



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: @hollyfordmission

Issue 27: Second Sunday before Advent, 15th November 2020

The Rector's Ramblings...

I hope that you are all well and not feeling too buffeted by this lockdown, or the wind and rain that is pounding the Vicarage windows as I write this! Fortunately, the weather was good last Sunday and Wednesday when we gathered outside in our churchyards at Colyton, Musbury and Branscombe to remember all those who have given their lives in the service of their country. It was heartening to see a healthy number of people, all paying respect to the occasion, and to the circumstances we are in at present, by carefully observing the distancing rules.

Our weekly online services resume this week, and here is the link to this week's service: <https://vimeo.com/479062843>. Next week we shall be marking the Feast of Christ the King, which is the last Sunday in the Church's year. Advent Sunday therefore marks the beginning of the next. The Archbishops have called for November to be a month of prayer. As a Mission Community we shall be taking part in this by holding a special day of prayer on Sunday 29th November. Details of this can be found below. The purpose of the day is to offer our present situation and the future to God who, in the words of today's Psalm, has '..been our refuge, from one generation to another', praying that he will 'prosper the work of our hands' (Ps 90. 17), guide and protect us as we embark on a new year.

Next year will be different in a number of ways, especially as we say goodbye to Victoria, who is heading up to Wales to spend time living alongside the Sisters of the Society of the Sacred Cross at their Convent at Tymawr. I hope very much that the restrictions will have eased enough so that we shall be able to say a proper goodbye to her on the 27th December at the 9.30 Eucharist at St Andrew's, Colyton.

At end of January, John Lees will be stepping down from his position as Associate Priest licensed to the Holyford Mission Community. Enormous thanks go to John for his ministry within the Mission Community, especially during the vacancy and in his role with us supporting Victoria as her training incumbent.

As Victoria has finished her curacy earlier than expected, John now feels able to step back from parochial ministry to enable him to focus on family and work, as well as his increasing responsibilities both within the Diocese (as Bishop's Officer for Self-Supporting Ministry) and in the national Church.

With John's changing role, Jan has also decided it is time for her to retire from active reader ministry. We have been hugely blessed to have both John and Jan Lees on our Ministry Team. Although they will be stepping back, this is not a goodbye; John and Jan will still be around, living locally and attending worship, occasionally leading services for us.

On a personal note, I would like to thank John and Jan for their support and assistance over the past year, both as members of the Ministry Team and as our neighbours in Vicarage Street. I look forward to working with them both in a new way in the years to come.

Our prayers and very best wishes go to John and Jan, in addition to our heartfelt thanks.

With every good wish and blessing,

Fr Steven.

Join us for Evening Prayer via Zoom: Tuesdays to Fridays

Since the easing of the last lockdown in Summer I have been travelling around each of our village churches to join others for Evening Prayer at 5pm (Tuesdays at Colyford, Wednesdays at Musbury, Thursdays at Branscombe and Fridays at Northleigh).

Now that we cannot meet to do this in church, I have set up a Zoom account to enable anyone who wishes to, to join me for Evening Prayer each **Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday** via Zoom. All are welcome. Drop in now and again, or join me each day for Evening Prayer—you are welcome.

The services are taken from *The Book of Common Prayer*. If you need a copy of the order of service, I can email you one (rector@hollyford.org). The readings we shall be using will be published in the *Hollyford Herald* each week (see below: list of services).

If you wish to join us, have ready your *Book of Common Prayer* or order of service, and click on this link just before 5pm. If you have ever used Zoom before, fear not! It is very straightforward. Simply click on this link and it should take you there:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71247569366?pwd=ZWNoNWowWXFsZUZlbzdaVVVWSmZvZz09>

If you are asked for a password, it is: 1662. Contact me if you have problems with logging in.

As with Morning Prayer, if you cannot join us on Zoom, you can always pray Evening Prayer at 5pm at home—the readings for each day are below.

Bible Study Group: Thursdays via Zoom

The next meeting will take place on Thursday at 7.30pm via Zoom. Over the remaining weeks of lockdown we shall be looking at the Gospel readings set for the Eucharist. All are welcome to these relaxed hour-long sessions, where we meet, study, pray and chat. We are not following a particular course, so anyone is welcome to dip in and out over the weeks.

Last Thursday several people had difficulties logging-in because of a change in the system, but the system is now working; please note the old Passcode has now been changed. Here is the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3981232457?pwd=SU1zZ0NHSENYMThqbDczMXUzL3FrUT09>. Here is the meeting ID: 3981232457, **New Passcode: 1297553180**.

Our thanks to Charles for his time and patience setting up our various Zoom adventures!

