

# Holsworthy Benefice ~ News Sheet No 25

Bridgerule, Hollacombe, Holsworthy and Pyworthy with Pancrasweek

13th September 2020 ~ Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity (Proper 19)

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## SUNDAY WORSHIP IN THE HOLSWORTHY BENEFICE

	Holsworthy Open each day for prayer and reflection	Pyworthy	Zoom
13th Sep	11am Eucharist		9.30am Morning Prayer
20th Sep	11am Eucharist	9.30am Return to Church Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer
27th Sep	11am Eucharist		9.30am Morning Prayer
4th Oct	11am Eucharist	9.30am All Age Pet Service	9.30am Morning Prayer
<b>Zoom details;</b> <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82633460276?">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82633460276?</a> To join by phone: 0131 460 1196 ID 826 3346 0276 Password: benefice			

**Holsworthy  
Parish Church  
Gift Weekend**  
 Please give  
generously;  
 Bacs: Natwest  
Sort: 53-50-52  
 Account:  
05007216  
**Thank you**

## WORSHIP AND PRAYER ON ZOOM

Sundays	9.30am	Morning Worship	All on Zoom details below; <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82633460276?">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82633460276?</a> To join by phone: 0131 460 1196 ID 826 3346 0276 Password: <b>benefice</b>
Tuesdays	7pm	Contemplative Prayer	
Wednesdays	3pm	Home Group	
Fridays	12 Noon	Midday Prayer	

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

**14th Sunday after Trinity** For a greater sharing of the earth's resources, Pre-Schools and Nurseries  
All who live at Park Close and Foresters Road, Holsworthy

**Monday 14th September** (Holy Cross Day)

Trust in God

**Tuesday 15th September** (Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage)

For renewal

**Wednesday 16th September** (Ninian and Edward B Pusey)

Teachers

**Thursday 17th September** (Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen)

For those at war

**Friday 18th September**

Single people

**Saturday 19th September** (Theodore of Tarsus)

For those battling with addiction

## APCMs

PCC	Date of APCM	Time	Location
Bridgerule	Wed 7th Oct	7pm	Zoom
Hollacombe	Wed 7th Oct	2pm	Rectory and Zoom
Pyworthy	Wed 14th Oct	7pm	St Swithun's
Holsworthy	Thur 15th Oct	7pm	St Peter & St Paul's and Zoom if possible
Holding a meeting is TBC and will be subject to coronavirus guidelines & rules			

## Update on Covid-19 following the Government statement – “The Rule of Six”

Please note this statement from the Church of England Website:

*“I welcome confirmation from the Prime Minister that places of worship can still hold more than six people in total, despite the new restrictions on gatherings, and the reassurance that public worship can continue. We will continue to work with the Government on specific areas relating to our churches and church-based activities.”*

Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally.

## Please give generously to Holsworthy Parish Church:

### Holsworthy Parish Church Virtual Gift Day 12th & 13th September

Due to St Peter's fair having to be cancelled this year Holsworthy Parish Church Virtual Gift Day is going to be Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th September. If you value having a church and parish priest please do make a donation or for a bit of fun please buy Geronimo tickets as per below.

Donations can be put through the Rectory door or made by Bacs;

Bacs: Natwest Sort: 53-50-52 Account: 05007216

Reference: Gift Day

THANK YOU!



Geronimo is off to explore! Where he ends up nobody knows.  
Saturday 12th Sep at 3pm (or 13th if raining)

**Win a minimum of £100. Watch him live on Facebook.**

£10 a ticket

A square of the Rectory garden will be allocated per ticket and published on Face Book on the day prior to his exploring!

### Win 20% of the money raised or minimum £100

To enter;

- Via the church account, and email name, phone number and number of tickets  
Bacs: Natwest Sort: 53-50-52 Account: 05007216  
Reference: *Initial, surname* Geronimo  
Email: admin@holsworthybenefice.org.uk
- Post by hand, cash through the Rectory front door, Bodmin Street  
with details of name, phone number, and number of tickets
- Buy tickets from Mtr Elizabeth when you see her!

