



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 47: The Fifth Sunday of Easter 2nd May 2021.

The Rector's Ramblings...

Our online service for today is now available: <https://vimeo.com/543808431> My thanks to Linda Joy for recording the readings, and to Alex and Nick for providing the music for the service. The sermon for the online service is from The Reverend Canon Dr Chris Palmer, Canon Chancellor of Exeter. Each new incumbent is allotted a mentor during the first year of their incumbency, and Chris has been mine as I have been settling into life here as your Rector. Chris may not be very familiar to you, but he has been helping this Mission Community over the last year in the background by supporting me during my first months in my role. I am very grateful to him for his wisdom, help and advice...he is a good preacher, too!

Linda and I have been hoping to start a new group for toddlers and their parents. Many parents of young children have been desperate to get going with things again. Noah's Ark is not able to run yet, as the hall at Colyford has yet to open. However, we shall be starting a new group on Tuesday 18th May in St Andrew's Church, with songs and stories for toddlers. Please pray for its success as we try and meet a real need in the community.

On Saturday and Sunday the gardens at Musbury Barton are open to the public. Saturday's opening went well, despite the showers. My thanks to Col Drake and the team who have made and served refreshments. The gardens are looking excellent and it was lovely to see some fine rhododendrons doing well in this part of the world. The gardens are open again on Sunday, so do consider popping along.

Our Gospel today is about plants and growth: Jesus says 'I am the vine and you are the branches' (John 15.5). The image of the vine can be found in all sorts of places and all sorts of objects connected with Christianity. At Northleigh for example, the screen across the north aisle there has a cornice with some very fine vine-leaf enrichments carved into it. The grapes remind us of the wine and blood of Christ. We are also reminded of Christ's first miracle (recorded in John) when he turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana.

The Lord refers to himself as a vine, and speaks of those united to him as branches, in order to explain to us the benefits of being in union with him, and how important it is to remain in his love.

With every good wish and blessing, Fr Steven.

Holyford at Prayer, Tuesday 4th May

Every month at St Michael's, Colyford. The next session will be on Tuesday 4th May at 4.30pm. It offers 30 minutes of quiet prayer time in a friendly, supportive group, praying for the needs of individuals, the community and the world. All are welcome. If you wish you can stay for Evensong after, which begins at 5pm.

Evensongs during the week

All are welcome to join me for Evening Prayer, Tuesday to Friday. A short service from the Book of Common Prayer. Tuesdays at Colyford, Wednesdays at Colyton, Thursdays at Branscombe, Fridays at Northleigh—5pm.

Musbury Barton Open Garden Sunday 2nd May

Lt Col Tony Drake will be opening his beautiful garden from 1.30pm to 5pm. Refreshments will be available and sold in aid of church funds. ADVANCE NOTICE: The garden will also be open on the 26th and 27th June this year, and the Sheldon Singers will be giving an informal concert of Venetian choral music in St Michael's Church at 12 noon on Saturday 26th June.

Ascension Day, Thursday 13th May, 7.30pm.

There will be a Mission Community Eucharist at St Andrew's, Colyton at 7.30pm. The service was originally scheduled to take place at St Michael's, Musbury, but the scaffolding will still be in place and work will be going on during the week, so it is more convenient to hold the service in St Andrew's.

Rogation Walk, Sunday 16th May, Branscombe

The walk will begin at the Branoc Hall at 3pm. We will walk through the fields, praying for blessings on the land and crops. The walk will conclude with a cream tea at the Old Vicarage, by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Yeabsley. £5 per person. If you are unable to do the walk, you are welcome to come for the tea! Meet us at the Old Vicarage at about 4pm. Please book your tea in advance by contacting Jill Johnson (01297 680133) or Ross Willmington (01297 680264/ mrw@symondsandsampson.co.uk).

Forthcoming Events at St Winifred's

On Saturday 10th July music students from the University of Cardiff will be coming to give a **concert of choral music** in the church at 7.30pm (details to follow). On the following Saturday, 17th July, there will be the **Branscombe Church Market** held in the grounds of the church (10.30am to 3pm). If you are able to help run a stall or would like to offer goods to sell in aid of church funds, please let Ross or Jill (churchwardens) know.

Christian Aid Week, 2021. Jane Dauncy writes:

Like most things Christian Aid week is different this year. Instead of the House -to- House collection we are finding other ways to raise the money that is so urgently needed to help those in need. The focus this year is on WATER "Every Drop Counts". Climate chaos means every last drop of water is precious to Rose and her fellow citizens in drought ridden Africa. They are doing all they can to battle against the climate crisis but they need our help.

So a small team from Colyton are going to undertake to take the Christian Aid Challenge and take 500,000 steps – that's 250 miles- in May. Please see poster in Coly Times/ the Lantern Shop /St Andrew's Church/Colyford PO about how to support us and donate. Last year we raised £3196.05 , please help us to exceed this.

You can help in other ways too. Please consider holding a small (under 6 people) coffee morning in your garden and ask for donations. The Christian Aid quiz will be available again this year from The Little Shop. For more information please contact Jane Dauncey Chair of Colyton and District Christian Aid Committee 01297 552514 or jdauncey1@gmail.com

Christian Aid service

This will be at St Andrew's, Colyton on Sunday 16th May at 9.30am. Our guest preacher is Katrine Musgrave from Christian Aid. Here is a link to a video about the work of Christian Aid over the past 75 years: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeUilUBH1omeq7cX5RjKHw> To commemorate 75 years of Christian Aid, a new prayer book has been published. Details can be found here: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/news/rage-hope-75-prayers-better-world-book-launch>

APCMs

Musbury held their APCM via Zoom the other week. The next four APCMs will be taking place in churches on the following dates:

Northleigh:	Sunday 9 th May, beginning with Evensong at 6pm
Southleigh:	Thursday 20 th May at 7pm
Colyton with Colyford:	St Andrew's Church, Tuesday 18 th May beginning with the Eucharist at 7pm
Branscombe:	Tuesday 25 th May at 7pm

All are welcome to attend. If you would like to stand to be a member of the PCC, please contact your churchwarden.

Some Music

There is a tradition at Magdalene College, Oxford, that the choristers ascend the tower on 1st May for a ceremony where the choir greets the morning with a song and the Dean blesses the University and City of Oxford. This all takes place around dawn, with thousands gathered on Magdalene Bridge to witness the occasion. The introit and blessing are followed by a selection of beautiful madrigals. This year (like last year) the event took place online. Here is the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dhwxo2pvp5s>

One of the texts that was mentioned by the President of Magdalene College in the broadcast was from the Song of Solomon. Here is Patrick Hadley's wonderful setting of the text, *My Beloved Spake* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjULGCnpYal>

Prayers

Please continue to pray for all those who are struggling at this time, especially those ill at home or in hospital and for the people of India.

Prayer requests can be sent to us via the office@holymford.org or to Fr Steven. We remember those who have died recently, among them:

**Joan Furzey, Doreen Hayes, Elizabeth Cochrane.
*Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.***

Prayer for this week

O God I fear your terrible mercy; I am afraid to surrender my self. If I let go into the whirlpool of your love, shall I survive the embrace? If I fall into the strong currents of your desire, shall I escape drowning? But how shall I refuse my Beloved, and how can I withdraw from the one my heart yearns for?

(Janet Morley)