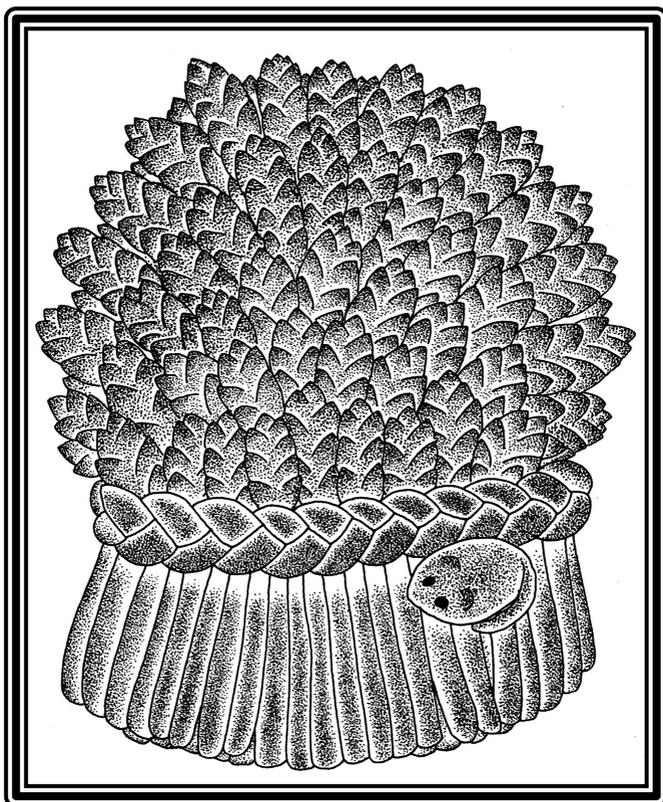


The Holsworthy Benefice Magazine October 2018

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



www.holsworthybenefice.org.uk

Find us on Facebook



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Contents

Church Contacts	2
Contents	3
Not from The Rectory	4
News From The Churches In Our Benefice	6
General News from the Parish Pump	8
All in the Month of October	12
Service Chart for October 2018	14
Liturgical Acts: How and Why?	16
St. James-the-Least-of All	18
Diary of a Momentous Year October 1918	20
High Days and Holy Days in October	21
God in the Arts	23
The October Puzzle Pages	24
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

From the rectory

Holidays over and the leaves beginning to drop we turn our attention to giving thanks to God. It's Harvest Festival time, a time when we rejoice and give thanks for all that God has given us. Harvest, like Christmas and Easter is a time when our churches become full. It's a time of celebration and sharing what we have with others.

Harvest services et al;

- 5th October ~ 1.30pm Holsworthy Primary School, Holsworthy Parish Church
~ 7.30pm Pancrasweek, Village Hall
- 6th October ~ 4pm Pyworthy Parish Church - Blessing of Animals
- 7th October ~ 9.30am Holsworthy Parish Church
~ 11am Bridgerule Methodist Chapel
~ 4.30pm Holsworthy Parish Church - Launch of the Friends
- 10th October ~ 7.00pm Holsworthy Harvest Supper - Ticket needed.

In some parts of the world the numbers of people going to church is increasing like China and parts of Africa. Here in the UK the Church is having to face the decline of people attending church to worship God. And it is no different here in the Holsworthy Benefice. You could say that our local Church feels like it is in its Autumn years. Yet we always know that spring will return however bad the onset of winter. In nature the old sometimes has to die away for the new to spring forth - just think of our wonderful oak, horse chestnut and beech trees.

In our gardens and on farmland we often assist the plants by adding to the resources already provided. Extra nutrients are added to the soil. We water in hot weather and protect in the cold months. Our churches across the benefice of Bridgerule, Hollacombe, Holsworthy, Pancrasweek and Pyworthy, are very grateful for the additional help they receive from the parish communities.

It is getting increasingly hard to ensure communities continue to have a parish church due to financial pressures. In years gone by many people went to church and they all contributed to its upkeep and running. Congregations across the country have greatly diminished and this area is no different. Those that regularly attend church are no longer able to sustain the running costs of the churches. The Church is there for the whole community and as such it needs the whole community to support it. Gift days and donations are incredibly important for the churches survival in our communities.

On the news recently you may have heard about investments the church has and wonder why it's unable to look after itself. Holsworthy Benefice is already highly

subsidised by the central church and would have been in greater financial trouble, much earlier, if this was not so.

Due to the diminished congregation being unable to sustain the cost of running the church we are launching the friends of St Peter and St Paul's parish church. Over the last twelve years Holsworthy church has only had enough income to pay all its bills once. That was in 2014. If you feel it is important to have a parish church, there for everyone who needs it for funerals, weddings, and for occasions like Remembrance Sunday, please do come along to the Friends launch on Sunday 7th October at 4.30pm in the parish church. The launch will be a reception with drinks and nibbles and a short harvest celebration. It is also a day when you can make a financial gift to Holsworthy church.

