

The Holsworthy Benefice Magazine February 2018

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

www.holsworthybenefice.org.uk



Faith in Jesus bring forgiveness and healing

Church Contacts

Priest-in-Charge: Mother Elizabeth Burke

The Rectory, Bodmin Street, Holsworthy, EX22 6BH
01409 255490 or 07990 978485

Reader: Mrs Mary Aicheler 01409 259271

St. Peter & St. Paul, Holsworthy:

Church Wardens:

Mrs Helen Young 01409 259345

Mr Robert Beckford 01409 254804

Bell Captain: Mr Ralph Chapman 01409 253040

St. Bridget, Bridgerule:

Churchwardens:

Mr T. Bowden 01288 381247

Mr P. Harris 01288 381329

St. Petroc, Hollacombe:

Churchwardens:

Mr John Granger 01409 254811

Mrs Teresa Davey 01409 281235

St. Swithun, Pyworthy:

Churchwardens:

Richard Thompson 01409 254314

Liffy Lowes 01409 254423

St. Pancras, Pancrasweek:

Churchwardens:

Robert Wright 01409 253300

Roger Vanstone 01409 240165

Parish Magazine Editorial Team Leader

Mary Beckford 01409 254804

Webmaster

Bob Beckford 01409 254804

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

Contents

Church Contacts	2
Contents	3
From The Rectory	4
Benefice News - News From The Churches In Our Benefice	5
General News from the Parish Pump	7
Quotes of the Month	13
Service Chart for February 2018	14
Holsworthy Food Bank and Pop-In Centre	16
Holsworthy Methodist Church- Thursday Group	16
St. James-the-Least-of All	17
Some High Days and Holy Days in February	18
All in the Months of February	21
The February Puzzle Pages	24 & 25
Some Useful Numbers	27

If you have anything you would like to be considered for publication in our magazine please give it to the editor by the 20th of the preceding month. It can be sent 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

From the rectory

With Epiphany only just behind us we quickly move towards Lent with Ash Wednesday being on 14th February.

Mark 1: 12,13 says; “And the Spirit immediately drove Jesus out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.”

Lent like Christmas should be a time of joy because Lent helps us to spend more time with God through prayer, abstinence and fasting, study and through giving. For those of you who have been on retreat or attended a quiet day you will know that this brings great joy. The joy which comes from spending time and becoming closer to God.

On Jesus being baptised he goes straight into the wilderness and although he was tempted by Satan, and life would have been really harsh, the angels waited on him. That must have given Jesus the joy needed to bear the weight of what he had been born to do.

To seek to spend more time with God, to increase joy in our daily lives, during this Lent I encourage you all to come along to the following;

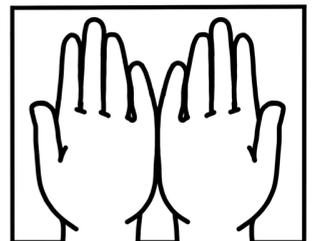
- Fridays at the I I am Communion there will be a time to reflect with soup served afterwards.
- Thursdays will see the start of an evening Communion at Holsworthy at 7pm starting 15th Feb.
- and on Sat 24th Feb there will be a quiet day 10-4pm at the Long House (details on page 6).

Starting Lent on 14th February, the day that most people will be thinking about loved ones, ought to help us to remember that Lent is a time of learning to increase our love of God and God's people, and also help us in allowing God to love us.

I pray that you all seek to have a joy filled Lent.

Yours in Christ

Mother Elizabeth



Benefice News

News from the Churches in our Benefice

St. Peter and St. Paul, Holsworthy

From Kath Durling

OUR NEXT Coffee Morning in the Memorial Hall - Wednesday 28thth February

Please do come along and bring your friends or make new ones at our next coffee morning, it's a joint one with Hollacombe church. Once again could we ask for donations of raffle and tombola prizes, also good quality bric-a-brac items. As well as produce for the cake stall.

If you can help with serving, clearing tables, washing up, staffing a stall or just being around and generally assisting you will be most welcome.

Also, a preliminary notice for Wednesday June the 20th, this coffee morning is solely for Holsworthy church funds.



St. Petroc, Hollacombe

by Margaret Stacey

Services in February

Sunday 4th 3.00pm Evensong with Rev Elizabeth Burke

Sunday 18th 9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) with Rev Stuart Wilson

SPECIAL PARISH PRAYER SERVICE 10am Tuesday 6th Feb followed by coffee. Everyone most welcome.



St. Pancras, Pancrasweek

By Robert Wright

Plough Sunday –The Benefice celebrated Plough Sunday on Sunday 14th January.

