



Holsworthy Benefice ~ News Sheet #5

Bridgerule, Hollacombe, Holsworthy and Pyworthy with Pancrasweek

31st Jan 2021 - Candlemas

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**Services are continuing in some church buildings and on Zoom.
This will be assessed week by week.**

Sunday Services in the Holsworthy Benefice				
	On Zoom	Hollacombe	Holsworthy	Pyworthy
31st Jan	9.30am Morning Prayer		11am Eucharist	
7th Feb	9.30am Morning Prayer	3pm BCP Evening Prayer	11am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer
14th Feb	9.30am Morning Prayer		11am Eucharist	
21st Feb	9.30am Morning Prayer		11am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer
28th Feb	9.30am Morning Prayer		11am Eucharist	

Also on Zoom - All welcome			
Tuesdays	7pm	Contemplative Prayer	Zoom details; https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82633460276? To listen by phone: 0131 460 1196 ID 826 3346 0276 Password: benefice
Wednesdays	3pm	Home Group - all about Jesus the carpenter	
Fridays	12 Noon	Midday Prayers	

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Sunday of Epiphany

For all who doubt, our PCC members,
all who live at Bailey Gardens,
Littlebridge Cross and Bridge Park, Bridgerule

Monday 1st February (Brigid, Abbess of Kildare)

For temperance

Tuesday 2nd February

That we may live good lives

Wednesday 3rd February (Anskar, Archbishop of Hamburg)

For justice

Thursday 4th February (Gilbert of Sempringham)

For a deeper commitment to mission

Friday 5th February

For the prophets of to-day

Saturday 6th February (The Martyrs of Japan, 1597

For Church Leaders

Accession of Queen Elizabeth 1952)

Text for the Week

Isaiah 42: 6

I am the LORD;
I have called you in righteousness;
I will take you by the hand and keep you.



The Bishop of Exeter has called for a Diocesan Day of Prayer for all schools across Devon on Tuesday 2 February.

It is hoped that churches and individuals will take time during the day to pray for school staff, pupils and families.

[Read the full story here.](#)

LENT COURSE 2021 ON ZOOM

Wednesdays 3-4pm

Living in Love and Faith

Starting Wednesday 24th February



Holsworthy Church is open during the day for individual prayer **everyday**
Pyworthy Church is open for individual prayer on a **Sunday and Wednesday**



IMPORTANT - Safeguarding Training

Following a review, the National Safeguarding Training modules have been amended and these changes are implemented within the Diocese of Exeter from January 2021. [Full details of the modules and training requirements are on the website.](#) Please check which modules are required for any roles you fulfil. **All the training is online at the moment. Please make the most of this.** A copy of the certificate on completing a module needs to go to the Safeguarding Representative for the church you are volunteering at. If you are unable to access the online modules and you are coming close to the three year renewal requirement do inform your Safeguarding Representative so that an alternative arrangement can be made.

Which safeguarding module(s) do I require for my role and function?

Role	Basic Awareness (C0)	Foundation (C1)	Local Leadership (C2)	National Leadership Pathway
Archdeacon	X	X		X
Licensed Lay Minister	X	X		X
Bell ringer	X			
Bell Tower Captain	X	X		
Caretaker	X			
Choir/Music group member	X			
Church administrator	X	X		
Churchwarden	X	X	X	
Clergy/Reader with PtO	X	X	X	
Director of Music	X	X		
Helper at children's/adults' activities	X	X		
Leader of children's/adults' activities	X	X		
Licensed Clergy	X	X		X
Licensed Reader	X	X		X
Ordinand	X	X		X
Parish/Cathedral Safeguarding Representative	X	X	X	
PCC member	X			
Reader in training	X	X		
Refreshment helper	X			
Safeguarding Lead on PCC	X	X	X	
Server	X			
Shop staff	X			
Sidesperson	X			
Spiritual Director	X	X		
Verger	X			
Welcomer	X			
Youth/Children's Worker	X	X		

1st February - St Bridget

A sacred fire burned in Kildare reaching back into pre-Christian times. Scholars suggest that priestesses used to gather on the hill of Kildare to tend their ritual fires while invoking a goddess named Brigid to protect their herds and to provide a fruitful harvest.

