



Holsworthy Benefice ~ News Sheet No 35

Bridgerule, Hollacombe, Holsworthy and Pyworthy with Pancrasweek

6th December 2020

2nd Sunday of Advent

Rector: Mother Elizabeth Burke

Tel: 01409 255490 Mobile: 07990978485

Email: elizabethmaburke@icloud.com

ON ZOOM - ALL WELCOME

Holsworthy Benefice	Sundays	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Zoom details; https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82633460276? To listen by phone: 0131 460 1196 ID 826 3346 0276 Password: benefice
	Tuesdays	7pm	Contemplative Prayer	
	Wednesdays	3pm	Understanding Isaiah	
	Fridays	12 Noon	Midday Prayer	

We are back in the churches for services from 6th December as follows;

	on Zoom	Hollacombe	Holsworthy	Pyworthy
6th Dec	9.30 Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Benefice Eucharist	9.30 Morning Prayer
13th Dec	9.30 Morning Prayer		11am Benefice Eucharist	
	6pm Town Carol Service			
20th Dec	9.30 Morning Prayer		11am Benefice Eucharist	
			6pm Christmas Service by candle light	3pm Christmas Service by candle light
24th Dec	6pm Benefice Carol Service		11pm First Mass of Christmas (with incense)	8.30pm Christmas Vigil Mass
25th Dec		9.30am Holy Communion	9am Benefice Eucharist for the Nativity of our Lord	
27th Dec	9.30 Morning Prayer		11am Morning Prayer	

TOWN CAROL SERVICE
THIS YEAR ONLINE ON ZOOM
13th December 6pm
from the comfort of your homes

Zoom link - Just click here

or phone in on
0131 460 1196

password you will need is:
Holsworthy (capital 'H')

The Meeting ID is: ID 837 8943 4730



Coming to Holsworthy Church?
wrap up warm,
even bring a blanket,
as there's no money for heating!

CHURCHES OPEN FOR PRAYER

Holsworthy Church is open during the day every day.

Pyworthy Church is open on Wednesdays and Sundays during the day.

Hollacombe Church is open when requested please call Julie Isaac - 253249.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

2nd Sunday in Advent

That we may hear the prophets of today, Local Charities

All who live at The Vineyards, Trewyn Park and Road, Holsworthy

Monday 7th December (Ambrose, Bishop of Milan)

For the disabled

Tuesday 8th December (Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

For the lapsed

Wednesday 9th December (Ember Day)

For joy in our faith

Thursday 10th December

For those who are afraid

Friday 11th December (Ember Day)

For those who seek for the truth

Saturday 12th December (Ember Day)

For reconciliation



Carols around the Christmas Trees
Holsworthy Town Square
4pm Christmas Eve

Come and join the ALL AGE fun!
Carols, FREE refreshments and more!

Please observe 2M social distancing between households & bubbles



Martin received the latest Christmas coronavirus regulations from the diocesan office.



Nativity Trail

Can you find all 7 characters from the nativity story?

During December complete trails in Bridgerule village, Holsworthy Square & Arcade, Pancrasweek Churchyard and Pyworthy playground
FREE with interactive QR codes with lots to do

The winners of the Jackpot Draw drawn on 20th November were –

1st Prize, £14.00 – ticket number 128, Tim from The Willows

2nd Prize, £2.80 – ticket number 62, Ayla from Staddon Road

TIME TO SAY THANK YOU

THANK YOU!



A Thank You from Safeguarding

In line with the National Past Cases Review 2 Project, we continue to work towards completion of the review in our diocese. Whilst Covid has to a small degree slowed progress, we are working apace toward completion and well ahead of many other dioceses. We hope to conclude our review for submission early in 2021. Our progress has been in no small part the result of the assistance and commitment of colleagues in our many Parishes. Of the 499 Parishes contacted, we have received 100% returns which I believe is truly a testament to, and evidence of, how 'safeguarding' is now embedded and considered a priority across our diocese. So, a huge thank you to all who have assisted with this task for which we are sincerely most grateful.

Exeter
Cathedral



We're open –
and free to visit!