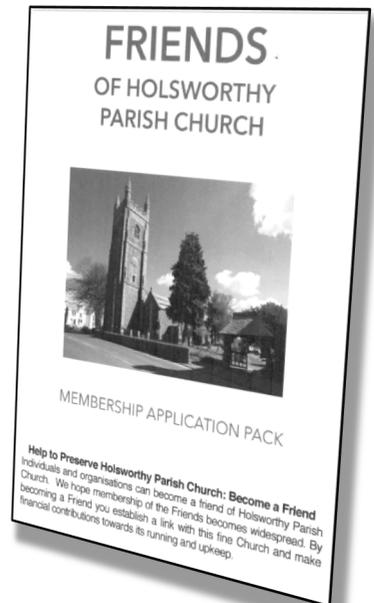
As we celebrate harvest, and autumn becomes more noticeable, and there might be a lowering of spirits, due to the change in weather and the shortening of days, let us pull together in our celebrations of what we have and remember John 12. 24; 'Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.'

We have been blessed with much fruit and I'm sure there is much more fruit to come.

Mother Elizabeth

To become a friend please pick up a Friends Pack from the church (just inside the door) or request one from Mother Elizabeth 01409 255490 or 07990 978485 or the Church Secretary, Carol Weston 01409 259371

Please see page 2 for their email addresses.



News from the Churches in our Benefice

St. Peter and St. Paul, Holsworthy

by Bob Beckford

Harvest Sung Eucharist

Our Harvest Sung Eucharist will take place on Sunday 7th October at 9.30am. Please bring non-perishable items for placing at the altar. These will be added to those given by children at Holsworthy Primary School who will be having their harvest festival in church on Friday October 5th at 1:30pm.



Harvest Supper

The Harvest Supper, which was enjoyed by so many last year, will again take place in the Market Hall at 7:00pm on Wednesday October 10th. There will be live musical entertainment during the evening by the Bude Trio. This is a ticket only event because space is limited so please don't leave it too late before purchasing your ticket, we would not want you to be disappointed.

Cider and soft drinks will be provided, if you prefer beer or wine we ask that bring your own along. Tickets at £10 each can be purchased in church.

St. Petroc, Hollacombe

by Margaret Stacey

Harvest

The Harvest Thanksgiving Service this year was not quite as well attended as in past years. Being a fortnight later than our usual date (2nd Sunday in September) which was picked 30 years ago so as not to clash with many of our



neighbouring churches, chapels and villages, this time we were competing with several other such events. None the less, we had a two thirds full church and everyone enjoyed themselves and after the service the usual banter with the auction followed by pasty and cider and homemade fare supper served by the ladies of the church.

One of the window arrangements by Julie Isaac

John Grainger

It is with great sadness that we are soon to say farewell to one of our Churchwardens, Mr John Granger. I am sure many of you know him through church events and as a vet having been in this area for over 50 years. Together with his wife Sheila, they have worked tirelessly in the parishes they have lived in for the church and community. Much could be written but I am sure you all know John, and Sheila, and have your own fond memories of them both and the family growing up and making their way in the world.

We will miss you at Hollacombe John, always ready with good sound advice, the benefit of your experience and a helping hand. We wish you and Sheila Good Luck and a Happy('full!?) retirement in your new home. We think you will still be doing something.

A personal Thank You from me to Sheila, always happy to help whenever possible with an extra voice in the choir. I am sure you will soon find a slot in your new area.

Mrs Irene Reader

Mrs Irene Reader nee Braund one time organist at Hollacombe was laid to rest at Hollacombe on Monday 19th September following a funeral service at SS Peter and Paul Church, Holsworthy . The service was led by Rev Jane Lucas, Rural Dean. Irene is buried near the church door with her husband, who predeceased her 2 years ago, and her parents.

Services in October at Hollacombe

Sunday 7th 3:00pm Sung Evensong (BCP) Rev. Elizabeth Burke

Sunday 21st 9:30am Sung Eucharist (BCP) Rev. Stuart Wilson

A Personal Note from Margaret

Dear Editor,

May I through the pages of the Benefice Magazine thank the Congregation and Choir of SS Peter and Paul most sincerely for the lovely card and generous cheque delivered to me this morning by Rev Elizabeth. A pleasant surprise as I had not expected anything.

My Sundays now are 'different' and have been glad so far to have more time to tend to the usual chores. No doubt I will see you all around quite often.

My Best wishes to you ALL,

Margaret.

St. Pancras, Pancrasweek

By Robert Wright

**Funding raised by
The National Lottery**



and awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund



National Lottery Grant

The church of St Pancras, Pancrasweek has received a confirmed National Lottery grant of £248,000 for the restoration of the roof project, and the associated work. Thanks to money raised by National Lottery players, the project aims to extend the life of this outstanding Grade2* building for generations to come, with replacing the roof slates and timbers, leadwork and gutters, together with heating, toilet and small kitchen.

The church is situated on the hill and is clearly visible from the Bude to Holsworthy road where it proudly stands overlooking the river Tamar and west Cornwall. It dates in part from the 12th century, with later additions, has a twelfth century granite font and some relics of 15th century pew ends; there is a peal of six bells. It has served the rural community as a focal point for many centuries, and was last re-roofed in 1900, with funding from the Wickett family, formerly of Pancrasweek, who had emigrated to Canada, and made their fortune from oil discovery. This work will ensure its continuation for many years to come, and the people of the parish are grateful to the National Lottery players. The church will be closed until the end of March next year, and the monthly services will be held in the adjacent village hall.

