



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 : Sunday 21st February, the First Sunday of Lent 2021.

The Rector's Ramblings...

Here is the link to this week's online service: <https://vimeo.com/514621145> . My thanks to Canon Colin Preece, Jane Preece, Caroline Martin and Simon Ford for their contributions, and to Alex McNeice and Nick Brown for our hymn this week. Alex recently auditioned for the RSCM Millenium Youth Choir, the flagship group of the Royal School of Church Music and one of the country's most prestigious youth choirs. Many congratulations to Alex who heard this week that he had been successful. This is very good news for Alex and a tribute to the hard work and dedication of Nick Brown and the choir at St Andrew's.

Lent began on Ash Wednesday and it was good to be able to worship at St Winifred's, Branscombe. Our Lent Course begins on Thursday (details below); all are welcome to join us via Zoom. The theme is *Seven Sacred Spaces*, and this week's course will look at the first two: the Cell (private room for rest, study, prayer and reading) and the Chapel (where and how we gather for worship). These two spaces are also the subject of my online sermon this week.

This Sunday there will be a Eucharist at 11.15am at St Lawrence's, Southleigh. All who wish to attend are welcome. No-one should feel any pressure to return to services in church, but the opportunity is there for those who wish to receive the Sacrament during these difficult times. The online and telephone services will, of course, continue.

A number of our churches have small pots of money set aside for the relief of those in need (especially families and older people struggling to make ends meet). Some of the funds have been used recently, but there is more available. If you know of anyone who is in need at the moment and would benefit from some discrete help, please let me know.

With every good wish and blessing,

Fr Steven.

Easter Chicks... a message from Jane Preece

Last year Kay White and I knitted Easter chicks and filled them with Cadbury's crème eggs. We sold them in the Lantern charity shop until March and then when Lockdown began, Anton kindly sold them in his butcher's shop. This year we have made both chicks and Easter bunnies. Anton has agreed to sell them on his counter again, for which we are extremely grateful. As the price of eggs has gone up, we feel it is reasonable to charge £1.50 this year. Please drop the money into the container when you pick up your rabbit or chick and I will collect it regularly from Anton's.

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) available in print and as an audio book. 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.

Fasting ... some suggestions from Pope Francis

Fast from Hurting Words and say Kind words.
Fast from Sadness and be filled with Gratitude.
Fast from Anger and be filled with Patience.
Fast from Pessimism and be filled with Hope.
Fast from Worries and Trust in God.
Fast from Complaints and contemplate Simplicity.
Fast from Pressures and be Prayerful.
Fast from Bitterness and fill your heart with Joy.
Fast from Selfishness and be Compassionate to others.
Fast from Grudges and be Reconciled.
Fast from Words and be Silent so you can listen.

Evening Prayer via Zoom

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. *The readings set for Morning and Evening Prayer can be found below in the schedule of services and events for this week.* To join on Zoom, follow this link:

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

or login via the Zoom website with the following codes:

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 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 aim to produce a short video each week ahead of each session to enable anyone who wishes to reflect at home and contribute their ideas. You may discover that there are ways in which 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 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

Here is the link to join the course:

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

or login via the Zoom website with the following codes: Meeting ID: 398 123 2457 Passcode: 1297553180

A Prayer for this week

God of the guiding star, the bush that blazes, show us your way.

God of the stormy seas, the bread that nourishes, teach us your truth.

God of the still, small voice, the wind that blows where it chooses, fill us with life.

God of the elements, of our inward and outward journeys, set our feet on your road today.

May God bless us with a safe journey.

May the angels and saints travel with us.

May we live this day in justice and joy. Amen.

The Iona Community

Musbury Ceiling Appeal

Many thanks indeed to all those who have contributed to the ceiling appeal. The architect and plasterers have now inspected the ceiling on the south side of the church and have concluded that 17.5 panels need to be replaced. This is a few more than originally anticipated, but we are hopeful that with the help of grants and further donations we will be able to complete the repairs. 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.



A photograph of the South side of St Michael's Musbury. The monument has been boxed in and protected and the organ covered to keep it free of dust. The scaffolding is up and the repairs will begin this week.

Your prayers this week are asked for

- Sunday: For those who are not sure where the next meal is coming from
Monday: For our Government
Tuesday: For those who bear faithful witness in difficult circumstances
Wednesday: For parish treasurers
Thursday: For those whose operations have been postponed
Friday: For those whose work puts them at risk of covid
Saturday: For children whose opportunity to play together is restricted

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:
John Baker, Frank Teuten and Derek Johnstone.
Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Readings and prayers for the First Sunday of Lent

Collect: Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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.

