



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 Facebook: @holyfordmission

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The Rector's Ramblings...

It has been good to hear a number of people—visitors, our PCC members and others—saying how welcoming our churches are, despite us not being able to linger or serve refreshments after the service during this period of social restriction.

During last week the Government announced that we should not socialize in groups of more than 6 people from Monday 14th September on. This rule does not affect our Sunday or weekday services. The Archbishop of Canterbury announced shortly afterwards that ‘...after contact with Government we hear that there is no change to guidance on places of worship. Worship is the work of God—not a social gathering—and gives the strength to love and serve.’ Well said, Archbishop.

As you may be aware, our delayed Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCMs) are due to take place in five of our six churches during the course of the next month. We await further guidance from the Church about this, but Government guidance issued with the new ‘Rule of Six’ permits work meetings and meetings of charitable organizations.

The new ‘Rule of Six’ is designed to curb the infection rate by limiting the number of people meeting unmasked, and for extended periods of time in close proximity to each other. Our services, where social distancing, cleaning and hand-sanatizing is practiced and are masks worn, continue to be regarded as activity which presents a relatively low risk of spreading the virus.

The new rule will bring fresh challenges to those working in the hospitality sector, and a number of planned family gatherings are going to be effected, too. Our prayers for all those who will struggle—financially and emotionally—with the new rule and its implications.

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How can we continue, or even improve upon our welcome and hospitality at church during these times of social restriction? It may seem a hopeless question, but it is not. Our sidespeople continue do an excellent job at welcoming people in, making them feel safe and welcome, greeting them cheerfully (even behind a mask) and providing the necessary service papers, and directions about seating etc.

Perhaps we are doing as much as we can...or are we? All worshippers are called to take part in extending welcome and providing hospitality to new people, as well as to each other. As we head into autumn and winter, meeting or exchanging greetings outside is going to become more challenging. Although we cannot provide tea or coffee at services, and are not encouraged to linger to chat much, it is more important now than ever for us to consider ways in which we can extend our welcome and hospitality.

How can we? The core purpose of welcome and hospitality is to enable people to feel comfortable, appreciated and informed, as well as nourished/refreshed in some way by a cup or glass of something, and a biscuit.

Keeping in touch with one another, spotting someone new or seeking out someone we do not know well, and arranging to speak to them at a distance or over the 'phone, praying with them and for them: these are some ways in which we can extend welcome and hospitality 'at a distance'. We can provide true nourishment by offering time and encouragement to others.

At a deeper and more profound level, hospitality is about opening our hearts and minds to others. Making connections with each other and with God, sharing in the work of his saving love. This is a core practice of the Christian faith. Making a place (a building or community) hospitable is about making it pleasant and fruitful to inhabit. 'Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven', we pray. The work of God's extending his welcome and hospitality to all. Our task now – at a time when performing the conventional rites of welcome and hospitality (smiles and instant coffee...) is tricky – is to find new and varied ways in which we can help welcome others into the community of faith.

With every good wish and blessing, Fr Steven.

The Coly Times

Our current editor, Jane Dixon, has decided to step down after the October edition. We need someone – or two people – to take over the editing of this important community magazine. Please contact Fr Steven, Charles Hill or the churchwardens if you would like to know more about the job.

Bible Study Group

The group met last Thursday for the first session on the Epistle of James. We looked at the first chapter of the Epistle. The format of the group is discussion of a passage followed by a period of prayer and 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. All welcome to join – even if you can't make all of the sessions.

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

We pray you, Lord, to direct and guide your Church with your unfailing care, that it may be vigilant in times of quiet, and daring in times of trouble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

from the Franciscan Breviary