It may be that you were married at St Pancras Church, or have relatives buried there, and you might like to consider making a donation toward the refurbishment of the building – if so, please contact the Treasurer, Robert Wright on 07771 643350.

General News From The Parish Pump

Your Help is Wanted at Holsworthy Community College

Holsworthy Community College is a key part of the local area and all the main components are trying their best to promote and improve this excellent school. Holsworthy Parent Teachers & Friends Association (PTFA) are playing their part but need more help and support to do the thing they love doing most.....providing some much needed cash for the teachers and students of HCC !

Schools nowadays need as much help as they can get and HCC is no different but sometimes just 2 or 3 people can make an amazing difference !

Anybody who feels they could give some small amounts of time to the PTFA would be very welcome and please feel free to contact the Secretary, Linda Moran on linbmoran@hotmail.com

Holsworthy WWI 100 years – To the Memory of the Fallen and the Future of the Living

Holsworthy Town Council is inviting other local community organisations to organise a series of events to commemorate, thank and remember all those individuals who were involved in World War One.



2018 marks 100 years since the end of WWI

One of the ambitious aims of the project is to turn Holsworthy into the “Poppy Town” of Devon, but we also want the surrounding parishes to be a part of these activities. We want poppies to be everywhere, whether they are knitted, ceramic, cardboard etcno display can be too small and houses, gardens, shops need to be a blaze of poppy red from now onwards!

Information about the planned activities and poppy making is available on the HTC website, as well as posters in shops. Updates are on the website and on the HTC Facebook page.

We want to remember all the people who were involved in WWI, who lived in Holsworthy and the surrounding area. A permanent WWI Memorial Tree Trail will be planted in Stanhope Park with 39 trees to remember the 39 local service personnel who died during the war and the 40th tree, will represent all of those who survived and lived through this tough time.....this will take place in October.

In addition to the excellent event held in Stanhope Park on Saturday 29th September, the local schools and local organisations will have their own events over the next few months, which will be advertised individually.

Remembrance Sunday on 11th November 2018 will start as usual in Holsworthy Square, with a special agenda of activities for that very important day including the National Lighting of the Beacon which is to take place along the coast line of England. Holsworthy Town Council have signed up and are taking part in this momentous occasion. Please get in touch if you want more information about events in the next few months!

Holsworthy Town Council 01409 253312
townclerk@holsworthytowncouncil.gov.uk



Growing numbers of young people train as priests

Growing numbers of young people are seeking ordination to the priesthood, as the Church of England makes progress towards achieving a key target of recruiting more candidates for ordained ministry.

The number of people aged under 32 years old recommended for training for ordination this year rose by nearly a third, or 32%, to 169, compared to 128 in 2016, a report on vocations from the Church of England shows. This means nearly one in three, or 29%, of those entering training for the priesthood this year are expected to be under 32 years old.

The overall number of people recommended for ordination training is up 7% on last year, from 541 to 580. This follows a 14% increase the year before, putting the Church on course to achieving a key target of recruiting 50% more candidates for ordination by 2020.

The figures have been published alongside Ministry Statistics for 2017 showing just over 20,000 active clergy in the Church of England, with women making up nearly a third, or 30% of the total. But the number of clergy in paid positions in 2017 fell by 50 from 7,790 to 7,740 compared to 2016.

Nearly a quarter, or 23% of paid clergy in senior posts, such as Bishops, Cathedral Deans or Archdeacons were women in 2017, compared to 12% in 2012.

Meanwhile, the vocations report shows that women are set to be the majority entering ordination training for the second year running, with 54% of this year's recommended candidates being female.

Director of the Church of England's Ministry Division, Julian Hubbard, said: "I am delighted that the Church of England has seen a rise in the number of vocations to the priesthood for the second year running. We are particularly pleased to see the increase in the number of young women and men entering training.

Catherine Nancekivill, Head of Discipleship and Vocation for the Church of England, said: "The Church of England is investing in worshipping communities across the country from coastal towns to rural areas and urban housing estates.

This rise in vocations to ordained ministry is a welcome answer to our prayers and hard work across the country to ensure that we continue to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to every community."

The Church of England is aiming to achieve an increase in the diversity of those entering ministry and a 50% increase in the total number of candidates for ordained ministry by 2020. This is part of its Renewal and Reform programme .

Why women start businesses

Many women start businesses in order to help society in some way, rather than to simply make money.

According to recent research, 66 per cent of women said they had started a business to contribute to society, compared with just 39 per cent of men.

The study led by Aston University in Birmingham found that: ‘Women are more altruistic and tend to engage more in volunteering. They are more in tune with social needs in their communities. It’s not that they are not interested in the money. It is money *plus* something else...’

Free Bible Sunday resources

The end of this month, 28th October, is Bible Sunday. If you are looking for resources for either yourself and other adults, or youth, or children, you will find them free at the Bible Society’s website:

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/bible-sunday>

The notes are adaptable, so you can easily pick and mix the resources that best suit your context.

