interpretation of dreams led to an extension in the meaning of the word, and by the first century the Magi in Matthew's gospel could have been astrologers from outside of Persia. Some scholars believe they might have come from what was then Arabia Felix, or as we would say today, southern Arabia.

Certainly, in the first century astrology was practised there, and it was the region where the Queen of Sheba had lived. She of course had visited Solomon and would have heard the prophecies about how one day a Messiah would be born to the Israelites and become their king.

Matthew's gospel (chapter 2) is clear that the Magi asked Herod: 'Where is the One who has been born king of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.' So it is possible that in southern Arabia the Queen of Sheba's story of how a Messiah would one day be sent to the Israelites had survived. Certainly, there are a number of other early legends that connect southern Arabia with Solomon's Israel.

To many people this makes sense: that the ancient stories of a Messiah, linked to later astrological study, prompted these alert and god-fearing men to the realisation that something very stupendous was happening in Israel. They realised that after all these centuries, the King of the Jews, the Messiah, was about to be born.

One more interesting thing that gives weight to the theory that the magi came from southern Arabia is this: if you study any map of Palestine as it was during biblical times, you will find that the old Arabian caravan routes all entered Palestine 'from the East'.

## **17 January Anthony of Egypt - hermit who defied an emperor**

If your Christmas and New Year break included just too many people and even a bout of indigestion, then St Antony may be the saint for you. He was a hermit-monk with a reputation for making poorly people feel better.

Antony was born in Coma (Upper Egypt) in 251, and at 20 became an ascetic. He settled down in the complete solitude of a deserted fort in Pispir, where he spent the next 20 years busy fighting the whole range of usual hermit temptations, such as having queenly devils approach you for marriage, and other hazards like that.

In 306 Antony felt able to face the world again, and so he began visiting with some other hermits. One was Paul, and the story goes that the day they met, a raven provided lunch for them by dropping a loaf of bread nearby.

Antony was a godly man, and would pray for people. Stories went round that those he prayed for were healed, and so he became known as a miracle-worker. He was certainly brave: when in 311 the Roman Emperor Maximinus was persecuting the Christians, Antony went to Alexandria to encourage the church there to stand firm. Years later he was stoutly defending the Christian faith in disputes with heretics.

Antony died in 356, but even hundreds of years later he was not forgotten. A

medical band of people adopted his name, and thus The Order of Hospitallers of Saint Antony was founded (c. 1100, in La Motte). It became a pilgrimage centre for those suffering from ergotism (called St Antony's Fire - a serious form of fungi poisoning).

Antony was a tremendously popular saint throughout the Middle Ages. By then he was seen as the patriarch of monks, and a healer of both men and animals. Antony even gave us the word 'tantony', a diminutive applied to the smallest pig in a litter, and to the smallest bell in a peal of bells.

The early church father, Athanasius, wrote The Life of Antony. This moving biography helped to convert the great Augustine.

## **25 January St Paul - the first Christian intellectual**

This month, on 25th January, the Church celebrates probably the most famous conversion of all. At least, what happened to a young man called Saul on the road to Damascus has become a byword for all instant conversions - what is known as a 'damascene' moment. Saul was a devout Jew, a Pharisee, a student of Gamaliel and a fierce critic of the followers of Jesus, then a very new sect on the religious scene.

On his way to Damascus to organise a purge of Christians in that city, he was blinded by a bright light and heard a voice saying, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' He asked the identity of the voice, and it replied, 'Jesus, whom you are persecuting'. Stunned by the experience, he followed further instructions which led him to a Christian man in Damascus, who prayed with him. As he did, Saul's sight was restored.

The experience convinced him that Jesus - crucified in Jerusalem four or five years earlier - was in fact the Messiah and had risen from the dead. After a period of instruction, Saul was baptised and took the name by which history has recognised him, Paul. At first, some Christians were wary about the reality of his conversion, but over a period of time he was accepted and indeed eventually recognised as an 'apostle', a 'special messenger' of Jesus Christ.