The service was led by Mother Elizabeth who blessed the farm equipment belonging to Roger and Martin Vanstone and Trevor Bowden, this included Roger's recently refurbished, 47-year-old David Brown tractor.



Also blessed at this service was the magnificent new cross on top of the lych-gate. Graham Cole made a replica of the original metal cross that had been on top of the lych-gate since 1961
Refreshments were served afterwards.



**St Swithun's Church
Pyworthy
Mothering Sunday Lunch**

**Sunday March 11th
in
Pyworthy Village Hall**

2 Course Roast Lunch

**Main Course Choice of:
Roast Beef
Roast Pork**

**Vegetarian Alternative
served with all the trimmings**

**12.30pm for 1.00pm
Cost: £12.50p adults;
£6.00p under 12s**

**Bookings please, by March 2nd
to
Carol on 01409 253174 or
Liffy on 01409 254423**

LENT QUIET DAY

Led by the Archdeacon of Barnstaple

The Ven Dr Mark Butchers

Saturday 24th February

10am - 4pm

at the

Long House

Dobles Lane, Holsworthy EX22 6GH

***A DAY TO PREPARE FOR EASTER
through worship, reflections and quiet***

Drinks throughout the day and lunch will be provided

A donation of £5 to cover the cost is welcome

**If you would like to attend please sign the sheet at the back
of church or email elizabethmaburke@icloud.com**



General News from the Parish Pump

Care for your own church building

Don't look to the government for so much help. That is the message of an independent review which considered the Church's reliance on government funding with regard to the upkeep of its church buildings. The review instead calls for a 'cultural shift', where communities contribute to their church's upkeep.

The Taylor Report was commissioned in 2016 to report to the Chancellor and Culture Secretary. It recommends that from 2020, the Government provide £66 million a year, compared with the recent 'exceptional hike' of 2014 and 2016, when it was £90 million.

The report says: 'Long term, it is the view of the Panel that the Church of England should aspire to reach a position where its buildings can, as far as is possible, be financed sustainably with reduced reliance on government funding.'

It goes on: 'The long-term survival of Church of England church buildings requires a change in the way many communities regard these buildings. 'We need to create a cultural shift in attitudes towards church buildings such that communities realise they are resources they can use, and congregations have the confidence to share space and where appropriate, to ask for a fair income.'

The report also said that the main theme emerging from the thousands of churches who responded to the review was the 'huge care that people feel for these buildings'.

Where did the church roof go?!

As the value of lead continues to rise, so heritage buildings such as churches are increasingly becoming prey to organised gangs who, in some instances, have made off with entire church roofs, according to specialist insurers, Ecclesiastical.

Although the Scrap Metal Dealers Act of 2013 'continues to be a powerful weapon', according to the Home Office, still the 'volume and severity of incidents of metal theft will also increase', warns Ecclesiastical. As Robert Fells of the British Metals Recycling Association puts it: 'The number of crimes has reduced, but they have got much bigger.'

Ecclesiastical

We recently received some information from our insurers, Ecclesiastical which may be of interest to you.



When it feels **irreplaceable**, trust 

To celebrate our 130th anniversary, Ecclesiastical is offering to donate £130 to your church when a new home insurance policy is taken out.

We're proud that customers across the UK have voted Ecclesiastical as the UK's Most Trusted Home Insurance provider, ahead of all other insurers.

To celebrate this achievement, and in recognition of our 130 year anniversary, we'll donate **£130** to your church if you take out a new home insurance policy with us.

To find out more and to get a quote call our team on **0800 7830 130**.

The BBC to increase coverage of religion

The BBC has recently pledged to 'raise our game' on religion by increasing the portrayal of all faiths in mainstream shows



The corporation said it would 'enhance' the representation of religion on TV and radio dramas and documentaries. It said it would also create a new global religious affairs team, headed by a religion editor, in BBC News. The BBC will also keep Thought For The Day on Radio 4's Today programme

The corporation recently published the conclusions of a review into its coverage of religion and ethics, and Director General Tony Hall said audiences of all faiths and none, have said they want to learn more about those topics.

'They recognise that, if we truly want to make sense of the world, we need to understand the systems of belief that underpin it,' he said. He added that he wants the corporation 'to do more about Christianity and other beliefs as well.'

The plans include:

There will be more about non-Christian festivals like Diwali, Passover, Rosh Hashanah, Ramadan and Eid on mainstream programmes like The One Show, The Chris Evans Breakfast Show and Newsround.

There will be landmark programmes to 'explore religion in all its forms', including a major TV series about the world's sacred sites, a Radio 4 series on morality in the 21st Century, and a Radio 2 initiative to encourage young people to discuss issues about peace

2019 will be 'A Year of Beliefs', with programmes looking at how people make big decisions and where they get their moral values from.

