



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

Issue 33: The Baptism of Christ, Sunday 10th January 2021

The Rector's Ramblings...

Our online service this week can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/498476877>. Although I have failed to mention it in the online service, today is also Plough Sunday, when we remember and pray for our farmers and those who work the land to provide us with food and resources. If you are able to enjoy a walk in the countryside this week, perhaps pray for those who work the land as you go (Hosea 10.12).

This Sunday we hear in our readings about the Baptism of Christ. We also need the message at the heart of our Gospel this week: 'You are the beloved'. God's words to Jesus as he rises out of the waters of Baptism. They are also God's words to each one of us at our baptism. God regards each one of us as his beloved sons and daughters.

This week has involved lots of toing and froing, trying to make careful and important decisions as individuals and collectively about how we best meet the spiritual and physical needs of our church and wider communities during this time. When the third lockdown was announced, I called together the five PCCs for a meeting to discuss the immediate future with regard worship and church opening. The Government have recognized the importance of churches continuing to offer public worship, but given the present situation I believed it was important to seek the opinion of our PCCs.

Each of the PCCs have decided to continue to keep our churches open for individuals to come in and pray. St Winifred's, Branscombe and St Andrew's, Colyton will be open each day. St Lawrence's, Southleigh and St Giles's, Northleigh and St Michael's, Musbury on Sundays only; the Chapel at Colyford will open on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

In my hurried email to everyone on Thursday, I implied that all of the churches are suspending their public worship for the duration. This is not quite correct, and I must apologize to the members of the PCCs at Branscombe and Musbury for my mistake, which was pointed out to me after I had sent the email. Branscombe voted to keep public worship going there, albeit on a reduced pattern. Their next Sunday service will be a Eucharist on 7th February at 11.15am. Musbury PCC have decided to have a Eucharist at the end of February (details to be confirmed).

The PCCs of Colyton and Colyford, Northleigh and Southleigh have decided to cease public worship for the time being. The PCCs decision to cease public worship does not apply to Funerals, which can still take place in any of the six churches at any time.

We continue, of course, with services online and via telephone. We will also be resuming the Zoom Evensongs on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Please join us.

Given the time of year and the levels of illness and concern at the moment, the following weeks and months are going to be challenging. God is with us. A God who regards each one of us—however we may regard our own value or worth—as his beloved sons and daughters. St Luke tells us that God even knows the numbers of hairs on our heads; in the same verse he repeats the most often-repeated phrase in the Bible: 'Do not be afraid' (Luke 12.7). That phrase (or similar) occurs at least 365 times in scripture—that is one 'Do not be afraid' to take for each day of the year. Certainly, one for every day of this lockdown. In all things, God desires each one of us take to heart his love for us, and to bring us his peace.

Fr Steven.

Morning and Evening Prayer

A group of people (who usually gather each day at St Andrew's) have undertaken to continue saying Morning Prayer each day at 8.30am at home. Perhaps you may like to join us at home at this time, perhaps one or two mornings a week? We use *Common Worship Daily Prayer*. The order of service and daily readings can be had from the Church of England website <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

You can also join us for Evening Prayer, Tuesdays to Fridays via Zoom or telephone. Evening prayer follows *The Book of Common Prayer*, so have a copy ready, or use the order of service I have attached to the weekly email. To join on Zoom, follow this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3981232457?pwd=SU1zZ0NHSENYMThqbDczMXUzL3FrUT09>

Meeting ID: 398 123 2457 Passcode: 1297553180

to join by telephone (voice only) dial: 01 131 460 1196

Hetty Kothari's Life Vows

The service previously postponed in November, has once again been postponed due to current concerns.

Congratulations!

To Natalie Bishop and Tim White on the birth of their beautiful daughter, Olivia, on Tuesday. Tim is a member of the choir and PCC at St Andrew's. We wish this lovely new family every blessing.

Holyford Bible Study Group: Thursdays via Zoom

These will resume on Thursday 14th January. The topic will be the First Letter of John. All our welcome to join us: Zoom Meeting ID: 398 123 2457 Passcode: 1297553180.

Fun

There are some plans afoot to organise some sort of social event via Zoom during this lockdown. If you have an idea, or any suitable creative ideas to draw us together at this time, please let me know. It would be nice for us to get together for a purely social occasion—nothing long or complicated, just something to cheer us all up a bit!

Prayers and Readings for this Sunday

Collect Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; 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. Amen.

Genesis 1.1–5 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Psalm 29 Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendour. The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty. The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon. He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox. The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire. The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, 'Glory!' The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king for ever. May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!

