

# HOLSWORTHY MISSION COMMUNITY NEWS

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## ROGATION

Rogation comes from the Latin word 'Rogare' - to ask. In the strictly biblical context, the chief thing to ask for is the spirit of God to enable us to be true children of God. The old Roman festival of 'Terminilia' or 'boundaries' was adapted by the church and became a service and procession – the 'Beating of Bounds'. The rogation themes of blessing the fields and beating the bounds were commended in the 1630s by the poet George Herbert, that epitome of English Country Parsons. He said that processions should be encouraged for four reasons:

- 1) A blessing of God for the fruits of the field,
- 2) Justice in the preservation of bounds,
- 3) Charity in loving, walking and neighbourly accompanying one another with reconciling of differences at the time if there be any,
- 4) Mercy, in relieving the poor by a liberal distribution of largesse, which at the time is or ought to be used.

## AROUND THE BENEFICES:

**ASHWATER:** Wednesday 9th of May 7.30pm in Ashwater Church Johnnie Cowling Gospel night with the Arscott Ladies to book please contact Rev. Jane 01409211205 or Emma Kirk 01409 211844

**Saturday 19th May** Barn Dance at Halwill Parish Hall at 7pm. Family fun just turn up.

**26th May** Coffee Morning at Beaworthy Church 10.30am

**26th May** Tetcott Village Hall Big Breakfast at 9-11am

**Radio Devon** will broadcast its early morning service from **St Alban's Beaworthy** on **June 24th** to celebrate re-roofing and St Alban's day. Recording is likely to take place on 20th May in our church at 11am - come and join us!

**BLACK TORRINGTON:** Friday 4th May 10.00am Cake and Coffee, Black Torrington Chapel

**Saturday 5th May 10.30am - 12noon** St Peter's Church, Thornbury Coffee Morning in the Church

**Saturday 12th May 10.00am** Saturday Church at Bradford Village Hall. Theme: **Secret Signs?**

We have songs, stories, prayers, crafts, games, a lending library and good things to eat! A short informal Holy Communion service takes place after Saturday Church at about 11.15am in the committee room. All are welcome.

Further information from **Morag Lobley 01409 281800.**

**Saturday 26th May 10.00 am - 12.00 noon** Black Torrington Table Top Sale, to be held in the Village Hall. Stalls, Bacon Baps, Tea and Coffee and Raffle. Free Admission.

*In aid of the Benefice Churches*

## Rogation (continued)

Today the emphasis has shifted. A blessing on growing crops in fields and gardens, and on young lambs and calves remain. Sowing is done all the year round, as is the birth and rearing of the young, but it is convenient to fix on one particular festival as the time to remember these before God in a public way. Rogation takes place in the springtime, when there is a renewing of the earth. In this country it follows Easter, the season of resurrection. Renewal and resurrection are also underlying themes of this occasion.

Contemporary concerns will include: the enjoyment by all of, and access to the countryside; conservation of species not directly offering economic profit to the owner or occupier of the land where they flourish; the ecological insight of the inter-relatedness of the created order; reflection upon human-kind's relationship to the natural order; what it means to have 'dominion' under God over the fish, the birds, the cattle, the wild animals, the plant bearing seed, the tree bearing fruit, the green plants; the relief of the poor (Rogation Sunday often precedes Christian Aid week) and the needs of the farming community, especially in time of crisis and hardship. The Christian virtues associated with Rogation are HOPE, JUSTICE and CHARITY.

**BRADWORTHY: Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May** - Sutcombe Church will host the Tamar Valley Guild of Ringers. There will be a Guild Service at 3.00pm followed by a meal (£8) at 4.00pm. During the Guild Service, the Bells of Sutcombe Church will be re-dedicated. All are most welcome; please contact Brenda Horn on **01409 241754** for catering.

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May** Bradworthy Coffee Morning and Jumble Sale in Church from **10.00am**

**HOLSWORTHY: Benefice Rogation Evensong: Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May 3.00pm**, St Petroc, Hollacombe

**Ascension Day Benefice Sung Eucharist: Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May, 7.00pm**, St Peter & St Paul, Holsworthy

**Patronal Festival: Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May, 12noon**, St Pancras, Pancrasweek

**Creative Church for Pentecost: Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May 4.00pm**, St Peter & St Paul, Holsworthy

**Corpus Christi Benefice Sung Eucharist and Procession: Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May 7.00pm**, St Peter & St Paul, Holsworthy

**Mistakes do happen ... to the best of Editors ...**

Next Sunday Mrs. Vinson will be soloist for the morning service. The pastor will then speak on "It's a Terrible Experience."

We are grateful for the help of those who cleaned up the grounds around the church building and the Rector.

Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Nelson's sermons.

During the absence of our pastor, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when J.F. Stubbs supplied our pulpit.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the church help.