Genesis 9.8–17 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ‘As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.’ God said, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.’ God said to Noah, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.’

Psalm 25.1–9

¹ To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

² O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.

³ Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly
treacherous.

⁴ Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.

⁵ Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.

⁶ Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your
steadfast love,

for they have been from of old.

⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth or my
transgressions;

according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness’ sake, O Lord!

⁸ Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

⁹ He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.

1 Peter 3.18–end For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Mark 1.9–15 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.’ And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’

Post Communion: Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next week’s readings (Lent 2): Genesis 17.1-7, 15–16; Psalm 22.23–end; Romans 4.13–end; Mark 8.31–end

Services and Events this week

Sunday 21 February

Lent 1

11.15am

2.30pm

Online service available

Morning Prayer (*Psalm 77; Exodus 34.1–10; Romans 10.8b–13*)

Eucharist at St Lawrence's, Southleigh

Telephone Service

Evening Prayer (*Ps. 119.17–32; Gen. 2.15–17, 3.1–7; Rom. 5.12–19*)

Monday 22 February

The Chair of St. Peter

Morning Prayer (*Psalms 10, 11; Jeremiah 4.19–end; John 5.1–18*)

Evening Prayer (*Psalms 12, 13, 14; Genesis 41.25–45; Galatians 3.23–4.7*)

Tuesday 23 February

St Polycarp

5.00pm

Morning Prayer (*Psalm 44; Jeremiah 5.1–19; John 5.19–29*)

Evening Prayer by Zoom (*Pss. 46, 49; Gen. 41.46–42.5; Gal. 4.8–20*)

Wednesday 24 February

Ember Day

5.00pm

Morning Prayer (*Psalms 6, 17; Jeremiah 5.20–end; John 5.30–end*)

Evening Prayer by Zoom (*Pss 9, 28; Gen. 42.6–17; Galatians 4.21–5.1*)

Thursday 25 February

5.00pm

7.30pm

Morning Prayer (*Psalm 42, 43; Jeremiah 6.9–21; John 6.1–15*)

Evening Prayer by Zoom (*Pss. 137, 138, 142; Gen. 42.18–28; Gal. 5.2–15*)

Lent Course by Zoom

Friday 26 February

Ember Day

5.00pm

Morning Prayer (*Psalm 22; Jeremiah 6.22–end; John 6.16–27*)

Evening Prayer by Zoom (*Pss. 54, 55; Genesis 42.29–end; Gal. 5.16–end*)

Saturday 27 February

George Herbert

Morning Prayer (*Pss. 59, 63; Jeremiah 7.1–20; John 6.27–40*)

Evening Prayer (*Psalms 4, 16; Genesis 43.1–15; Galatians 6*)

It's true we cannot reach Christ's fortieth day
Yet to go part of that religious way
Is better than to rest:
We cannot reach our Saviour's purity;
Yet we are bid, 'Be Holy even as He':
In both let's do our best.

George Herbert

Some Music

To celebrate Alex's success, here is a recording of the RSCM Millennium Youth Choir singing Breathe on me, breath of God. We look forward to seeing him on TV when he joins the ranks of the tenors!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hHjZegl7lM>



Pancake pics from Shrove Tuesday

I have been sent one 'action shot' in response to last week's request!

A successful flip executed by Andrew Stone, organist and choirmaster at St Michael's Colyford.

Clearly an expert pancake chef at work. Note the excellent shape of the pancake; the chef keeps his eyes fixed on the cake, with arms forward at an excellent angle, with slightly bended knees... all superbly demonstrating the optimum position for a successful take off and landing.

Mission Community Contacts

Rector	Fr Steven Martin	01297 553180 rector@hollyford.org
MC Administrator	Mrs Emma Laughton	01297 551400 office@hollyford.org
Families Worker	Ms Linda Joy	07796 063208 lindajoychildrensworker@gmail.com
Readers	Dr Charles Hill	01297 552141 Charles.hill465@btinternet.com
	Mrs Sue McCullough	01297 552446
Hon. Assistant Priests	The Reverend Canon Colin Preece	01297 552154
	The Reverend Nigel Freathy	01297 22303
	The Reverend Canon Karen Curnock	07460 244475
	The Reverend Prebendary John Lees	01297 551351
Churchwardens		
Northleigh:	Pam Mayall 01404 871397	John Platt 01297 552416
Southleigh:	Robin Hartnell 01297 552433	
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 55229