There will be more 'people-led stories that have warmth and depth', such as observing vicars working in local communities.

There will be tie-ins with music and comedy, and more digital-first video and social media content.

The role of the religious affairs correspondent - currently Martin Bashir - will be upgraded to religion editor, leading BBC News's new global religious affairs team. BBC News will also broaden the range of interviewees and contributors to represent a wider range of opinions and practices

BBC Religion & Ethics Review - December 2017 can be downloaded at;

http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/aboutthebbc/insidethebbc/howwework/reports/pdf/religion_and_ethics_review.pdf

End Hunger campaign targets the UK's 'food insecure' families

Millions of households in the UK are struggling to avoid hunger, as latest figures from the United Nations show that nearly three million people in the UK are now classed as severely 'food insecure', which means they are facing hunger on a daily basis. In the whole of Europe, according the UN, only Albania has higher levels of food insecurity.

And so it is that the End Hunger campaign, a collation of charities and faith groups who are working to tackle food poverty, is demanding that a new cross-departmental Household Food Security Minister be appointed to tackle the problem.

The Bishop of Gloucester, the Rt Rev Rachel Tweek, said in her recently published report, *A Menu to End Hunger*, that in her diocese, one foodbank alone had distributed about 1860 food parcels in the last year. She said: 'We know that many more people are living on cheap food, much of it unhealthy, or skipping meals, because they are too ashamed to visit a foodbank. Whilst celebrating the work that churches and other voluntary groups are doing to respond to this urgent need, it is clear to me that Government and businesses could and should be doing more to reduce the need for foodbanks in the first place.'

The report also calls on the Government to do something about the problem of 'holiday hunger', when parents whose children receive free school meals struggle to feed them during school holidays. The Government should provide holiday clubs where such children can be fed, the campaign says.

Cut your calories to 1800 a day

Forget 2000 calories a day if you are a woman, and 2500 if you are a man: the latest health guidelines from Public Health England (PHE) are expected to recommend a 400 – 600 – 600 rule. That means restricting your calories to 400 for breakfast, 600 for lunch, and 600 for dinner. An additional two healthy snacks a day, of 100 calories each, are also permitted.

The government now believes that we are all consuming on average 200 – 300 MORE calories a day than we need. The new lower guideline is also thought to compensate for the fact that most people tend to underestimate the number of calories that they eat.

Less is more, when it comes to toys

This is good news for all parents - your child will actually be more creative and have a better attention span if given fewer, rather than more, toys to play with.

In trials, it was found that youngsters with fewer toys focussed on thinking up new ways to play with them, thus expanding their creativity and concentration. So, one expert suggests that parents should pack away most of the toys, and bring only a few out at a time, on a rotating basis, to help the child have time to get the most fun and possibilities from each individual toy. It seems that a child will rarely learn to fully appreciate the toy in front of them, when there are countless options still remaining on the shelf behind them. The research was published in the journal *Infant*.

Good to volunteer

What is your work-life balance? Ideally, it should be a four-way effort of family, work, leisure and - very important - volunteering.

That is the belief of Sir Nick Parker, who served as Commander of the Land Forces from 2010 to 2012. He argues that young people, of between 10 and 20 years old especially, will themselves be helped by regular volunteering, as it helps them learn new skills, increases their resilience and self-confidence, and can improve their social mobility and life chances.

Now Sir Nick Parker has been calling on the Government to encourage people of all ages to get used to volunteering, as not only could it help revitalise civil society, it also can help young people to grow and mature, and get into the habit of playing an active, useful role in their communities.

The oldest Bible comes back to the UK

The world's oldest surviving complete Latin Bible returns to the UK this autumn. It left these shores for Rome 1302 years ago, when monks in the northeast of England sent it as a gift to Pope Gregory II.

The Codex Amiatinus was one of only three produced at the twin monasteries of Wearmouth and Jarrow. (One has since got lost, and the other survives in fragments.) It was kept safe for centuries at the Abbey of the Saviour in Monte Amiata, in Tuscany. Then in the 18th century it was sent to the Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana, in Florence.



It is the Laurenziana which has now agreed to send it back to the UK, alongside the Lindisfarne Gospels, for its exhibition 'Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms', which begins in October.

The Bible is 12 inches thick, and weighs 35kg. It contains both Old and New Testaments, and was written on 1030 leaves made from the skins of at least 515 sheep. It has been called one of the greatest treasures of Anglo-Saxon times.

The exhibition opens at the British Library on 19 October 2018.