- Thursday 19th November: Matthew 25. 31–46 (*The coming of the Son of Man*)
- Thursday 26th November: Mark 13.24–37 (*Waiting for the Lord*)

Hollyford Telephone Service: Sundays at 2.30pm

These continue at 2.30pm. A service lasting 20–25 minutes, these have proven very popular. All are welcome to join, whether or not you feel more confident with the internet.

The way to join in is to dial 0333 011 0616 and then enter this code when asked to do so: 887 5540 # (don't forget to press that last hash key...) then say your name when asked to do so, and then press the hash key # again. (The voice you hear will call it "the pound key" which means hash key.) Please check our website or contact Charles Hill if you need an order of service and hymn sheet.

Daily Morning Prayer at home

From Monday to Friday each week, Morning Prayer is said at St Andrew's Colyton at 8.30am. As this cannot take place in church, those who normally gather each day have agreed to say Morning Prayer at home at 8.30am. If you would like to 'join us' at this time by saying Morning Prayer at home, the order of service we use is the together with the readings set for the service can be found here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>. Or if you find using the internet cumbersome, you could use your Prayer Books at home—the Biblical readings and Psalms set for each day (the Lectionary) are detailed in our list of services below.

November: A Month of National Prayer

As this second lockdown comes into force, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York are inviting Christians and all people of good will to share in 28 days of prayer for the nation. The Archbishops invite all of us, wherever we are, to pray daily for a specific area of national concern. This will culminate in a collective moment of prayer at 6pm each evening, when we are all invited to light a candle and pause in prayer. Cathedrals and churches across the country are also being invited to ring a bell as a call to prayer.

The link to the national resources is <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches/call-prayer-nation>

As I have explained above, we shall be taking part collectively in this month of prayer with our own

Holyford Mission Community Day of Prayer on Sunday 29th November.

The purpose of the day is to pray for our current situation by offering a period of constant prayer between 8am and 8pm on Sunday 29th. The idea is that everyone in our Mission Community—our congregations and those beyond—is encouraged to say a prayer or offer a period of time in prayer.

People will be invited to take part in a number of ways. You can simply pray at home at any time, or sign up to cover a timeslot as part of our 12-hour vigil. You could use the day as a day of retreat, or simply dip in and out; commit to pray for five minutes or five hours—the day is simply about everyone focusing on being together spiritually and creating a huge wave of prayer together.

Some resources will be available to help you to join in, and will appear next week. As well as the main online service, John Lees will be preparing a trailer video to help us prepare for the day, which will appear online during the previous week.

Schedule for the Holyford Mission Community Day of Prayer

8am (or whenever you wish)	Watch the short introductory film available online.
Sometime during the day	Watch our special Online Service
2.30pm	Telephone Service
6.00pm	Light a candle and pray at home
8.00pm	Compline viz Zoom to finish as a closing act of worship.

During the day our churches will be open for people to go in and pray there if they wish. All are invited to submit prayer requests and intentions which will be prayed during the day. They can be specific or anonymous and about anything or anyone. Further details and resources to follow.

Advent reading

The seasons of Lent and Advent provide us with fresh opportunities to make a spiritual pilgrimage through study and prayer as we approach the major festivals of Christmas and Easter. If you are looking for a way of preparing for Christmas, there are a number of useful resources available. Some include books which will guide you through daily readings, or focus on the wider theme of the coming of Christ. Here are some book suggestions:

***The Radiant Dawn: 25 Daily Bible Readings, Luke 1–2 for Advent* by Tom Parsons** (10 Publishing, ISBN:9781912373918). Price: c. £4 Daily 2-page reflections which take you through the first two chapters of Luke's Gospel, with a short prayer for each day.

The One True Light: Daily Readings for Advent from the Gospel of John by Tim Chester (The Good Book Company, ISBN: 9781910307991) Price: c. £5. Daily, chapter-length reflections on verses from the first chapter from the Gospel of John. Each day has a reflection, a guided meditation and prayer.

A Good Advent is another resource, which is the first published work by our previous Bishop of Crediton, now Bishop of London, The Rt Revd Dame Sarah Mullally. A small booklet provides an inspiring and thought-provoking introduction to the Advent season. The booklet (available as a single booklet, in packs of five or as an eBook) also includes details of how to download the accompanying free app which will provide a daily devotion throughout Advent. Some of the reflections are written by Jane Williams. <https://spckpublishing.co.uk/a-good-advent>.

Those without internet access

At times like this, communication is vital. This week we shall be sending a letter and prayer resources to those in our church communities without access to the internet. Our mailing list is based on our electoral rolls, which means we catch most people, but some slip the net. If you know of someone who would benefit from receiving news from us, please let us know. Charles Hill is collating addresses and organises the mailing list, alongside myself and Emma Laughton. Please contact Charles or Emma with a name/address/email of anyone who may be missing out (our contact details are below).