What is happening to our attention span?

Social media and video games are harming our young people’s minds. They are being so bombarded with instant gratification that, like young children, they need to have ‘something every moment to distract them.’

So says Baroness Greenfield, a senior research fellow at Oxford University. She refers to studies at Harvard and Princeton which found that students even preferred to give themselves electric shocks rather than face 10 minutes sitting quietly on their own. ‘People are no longer able to go into their own mind, think laterally and have their own thoughts.’

She predicts that in future, many people will end up emotionally stunted. ‘They are going to be like three-year olds: emotional, risk-taking, with poor social skills, weak self-identity and short attention spans.’ They will be become ‘more narcissistic, with lower self-esteem and higher depression rates’. Hospitals are certainly treating almost twice as many girls for self-harm as they did 20 years ago.

Lady Greenfield urges parents to read with their children, play sport with them, or do gardening together: ‘all activities with a beginning, a middle and an end, which cannot be rushed’.

Celebrating Paddington Bear’s 60th anniversary

Paddington Bear made his first appearance 60 years ago, on 13th Oct 1958, when the book *A Bear Called Paddington*, by Michael Bond, was published.

Paddington is of course a fictional, anthropomorphised bear who has featured in more than 20 books that have been translated into 30 languages and have sold more than 30 million copies. He has also starred in two major films and has been described as a worthy successor to Winnie the Pooh.

Though he comes from darkest Peru, and not heaven, he possesses many of the characteristics of Jesus, though falling short in some areas: he has a tendency, for instance, to get the wrong end of the stick. Nevertheless, he is always polite, kind-hearted, hospitable, generous and loving. One can even imagine Jesus giving some

people the Paddington “hard stare”, though it does not appear to be mentioned in the New Testament.

Paddington Brown – to give him the name of his adopted family – also has the gift of transforming other people’s lives through his own goodness.

A Paddington Bear soft toy was the first item passed through the Channel Tunnel by British tunnellers to their French counterparts when the link was made in 1994.

Halloween is on the way

It is that time of year again – when the pumpkins with scary faces appear in our shops, surrounded by skeleton costumes, zombie masks, witch’s hats and sweets with gruesome names.

How do Christian parents deal with this annual celebration of evil and death? For of course 31st October has pagan Celtic roots – it was the evening when the souls of the dead were meant to revisit their old homes on earth.

Most kids just want the fun of dressing up and scaring their friends half to death. They are oblivious to the darker forces behind it all, or at least do not take them seriously.

Many Christian families and churches have resolved the problem not by ignoring Halloween, but by taking it as only the starting point in a festival, not the end in itself. Hence, they allow their children to dress up, but then take them to a Lights Party, where the whole story is told, not just the pagan bit. Instead of discouraging any thoughts of evil and death, they encourage the children to consider the darkness – but through a Christian lens. Christians do not deny death and dying and evil, but they know that death has no real terrors for us at all, because it has been defeated through the cross and resurrection of Jesus. Halloween is only half the story: Christianity is the completion, because God in his love sent Jesus to save us from darkness.

So - Halloween is a time to remind our children that Jesus is with us in both the good and bad times of life.

All in the Month of October

It was:

80 years ago, on 30th Oct 1938 that Orson Welles’ famous radio adaptation War of the Worlds by H. G. Wells’ was broadcast in the USA. It allegedly caused nationwide outrage and panic as listeners thought the events described in the broadcast were real.

75 years ago, on 17th Oct 1943 that the Burma Railway (also known as the Death Railway of WW2) was completed. The Japanese built it using Asian labourers and

Allied prisoners-of-war, thousands of whom died. (One of the railway bridges is the famous Bridge over the River Kwai.)

60 years ago, on 13th Oct 1958 that the book 'A Bear Called Paddington' by British children's writer Michael Bond, was published. It marked the debut appearance of Paddington Bear.

50 years ago, on 5th Oct 1968 that a riot took place in Derry, Northern Ireland. A Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association march went ahead despite a government ban, as it took place at the same time as the loyalist Apprentice Boys. When the activists defied the ban, they were surrounded by Royal Ulster Constabulary and beaten. More than 100 people were injured, which sparked two days of rioting. The incident marked the beginning of the Troubles.

40 years ago, on 30th Oct 1978 that the Ugandan-Tanzanian war began which would see the downfall and ousting of Ugandan President Idi Amin (in April of the following year).

30 years ago, on 1st Oct 1988 that Mikhail Gorbachev became President of the Soviet Union.

10 years ago, on 7th Oct 2008 that the Financial Crisis began with an Icelandic bank that went into receivership. Within two days other banks began collapsing – and the crisis was underway.

The Breath of Fresh Air Lung Support Group

The Breath of Fresh Air lung support group meet on the 3rd Wed of the month at 2pm at Chilsworthy Village Hall. We have a varied and interesting programme of speakers and enjoy tea and biscuits for a voluntary donation of £1.

The next meeting will be on **Wed October 17th** again at Chilsworthy Village Hall with Guest Speaker John Green who is a Community Pharmacist working at the Ruby Country Medical Practice.

