



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 38: Sunday before Lent, known as Quinquagesima Sunday, 14th February 2021.

The Rector's Ramblings...

Our online service is now available at: <https://vimeo.com/511895173>. My thanks to all those who have contributed to this week's service: Alex, Nick, Sallie, Ross, Robert and Juliet. Our Lent Course begins next Thursday 25th February, but the sermon today begins to look at our Lent Course, *Seven Sacred Spaces*. This is because there are five Lent course sessions and seven spaces! The online sermons between now and Easter will look briefly at each of the seven spaces in turn; the Lent Course itself will cover all seven spaces, but over five sessions. I am referring to the course during our online services to enable all who wish to engage with the mission action planning to do so. I have also written to those without access to the internet about our Lent Course and Mission Action plan, inviting their views.

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. There will be a short Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes at St Winifred's, Branscombe at 10am and all are welcome and anyone who wishes to attend is reminded that we need to continue with all the usual precautions: masks, distancing, etc. The Imposition of Ashes will be done in a different way following Church of England Covid guidance.

Next Sunday there will be a short Eucharist at Southleigh. No one should feel at all obliged to attend church during this time, but those who do wish to attend church, and are willing to follow all the precautions, are welcome to join us. My concern throughout this crisis has been that there should be provision for all if possible (and within the bounds of the current laws), whatever circumstances people find themselves in. Alongside our limited services in church, our online and telephone worship will continue uninterrupted, as it has done for almost a year now.

If you are at home on Ash Wednesday but wish to observe the day, I have prepared a short service of readings and prayers which you can use; there are also sachets of blessed ash that you can also collect to 'ash' yourselves! My thanks to Maureen and Chris King, who have been busy burning last year's Palm Crosses to make the ash for us. The ash has been carefully packaged in small sachets which will be available (together with some service sheets) in the churches from Sunday to Ash Wednesday—either in the church itself or in the porch if the church is locked. The service sheet has been sent to you electronically (attached to the weekly email) so that you can print it off at home or use it on your device. Those on the electoral roll without internet or email addresses have been sent the sheet and ash by post. If you know of someone who is not receiving these postings from us, it means that we have no address for them. Please ask them to get in touch and we can add them to the distribution list.

The Sundays before Lent are known as the 'Gesima Sundays'. *The Book of Common Prayer* labels the Sundays between Christmas/Epiphany and Lent with 'gesima' titles. Last week was Sexagesima Sunday, and this Sunday is Quinquagesima Sunday. I prefer these titles because they are more positive than simply calling these weeks '2nd before Lent' or whatever, which isn't very imaginative to my mind. I am not sure we should be looking forward to Lent either; we should be looking towards Easter. 'Quinquagesima' literally means 50 days before Easter Day. Although we should prepare carefully for Lent and observe it fully, our goal is always Easter. Lent is a necessary journey, but it is not a destination—penance is good for the soul, but it is useless unless it serves a purpose. This, in short, is the reason why I like to use the Gesima titles for these Sundays, because it reminds us of what we are heading towards: not more worry or misery, but the joy of the eternal Easter (... and at a more mundane level, it also helps your hapless Rector to find the correct readings and collects when taking a BCP service...).

As I prepare for Lent, I have yet to decide what I might give up or what I might take up as penance and preparation during the 40 days. I often joke, in reply to someone who asks me what I have given up for Lent, 'Pa!' say, 'I have given up HOPE...!' but that is, of course, exactly what we must never do.

Quinquagesima reminds us to keep Easter in sight: it may be 50 days away, but the bulbs have shed their papery husks and are pushing upwards into growth and blossom. Let us try and find something that will enable us to grow this Lent.

With every good wish and blessing,

Fr Steven.

Ash Wednesday

An order of service for use at home can be downloaded from the website. Sachets of ash and some hard copies of the order of service can be collected from the church porch. There will be a Eucharist at Branscombe on Ash Wednesday at 10am for anyone who wishes to attend.

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. 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> The readings are listed below in the schedule of services.

You can also join us for Evening Prayer, Tuesdays to Fridays via Zoom or telephone. Evening prayer follows The Book of Common Prayer. 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

Lent Course 2021: Seven Sacred Spaces

Discerning God's call and purpose for the Holyford Mission Community through the Church Army resource, *Seven Sacred Spaces*. The Lent course is designed to help us all to reflect on where we are personally on our journey of faith, and how this might shape and feed our mission and outreach as six churches. Our discussions will help to shape a plan which will enable us to focus on how we flourish and grow over the next five years. Our current 'Mission Action Plan' came to an end in 2019. A Mission Action Plan is something which all churches in the Diocese are encouraged to produce to enable parishes/benefices to plan for the future. The plan is not going to be a complex document and it will not be 'cast in stone', or tie us to impossible targets; rather is intended as a way of helping us to be focused and achieve things that will, with God's grace, help us sustain and grow our churches.