## September Holy Days

### 14<sup>th</sup> Sept Holy Cross Day

On Holy Cross Day the Church celebrates the Cross as a symbol of triumph, as the sign of Christ's victory over death. Holy Cross Day goes right back to 14 September 335, and we have the mother of a Roman Emperor to thank for it.

Helena was a devout Christian, and after her son, Constantine, was converted, they agreed that she should travel from Rome to Israel, and seek out the places of special significance to Christians.

Of course, much of Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Romans around 135 AD. But even so, Helena finally located what she believed to be the sites of the Crucifixion and of the Burial (and modern archaeologists think she may well be correct). The sites were so close together that she built one large church over them - the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. That church, built in honour of the Cross, was dedicated on 14 September 335.

The sign of the Cross has been used by Christians since early times. Tertullian, writing his *De Corona* (3:2) around AD 211, noted that Christians seldom did anything significant without making the sign of the cross.

What is its significance? Well, people often put their initials or some sort of personal mark on something to show that it belongs to them. The Cross is the personal mark of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we mark it on ourselves as a sign that we belong to him. Even in the book of Revelation, we read that the servants of God are 'sealed' or 'marked' on their foreheads as a sign that they are His.

A preacher once put it this way: if you were explaining to someone how to make a cross, you would say: "Draw an I." That is you standing before the Lord, saying, 'here I am'. Then cancel that vertical stroke with a horizontal stroke – as if to say: "Lord, I abandon my self-will and make you the centre of my life instead. I abandon myself to your love and service."

On Holy Cross Day, we recall Jesus' wonderful promise: "And when I am lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." (John 12:32)

### 16<sup>th</sup> Sept Cornelius – the saint who had mercy on sinning Christians

Have you ever sinned since you became a Christian? *Really* sinned – or in other words done something that was SO wrong and totally 'out of line' with being a Christian that you are still ashamed when you think of it now. If so, and if you went on to ask God's forgiveness for it, and have resolved never to do it again, then Cornelius is a good saint for you. He fought for Christians who had failed miserably to be given a second chance.

The time was 251, and Cornelius had just become Bishop of Rome. The Church at this time was struggling with what to do about Christians who had lapsed, and who now wanted to come back. Novation, a powerful Roman priest, argued that the Church had no power to pardon and welcome back any Christian who had caved in under persecution, or who had committed adultery or murder or similar serious offences.

Cornelius disagreed, and said that if a Christian truly repented and did the appropriate penance to prove it, then they should eventually be admitted back into the Church. The argument might sound over-earnest to modern ears, but it reflects how seriously the early Christians took their commitment to follow Jesus in leading a holy life, and in being willing to die for Him. In the end, that is exactly what Cornelius did – accepted death as the next persecution began, rather than deny Him.



*The bishops had formed a 'support bubble' all on their own.*



*Editor: The Rev Michael Burgess continues his series on animals and birds as seen in art and scripture... this month he considers 'The Madonna of the Goldfinch' by Raphael. It hangs in the Uffizi in Florence. The graphic comes from Wiki Commons and is understood to be in the public domain.*

### **He gave us eyes to see them: 'The Madonna of the Goldfinch' by Raphael**

The weeks and months of lockdown have been difficult and testing times for many of us, but they have also provided the opportunity to look afresh at the world of nature. With less traffic on the roads, less air pollution, and less noise pollution, the sky has somehow seemed bluer and the bird song more joyful and confident.

It is appropriate that we focus this month on one such bird noted for its liquid, tinkling song - the goldfinch. In this month we also celebrate the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on 8 September, and so the painting is 'The Madonna of the Goldfinch' by Raphael.

Raphael was only 37 years old when he died in 1520, but his work is marked by maturity

and great beauty. No more so than in this painting which shows Mary with a young Jesus and John the Baptist. You could easily miss the tiny bird which is carefully held by John and gently stroked by Jesus, who has one foot resting on His mother's. It is an intimate, tender scene which was painted in 1505 as a wedding gift for Lorenzo Nasi. It was badly damaged by an earthquake in 1548, painstakingly restored in the early part of this century, and now hangs in the Uffizi in Florence.