Our gift for you x

CHRISTMAS ISN'T CANCELLED!

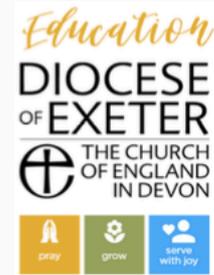
SOUTH WEST CAROLS

JOIN US FOR THIS HUGE FESTIVE EVENT

LIVE AT WWW.SOUTHWESTCAROLS.COM
AND ON FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE

5TH & 6TH DECEMBER, 7PM

BEING JOY-GIVERS



Within the Christmas story angels show up twice

In both stories - Mary and the Shepherds - are told not to be afraid because they were bringing news of GREAT JOY!

This Christmas why not join in with the angels and be your own bringer of GREAT JOY in your community...

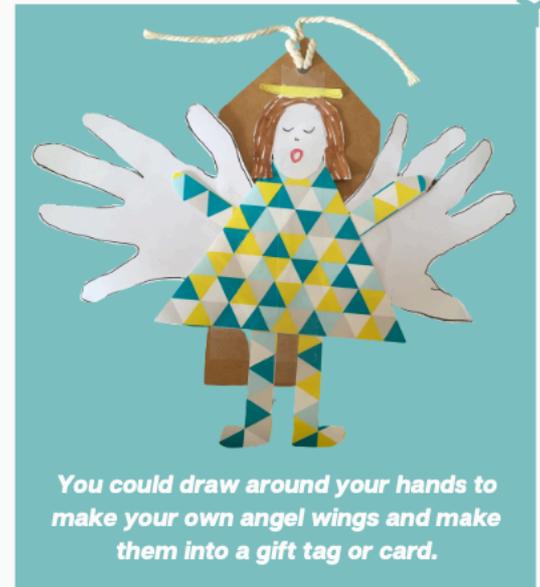
The first time we hear about angels in the Christmas story is when the Angel Gabriel appears to Mary and tell her she is going to have God's son [Luke 1:26-38](#) and the second is when they filled the sky and told the shepherds that Jesus was born [Luke 2:8-20](#).

Discuss: I wonder if you can imagine what it was like for Mary and the shepherds to encounter them?

This Christmas we are encouraging everyone to be a joy-giver by thinking about someone else and giving them a thoughtful gift, message or phone call. Who might you bring joy to this Christmas?

The Children's Society have come up with [lots of great ideas](#). Some of these include:

1. Make and bake Joy – perhaps using our mince pie recipe or another favourite.
2. Notice when you have been hard on yourself or others and be kind instead.
3. Tidy up a shared space.
4. Give to charity.
5. Say something positive to everyone you meet today.
6. Pray for those who are alone this Christmas.
7. Share a happy memory of an inspiring thought with someone.
8. Write to someone telling them why you love them or appreciate them.
9. Pray for someone having a difficult time.
10. Put some food out for the birds.
11. Donate something to a food or toy bank.
12. Send a card to your MP asking them to promote the needs of children in their work.
13. Give a small bunch of flowers to someone.
14. Talk to someone who might be sad or lonely.
15. Tell someone your favourite Christmas joke.
16. Make a Christmas decoration or card to give to a friend or family member.
17. Sing a Christmas carol or song to someone online...
... Can you think of any of your own?



Did you know that an angel also appeared to Joseph [in a dream](#)?



What sort of message did he bring - was it one of comfort, joy, both or neither?



Did you know that angels appear through the Bible, often as messengers, the bringers and singers of good news? In [Psalm 91](#), the writer says 'God will send his angels to guard me' - they help to keep us from falling.



Advent Angels

During December place angels on Holsworthy church railings.

Below are ways to make your own angels.

Feel free to add as many as you'd like
Just make sure they are water proof!!

Here's a chain of angels

They just need to be laminated or made from waterproof material!

Join together by wings, arms and or dresses!