Part of the purpose of the Lent Course is to gather ideas and information that can be used to form the Mission Action Plan. Don't be put off if all this sounds a bit dry, it won't be. Nobody will be 'put on the spot' and you can join in even if you would rather not gather on Zoom. I will incorporate the themes of the course in the Sunday online service each week in order to enable as many as possible to engage with the Mission Action Plan should they wish. You may discover that God is calling you in new ways to use your gifts and talents.

This will be part of a wider consultation. Over the coming months I will be talking to the Ministry Team and asking our partners—school leaders, local councilors, and others—about what it is that is most important about our churches and how we might work together over the next few years. After Easter the information will be drawn together and a draft plan will be discussed by the five PCCs and shared with the wider community. Given the disruption caused by the current crisis, it is more important than ever that we have a plan for the future.

The *Seven Sacred Spaces* course focuses on the different parts of a monastery/convent, in order to help us to discern ways in which we can develop a deeper community life in Christ. The course is not a specific study of monks and nuns or the history convents or monasteries, but simply a helpful framework whereby we look at the different aspects of our community life here, from three different perspectives:

our own (as individuals) as a church (as members of the Body of Christ) and as part of a wider community (our parishes).

Here is a list of the Seven Spaces with some questions to give you an idea of how we shall be looking at them in order to generate discussion:

- **Cell** (being alone with God) *What helps me to pray? We will consider our personal prayer life and how, as a church community, we can support and help others to develop theirs.*
- **Chapel** (corporate worship) *What does worship mean to us? How does worship feed us spiritually and how can we enable everyone to connect more deeply with our corporate worship?*
- **Chapter** (making decisions) *When I make decisions, whom do I consult? What are our values and policies as a church? What links do we have with the wider community? How do we support our community life and sustain our churches?*
- **Cloister** (planned and surprising meetings) *Where/how do I meet people and how is my faith in evidence? How do I respond to those in need? How do we respond as a church? What are the needs of the wider community?*
- **Garden** (the place of work) *How do we regard the products of our efforts and labours? What and how do we use our gifts as individuals and as a church? What and how do we use our resources and plant?*
- **Refectory** (food and hospitality) *In what ways do we share hospitality? How will we recover this aspect of meeting together after the pandemic? What opportunities are there for offering hospitality to those in need, visitors, people in the wider community?*
- **Scriptorium** (study and passing on knowledge) *How do we learn more about God? How do we share the knowledge of our faith? How do we nurture ourselves and others who wish to learn more?*

Our Lent Course will take place over five sessions, all via Zoom. Each session will begin at 7.30pm and last one hour:

1. Thursday 25th February
2. Thursday 4th March
3. Thursday 11th March
4. Thursday 18th March
5. Thursday 25th March

Lent Book

There is no specific Lent book to accompany our Lent Course this year. For those who would like me to recommend something suitable to read during Lent, I would suggest **Rowan Williams's** book **Being Disciples: Essentials of the Christian Life** (SPCK, 2016, price c. £11) is a good book. It is available in print and as an audio book. Although it is not directly tied-in with our Lent Course, it will compliment our Seven Sacred Spaces. Six short chapters with useful points for reflection/discussion. If there is sufficient demand then we could have an informal coffee morning over Zoom to discuss the book. Please register your interest with Emma at the office: office@holyford.org and we shall organise a session during Lent.

Musbury Ceiling Appeal

The scaffolding is up and the crucial investigative work will begin shortly. It is impossible at this stage to say what the final cost will be, but we know that it will be in the order of at least £10,000 to £15,000 and probably more. My sincere thanks to all those who have sent a donation.

If you would like to send a donation to Musbury PCC, please send it to Mr Robin Collis, Monmouth House, The Street, Musbury, EX13 8AU or by BACs: Lloyds, Axminster Branch, Account name: Musbury PCC Sort Code: 30-90-37 Account number: 00115665. Many thanks.

Readings etc for Sunday 14th February 2021 (called Quinquagesima, or The Next Sunday before Lent)

Collect Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

2 Kings 2.1–12 Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, ‘Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.’ But Elisha said, ‘As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.’ So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, ‘Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?’ And he said, ‘Yes, I know; keep silent.’ Elijah said to him, ‘Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.’ But he said, ‘As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.’ So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, ‘Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?’ And he answered, ‘Yes, I know; be silent.’ Then Elijah said to him, ‘Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.’ But he said, ‘As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.’ So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, ‘Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.’ Elisha said, ‘Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.’ He responded, ‘You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.’ As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, ‘Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!’ But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Psalm 50.1–6.

¹ The mighty one, God the Lord,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

² Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
God shines forth.

³ Our God comes and does not keep silence,
before him is a devouring fire,

and a mighty tempest all around him.

⁴ He calls to the heavens above
and to the earth, that he may judge his people:

⁵ ‘Gather to me my faithful ones,
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!’

⁶ The heavens declare his righteousness,
for God himself is judge.

2 Corinthians 4.3–6 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. For it is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness’, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Mark 9.2–9 Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, ‘Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.’ He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, ‘This is my Son, the

Beloved; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Post Communion Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Next week's readings (Lent 1) Genesis 9.8–17; Psalm 25.1–9; 1 Peter 3.18–end; Mark 1.9–15.