As we look, we rejoice in the grace and simplicity of the scene. We look again and ask ourselves 'Why a goldfinch?' The bird has a red spot on its head, and legend tells that the goldfinch flew down to the cross of Calvary to take a thorn from the crown of thorns. As it pulled the thorn in its beak, its head was splashed with a drop of blood.

And so this painting of gentleness and innocence opens out into a wider canvas of redemptive love. Our thoughts move from infancy to the cross. Mary, sat on a rock, is reading 'The Throne of Wisdom', and the artist is inviting us to ponder where true wisdom is found. Here, as we look at the wonder of nature and new life with a mother and children, but also as we look ahead to the 'wisest love' of Jesus who is our Redeemer.



"But did they plough the fields and scatter at a safe distance?"



My name is \_\_\_\_\_

## IN THE GOSPEL TODAY

**P**eter asks Jesus how many times he should forgive someone. Peter thinks seven times sounds like a lot – but Jesus tells Peter to forgive people **77** times! Then Jesus tells a story about how God forgives us over and over again – and how God the Father wants us to do the same.

# I FORGIVE YOU!

Jesus says we should be ready to forgive someone **77** times!

$70+7=$

Put a circle around the sums which add up to **77**

$80-3=$

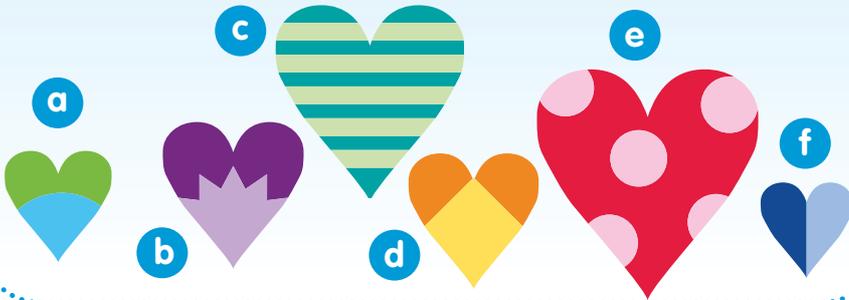
$7+3=$

## Grow in love

When we forgive someone, our heart grows bigger with God's love.

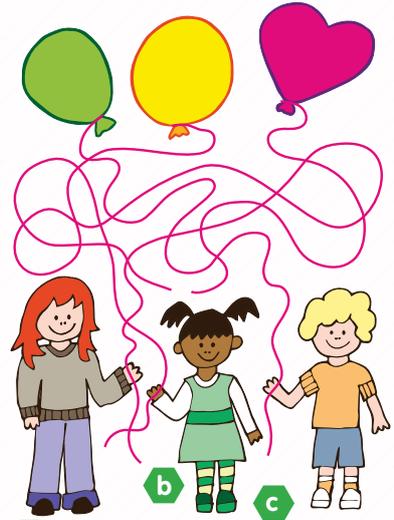
Can you put these hearts in size order, starting with the smallest?:

Smallest ..... Biggest



## Which is free?

We feel free when we are forgiven. Whose balloon is about to float free?



Write or draw in the balloon something you'd like to say sorry for and be forgiven for doing.

## Share the love

Thea and Arthur have fallen out. Circle the words that you think will help them to make up.

Put happy smiles on their faces to show they are friends again!



## A PRAYER TO SAY

**D**ear Jesus, thank you for loving me. Help me to share your love with my family and friends so I can grow even closer to you in my heart. Amen.

Answers: Smallest to biggest: f, a, d, b, c, e. Person b's balloon is floating free.

# Coming to church during the covid-19 pandemic

## IN THE HOLSWORTHY BENEFICE

### UPDATED

Everyone, without symptoms or those needing to self isolate, **are very welcome.**

It is at your own discretion, including those of a higher risk category.