Maybe add a message or dedicate it to someone

God's messengers and protectors

Knitted Angels



What you will need:

- Some wool (in any yarn, white, yellow, silver or gold colours)
- Knitting needles size 4
- Darning needle
- Small amount of stuffing (a cotton wool ball for the head, perhaps)

Angel's Body:

Cast on 48 sts (stocking stitches)

(Optional - Start with two rows of knit 1, purl 1 rib after casting on (stops any riding up of the dress))

1. Knit row
2. Purl row
3. K2TOG, K10*, repeat until end
4. Purl row
5. Knit row
6. P2TOG, P9*, repeat until end
7. Knit row
8. Purl row
9. K2TOG, K8*, repeat until end
10. Purl row
11. Knit row
12. P2TOG, P7*, repeat until end
13. Knit row
14. Purl row
15. K2TOG, K6*, repeat until end
16. Purl row
17. Knit row
18. P2TOG, P5*, repeat until end
19. Knit row
20. Purl row
21. K2TOG, K4*, repeat until end 20 sts

22. Knit row
23. Purl row
24. Knit row
25. Purl row
26. Knit row; At this point, you can change your colour to create the face if you want.
27. Purl row
28. Knit row
29. Purl row
30. Knit row
31. Purl row
32. Knit row
33. Purl row
34. K2TOG repeat until end
35. Purl row
36. Knit row
37. P2TOG repeat until end

Using a darning needle, thread the end of the yarn through the stitches and tighten to create the top of the head. Turn the angel inside out and sew up the head and the body. Around the neck, take a small amount of stuffing and place at the top of the head, then thread some yarn between stitches and pull loosely together.

Angel's Wings:

Cast on 27 sts

1. Knit row
2. Knit row
3. Decrease at each end (Knit)
4. Knit row
5. Knit 12 rows, decrease at each end cast off



Up-cycled Angel

Make an angel from a juice carton!

See link for how to make it

<https://youtu.be/jQFqazU114s>

The template can be found here
www.holsworthybenefice.org.uk/christmas/christmas-angels.php

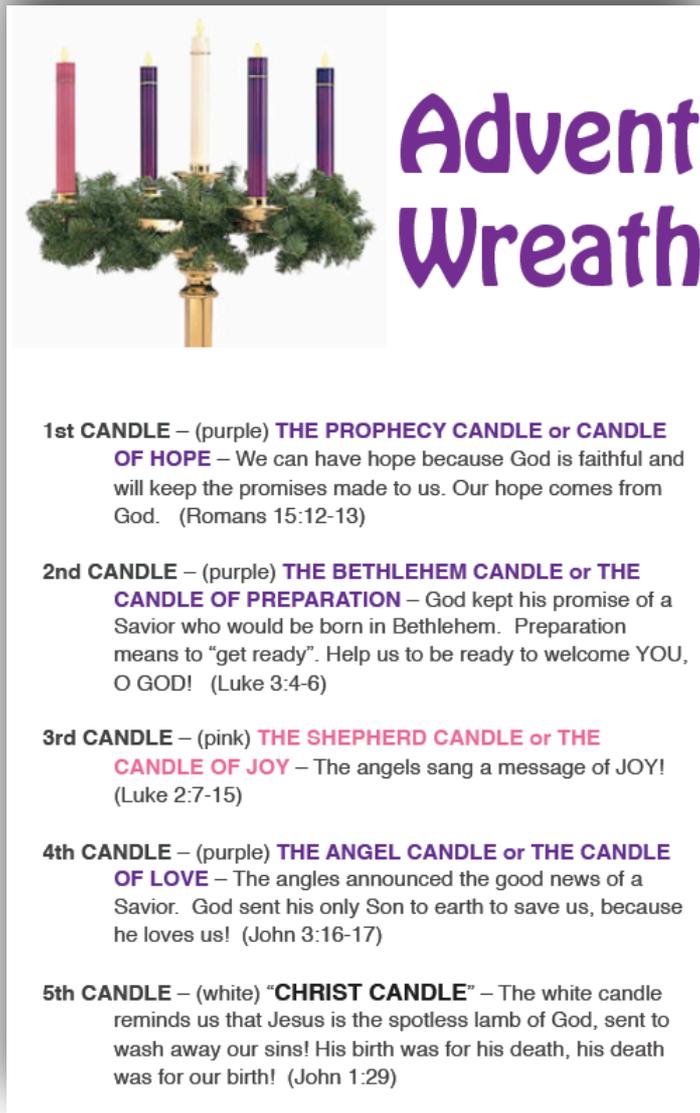


Or make one from a plastic plate!
Just search on the net!