Don't read the Bible, listen to it

Fancy listening to the Bible? Try the new audio Bible app from SPCK, called the NRSV Audio Bible for Everyone, costing 99p. The basic app provides the text and audio of the NRSV, while the option to upgrade offers a version that includes commentaries and guides from the For Everyone series by Tom Wright and John Goldingay. Visit www.SPCKapps.com.

Alternatively, why not visit our very own website Homepage where you can listen for free.

www.holsworthybenefice.org.uk

Daily Message

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." ([Ephesians 6:12-13](#))  (Read by Max McLean. Provided by [The Listener's Audio Bible.](#))

Powered by BibleGateway.com

Where we give you a Daily Message and a link to the free Listener's Audio Bible.

The size of our congregations

The size of a congregation is significant in a number of ways. Larger churches, for example, have more resources, both in people and (usually) finance, to undertake more activities. It is surprising, though, just how many smaller churches have numerous activities being undertaken frequently by a dedicated army of often older people, faithfully labouring behind the scenes.

The number of congregations in England which are comprised of under 50 people is about half, or 54%. In the Church of England, about five per cent of these 'under 50' churches number only seven people, and about 25 per cent of these churches number 15 people.

Turning to the larger churches, across the 0.5% of largest churches, the attendance is 700 (excluding the six churches with attendance in four figures, two of which are in central London [HTB and All Souls]). Across the largest 5% the average congregation is 150, and across the largest 25% it is 60.

Across the whole country and across all denominations the median size of congregation is 44 people; which means that there are almost 20,000 churches with fewer than that on a Sunday, while 20,000 have more.

In America, the size issue takes totally different dimensions, since there are probably about 1,500 "mega-churches", those with more than 2,000 on a

Sunday. There are probably a further 15,000 what they call “medium-sized” churches, that is, with between 500 and 2,000 attenders, with something like 325,000 churches catering for 34 million churchgoers.

Quotes of the Month

Every evening I turn my troubles over to God. He's going to be up all night anyway.

Nothing else ruins the truth like stretching it.

Be fishers of men - you catch them and He'll clean them.

Do not believe in miracles...rely on them.

The Three R's:

at 25: Romance

at 45: Rent

at 65: Rheumatism

Love is...

What do children know about love? When questioned, some four to eight year olds came up with the following:

- When you're born and see your mummy for the first time. That's love.
- Love is what makes you smile when you're tired.
- If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who hates you.
- Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day.
- I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones.
- You have to fall in love before you get married. Then when you're married, you just sit around and read books together.
- I let my big sister pick on me because my Mum says she only picks on me because she loves me.
- Love goes on even when you stop breathing, and you pick up where you left off when you reach Heaven.
- Love cards like Valentine's cards say stuff on them that we'd like to say ourselves, but we wouldn't be caught dead saying it.
- When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you.

Holsworthy Benefice Service Chart

February 2018

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

Date	Bridgerule	Hollacombe	Holsworthy	Pancrasweek	Pyworthy
Fri 2 nd Feb			11.00 am Holy Communion & Café		
Fri 2 nd Feb	Holsworthy 4.00 pm Creative Candlemas and Christingle				
Sat 3 rd Feb	Bridgerule 7.00pm BENEFICE Candlemas and Patronal Festival				
Sun 4th Feb	11.15 am Family Holy Communion	3.00 pm Evensong	9.30 am Holy Communion		11.15 am Family Service (LT)
Fri 9 th Feb			11.00 am Holy Communion & Café		
Sun 11th Feb	11.15 am Morning Prayer (LT)		9.30 am Holy Communion		11.15 am Holy Communion
Tues 13 th Feb	After School Shrove service with pancakes and race				
Wed 14 th Feb	7.00 pm Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes		11.00 am Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes		
Fri 16 th Feb			11.00 am Holy Communion & Café		
Sun 18th Feb	11.15 am Holy Communion	9.30 am Holy Communion	9.30 am Holy Communion		11.15 am Morning Service (LT)
Fri 23 rd Feb			11.00 am Holy Communion & Café		
Sun 25th Feb	11.15 am Family Service (LT)		9.30 am Morning Service (LT) 6.00 pm Meditative Eucharist with Anointing	9.30 am Holy Communion	11.15 am Family Holy Communion



ALF BLACKMAN

Builder

**also Carpentry,
Plumbing, Decorating &
General Repairs**

Tel: 01409 253158

Mob: 07774 672695



ARTHUR W. BRYANT
FUNERAL SERVICE

BUDE
01288 352282

CAMELFORD
01840 214891

HOLSWORTHY
01409 253000

**INDEPENDENT FAMILY
FUNERAL SERVICE**

**MEMORIAL
MASONRY**

**OUR FAMILY CARING FOR YOUR
FAMILY FOR OVER 50 YEARS**

**PRE PAYMENT FUNERAL
PLANS**

W/ AWBRYANT.CO.UK
E/ CARING@AWBRYANT.CO.UK



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

**Whether it is every Sunday or just
special occasions, you would be very
welcome.**

Clare Hunter Therapy

Do you suffer with

*Back Pain Painful Joints
Mobility Issues Stress
Stiff Neck/ Shoulder Poor Sleep
Stress Headaches*

Or would you simply like to feel
WELL?