A Prayer for this week

As the days lengthen and the earth spends longer in the light of day, grant that I may spend longer in the light of your presence, O Lord, and may those seeds of your Word, which have been long-buried within me, grow, into love for you and love for people. Grant, Father, that this Lent there may be a springtime for my life in Christ. Amen. (*Dick Williams*)

Your prayers this week are asked for

Sunday: For those preparing to get married
Monday: For teachers on their half-term break
Tuesday: For those who are grieving
Wednesday: For the keeping of a holy Lent
Thursday: For those working to distribute the vaccine at home and abroad
Friday: For those suffering dental problems
Saturday: For the homeless

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:
Lucian Nethsingha, John Baker, Frank Teuten, Derek Johnstone, Liz Bass,
Hazel Rowswell and Ruth Snell.
Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Some Music

This week came the sad news that Lucian Nethsingha has died. Lucian was Director of Music at Exeter Cathedral from 1973–1999. Here is a recording of Choral Evensong from Exeter Cathedral first broadcast in 1994. It includes a fine performance of Stanford's setting of the evening canticles in C and Parry's *I was glad*, conducted by Lucian Nethsingha with Paul Morgan at the organ. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g5uguVIP7qQ>

A prayer for Shrove Tuesday

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for the abundance of gifts you shower upon us. Prepare us for tomorrow and the start of a holy Lent. Tasting the fullness of what we have today, give us the strength to deny ourselves tomorrow. As our feasting fills us with gratitude so may our fasting and abstinence hollow out in us a place for deeper desires and an attentiveness to hear your call and the cry of the poor. May our self-denial turn our hearts to you and give us a new freedom for generous service to others. All this we ask through our Saviour and Friend Jesus Christ, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Services and Events this week

**Although there is no public worship scheduled for this Sunday,
the Eucharist will continue to be celebrated quietly by the Rector.**

We pray for you all every day at Morning and Evening Prayer, and at the Eucharist on Sundays.

Sunday 14 February Quinquagesima	2.30pm	Online service available Morning Prayer (Psalms 27, 150; Exodus 24.12–end; 2 Cor. 3.12–end) Telephone Service Evening Prayer (Psalm 2; 1 Kings 19.1–16; 2 Peter 1.16–end)
Monday 15 February St Sigfrid		Morning Prayer (Psalm 44; Jeremiah 1; John 3.1–21) Evening Prayer (Psalms 47, 49; Genesis 37.1–11; Galatians 1)
Tuesday 16 February Shrove Tuesday	11.30am 5.00pm	Morning Prayer (Psalms 48, 52; Jeremiah 2.1–13; John 3.22–end) Funeral of John Baker at East Devon Crematorium Evening Prayer by Zoom (Psalm 50; Gen. 37.12–end; Galatians 2.1–10)
Wednesday 17 February Ash Wednesday	10.00am 2.30pm 5.00pm	Morning Prayer (Psalm 38; Daniel 9.3–6, 17–19; 1 Timothy 6.6–19) Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes, St Winifred's, Branscombe Funeral of Frank Teuten at Colyton Cemetery Evening Prayer by Zoom (Psalm 51; Isaiah 1.10–18; Luke 15.11–end)
Thursday 18 February	5.00pm 7.30pm	Morning Prayer (Psalm 77; Jeremiah 2.14–32; John 4.1–26) Evening Prayer by Zoom (Psalm 74; Genesis 39; Galatians 2.11–end) Bible Study by Zoom
Friday 19 February	5.00pm	Morning Prayer (Psalm 3, 7; Jeremiah 3.6–22; John 4.27–42) Evening Prayer by Zoom (Psalm 31; Genesis 40; Galatians 3.1–14)
Saturday 20 February		Morning Prayer (Psalm 71; Jeremiah 4.1–18; John 4.43–end) Evening Prayer (Psalm 73; Genesis 41.1–24; Galatians 3.15–22)
Sunday 21st February First Sunday in Lent	11.15am 2.30pm	Online Service Eucharist at St Lawrence's, Southleigh Telephone Service

In the silence of the heart God speaks. If you face God in prayer and silence, God will speak to you. Then you will know that you are nothing. It is only when you realize your nothingness, your emptiness, that God can fill you with Himself. Souls of prayer are souls of great silence.

St. Theresa of Calcutta

Pancakes

(just in case you have forgotten how to make them!)

Ingredients

225g plain flour
Pinch salt
2 large eggs
600ml milk
2 tsp melted butter + extra

Method

Sieve flour into a large baking bowl, add the salt. Make a well in the centre and add the eggs. Beat until smooth. Add half the milk and 2 tsp of butter, beat well. Add remaining milk and stir. Leave batter to rest for 15 minutes. Lightly grease a frying pan with melted butter. Heat until very hot and add a ladleful of batter so it coats the base of the pan. Cook until lightly golden, flip and cook for 30 seconds on remaining side. Slide onto a warm plate, cover and repeat!

Action shots of pancake tossing are required for the next edition of the Holyford Herald. Photos should be taken 'mid-air' if possible. Photos of pancakes stuck to ceilings/kitchen utensils/heads will also be considered for publication.

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