His intellectual stature and leadership gifts quickly marked him out, and within a few years he became a leading figure in the emerging Christian Church, preaching and founding churches all over the Middle East, largely of Gentile converts. He was eventually martyred in Rome, probably in 65AD.

Paul was the first intellectual of the Christian Church, the man who was able to set the events of the life and teaching of Jesus, and especially his death and

resurrection, into a coherent theology, with its roots very clearly in the Jewish faith of his own upbringing. He's not always easy to follow. Even the New Testament admits that: 'there are some things (in his letters) hard to understand' (2 Peter 3:16). But at the same time he gave the new faith a foundation and credibility which have stood it well down the centuries.

Many people think of Paul as a rather negative, narrow misogynist, but even a quick reading of his letters actually reveals a person of great warmth, who evoked enormous affection and devotion from others. 'You would have plucked out your eyes and given them to me!' he writes to the Christians at Galatia. He was, of course, a man of his time and culture, in days when women were disregarded in terms of status and leadership.

But read his letters, and see how large a role women play in them and how much scope he gave them to lead and teach in the Church. In terms of the first century, St Paul was a dangerous liberal! So all in all, the amazing Paul of Tarsus deserves a bit of celebrating on 25th January

## **All in the Months of January**

It was:

100 years ago, from Jan 1918 to Dec 1920 that the 1918 'flu pandemic took place. About 500 million people were infected and 50 – 100 million people died (5% of the global population).

90 years ago, on 2nd Jan 1928 that the BBC radio broadcast its first Daily Service – a 15 minute daily religious service. It is still running today.

Also 90 years ago, on 11th Jan 1928 that Thomas Hardy, British novelist and poet died. (Wrote *Far from the Madding Crowd*, *the Mayor of Casterbridge*, *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*, *Jude the Obscure*, etc.)

75 years ago, from 24th to 31st Jan 1943 that the battle of Stalingrad took place. Adolf Hitler ordered the German 6th army to keep fighting to the death, even though they had no chance. `But German Field Marshal Friedrich Paulus finally surrendered.

65 years ago, on 31st Jan to 1st Feb that the North Sea flood of 1953 took place. North-western Europe was hit by extensive flooding when severe gales combined with a Spring tide. Several thousand people were killed.

60 years ago, on 1st Jan 1958 that the European Economic Community (EEC)

began operating. It was incorporated into the European Union (EU) in 1993 as the European Community (EC).

50 years ago, on 2nd Jan 1968 that South African cardiac surgeon Christiaan Barnard performed the world's second human heart transplant. The patient lived for 19 months.

30 years ago, on 3rd Jan 1988 that Margaret Thatcher became Britain's longest-serving Prime Minister of the 20th century.

25 years ago, on 1st Jan 1993 that the European Single Market was established.

20 years ago, on 17th Jan 1998 that news of the Monica Lewinsky scandal became public. US President Bill Clinton was accused of having an affair with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

Also 20 years ago, in Jan 1998, that the film Titanic was released in the UK.

15 years ago, on 31st Jan 2003 that British-born terrorist Richard Reid (the 'shoe bomber') was sentenced to life imprisonment for attempting to blow up a transatlantic flight using explosives concealed in his shoes.

10 years ago, on 11th Jan 2008 that Sir Edmund Hillary, New Zealand mountaineer and Antarctic explorer, died. He and Sherpa mountaineer Tenzing Norgay were the first two people to conquer Mount Everest.

Also 10 years ago, on 26th Jan 2008 that Paul the Octopus was born. This British-born German octopus was said to accurately predict football results in the 2010 World Cup. (Died 2010, aged two and a half.)