*I provide highly effective, gentle
Bowen Therapy to help your body
feel better and reduce pain.*

**Call me today on 07977511217
or 01409 220100**

Book 3 treatments & the 4th is free

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



Food parcels contain tinned and dried food only.

It is helpful if you can bring shopping bags for your food, as plastic bags are in

Holsworthy Methodist Church Thursday Group Programme 2018

Feb 15 th	“My Childhood – Rose Shadrick
March 1 st	“North Devon Potteries” Sadie Green
March 15 th	“Flowers and Buttonholes” - Val Shadrick
March 29 th	† Maundy Communion – Rev. Martin Keenan
April 12 th	Vist to Homeleigh
April 26 th	“Launceston Town Crier” – Rob Tremain
May 10 th	“Visiting New Zealand” – Sylvia Simmonds
May 24 th	“The Hat Shop” – Kerry Seymour-Smith
June 7 th	AGM/”Travels Abroad” – Hilary Vivian

All meetings at 7.30pm unless stated otherwise

For further information please contact Doreen Buckingham (Tel 253462)

February 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 the perils of parish cook books

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Thank you for your contribution to our proposed parish cook book, "My favourite weekday dinner at home" – although I have to say that baked beans on a baked potato was a little unadventurous, even if I suspect, sadly, true.

It is remarkable how many of my parishioners, when they know they will appear in print, apparently dine sumptuously every evening in their own homes. I could not help but feel that Miss Carruthers' "weekday" recipe for "Gratinee de Coquilles Saint Jacques" was taking imagination rather too far, when everyone knows she lives on scrambled eggs on toast on a tray in front of the television.

Asking the bishop to write the preface for our cook book has not turned out entirely successfully, since the greater part of it extolled the virtues of fasting. I suspect this may have something to do with his attraction to lean, muscular Christianity and his disapproval of my ample waistline. And when attending a social occasion at the bishop's palace, "lean" would definitely be my description of the size of the sherry he pours.

When you buy a copy of the book – which I am sure you will do as an act of solidarity – do not attempt to follow Colonel Humphrey's recipe for a Madras curry. His father acquired a taste for it when he was serving

in India and, regrettably, he brought the recipe back to England. It is guaranteed to reduce the bravest of men to tears; the Colonel's four pink gins before dinner seem to give him a certain anaesthetic protection.

The editor returned my own recipe, mentioning that the "two large glasses of red wine" specified in the list of ingredients was not mentioned in the recipe. I had thought it was perfectly obvious that they were there to be drunk while making the meal.

The project is to raise funds to repair our medieval tower, which our architect tells us is largely held in place by its own weight. It is rather comforting to think that we shall preserve it for another generation by selflessly eating our way through roast pork, beef Wellington and chicken cooked in a wide variety of unpronounceable French sauces.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Some High Days and Holy Days in February

6 The Martyrs of Japan - courage in persecution

Persecution of Christians in various countries is making the headlines these days. Believers facing such opposition might well find inspiration from the courage of the Japanese Christians of the late 16th and early 17th centuries.

The Jesuit Francis Xavier had first brought Christianity to Japan in 1549, when he persuaded Shimazu Takahisa, the daimyo of Satsuma, to give him permission to build the first Catholic mission in Japan. All went well at first, and the Japanese responded to the message of Jesus Christ more warmly than anyone could have foretold. By the end of the century, it has been estimated that there were nearly 300,000 baptised converts to Christianity in Japan.

But soon the very success of the Japanese Church led it into trouble: its vibrant growth as an indigenous community believing a faith brought in from the West meant trouble. It was caught up in a maelstrom of tensions between the shogunate, imperial government, Buddhist monks, Shintoists, and colonial ambitions of Spain and Portugal. Gradually, the Japanese rulers came to see Christians as a threat. So, Christianity was banned, and those Japanese who

refused to abandon their faith were to be killed.

Trouble flared at Nagasaki on 6 February 1597, when six European Franciscan missionaries, three Japanese Jesuits and 17 Japanese laity, three of whom were young boys, were executed in a form of crucifixion by being elevated on crosses and then pierced with spears. Within a year, more than 130 churches had been burned. The persecution subsided, then flared up in 1613. Japanese Christians were beheaded, burned alive or imprisoned. They responded with courage and a willingness to sing praises and preach the gospel even as they were led to their deaths.