Please carefully consider your needs, especially if you are in a higher risk category, before attending services in church buildings.

Please follow all the guidance to keep you and others as safe as possible.

If you decide to come to a service in a church building please stay alert and carry out the following;

- A face covering must be worn
- Keep to the 2 meters social distancing and don't linger anywhere (the radiators are not on yet!!). Doorways and aisles are to be kept clear of people. This is important as we don't have wide aisles and only one door to enter and exit.
- Good hand hygiene must be followed - sanitiser is to be used on entry and exit of the building.
- Gloves are not recommended. It is more difficult to sanitise gloves than hands. If you wear gloves without changing them constantly you still need to sanitise!
- The doors will be left open throughout the service (this will be reassessed in September).
- There will be no congregational singing during the service until advice says it is safe to do so (the celebrant may sing from a distance if their voice is on form!).
- There will be a plate by the door for your offering - please sanitise your hands before and after.
- After sanitising
  - please go straight to the furthest forward empty pew.
  - Service books will be in the pews.

This is to ensure 2 meters social distancing when entering and exiting the building.

- You may light votive candles as normal, please make sure the sanitiser on your hands is dry, and you leave 2 meters social distance. This also helps people to have their own prayer space.....
- Please do not hold out for sitting where you normally sit!
- Please sit in the middle of the pew and not either end.
- You are very welcome to kneel, sit or stand as per the custom of the church.
- The Celebrant alone receives both bread & wine.
- The words of distribution "the body of Christ" are said by the Celebrant before the distribution with the congregation responding "Amen".
- Distribution of communion will be by the Celebrant bringing the bread to you in your pew.
- Please be aware the Celebrant will wear a mask and may wear a visor. This is for you, theirs and their families' protection.
- To receive the sacrament, please stand, sit or kneel as you are able.
- The distribution takes place in silence with the wafer carefully dropped into the hands of the communicant. Please hold both hands (one cupping the other) out stretched so as much social distance can be maintained.
- Please remember not to say Amen out loud on receiving the host. If you do don't worry and try to remember not to next time.
- At the end of the service please leave in order of those closest to the door first.
- Please don't linger after the service and keep the doorway and aisles free.
- At this time there will be no refreshments after the service - sorry.
- If you wish to talk to the priest after the service please remain in your pew, they will come to you (2 meters).

**Please keep the opening of churches and starting to worship in the buildings in your prayers. Please pray for the clergy and others involved during this time. Pray especially for the younger generations that are making it possible for churches to open and services to commence.**

## COLLECT

Almighty God,  
whose only Son has opened for us  
a new and living way into your presence:  
give us pure hearts and steadfast wills  
to worship you in spirit and in truth;  
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.

## FIRST READING

### Genesis 50:15-21

*A reading from the book of Genesis.*

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

## PSALM Psalm 103:1-13

[or 103:8-13]

**R** *The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.*

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me bless his  
holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits; **R**

Who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your infirmities;  
Who redeems your life from the Pit  
and crowns you with faithful love and  
compassion; **R**

Who satisfies you with good things,  
so that your youth is renewed like  
an eagle's.

The Lord executes righteousness  
and judgement for all who are oppressed. **R**

He made his ways known to Moses  
and his works to the children of Israel.  
[The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and of great kindness. **R**

He will not always accuse us,  
neither will he keep his anger for ever.  
He has not dealt with us according to  
our sins,  
nor rewarded us according to our  
wickedness. **R**

For as the heavens are high above  
the earth,  
so great is his mercy upon those who  
fear him.

As far as the east is from the west,

so far has he set our sins from us.

As a father has compassion on his children,  
so is the Lord merciful towards those who  
fear him.] **R**

## SECOND READING

### Romans 14:1-12

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.*

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and

every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

## GOSPEL Matthew 18:21-35

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

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

## POST COMMUNION

Lord God, the source of truth and love,  
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching  
and fellowship,  
united in prayer and the breaking of  
bread,  
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.