## **God in the Arts**

*Editor: For 2018, the Rev Michael Burgess is going to explore symbols of the Christian faith as found in works of art.*

### **'He gave us eyes to see them' - The Cross**

When we enter a church or cathedral, we are greeted with an array of signs and symbols linked to the history and worship of Christianity. During this year we shall explore their meaning as reflected in works of art. From the 5th century the cross has been the central symbol of Jesus. Churches would often have a rood screen showing the crucified Saviour, and at the east end a cross on the altar as the sign of victory and life.

In the Vatican there are four rooms that have majestic frescoes by Raphael and his assistants. In the Stanza di Constantino Giulio Romano and others painted the Vision of the Cross from 1520-1524 to a design by Raphael. In 312 as Constantine was about to go into battle against Maxentius, a cross appeared in the sky with the message from God 'By this sign, conquer.' The cross became the standard for his army, and Constantine went on to win the battle of Milvian Bridge. It is an amazing scene depicted in the fresco with a pope on either side of Constantine and his soldiers. We see a dragon flying high, but he is no match for the cross that shines out to all below.

It is a sign of blessing, victory, and triumph. That mood is caught up in hymns we sing: 'In the cross of Christ I glory' and 'Lift high the cross.' As we enter this new year, we can give thanks that we received the sign of the cross at our baptism, and are blessed with that sign at each service. For Christians the cross is rooted in earth, but reaches to heaven, with its horizontal arms opened out to embrace the world. As we journey through this year, amid whatever meets us, may we hold fast to the cross in our hearts and minds – and find there confidence and hope in the victory of God's life and love.

## Holsworthy Methodist Church Thursday Group Programme 2018

Jan 4 <sup>th</sup>	English Customs – Rev. Martin Keenan
Jan 18 <sup>th</sup>	“20 <sup>th</sup> Century Holsworthy – Shawn Dymond
Feb 1 <sup>st</sup>	“The Queens 90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Party” – Eva Paynter
Feb 15 <sup>th</sup>	“My Childhood – Rose Shadrick
March 1 <sup>st</sup>	“North Devon Potteries” Sadie Green
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	“Flowers and Buttonholes” - Val Shadrick
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	† Maundy Communion – Rev. Martin Keenan
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Vist to Homeleigh
April 26 <sup>th</sup>	“Launceston Town Crier” – Rob Tremain
May 10 <sup>th</sup>	“Visiting New Zealand” – Sylvia Simmonds
May 24 <sup>th</sup>	“The Hat Shop” – Kerry Seymour-Smith
June 7 <sup>th</sup>	AGM/”Travels Abroad” – Hilary Vivian

All meetings at 7.30pm unless stated otherwise

For further information please contact Doreen Buckingham (Tel 253462)

# The Puzzle Pages

## January 2018 Crossword

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

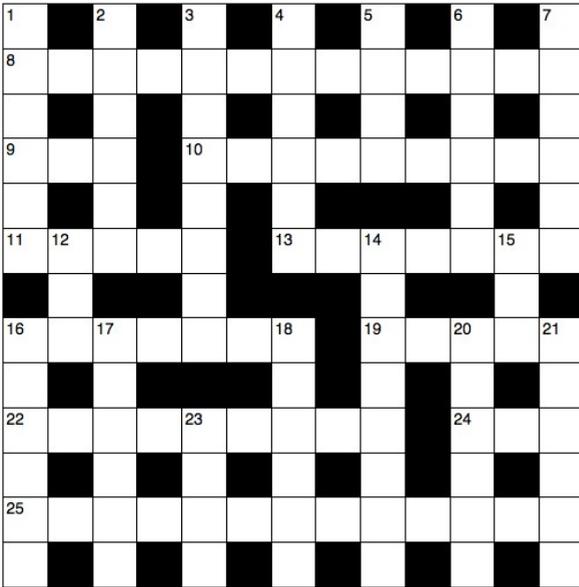
### Across

- 8 How the Abyss (NIV) is described in the Authorized Version (Revelation 9:1) (10,3)
- 9 Frozen water (Ezekiel 1:22) (3)
- 10 The Ten Commandments (9)
- 11 In Roman Catholic theology, neither heaven nor hell (5)
- 13 Des cons (anag.) (7)
- 16 'Though [your sins] are red as — , they shall be like wool' (Isaiah 1:18) (7)
- 19 Keen (Romans 1:15) (5)
- 22 Repugnant, loathsome (Jeremiah 24:9) (9)
- 24 Drink like an animal (Judges 7:5) (3)
- 25 First and last (Revelation 22:13) (5,3,5)