Such was the brutality of the persecution that by 1630 the Japanese Church had been driven underground, and was thought to be lost. So, when missionaries arrived in the 19th century, they were astonished to find a community of Japanese Christians. It had survived for 250 years without clergy, churches, the Bible and only a sketchy idea of the Christian faith beyond one main thing: that Jesus Christ was Lord.

14 ASH WEDNESDAY – mourning our sins

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. But why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They mourned for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin. (See Genesis 18:27; 2 Samuel 13:19; Job 2:8, 30:19; Isaiah 58:5; Jeremiah 6:26; Jonah 3:6)

In the very early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19). Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

The collect for today goes back to the Prayer Book, and stresses the penitential character of the day. It encourages us with the reminder of the readiness of God to forgive us and to renew us.

The Bible readings for today are often Joel 2:1-2, 12 – 18, Matthew 6: 1-6, 16 – 21 and Paul's moving catalogue of suffering, "as having nothing and yet possessing everything." (2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10)

The actual custom of 'ashing' was abolished at the Reformation, though the old name for the day remained. Today, throughout the Church of England, receiving the mark of ashes on one's forehead is optional. Certainly the mark of ashes on the forehead reminds people of their mortality: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return..." (Genesis 3:19)

The late medieval custom was to burn the branches used on Palm Sunday in the previous year in order to create the ashes for today.

The Collect for Ash Wednesday is:

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

14 The very first Valentine card - a legend

The Roman Emperor Claudius II needed soldiers. He suspected that marriage made men want to stay at home with their wives, instead of fighting wars, so he outlawed marriage.

A kind-hearted young priest named Valentine felt sorry for all the couples who wanted to marry, but couldn't. So secretly he married as many couples as he could - until the Emperor found out and condemned him to death. While he was in prison awaiting execution, Valentine showed love and compassion to everyone around him, including his jailer. The jailer had a young daughter who was blind, but through Valentine's prayers, she was healed. Just before his death in Rome on 14 February, he wrote her a farewell message signed 'From your Valentine.'

So, the very first Valentine card was not between lovers, but between a priest about to die, and a little girl, healed through his prayers.

27 The Vicar's a Poet

On 27th February the Church Calendar celebrates George Herbert. For those who are muttering 'never heard of him', just think of the hymn 'Let all the world/

In every corner sing', which he wrote, along with several other hymns which are still popular, even if they are well over 300 years old. In the course of his short life he was a graduate of Cambridge University, a favoured politician of King James, a distinguished poet of the so-called 'metaphysical' school, and a much-loved parish priest at Bemerton, in Wiltshire.

He was born in Wales but grew up in a wealthy family in England. As a student he felt called to ordination, but when he graduated he was drawn instead into the government of the time. As a protégé of King James (yes, the one of the 'King James Bible') he could have pursued a career in government, but that youthful call persisted and after a while he turned instead to the ministry of the Church of England. It was an era when many clergy were absentee incumbents, paying someone else to do the parish work while they lived elsewhere, but Herbert set himself to be a true parish priest, noted for his pastoral care and practical support of his parishioners. The whole of his ministry was fulfilled in that one parish, until he died at 39 from what we would now call tuberculosis.

It is of course his hymns for which he is chiefly remembered today, though his Collected Poems are also regarded as jewels of English poetry.

All in the Months of February

It was:

80 years ago, on 4th Feb 1938, that German Chancellor Adolf Hitler fired foreign minister Konstantin von Neurath, and made himself the supreme commander of the armed forces.

Also 80 years ago, on 20th Feb 1938, that British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden resigned over Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's policy of appeasement with Italy.

Also 80 years ago, on 24th Feb 1938, that the first toothbrushes with nylon bristles were introduced, by Du Pont. Until then toothbrushes had been made from the hair of boars or hogs.

70 years ago, on 28th Feb 1948, that the last British Army regiment left India.

65 years ago, on 5th Feb 1953, that sweet rationing ended in Britain.

Also 65 years ago, on 28th Feb 1953, that British scientists Francis Crick and James D. Watson announced that they had discovered the double-helix structure of DNA.

60 years ago, on 6th Feb 1958, that the Munich air disaster took place. A plane carrying the Manchester United Football team, plus support staff and journalists, crashed while attempting to take off from a slush-covered runway at Munich-Riem Airport. 23 people were killed, including 8 players.

Also 60 years ago, on 6th Feb 1958, that George Harrison, aged 14, auditioned to join John Lennon's skiffle group the Quarrymen (which later became the Beatles). The audition reportedly took place on a bus, and Lennon felt that Harrison was too young.