The History of the Advent Wreath

by REV'D WILLIAM SAUNDERS



A Baptist friend asked me about the Advent wreath its history, meaning, etc.

I think I gave her a pretty good answer.

The Advent wreath is part of our long-standing Catholic tradition. However, the actual origins are uncertain. There is evidence of pre-Christian Germanic peoples using wreaths with lit candles during the cold and dark December days as a sign of hope in the future warm and extended-sunlight days of Spring. In Scandinavia during Winter, lighted candles were placed around a wheel, and prayers were offered to the god of light to turn “the wheel of the earth” back toward the sun to lengthen the days and restore warmth.

By the Middle Ages, the Christians adapted this tradition and used Advent wreaths as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. After all, Christ is “the Light that came into the world” to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate the truth and love of God (cf. John 3:19-21). By 1600, both Catholics and Lutherans had more formal practices surrounding the Advent wreath.

The symbolism of the Advent wreath is beautiful. The wreath is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life. Even these evergreens have a traditional meaning which can be adapted to our faith: The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering; pine, holly, and yew, immortality; and cedar, strength and healing. Holly also has a special Christian symbolism: The prickly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns, and one English legend tells of how the cross was made of holly. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolises the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ. Any pine cones, nuts, or seedpods used to decorate the wreath also symbolise life and resurrection. All together, the wreath of evergreens depicts the immortality of our soul and the new, everlasting life promised to us through Christ, the eternal Word of the Father, who entered our world becoming true man and who was victorious over sin and death through His own passion, death, and resurrection.

The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. A tradition is that each week represents one thousand years, to sum to the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the Birth of the Savior. Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles in particular symbolise the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, *Gaudete* Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; *Gaudete* Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolises the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead.

The light again signifies Christ, the Light of the world. Some modern day adaptations include a white candle placed in the middle of the wreath, which represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve. Another tradition is to replace the three purple and one rose candles with four white candles, which will be lit throughout Christmas season.

