



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 a week of celebration and preparation for more celebrations! We had two lovely Michaelmass services at Musbury (last Sunday Evening) and on Wednesday at Colyford. Many thanks to those who cleaned and decorated the churches and contributed refreshments. It was also good to have extra singers in both choirs, and my thanks to Iain and Andrew for organizing the lovely music for these services.

Many, many people have been busy across the churches this week preparing for this weekend's services and events, and it has been truly wonderful to see people pulling together in such a positive way. It has also been hugely encouraging to have so many weddings and baptisms of late and seeing lots of new faces in church, pleased to be in church and giving thanks to God for the life and relationships he makes possible.

This weekend the celebrations continue: we have Harvest Festival services at Musbury (10am Village Praise) and Colyford (3.30pm, delicious refreshments afterwards). All are welcome—these services are particularly designed to be encouraging to families and young people, or for those unfamiliar or new to church, so do invite those you know who may be interested.

At St Andrew's this weekend we will be celebrating the Feast of Dedication, when we where we remember the day, many centuries ago, when the church was completed and consecrated—a beautiful building crafted with skill and love, set apart as a space to reflect the glory of God and to provide for the life and health of his people. We celebrate the dedication and consecration of church buildings not only to give thanks for the beauty and peace of their architecture, but to remind us of the need to create a space for God within ourselves.

The church has been decorated with many small vases of flowers, brought in from many people near and far. On Saturday there will be a coffee morning (10am) and on Sunday two services: a special Eucharist at 9.30am and Choral Evensong at 6.30pm, at which the Bishop of Exeter will dedicate the new lighting system and award Alex his RSCM Gold Award for Choristers. If you are unable to come to the services, do pop in to see the church this weekend. It is looking beautiful.

On Sunday 17th October Southleigh (11.15am) and Colyton (6.30pm) will be celebrating Harvest Festival... details to follow, but there will undoubtedly be Harvest hymns and food. A teddy bear parachute drop is on the cards for the Southleigh service, so if you have young people with teddies, bring them along.

This week a small group met to plan the next steps in forming a new Pastoral Care team. If you are interested in becoming involved with this, we will be holding a general meeting on 4th November (details below).

Looking ahead to Advent (!)... Geoff and I are organizing a choir to sing at Branscombe for our Mission Community Advent Carol Service on 27th November. Anyone who wishes to join, from across the six churches (and beyond) is more than welcome. The idea is that we will be leading the congregational singing and singing a few choir items during the service. Whether you are an experienced singer or novice, you are very welcome. The music will be interesting and demanding, but not impossible! Please let me know if you are interested.

With every good wish and blessing, Fr Steven.

Holyford Mission Community Choir

We shall be forming a special choir to sing at the Mission Community Advent Carol Service on Sunday 28th November at St Winifred's, Branscombe. There will be rehearsals on Saturday mornings, 13th and 20th November, plus a rehearsal during the week before and on the day itself. Please let Fr Steven know if you are interested.

Pastoral Care Team

There will be a meeting for all who are already part of, or who have expressed an interest in joining, the Pastoral Care Team. This will take place on Thursday 4th November at 2pm (venue yet to be confirmed). If you have yet to express interest in joining this team, please email (rector@holyford.org) or phone or leave a message with your name and contact details on 01297 553180.

Holyford at Prayer—a message from the Rev Michael Selman

Since February, there has been a 'Holyford at Prayer' meeting once a month. For the first month, this was an on-line 'virtual' meeting, but it is now held at St Michael's Colyford on the Tuesday after the first Sunday of each month. (Chosen for its convenient access – and because it can be heated in the winter!) Numbers attending are small – which is a shame. Prayer of Intercession is part of the lifeblood of the Church. John Wesley asserted 'God does nothing except in response to believing prayer.' And Andrew Murray wrote 'Prayer is the power by which that comes to pass which otherwise would not take place.' If we fail to pray for the life of the church, we actually diminish God's ability to work among us and through us. Of course, we can – and I hope we do! – pray privately. But there is real benefit and power from meeting with others to share our hopes and to listen to God. Many of us can spare one hour a month; we meet at 4.30 for a half-hour of prayer followed by Evensong, for those who can stay. If you really cannot attend then, please 'join in', wherever you are. And please send the Rector or us requests for specific prayer for yourself, or anyone or thing you have a concern for. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 5 October. Michael and Jo Selman revmichael.selman@gmail.com / 07735 499920

Questions of Life and Faith

The next session of Questions of Life and Faith will be held on Thursday, 14th Oct in the Colyford Memorial Hall from 1.45 for a 2 pm start to 3.30pm approx, ending with a cuppa. Anyone is welcome to come along and explore with others the questions that really matter to them. A small voluntary donation of £1 or £2 is requested to cover the cost of booking the hall and refreshments but don't let that put anyone off.

Can you help?

Derek Cordell is an elderly priest whose sight is failing. He lives at the top end of Seaton and would like to worship regularly at Colyton, but cannot get to church without a lift. Rather than loading one person with the responsibility every week, are there two or three people who could offer to bring him on one Sunday each month, or couple of months? It would need some coordination but that can be worked out. If you are able to offer could you let Karen Curnock know in the first instance, either in person or by phone on 07460 244475 or email to karen.curnock@gmail.com

Friendly Fridays, St Andrew's Church Colyton 10am

The Friendly Friday coffee mornings are proving very popular. All are welcome. Many thanks to the team that makes this happen. If you would like to get involved, please contact Christine Sansom.

Coly Tots, St Andrew's Church, Colyton, Tuesdays at 9am

Play, refreshments, live music, toys... for children and their parents/carers to come and relax. Again, thank you to those who come and support this group by helping set up and run it. Please contact Linda Joy if you would like to get involved.

St Michael's Café

The next St Michael's Café will take place on Tuesday 19th October 10am to 12noon in Colyton Memorial Hall.

Prayers

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:

Fiona Joyce, Jean Cotching, Edward Gay, Joan Yates, Hazel Dixon, Barbara Land

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.

