



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...

Welcome to this edition of the Holyford Herald. This Sunday we celebrate Christ the King—the last Sunday in the Church's year. Advent marks the beginning of the new cycle of celebrations, as we prepare during the Advent season for Christmas. This week we shall be finalizing the new Mission Community Action Plan, which will be our broad 'roadmap' for the next five years. Do come along to St Andrew's on Thursday evening at 7.30pm if you can.

Next Sunday, 28th November the Mission Community Advent Carol Service will take place at St Winifred's, Branscombe at 6pm. The choir have been working hard to prepare the service. All are welcome to attend. There is a lot to read about in this edition, so I shall delay you no further with my ramblings.

With every good wish and blessing, Fr Steven.

Holyford at Prayer

The next Holyford at Prayer will be on Tuesday 7th December at 4.30pm in St Michael's, Colyford. A time of informal prayer led by the Rev Michael and Jo Selman.

A Message from Linda Joy, our Children and Families Worker

As Children & Families Worker for the Holyford Mission Community, it has been such a joy to welcome many new families to Colytots from far and wide as well as within the community of Colyton. We launched this new venture of a parents & baby/toddler session in May, in response to the desperate need that some families had to be able to reconnect safely once again. A very enthusiastic team of volunteers has grown and started to build friendships and relationships with the children and their parents, grandparents and carers. Father Steven keeps everyone entertained with his renditions of *Old Mac Donald* and *What Shall We Do With The Drunken Sailor*, and others serve refreshments and get to know the families.

Looking ahead, we hope that some families may feel interested in joining in the main Sunday Services at Colyton and we wish to be in a position to ensure that families feel welcomed and their needs understood and provided for. We are therefore looking for people who may feel interested in being part of a team of volunteers to create a creche/Sunday Club (Funday Club, as I like to call it!). If this is something that you feel you would like to be involved in, please do contact me and we can chat it through.

In addition, we are planning to re-launch our Messy Church on Thursday 13th January as an after-school type venture, in St Andrew's, in place of our previous Sunday afternoon sessions at the Reece Strawbridge Centre. Again, it is hoped that families feel welcome and that they belong within our church building and our church family. If this is an activity that you feel you would like to be involved in, please do contact me to discuss.

As we are re-emerging out of this Covid crisis, I feel that even more families are looking for ways to connect and places where they feel understood, welcomed and loved. Would you like to be a part of these exciting new opportunities, as we aim to show the love and light of Christ to the youngest of our communities and their families? I'd love to hear from you. lindajoychildrensworker@gmail.com tel. 07796 063208.

Questions of Life and Faith

2pm on the second Thursday of the month, led by Canon Karen Curnock, is attracting a mixed group from our local churches. We meet in Colyford Memorial Hall and the next session will be the 9th December. A donation of a £1 or £2 is welcome to meet costs, but not essential. The most important thing is to come with questions that matter to you and open them up to share views and insights. All welcome.

Holyford Posada

Sunday 28 November 2021 Advent Sunday will see the start of the Holy Family's Posada journey. Posada (the Spanish word for 'inn') started as a Mexican custom. Children dressed as Mary & Joseph and went from house to house in Advent asking people if they had any room, so prompting thinking about the Christmas story. The tradition was first brought to the UK by the Church Army. As you may be aware in Holyford, we have in relatively recent times used part of the knitted nativity set (Mary, Joseph & the donkey) for a Posada journey throughout Advent into people's homes for one night, then moving on to the next host until Christmas Eve. To take part please sign the calendar list in St Andrews or telephone 01297 552065. Hosts may, if they would like, take a photo which can be forwarded to office@holyford.org and the journey can be viewed on the Holyford Facebook page and website. All are welcome to join in this pre-Christmas fun.

Colyton Christmas Fair Night, Wednesday 1 December

Christmas Fair Night in Colyton. The church will be open as part of this event. It is proposed we have an exhibition of different nativity scenes which people use in their homes and might like to share for one night only. If you would like to take part, please bring to St Andrews from 3pm on the day and collect from 8pm. Stewards will be looking after the exhibition for the entire time. In addition, as usual there will be refreshments and the memory candles to light.

Christmas Flowers at St Andrew's, Friday 17th & Saturday 18th December

Following the success of the flower weekend in October we plan to decorate St Andrews for Christmas in the same way, using jam jar arrangements only. If you would like to take part, please bring your Christmas floral jars between 9am – 1pm on either day.

Do you knit?

January 2022 onwards: The Lantern Shop is seeking knitters with spare capacity! Recently the shop has been gifted with quantities of wool/yarn which are enough to knit actual items e.g. jumpers etc. If you could help in a voluntary capacity and would enjoy making some items that the shop would then be able to sell as garments, please contact Christine Sansom on 01297 552065.

Jars Please

Jane Preece writes: I have been making marmalade for some weeks and selling it at Friendly Fridays and Sunday mornings. It is making a little amount of money for church funds. I desperately need clean jam jars, no larger than 1lb size, with lids. Ideally I'd like them without their labels.

Holyford Mission Community Choir: Advent

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 at 6pm. There will be rehearsals on Saturday mornings, 10am to 11.30am, on 13th and 20th November at St Andrew's Church, Colyton, plus a rehearsal during the week before in Branscombe, and before the service (at 4.45pm) on the day itself. Please let Fr Steven know if you are interested (rector@holyford.org or 01297 553180) 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!

Mission Action Plan

What are we planning to do as six churches and as one Mission Community over the next five years? Last week we explored the draft Mission Action Plan. Another meeting is planned for Thursday 25th November to finalise the plan. If you would like to join in the discussion, you are welcome to come and to St Andrew's Church, Colyton at 7.30pm.

Situations Vacant: Treasurer to the PCC & Mission Community Treasurer

Angela Sansom is stepping down from these roles at the end of December. Angela has worked extremely hard over the years, doing three jobs: managing the accounts at St Andrew's, St Michael's Colyford and the Mission Community finances. We now need a new person—or a team, ideally—to take on these key roles. This is a particularly crucial time at Colyton/Colyford as we work to tackle the significant deficit. Ideally, we need a team working together to share the administration and book-keeping, plus others who can help plan and put together proposals on the best way the PCC can tackle the deficit. Please speak to David Fouracre, Christine Sansom, Angela or me if you are interested.

Some Music

To celebrate the Feast of Christ the King, here is 'Lift up ye heads' from Handel's *Messiah*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wfgTl1sMQ> Axminster and District Choral Society will be performing *Messiah* on Saturday 18th December at the Minster in Axminster 7pm. Tickets £15 via <https://www.tickettailor.com/.../axminsteranddistr.../593585> Covid precautions will be followed. Please wear a mask if appropriate and bring a cushion and refreshments! No tickets available on the door

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:

Andrew Wallach, Margery Byam Shaw, James Leeming, David Rixon and Joyce Burley.
Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.