For further information contact Group Facilitator Wendy Millar on 01409 254085

Quotes No 1

- There are two kinds of friends: those who are around when you need them, and those who are around when they need you.
- Hurt people hurt people.

This chart was correct at the time we went to press. Please check on the back of your weekly service sheet for any last-minute changes or take a look at the Benefice Calendar on our website. www.holsworthybenefice.org.uk

Benefice Services for October - http://www.holsworthybenefice.org.uk/services/benefice-calendar/					
	Bridgerule	Hollacombe	Holsworthy	Pancrasweek	Pyworthy
5th Oct				7.30pm Harvest Thanksgiving and Supper	
6th Oct	4pm Creative Church - Pets and other Creatures service, Pyworthy - See posters				
7th Oct	11am Harvest Service in the Methodist Chapel	3pm BCP Sung Evensong	9.30am Harvest Eucharist 16.30 Friends Harvest Celebration and Reception		9.30am All Age Service
14th Oct	11.15am Morning Prayer		9.30am Sung Eucharist		11.15am Sung Eucharist
21st Oct	11.15am Sung Eucharist	9.30am BCP Sung Eucharist	9.30am Sung Eucharist		9.30am Morning Prayer
28th Oct	11.15am All Age Service		9.30am Morning Prayer	9.30am Eucharist with hymns	11.15am Sung Eucharist
Thur 1st Nov	7pm Benefice All Saints Eucharist at Holsworthy				
Fri 2nd Nov	10.30am Benefice All Souls Eucharist at Holsworthy				
4th Nov	11.15am Sung Eucharist	3pm Sung Evensong	9.30am Sung Eucharist		11.15am All Age Service 6pm All Souls Service
Not been to church before? or not in a while? Come and give it a go - everyone welcome. Come as you are.					

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Liturgical Acts: How and Why?

Answers on a post card from your Parish Priest

The Sign of the Cross

At the commemoration of the IWW I was asked about how to make the Sign of the Cross. Is it the right shoulder first or the left shoulder?

There is no right way and many different traditions!

The tradition in the West is we make the Sign of the Cross with the first two (or more) fingers of the right hand and the left shoulder is first (in the East they go to the right shoulder first).

- 1 Touch the mid-point of your forehead; then
- 2 Touch the lowest point of the rib cage
- 3 Touch the left shoulder; then;
- 4 Touch the right shoulder.

Some people in the Anglican church then;

- 5 Bring the fingers back to the centre to your chest.

The Church of Rome completes the Sign of the Cross at the right shoulder or by kissing the right thumb.

Why?

When we use words to pray, we are using only one form of the language capability with which God has imbued us. The body has its own language, of which making the Sign of the Cross is an eloquent expression.

Making the Sign of the Cross is a way of acknowledging joyfully the Blessed Trinity who indwells us. St Paul asked the people of Corinth; "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" (1 Cor. 3:16) Any time we sign the Cross, even without words, the Sign itself is a prayer.



Early in the twentieth century Baron Friedrich Von Hugel simply and beautifully illustrated the imperative nature of the body's language in the character of love. He said:

I kiss my child because I love my child. I also kiss my child in order to love my child.

When?

Whenever you want to; just like any other prayer. Jesus commanded us; “you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength” (Mark 12.30). Below are some of the times in church when people might Cross themselves.

Outset

When you enter the church, after dipping two fingers in the Holy Water

When you kneel to pray before a Service begins.

At the opening of the Office “O God, make speed to save us”

During the Eucharist;

The Absolution: At the words, “Have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you,”

When the celebrant announces the Holy Gospel; described in detail below

At the end of the The Creed.

At the end of praying for the dead.

When the celebrant elevates the Host and then the Chalice

The Epiclesis for the people to be filled with the Holy Spirit

Before receiving the bread and then before the wine

(Roman Catholics after receiving)

At the end of a service

The Benediction/blessing: “The Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, and the..”

or “Let us bless the Lord

The Gospel Crosses

The deacon (or priest as deacon) announces the Holy Gospel by saying (for example):

- (✠) Hear the Gospel
- ✠ of the Lord Jesus Christ (forehead~mind)
- ✠ according to (mouth~lips)
- ✠ St John (chest~heart)

Using their thumb, they trace the Cross on the text at the first word of the appointed Gospel (the first Cross illustrated above in brackets).

Using your thumb, join them in the last three Crosses, tracing them on your forehead, mouth and breast.

These three Crosses are a visible witness and silent prayer that you accept and profess the truth of the Holy Gospel with your mind, lips and heart.

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Resources used

<http://www.stgeorgeanglican.org>

October 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 the Harvest Supper

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Plans for our Harvest Supper always start several months in advance, with the annual argument about whether we dare increase the price of tickets by 20p to £1.50. After endless wrangling we compromise on 15p, with several warning that this will sound the death knell of Harvest. That every member of the committee cheerfully pays £50 a head to dine out elsewhere seems irrelevant.

Hotpots are provided by the ladies of the parish. It is always interesting to speculate on who has made which: some are robust and meaty, while others are wan and watery. Having sampled these dishes for the past 30 years, I can match each offering with the personalities

of their creators. It is also amusing to watch how the cooks manoeuvre to make sure the correct people receive their own dishes. Mrs Ffrench positively chases Lady Masterson with her hotpot.