When Brigid built her monastery and church in Kildare she continued the custom of keeping the fire alight. For her and her nuns the fire represented the new light of Christianity, which reached Irish shores early in the fifth century. In Brigid's time, the number of her nuns who tended the flame was nineteen. On the 20th day, Brigid tended it herself.

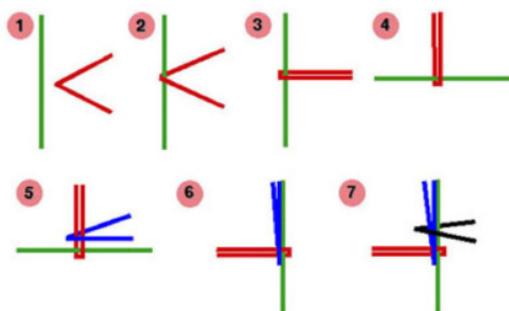


The sacred flame survived possibly up to the suppression of the monasteries in the sixteenth century. In 1993 the flame was re-lit in the Market Square, Kildare, by Sr. Mary Teresa Cullen, then congregational leader of the Brigidine Sisters.

Kildare County Council commissioned a sculpture to house the flame in Kildare Town Square in 2005. President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, presided at the lighting of the Perpetual Flame in the Town Square on St. Brigid's Day 2006. This flame was lit from the flame tended by the Brigidine Sisters in Solas Bhride. The Brigid Light is still guarded and tended in Solas Bhride as it was in Kildare many centuries ago by the Sisters of St Brigid. The flame burns as a beacon of hope, justice and peace for Ireland and our world.

St. Brigid is said to have invented the cross herself while attending a sickbed and picking up rushes from the floor to craft them into a sacred cross.

Cross of St Brigid (9/16 grasses/reeds/strips of cardboard & four ties) see here for a video - <https://scoil-bhride.com/how-to-make-a-st-brigid-cross/>
Hold one of the reeds vertically. Fold a second reed in half as in the diagram. Place the first vertical reed in the centre of the folded second reed. Hold the centre overlap tightly between thumb and forefinger. Turn the two rushes held together 90 degrees anti-clockwise so that the open ends of the second reed are pointing vertically upwards. Fold a third reed in half and over both parts of the second reed to lie horizontally from left to right against the first straw. Hold tight. Holding the centre tightly, turn the three reeds 90 degrees anti-clockwise so that the open ends of the third reed are pointing upwards. Fold a new reed in half over and across all the rushes pointing upwards. Repeat the process of rotating all the rushes 90 degrees anti-clockwise, adding a new folded reed each time until all rushes have been used up to make the cross. Secure the arms of the cross with elastic bands. Trim the ends to make them all the same length. The St Brigid's Cross is now ready to hang.



2nd February - Candlemas

Luke 2.22-40 - Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

How did this 2nd February come to be called Candlemas?

It was the day of the year when all the candles, that were used in the church during the coming year, were brought into church and a blessing was said over them - so it was the **Festival Day** (or 'mass') **of the Candles**.

Candles were important in those days not only because there was no electric lights. Some people thought they gave protection against plague and illness and famine. For Christians, they were (and still are) a reminder of something even more important. Before Jesus came to earth, it was as if everyone was 'in the dark'. People often felt lost and lonely. Afraid. As if they were on their own, with no one to help them. Then came Jesus with his message that he is with his followers always ready to help and comfort them. As if he is a guiding light to them in the darkness. Christians often talk of Jesus as 'the light of the World' - and candles are lit during church services to remind Christians of this.



When to the temple Mary went by Johannes Eccard (for the music click on the title)

When to the temple Mary went,
And brought the Holy Child,
Him did the aged Simeon see,
As it had been revealed.
He took up Jesus in his arms
And blessing God he said:
In peace I now depart,
my Saviour having seen,
The Hope of Israel, the Light of men.

