



# THE HOLYFORD HERALD

*News from the Holyford Mission Community*

*Serving the Parishes of St Lawrence, Southleigh, St Winifred, Branscombe, St Giles, Northleigh,  
St Michael, Musbury and St Andrew, Colyton with St Michael, Colyford.*

Website: [www.holyford.org](http://www.holyford.org) Facebook: @holyfordmission

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## *The Rector's Ramblings...*

As things open up more, a greater number of events and meetings are being held in person. On Sunday, the choir will be returning to sing for services at St Andrew's after a period of preparation working out how best to do this in light of current guidance. Unfortunately, congregational singing is still not permitted, but the return of the choir is a further step toward normality, which is good.

Things are becoming more relaxed and feel more 'normal'. Yet at the same time the preparations, documents, policies that facilitate the easing of restrictions become more complex. This continues to be a surprisingly stressful and demanding time, and we need to continue to be watchful in paying attention to our own needs and expectations and the needs and expectations of others. This is partly what our Gospel is about this Sunday.

I am very grateful to our wardens and PCCs for their efforts in keeping up-to-date with the various pieces of guidance and legislation. Our PCCs do a vital job in keeping our churches alive and safe. As time goes on and the situation changes, at least we have things in place so that if we pass into periods of further restrictions, we are prepared.

Fundraising is a challenge at the best of times, but thanks to the herculean efforts of the team at the Lantern Shop (supporting the ministry at St Andrew's), things are moving forward. The shop is looking great, and the various depots across Colyton are full of stock. **On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September from 11am to 3pm** the Lantern Shop will be offering a huge range of irresistible bargains at their **Outdoor Market on St Andrew's Church Green.**

The Silence Speaks events have been well attended by a range of local people and visitors of all faiths and none. My thanks to Hetty and Helen for organizing these inter-faith events. We hope that more will take place in the spring.

It is good to have a range of events and services taking place across the Mission Community during the week and not just on Sundays. The weekday Evensongs continue to draw local people and visitors in search of a small, quiet, shorter service during the week. My continued thanks to those who are unlocking, locking and cleaning our churches. I know that it is hugely appreciated by many who come through the doors during the week.

Our Bible Study group meets again on Thursday, via Zoom. By the end of the last series, I think we managed to achieve a better balance between detailed scholarship and discussion, and ironed out some of the difficulties involved with communicating as a group over Zoom. Do give the Bible Study a try if you haven't already, or haven't been for a while. We shall be studying the Letter of James over the next sessions...five chapters full of useful material for reflection on faith and works, the power of our words, wisdom, managing desire, trials and temptations and more!

September in the Diocese of Exeter is the month of ordinations. The ordination of deacons takes place on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September and our Associate Priest, Prebendary John Lees has been busy preparing the virtual retreat for the ordinands and will be even busier on the 13<sup>th</sup> preaching at the several ordination services taking place at the Cathedral.

On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> our curate, the Reverend Victoria Chester, will be ordained priest at Exeter Cathedral. Please keep Victoria in your prayers as she prepares for this next step in her ministry. Another member of our Ministry Team, Hetty Kothari, is also preparing for a significant event on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November, when she will take her Life Vows at St Andrew's, Colyton. Owing to the nature of Hetty's vocation (to live the single, consecrated life) you won't have seen Hetty in prominent public ways, leading services and so on, but she has been a constant supportive and prayerful presence in the Mission Community since the beginning, when Hilary Dawson began the work of drawing the benefice together.

Hetty's vocation is to the contemplative life, supporting our Mission Community with prayer and by facilitating occasions such as the Silence Speaks events (see above). She is associated with the Sisters of the Love of God, a community of Anglican nuns based in Oxford. More about her journey and the nature of her vocation will appear in due course.

On Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November (St Andrew's Day) at 4pm, the Bishop of Exeter will be coming to celebrate the Eucharist when he shall receive Hetty's vows.

Hetty is not the first person in Colyton to live the single consecrated life. In 1870 an Anglican convent was established in the parish. They occupied an old tannery (near the Vicarage—in/around Chantry Cottages) for about 10 years. Their work included parochial visiting (especially the poor and sick) and supporting young families. Looking at old baptism registers, we can see that the nuns often appear as Godmothers to children baptized here during the period.

Please pray for Hetty as she prepares to take her final vows; pray too for all those discerning a call to this particular ministry within the church.

With every good wish and blessing,

Fr Steven.

## *The Coly Times*

After a few months' break, the September edition of the *Coly Times* is now available. In the editorial you will read that our current editor, Jane Dixon, has decided to lay aside her green eyeshade, take off her sleeve protectors, and place the cover over her Imperial Model T typewriter for the last time... in other words, she is ceasing as editor. Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation go to Jane for all the hard work and dedication she has poured into the role over the past 7 years.

We shall be looking for a new editor/s in due course...(don't all rush at once!)...meanwhile, Charles Hill has kindly offered to 'step into the breach' (...once more, dear friends...) and put together the November edition.

## Singing in Church

Congregational singing is still not recommended, but on the 14<sup>th</sup> August the Government announced that choirs could again gather together and sing. As a result of this, on Sunday, the choir at St

Andrew's, Colyton will be returning to sing in services. Following the Government's guidance and documents issued by the Royal School of Church Music, the choristers at St Andrew's will be following distancing recommendations and the various health-and-safety procedures suggested by the RSCM.

Again, I wish to express my thanks to the Director of Music at St Andrew's, Nick Brown and members of the choir. During lockdown he and some of our choristers recorded music to enrich our online worship. I am grateful for the considerable amount of careful thought, time and patience that has been given to working out how best we can safely return to having choral music in our services.

Thanks to all our organists and cantors across the Mission Community (Geoff at Branscombe, Andrew at Colyford and Iain at Musbury, Nick at Colyton and their choristers) who have continued to provide music for our worship, in church and over the telephone.

## Bible Study Group

The group meets on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm for the first session on the Epistle of James. All are welcome. The initial meeting will be via Zoom (details of how to log in to follow). The format of the group is discussion of a passage followed by a period of prayer. The sessions last about an hour. Log in by going to the Zoom homepage, click on 'Join a meeting'. The meeting ID is: 398 123 2457. The password is: Holyford18.

## A bit of music...

It is lovely to see the Proms back. Sir Simon Rattle has been speaking up for musicians this week. Following the sublime Prom concert he conducted last week which featured Vaughan William's Fifth Symphony, here he is conducting another piece by RVW, his *Fantasia on a theme of Thomas Tallis* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C825NndQ7d0>.

*For today's Prayers and Readings, plus details of services during the week, please see the Pew Sheet. Please contact the Churchwardens if you wish to check when the church will be open or when the next service will be.*

Northleigh:	Pam Mayall 01404 871397	John Platt 01297 552416
Southleigh:	Robin Hartnell 01297 552433	Catherine Rosier 01404 871413
Colyford:	Vicky Mills 01297 553666	
Branscombe:	Ross Wilmington 01297 680264	Norman Brimson 01297 680224
Colyton:	Christine Sansom 01297 552065	David Fouracre 01297 552915
Musbury:	Sue Irving 01297 552440	Michael Pritchard 01297 552297

## *A Prayer*

O Lord, who has taught us that to gain the whole world and to lose our souls is great folly; grant us the grace so to lose ourselves that we may truly find ourselves anew in the life of grace, and so to forget ourselves that we may be remembered in your kingdom. Amen.

*Reinhold Niebuhr (1892–1971)*