After the meal, we proceed to what parishioners optimistically call the entertainment. I settle myself on the back row, smile, applaud - and think of the large gin awaiting me back at the Rectory.

Colonel Hetherington imagines that the consumption of a bottle of claret over the meal improves his intonation as he gives his annual rendition of "The Lost Chord". I can only assume the lost chords he refers to are the vocal ones he once possessed. Miss Simpson's jokes have been repeated so often that the audience enthusiastically joins in with every punch line. Miss Sprocker makes her annual (failed) attempt to hand around paper and pencils and hold 'a nice little quiz' - she was a primary teacher.

Meanwhile the ladies in the kitchen provide a musical accompaniment of crashing crockery and cutlery, which sadly drowns out all but the most tantalising snippets of their gossip about the rest of us.

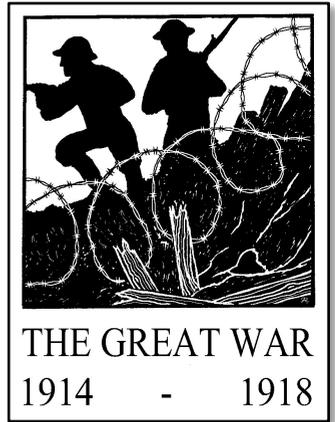
The evening always ends with the Major's recitation of "The boy stood on the burning deck". Before he can commence an un-requested encore, I surge up to the stage, thank all the performers, and wish everyone a safe journey home. The Major is left looking like a boy who had just had his lollipop stolen by the school bully. On reflection, that is quite an accurate analogy.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Diary of a Momentous Year: October 1918

October 1918 was the month when both sides, in their different ways, decided that they had had enough war. The Germans, following their defeat at Amiens, no longer had any hope of a strong negotiating position in peace talks, let alone victory. Their economy was struggling, and morale was low. The Allies, now sure of final victory, wanted it all over without further disastrous casualties. The politicians, fearful for their own futures, wanted time, but the generals were now calling the shots. The time had come for a ceasefire, then let the negotiating begin.



The military won this battle, at least. The word 'Armistice' was banded around: not a treaty, but simply (as the Latin word suggests) as a laying down of arms. The three most influential national leaders on the Allied side agreed, and the Germans and their dwindling band of associates had no choice but to go along with the solution. An Armistice was agreed for a memorable date: the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of the year. Following preliminary discussions, a negotiated treaty would be finalised at Versailles in the following January. Compared to Brexit, that is express progress!

The Armistice was, in some ways, simple. The guns would go silent, killing would cease from that designated hour. The Versailles negotiations, on the other hand, would be complex, though somewhat simplified by the fact that the Germans came naked to the table. They were desperate to save their land from occupation, whatever the cost. In fact, it cost them £6.6 million in reparations (probably about six billion pounds today).

Each of the Allies had important items for the peace agenda. France wanted Alsace-Lorraine restored to French sovereignty, and the Rhineland demilitarised. Britain wanted German military power negated and problems in the Middle East solved. The Americans wanted democracy restored and the will of the people recognised throughout Europe. The three leaders – David Lloyd George and Presidents Clémenceau and Woodrow Wyatt agreed about most of the agenda, including the carving up of The German colonial empire in Africa.

Peace would come at last, but not, as one wise man observed, the 'kiss of peace'.

High Days and Holy Days in October

4th St. Francis - and the Life of Simplicity

Just about the only thing most people know about Francis of Assisi is that he talked to the birds. Church-goers also know the popular hymn based on his famous prayer, 'Make me a channel of your Peace', which was sung at the funeral of Princess Diana.

However, Italy's patron saint, whose feast day is this month (the 4th) was a more complex, and some would say controversial character. His life spanned the end of the twelfth and beginning of the thirteenth centuries. He was born into a very wealthy family, but after what he called his 'conversion' standing before a crucifix. He renounced all his possessions. In fact, he stripped himself of his of his wealthy garments in a public square in his home-town, Assisi.

For the rest of his life he and his followers, including his feminine counterpart. St Claire longed, prayed and worked for a life of simplicity – a lifestyle without luxury or privileges. For the Franciscan brothers and the Poor Claires. This meant no private possessions at all. Francis saw that many poor people without these things, actually seemed to live happier and more fulfilling lives than the ambitious rich. He spoke of a simple life not shaped by money or power but by love and mutual concern. As his hymn says, 'it is in giving of ourselves that we receive'.

Of course, poverty; in our modern western world is seldom a matter of blissful simplicity, as present-day Franciscans recognise. For too many it is a matter of poor diet, over-crowded rooms, rough sleeping and unemployment. The call of today's followers of Francis and Claire is that those who are better-off should 'live more simply, so that others can simply live'. Christians follow a Master who said that he came with 'good news for the poor'. They believe that many of us today can be that good news.

18th St Luke the Evangelist – linking the sacred and the profane

To St Luke, a Gentile, we owe the beautifully written Gospel of Luke, and the Book of Acts. He was a Greek physician, a disciple of St Paul, a companion on some of his missionary journeys, and an inspired writer.