Help now thy servants,
gracious Lord,
That we may ever be
As once the faithful Simeon was,
Rejoicing but in Thee;
And when we must from earth departure take,
May gently fall asleep
and with Thee wake.

The flower called snowdrop appears in February and is a symbol of hope. According to legend, the snowdrop became the symbol of hope when Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden. When Eve was about to give up hope that the cold winters would never end, an angel appeared. She transformed some of the snowflakes into snowdrop flowers, proving that the winters do eventually give way to the spring.



There is an old rhyme which says:

"The Snowdrop, in purest white array, First rears her head on Candlemas day."

Sunday

31 January 2021 Presentation of Christ in the Temple

COLLECT

Almighty and ever-living God,
clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was this day
presented in the Temple,
in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Malachi 3:1-5

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

Thus says the LORD God: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

PSALM Psalm 24:[1-6] 7-end

R *The Lord of hosts: he is the King of glory.*

[The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it,
the compass of the world and all who
dwell therein.

For he has founded it upon the seas
and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep. **R**

"Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord,
or who can rise up in his holy place?"
"Those who have clean hands and a pure
heart,

who have not lifted up their soul to an idol,
nor sworn an oath to a lie; **R**
"They shall receive a blessing from the Lord,
a just reward from the God of their
salvation."
Such is the company of those who seek him,
of those who seek your face, O God of
Jacob. **R]**

Lift up your heads, O gates;
be lifted up, you everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.
"Who is the King of glory?"
"The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord who is mighty in battle." **R**

Lift up your heads, O gates;
be lifted up, you everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.
"Who is this King of glory?"
"The Lord of hosts,
he is the King of glory." **R**

SECOND READING Hebrews 2:14-end

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Since the children share flesh and blood,
Jesus himself likewise shared the same
things, so that through death he might
destroy the one who has the power of
death, that is, the devil, and free those
who all their lives were held in slavery
by the fear of death. For it is clear that
he did not come to help angels, but the
descendants of Abraham. Therefore he
had to become like his brothers and
sisters in every respect, so that he might
be a merciful and faithful high priest in
the service of God, to make a sacrifice
of atonement for the sins of the people.
Because he himself was tested by what he
suffered, he is able to help those who are
being tested.

GOSPEL Luke 2:22-40

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.*

When the time came for their purification
according to the law of Moses, Mary and
Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to
present him to the Lord (as it is written
in the law of the Lord "Every firstborn
male shall be designated as holy to
the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice
according to what is stated in the law of

the Lord, "a pair of turtle-doves or two
young pigeons." Now there was a man in
Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this
man was righteous and devout, looking
forward to the consolation of Israel, and
the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been
revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he
would not see death before he had seen
the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit,
Simeon came into the temple; and when
the parents brought in the child Jesus,
to do for him what was customary under
the law, Simeon took him in his arms and
praised God, saying, "Master, now you
are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word; for my eyes
have seen your salvation, which you have
prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles and
for glory to your people Israel." And the
child's father and mother were amazed
at what was being said about him. Then
Simeon blessed them and said to his
mother Mary, "This child is destined for
the falling and the rising of many in Israel,
and to be a sign that will be opposed so
that the inner thoughts of many will be
revealed – and a sword will pierce your
own soul too." There was also a prophet,
Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe
of Asher. She was of a great age, having
lived with her husband seven years after
her marriage, then as a widow to the age
of eighty-four. She never left the temple
but worshipped there with fasting and
prayer night and day. At that moment
she came, and began to praise God and
to speak about the child to all who were
looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.
When they had finished everything
required by the law of the Lord, they
returned to Galilee, to their own town
of Nazareth. The child grew and became
strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour
of God was upon him.

POST COMMUNION

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and
Anna,
who lived to welcome the Messiah:
may we, who have received these gifts
beyond words,
prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he
comes to bring us to eternal life;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.