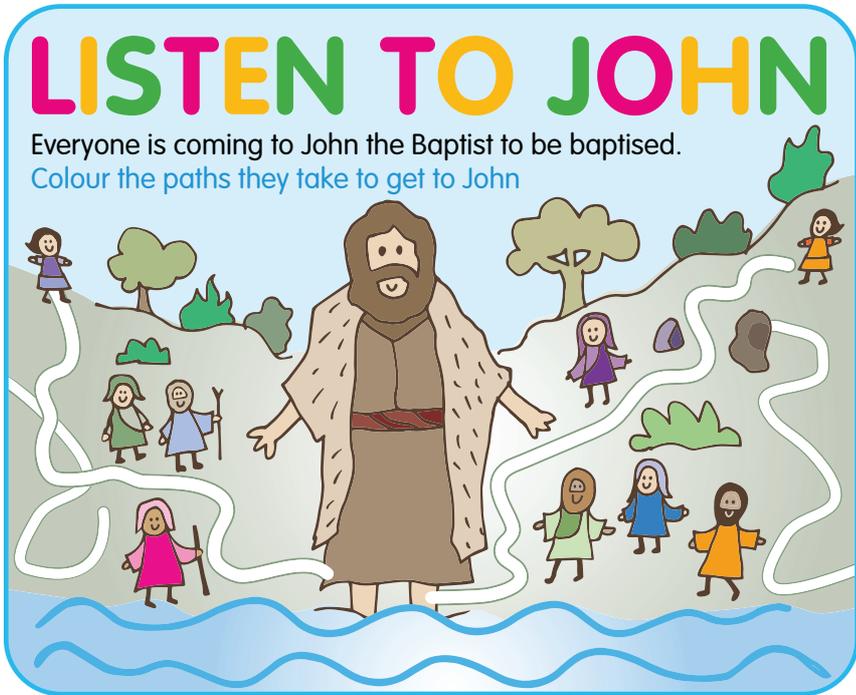


Sunday 6 December 2020
Mark 1:1-8
2nd Sunday of Advent

IN THE GOSPEL TODAY

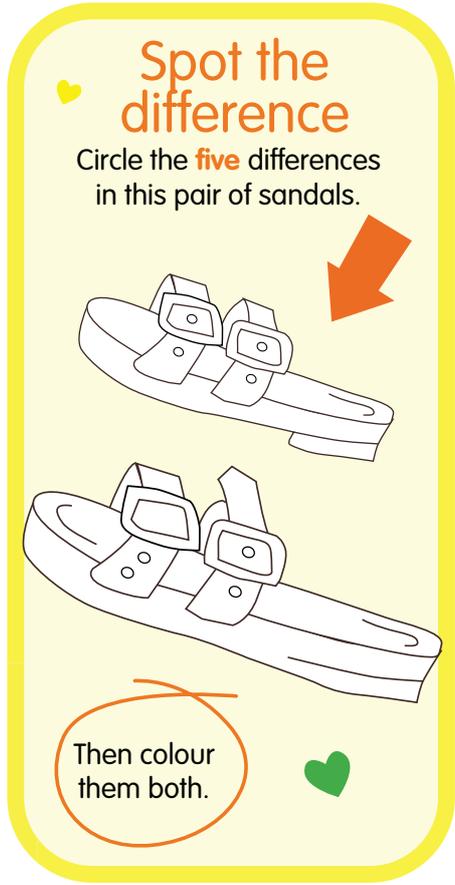
My name is _____

John the Baptist tells the whole countryside to get ready for the coming of the Lord, the powerful one. John the Baptist says he is not worthy to even untie the Lord's sandals. John baptises with water, but the Lord will give us all the Holy Spirit.



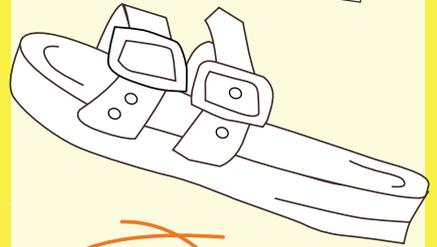
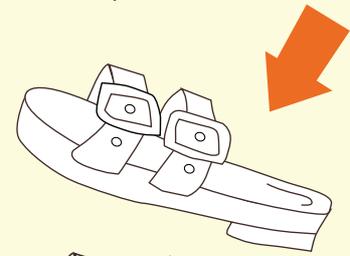
LISTEN TO JOHN

Everyone is coming to John the Baptist to be baptised.
Colour the paths they take to get to John



Spot the difference

Circle the **five** differences in this pair of sandals.



Then colour them both.

What is the message?

John the Baptist was God's messenger. Fill in the missing vowels to see what the message was.

Pr_p_r_ th_w_y_f th_L_r_d.

The message means, "Get ready for the coming of Jesus."

Make a promise

John is giving us the good news that Jesus is coming. Choose to get ready for Jesus by doing something kind for someone this week.

Write what you are going to do in the Good News Newspaper – and draw a picture of yourself doing something kind too!



A PRAYER TO SAY

Father in heaven, help me to get ready for Jesus. It is wonderful that Jesus wanted to live with us on the earth. Help me to be kind to everyone, because we are all the brothers and sisters of Jesus. Amen.

Answers: What's the message: Prepare the way of the Lord. Spot the difference: one sandal is fastened, different heels, one has fewer holes in the strap. One has a toe marking and is bigger.

St James the Least of All

The Revd Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...



On the best ways for a vicar to disrupt Christmas

The Rectory
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

I am sorry I was not alive during that wonderful four-year period when Oliver Cromwell abolished Christmas; no Christmas parties, no carol services, no cards to send and no frantic last-minute shopping. That man was a hero.