Luke's gospel focuses on the compassion of Christ. His gospel contains some of the most moving parables, such as the Good Samaritan and Prodigal Son. This, with his emphasis on poverty, prayer and purity of heart, make up much of his appeal to the Gentiles, for whom he wrote.

Women figure more prominently in Luke's gospel than any other: look out for the extended story of the Virgin Birth, and stories of Mary, Elizabeth, and the woman who was a sinner.

In Acts, Luke is remarkably good as linking sacred and profane history, as subsequent archaeology has shown. A principal theme of his Acts is how the early

Christians moved away from Jerusalem into the pagan world, and especially on to Rome.

Luke is the patron saint of doctors, surgeons and artists (due to his picturesque style of writing). His symbol is an ox, sometimes explained by reference to the sacrifice in the Temple at the beginning of his Gospel. In England 28 ancient churches were dedicated to him.

31st All Hallows Eve – or Holy Evening

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times.

In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun. For there was a very dark side to all this: Samhain also signalled the onset of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief. So the Druid priests lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers.

Then the Romans arrived, and brought their Harvest Festival which honoured the Goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts. The two festivals slowly merged. When Christianity arrived still later, it began to replace the Roman and Druid religions. 1st November - All Saints' Day - was dedicated to all Christian Martyrs and Saints who had died. It was called 'All Hallows' Day'. The evening before became an evening of prayer and preparation and was called 'All Hallows' Eve', The Holy Evening, later shortened to 'Halloween'.

For many centuries, however, fear of the supernatural remained strong. During the Middle Ages, animal costumes and frightening masks were worn to ward off the evil spirits of darkness on Halloween. Magic words and charms were used to keep away bad luck, and everybody believed that witches ride about on broomsticks. Fortune telling was popular, and predicting the future by the use of nuts and apples was so popular that Halloween is still sometimes known as Nutcrack Night or Snap-Apple Night.

Today, Christians have learned to turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.

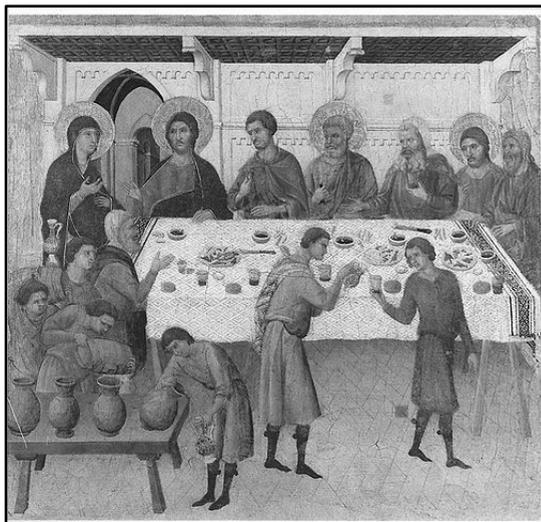
Quotes No 2

- You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.
- The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he can tell when he's really in trouble.

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' – Duccio's Wedding at Cana



'The conscious water saw its God and blushed' – in those words, the poet Richard Crashaw describes the first miracle of Jesus at the wedding feast in Cana.

This sign at the beginning of our Lord's ministry points ahead to that other meal when a cup of wine will be poured out for many. The cup is a rich image of life in scripture: from the cup found in Benjamin's sack in Genesis to the cup of blessing in Paul's letters. The cup may be filled with bitter wine to reflect life's

sorrow, while the cup of Psalm 23 overflows with goodness. It is as rich an image as the bunch of grapes we often see in a church window or carved on a screen – a sign of the goodness of Creation that brings us the gift of wine.

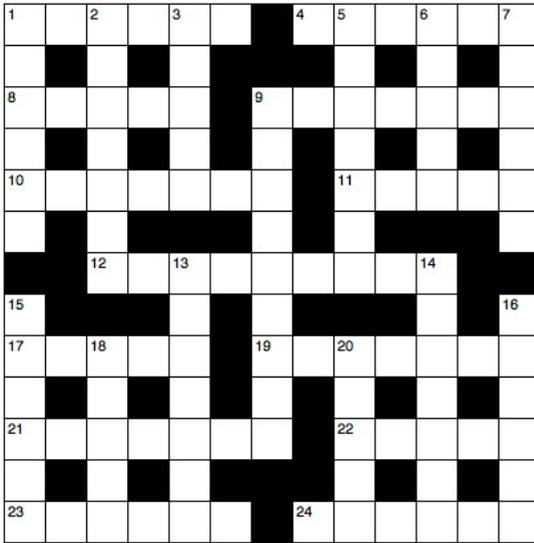
The wedding at Cana speaks to us of the generosity and gift of our Lord who transforms the feast. Duccio di Buoninsegna portrayed it in the panel he provided for the Maesta, the glorious altarpiece for Siena Cathedral in 1311. We see the table lavishly spread, while Jesus, sat by the side of His mother, blesses the water pots. The servants are busy pouring what is now wine into the jugs and cups. It is the new wine of the kingdom.