Churches Open in the Holyford Mission Community

Although public worship in our churches has been suspended by order of the Government, our churches remain open for people to go in to be still, pray or reflect. My thanks to those who have committed to unlock and lock the churches during this period, and clean them. Here are the details of the opening times (as always, the precise opening times will vary according to people's availability):

St Andrew's, Colyton	Open every day from 8.30am to dusk
St Michael's, Colyford	Open every day during daylight hours
St Winifred's, Branscombe	Open every day during daylight hours
St Michael's, Musbury	Open every day during daylight hours
St Giles's, Northleigh	Open on Sundays, 9am to 4pm
St Lawrence's, Southleigh	Open on Sundays during daylight hours

Readings and Prayers for Sunday 15th November 2020

Collect: Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Zephaniah 1.7,12–end Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, 'The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm.' Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their

flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Psalm 90.1–8, 12 Lord, you have been our dwelling–place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You turn us back to dust, and say, 'Turn back, you mortals.' For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night. You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed. You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance. So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

1 Thessalonians 5.1–11 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Matthew 25.14–30 'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Post Communion Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Services and Events this week

The Eucharist will continue to be celebrated quietly by the Rector at 9.30am on Sundays and 10am on Wednesdays in one of our Mission Community Churches or at the Vicarage. Sadly, we are not allowed to have congregations attending the Eucharists in church at these times.

Sunday 15th November 2 before Advent	N/A 2.30pm	Online service Telephone Service
Monday 16th November St Margaret		Morning Prayer (Psalm 47, Daniel 8.1–14, Revelation 10) Evening Prayer (Psalm 71, Isaiah 9.8–10.4, Matthew 7.1–12)
Tuesday 17th November St Hugh	1.00pm 5.00pm 7.30pm	Morning Prayer (Psalm 52, Daniel 8.15–end, Revelation 11.1–14) Funeral of Audrey Dean, St Michael's, Colyford Evening Prayer via Zoom (Ps. 67, Isaiah 10.5–19, Mat. 7.13–end) Colyton PCC meeting via Zoom
Wednesday 18th November St Elizabeth	5.00pm	Morning Prayer (Psalm 56, Daniel 9.1–19, Rev 11.15–end) Evening Prayer via Zoom (Psalm 73, Isaiah 10.20–32, Mat 8.1–13)
Thursday 19th November St Hilda	10.00am 5.00pm 7.30pm	Morning Prayer (Psalm 62, Daniel 9.20–end, Revelation 12) Interment of Donald Welch, St Michael's, Musbury Evening Prayer via Zoom (Ps. 76, Isaiah 10.33–11.9, Mat. 8.14–22) Bible Study via Zoom
Friday 20th November St Edmund	12.00 noon 5.00pm	Morning Prayer (Psalm 63, Daniel 10.1–11.1, Revelation 13.1–10) Funeral of The Rev'd Alistair Sutherland, St Michael's, Musbury Evening Prayer via Zoom (P. 77, Is. 11.10–end of 12, Mat. 8.23–end)
Saturday 21st November Presentation of BVM		Morning Prayer (Psalm 78.1–39, Daniel 12, Rev 13.11–end) Evening Prayer (Psalm 78.40–end, Isaiah 13.1–13, Matthew 9.1–17)

Prayers this week are asked for

Sunday:	For carers at home
Monday:	For those who give generously to the poor
Tuesday:	For victims of bullying at school and work
Wednesday:	For those working on Covid vaccines
Thursday:	For those who seek peace and reconciliation
Friday:	For the royal family
Saturday:	For peace in Ethiopia

Please continue to pray for all those who are struggling at this time, especially those ill at home or in hospital. Prayer requests can be sent to us via the office@holyford.org or to Fr Steven.

*We remember those who have died recently, among them:
Janine Gibb, Don Welch, Michael Brock, Audrey Dean and The Rev. Alistair Sutherland.
Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Some Music

I am sure many of you saw the service which took place in Westminster Abbey on Wednesday to mark Remembrance Day. It included a stirring performance of a setting of our Psalm set for Sunday, Psalm 90, by Ralph Vaughan Williams. The piece is very atmospheric and powerful, and combines the Psalm with the hymn 'O God Our Help in Ages Past'. Here is a link to a performance of the piece by the choir of St John's College, Cambridge: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGWZgGtgOAM>

A prayer

O god of love, who art in all places and times, pour the balm of thy comfort upon every lonely heart. Have pity upon those who are bereft of human love, and on those to whom it has never come. Be unto them a strong consolation, and in the end give them fullness of joy, for the sake of Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord.

Mission Community Contacts

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