Acts 19.1–7 While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.' On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—altogether there were about twelve of them.

Mark 1.4–11 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.' In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Post Communion Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings for next week: 1 Samuel 3. 1–10, Psalm 139, Revelation 5. 1–10, John 1.43–end.

A Prayer for this week

I lift up my eyes unto you; in you, O my God, Father of mercies, do I put my trust. Bless and sanctify my soul with heavenly benediction, that it may become your holy habitation and the seat of your eternal glory; and let nothing be found in the temple of your dignity that may offend the eyes of your majesty. (*Thomas a Kempis*)

Your Prayers this week are asked for

Sunday: For farmers and all who work the land
Monday: For our PCCs and Churchwardens
Tuesday: For those in hospital and all medical workers
Wednesday: For bishops and teachers of the faith
Thursday: For those working to distribute the covid vaccine
Friday: For those living alone
Saturday: For those home-schooling children

Services and Events this week

Although there is no public worship during January, the Eucharist will continue to be celebrated quietly by the Rector on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Sunday 10th January Baptism of Christ	2.30pm	Online Service available Morning Prayer (Psalm 89, 19–29, 1 Samuel 16.1–3, 13, John 1.29–34) Telephone Service Evening Prayer (Psalm 46, Isaiah 42.1–9, Ephesians 2.1–10)
Monday 11th January Mary Slessor		Morning Prayer (Psalms 2, 110, Amos 1, 1 Corinthians 1.1–17) Evening Prayer (Psalms 34, 36, Genesis 1.1–19, Matthew 2.1–17)
Tuesday 12th January St Aelred of Rievaulx	2.00pm 5.00pm 7.30pm	Morning Prayer (Psalm 8, 9, Amos 2, 1 Corinthians 1. 18–end) St Michael's Committee meeting via Zoom Evening Prayer via Zoom (Psalm 45, 46, Genesis 1.20–2.3, Mat. 21.33–end) Mission Community Council meeting via Zoom
Wednesday 13th January St Hilary	5.00pm	Morning Prayer (Psalms 19, 20, Amos 3, 1 Corinthians 2) Evening Prayer via Zoom (Psalms 47, 48, Genesis 2.4–end, Mat. 21.33–end)
Thursday 14th January	5.00pm 7.30pm	Morning Prayer (Psalm 21, 24, Amos 4, 1 Corinthians 3) Evening Prayer via Zoom (Psalms 21, 24, Amos 4, 1 Corinthians 3) Bible Study via Zoom
Friday 15th January	1.00pm 5.00pm	Morning Prayer (Psalms 67, 72, Amos 5.1–17, 1 Corinthians 4) Funeral of the late Arthur Butler, St Andrew's, Colyton Evening Prayer via Zoom (Psalms 61, 65, Genesis 3, Mat. 22.15–33)
Saturday 16th January		Morning Prayer (Psalms 29, 33, Amos 5.18–end, 1 Corinthians 5) Evening Prayer (Psalms 84, 85, Genesis 6.1–10)
Sunday 17th January Epiphany 2	2.30pm	Online Service available Telephone Service

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:
Nora Munro-Faure, Arthur Butler, Liz Bass and Margaret Snell.
Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.

Mission Community Contacts

Rector	Fr Steven Martin	01297 553180 rector@holyford.org
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Hon. Assistant Priests	The Reverend Canon Colin Preece The Reverend Nigel Freathy	01297 552154 01297 22303
Readers	Dr Charles Hill Mrs Sue McCullough	01297 552141 Charles.hill465@btinternet.com 01297 552446
Churchwardens:		
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	Jill Johnson 01297 680133
Colyton:	Christine Sansom 01297 552065	David Fouracre 01297 552915
Musbury:	Sue Irving 01297 552440	Michael Pritchard 01297 552297

Some Music

A suitable one for remembering baptism.

Palestrina's sublime setting of Psalm 42 sung by Gesualdo Six
in the liminal space of Ely Cathedral's Lady Chapel. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pdv9vmGo4EE>

For Plough Sunday... I've struggled a bit to find some suitable music for this... the only thing that comes to mind is The Wurzels singing *I've Got A Brand-New Combine Harvester...* but if I encourage you to listen to that, it will worm away in your ears all day.
(You have probably started singing or humming it already.)

Perhaps a more wholesome suggestion is *The Plough Song*, sung by Nick Kier
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6pVq4BhRwLg>

Nothing is too great and nothing is too small to
commit into the hands of the Lord.

A.W. Pink (1886–1952)