Also 60 years ago, on 17th Feb 1958, that Pope Pius XII declared Saint Claire of Assisi (1194 – 1253) to be the patron saint of television. It was on the basis that she had been too ill to attend Mass, but had reportedly been able to see it and hear it on the wall of her cell.

50 years ago, on 19th Feb 1968, that the Thalidomide scandal's first compensation payments were awarded in Britain to 62 children born with deformities because their mothers had taken the drug during pregnancy. (Around 400 British children in all were affected.)

40 years ago, on 15th Feb 1978, that New Zealand beat England in a cricket match for the first time.

30 years ago, on 5th Feb 1988, that Comic Relief held its first Red Nose Day in the UK. It raised £15m for charity.

25 years ago, on 12th Feb 1993, that two ten-year-old boys abducted two-year-old James Bulger from a shopping centre near Liverpool. His mutilated body was found on a railway line nearby two days later. They were charged with abduction and murder.

20 years ago, on 23rd Feb 1998, that Osama bin Laden issued a fatwa against all Jews and Crusaders.

15 years ago, on 1st Feb 2003, that the US space shuttle Columbia disintegrated over Texas during re-entry, killing all seven astronauts.

Also 15 years ago, on 17th Feb 2003, that London's Congestion Charge scheme began.

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’ - Water

Open the door of any church and the first thing to greet you is the font. As you enter the porch to turn that door handle, there may be a holy water stoup set in the wall: both reminders of the sacrament of baptism that marks the beginning of the Christian journey.

In the church water is a symbol with two faces. One is the face of an enemy for it can be a destructive power. We can think of the engulfing water of the flood, consuming the earth, and the image of the Christian immersed and drowning in the water of baptism, dying to the old way to be raised to the new life of the spirit. But water is also a friend and an ally – a sign of life and refreshment, of washing and cleansing, of starting anew. We recall this twofold aspect when we cross ourselves with the water of the stoup or are sprinkled with water as we renew our baptismal promises at the Easter Vigil.



Around 1330 Andrea Pisano created a series of 28 glorious bronze panels for the south door of the 11th century baptistery in Florence. One of them depicts that crucial moment of the baptism of Jesus. He is up to his waist in the river. An angel kneels at one side with a towel, while John the Baptist stands at the other, pouring water on the head of Jesus as the Holy Spirit descends like a dove.

The baptism itself becomes a door – a door through which Jesus must pass to begin his ministry as the anointed one, and a door through which others must enter as they seek to follow. Jesus will go on to call disciples fishing in the water of the Sea of Galilee, just as he will tell a Samaritan woman about water that will gush up to eternal life. Jesus calls us and offers us this water – to be washed and refreshed by it. A door that will open out for us into a life of joy and service.

The Puzzle Pages

February 2018 Crossword

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

Across

- 1 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6)
- 4 'They threw the ship's — overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)
- 7 The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)
- 8 He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)
- 9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)
- 13 Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3)
- 16 What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)
- 17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)
- 19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — — I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1-2) (5,3)
- 24 Simon had (anag.) (8)
- 25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)
- 26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)
- 27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

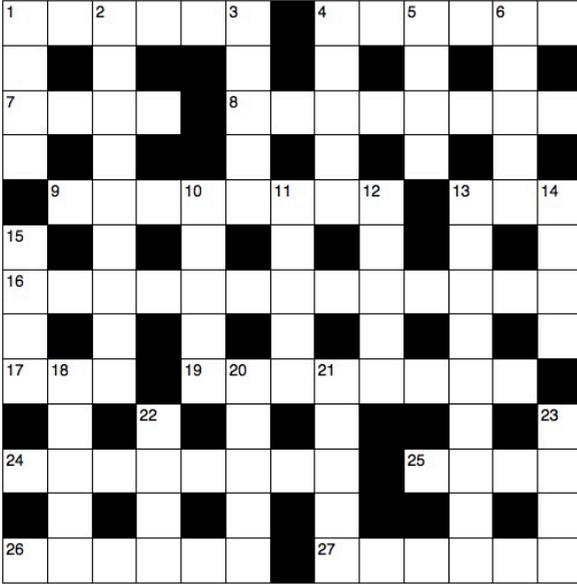
Down

- 1 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)
- 2 Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)
- 3 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5)
- 4 Belief (5)
- 5 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant — ' (Exodus 30:23) (4)
- 6 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)
- 10 A seer (anag.) (5)
- 11 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)
- 12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)
- 13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)
- 14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of
- 16 Across, — and Dolls (4)
- 15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)
- 18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)
- 20 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)