Planning for Christmas at St James' normally starts on 2nd January. By Easter, the flowers for church have been carefully chosen to be colour coordinated, and the seating plans and table decorations for the Christmas party have been allocated (with nominated reserves in case someone should inconveniently die in the intervening eight months). Long before Summer is over, the tree lights have been tested, music for the 9 Lessons and Carols Service has been chosen and the service sheets printed. Way before the dark nights set in, car parking attendants will have been found, those who are to light all the candles will have been rehearsed to perfection, and the brass lectern has had its annual polish.

We do not do spontaneity at St James the Least of All. If ever there was a service when time for something unexpected had to be allowed, its place would be announced in the order of service, how long the unexpected thing would happen for would have been decided by a committee, and who was to be spontaneous would have been allocated on a rota.

But the one person none of these well-meaning, efficient, committed organisers can control is the Rector. You could call it a staff perk.

Carols will (accidentally, of course) be announced in the wrong order; if verse 3 was to be omitted, I announce it will be verse 4. This keeps the organist on his toes while the choir hovers on the point of a collective nervous breakdown. At the Christmas supper, my introductory welcome speech and extensive grace make those in the kitchen wonder if the vegetables being boiled should better be served as thick soup.

I offer the helpful suggestion that the tree, having been installed and decorated in the chancel, may perhaps look better in the sanctuary and I turn all the heating off throughout the season, explaining that it will help the flowers to last. All Services will start five minutes early (was my watch rather fast?) so I can look disapprovingly at those still coming in while we are singing the first carol and making it clear that I think they had spent too long in the pub next door.

And so we all reach Christmas morning, with 12 months of planning having gone yet again slightly awry, with parishioners exhausted and I exhilarated at the chaos that has been created with such ease. Mr Cromwell, your spirit lives on.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

COLLECT

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness
we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 40:1-11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather

the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

PSALM Psalm 85:1-2. 8-13 (or 85:8-13)



R Show us your mercy, O Lord.

Lord, you were gracious to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
You forgave the offence of your people
and covered all their sins. **R**

I will listen to what the Lord God will say,
for he shall speak peace to his people
and to the faithful,
that they turn not again to folly.
Truly, his salvation is near to those
who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land. **R**

Mercy and truth are met together,
righteousness and peace have kissed
each other;
Truth shall spring up from the earth
and righteousness look down from
heaven. **R**

The Lord will indeed give all that is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness shall go before him
and direct his steps in the way. **R**

SECOND READING

2 Peter 3:8-15a

A reading from the second letter of Peter.

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness,

waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

GOSPEL Mark 1:1-8

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

POST COMMUNION

Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our judge:
give us grace so to imitate him
in the humility and purity of his first coming
that, when he comes again,
we may be ready to greet him
with joyful love and firm faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

13th December

6pm Holsworthy Town Carol Service on Zoom

Zoom details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83789434730?pwd=Q3YvMVhMQzlmNG5MZ21ZeFhGQ2xVUT09>

Meeting ID: 837 8943 4730

Passcode: Holsworthy

By Telephone

To join by phone: 0131 460 1196

or 0203 051 2874

20th December

3pm Pyworthy Christmas Service by Candlelight

St Swithun's parish church

6pm Holsworthy Christmas Service by Candlelight

St Peter & St Paul's parish church

CHRISTMAS EVE

4pm Carols around the Christmas trees

Holsworthy Square - please ensure you keep to 2m distancing

6pm Benefice Carol Service on Zoom

Zoom details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82633460276?pwd=MHYybFJFait5a3hDSmJyZ2JQOW5odz09>

Meeting ID: 826 3346 0276

Passcode: benefice

By Telephone

To join by phone: 0131 460 1196

8.30pm Christmas Vigil Mass

Pyworthy, St Swithun's parish church

11pm First Mass of Christmas

Holsworthy, St Peter & St Paul's parish church

CHRISTMAS DAY

The Nativity of our Lord

9am Benefice Eucharist for the Nativity of our Lord

Holsworthy, St Peter & St Paul's parish church

9.30am Holy Communion for the Nativity of our Lord

Hollacombe, St Petroc's parish church



COME LET US ADORE HIM