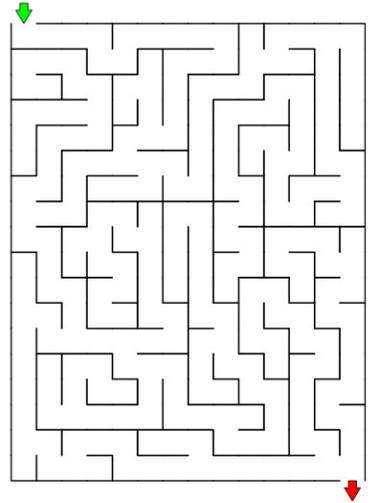
### Down

- 1 Father of Ahi, a Gadite (1 Chronicles 5:15) (6)
- 2 Where David found the stone with which he killed Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (6)
- 3 'Hour by hour fresh lips are making thy — doings heard on high' (8)
- 4 'And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their — at night' (Luke 2:8) (6)
- 5 United Society for Christian Literature (1,1,1,1)
- 6 'If he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would — — or a tax collector' (Matthew 18:17) (1,5)
- 7 Where Paul was taken when things became difficult for him in Berea (Acts 17:15) (6)
- 12 Istituto per le Opere di Religione (Vatican Bank) (1,1,1)
- 14 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new — ; the old has gone, the new has come!' (2 Corinthians 5:17) (8)
- 15 Used to colour ram skins red for use in the tabernacle (Exodus 25:5) (3)
- 16 Vat car (anag.) (6)
- 17 'Be joyful — — , patient in affliction, faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (6)
- 18 'The parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts — — special treatment' (1 Corinthians 12:23) (4,2)
- 20 Ancient rowing boat (Isaiah 33:21) (6)
- 21 Say again (2 Corinthians 11:16) (6)
- 23 What Jesus did in the synagogue in Nazareth after he stood up (Luke 4:16) (4)

## January 2018 Crossword



**January 2018 Maze**  
Start at the top left and exit bottom right



## January 2018 Sudoku

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

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*Solution to the  
December 2017  
Sudoku*

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

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## Smile Line

### The boyfriend

At the start of the New Year, my boyfriend had moved his house and job. I decided to ring him to see how he was settling in. To my astonishment, a woman picked up the phone. 'Is Mike there?' I asked.

'He's in the shower,' she responded, with some hesitation.

In the shower?! 'Please tell him his girlfriend called,' I said frostily, and hung up.

When he didn't return the call, I got more and more angry, and finally dialled again. This time a man answered. 'This is Mike,' he said.

'You're not my boyfriend!' I exclaimed. 'I've got the wrong number.'

'I know,' he replied. 'That's what I've been trying to tell my wife for the past half-hour.'

## January 2018 Crossword Solution

### ACROSS:

8, Bottomless pit. 9, Ice. 10, Decalogue. 11, Limbo. 13, Seconds. 16, Crimson. 19, Eager. 22, Abhorrent. 24, Lap. 25, Alpha and Omega.

### DOWN:

1, Abdiel. 2, Stream. 3, Wondrous. 4, Flocks. 5, USCL. 6, A pagan. 7, Athens. 12, IOR. 14, Creation. 15, Dye. 16, Cravat. 17, In hope. 18, Need no. 20, Galley. 21, Repeat. 23, Read.

## Some Very Useful Numbers

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