21 The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5)

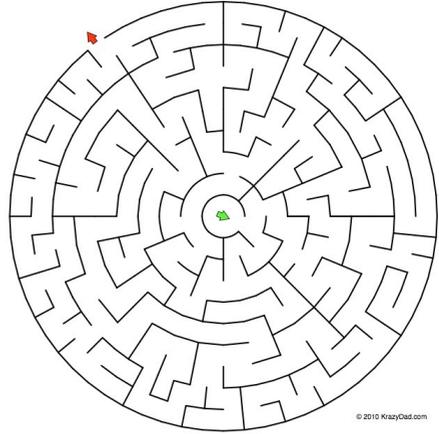
22 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13) (4)

23 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end' (Daniel 5:26) (4)



February 2018 Maze

Start in the centre and exit at the top left

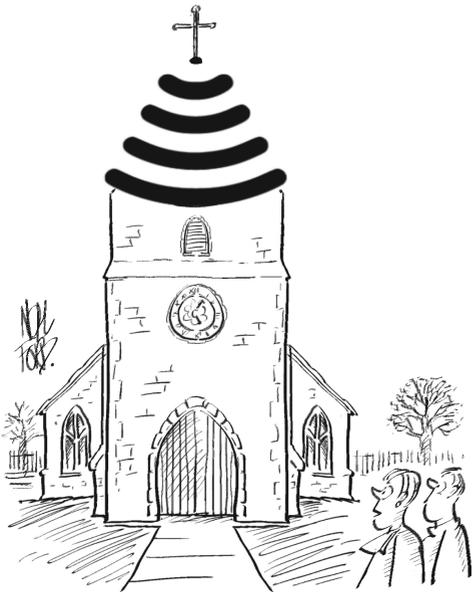


		3		8			2	
8	7		2	9	3			
	4	2	6			5		
5	1			3			7	4
2	3						9	5
7	8			4			3	6
		7			9	4	1	
			4	5	1		6	7
	9			6		3		

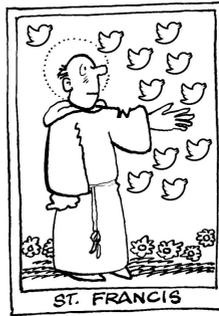
February 2018 Sudoku

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

Solution to the January 2018 Sudoku



"Looks like they've introduced contactless payments for their collections."



He's been updated. He's now the patron saint of tweeting!

J E STACEY & CO

FUNERAL DIRECTORS PRIVATE CHAPEL OF REST

CARING, PERSONAL ATTENTION
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
24 HOURS A DAY
PRE-PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE



15 BODMIN ST
HOLSWORTHY
DEVON EX22 6BD

CONTACT KELVIN ISAAC
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 01409 253 555
OUT OF OFFICE HOURS: 01409 254 256

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



February 2018 Crossword Solution

ACROSS: 1, Credit. 4, Tackle. 7, Cain. 8, Kenaniah. 9, Strength. 13, Beg. 16, Salvation Army. 17, ARC. 19, Every day. 24, Admonish. 25, Dire. 26, Sneeze. 27, Bronze.

DOWN: 1, Cock. 2, Epistolic. 3, Taken. 4, Tenet. 5, Cane. 6, Leave. 10, Erase. 11, Guide. 12, Honey. 13, Barbarian. 14, Guys. 15, Asia. 18, Rod in. 20, Voice. 21, Rahab. 22, Hope. 23, Mene.

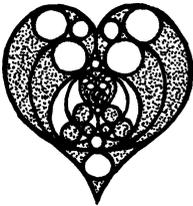
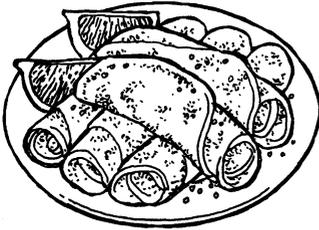
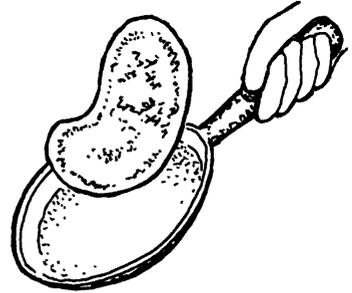
Some Very Useful Numbers

Holsworthy Benefice Priest-in-Charge:

Mother Elizabeth Burke, The Rectory, Bodmin Street, Holsworthy, EX22 6BH
01409 255490 or 07990 978485

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
Email
Phone 01288 381700



February 2018

Supporting our Advertisers

The advertisers in this magazine cover the cost of production so that we are able to distribute it free of charge. Whilst pleased to welcome advertisements, the PCC's of the United Churches of the Holsworthy Benefice cannot offer endorsement of any specific advertiser or event.

...but if you respond to one of our advertisers please tell them you saw their advert in our Parish Magazine.