Everywhere that Jesus went, the old was made new. For the widow of Nain he changed tears into joy, for Zacchaeus selfishness into love, for the thief on the cross despair into hope, for Mary Magdalene the end of the road into a new journey. What our Lord did at Cana, He went on doing in His ministry, changing not just water, but transforming human lives. And we share in that transforming love at every eucharist as we drink of the cup of blessing. These are some words of the poet Elizabeth Jennings:

'Those grapes, ready for picking, are the sign
Of harvest and of Sacrament.'

The Puzzle Pages **October 2018 Crossword**

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



Across

- 1 Tertullus, who presented the high priest's case against Paul in his trial before Felix, was one (Acts 24:1) (6)
 4 As balm (anag.) (6)
 8 Having explored Canaan, he and Joshua urged the Israelites to take possession of it (Numbers 13:30) (5)
 9 On becoming king of Judah, he had all six of his brothers killed (2 Chronicles 21:4) (7)
 10 'Even the — has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself' (Psalm 84:3) (7)
 11 Banishment (Jeremiah 29:1) (5)

- 12 'And now I will show you the most — way' (1 Corinthians 12:31) (9)
 17 'Titus did not exploit you, did he? Did we not — the same spirit and follow the same course?' (2 Corinthians 12:18) (3,2)
 19 Mice den (anag.) (7)
 21 How Egypt is often described in the Old Testament: 'the land of —' (Exodus 13:3) (7)
 22 One of the first Levites to resettle in Jerusalem after the exile in Babylon (1 Chronicles 9:15) (5)
 23 'As a sheep before her shearers is —, so he did not open his mouth' (Isaiah 53:7) (6)
 24 Paul's birthplace (Acts 22:3) (6)

Down

- 1 Ravenous insect inflicted on Egypt in vast numbers as the eighth plague (Exodus 10:14) (6)
 2 Well-being (Philippians 2:20) (7)
 3 Small piece of live coal or wood in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (5)
 5 Sportsman or woman (2 Timothy 2:5) (7)
 6 The original name of Abraham's wife (Genesis 17:15) (5)
 7 'So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each — belongs to all the others' (Romans 12:5) (6)
 9 According to Peter, a wife's beauty should not come from wearing this (1 Peter 3:3) (9)
 13 'For God did not send his Son into the world to — the world' (John 3:17) (7)

- 14 'The Lord of heaven and earth...does not live in — built by hands' (Acts 17:24) (7)
- 15 'If your hand — you to sin, cut it off'(Mark9:43)(6)
- 16 Something like these fell from Saul's eyes as soon as Ananias placed his hands on him (Acts 9:18) (6)
- 18 Track(Job41:30)(5)
- 20 Religious doctrine(5)

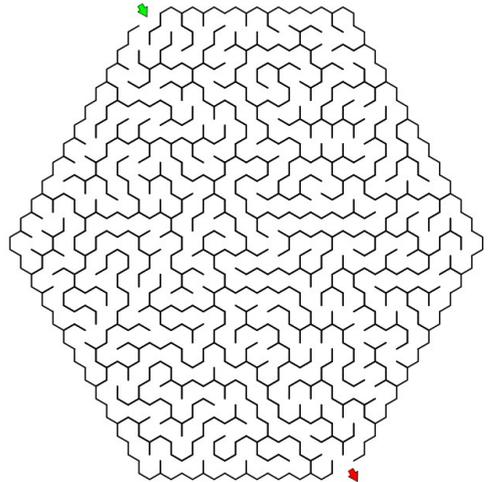
October 2018 Sudoku (Solution on page 28)

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

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October 2018 Maze

Start at top left and exit bottom right



Smile Lines

Say again?

Three elderly church ministers, all hard of hearing, were playing golf one sunny spring morning. The Methodist minister observed, 'Windy, isn't it?' 'No,' the Baptist pastor said, 'it's Thursday.' The Anglican vicar agreed: 'So am I! Let's go get a pint.'

Apples

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. A nun had posted a note on the apple tray, 'Take only ONE. God is watching.'

At the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cakes, next to which, in a child's handwriting, was a sign, 'Take all you want. God is watching the apples.'

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Thanks to digital technology, the vicar
never got the name wrong again



Every week they gathered for
Bible Study

October 2018 Crossword Solution

ACROSS:

1, Lawyer. 4, Balsam. 8, Caleb. 9, Jehoram. 10, Sparrow. 11, Exile. 12, Excellent. 17, Act in. 19, Endemic. 21, Slavery. 22, Galal. 23, Silent. 24, Tarsus.

DOWN:

1, Locust. 2, Welfare. 3, Ember. 5, Athlete. 6, Sarai. 7, Member. 9, Jewellery. 13, Condemn. 14, Temples. 15, Causes. 16, Scales. 18, Trail. 20, Dogma.

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elizabethmaburkeATicloud.com 01409 255490 or 07990 978485

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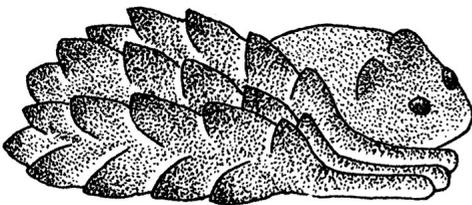
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