

Services and Events this week and next Sunday

Sunday 22nd December	8.00am	Eucharist, St Andrew's, Colyton
<i>Advent IV</i>	9.30am	Eucharist, St Andrew's, Colyton
<i>O Rex Gentium</i>	11.15am	Carol Service, St Winifred's, Branscombe
	11.15am	Eucharist, St Michael's, Colyford
	11.15am	Carol Service, St Giles's, Northleigh
	11.15am	Eucharist, St Lawrence's, Southleigh
	4.00pm	Carol Service, St Michael's, Musbury
	6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight, St Andrew's Church
	6.45pm	Carol Singing, Branoc Hall, Branscombe
Monday 23rd December	8.30am	Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Colyton
<i>O Emmanuel</i>	1.00pm	Pat Clifford's funeral, St Andrew's, Colyton
Tuesday 24th December	8.30am	Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Colyton
<i>Christmas Eve</i>	10.30am	Carol Singing, Colyford Post Office green
	4.00pm	Crib Service, St Andrew's, Colyton
	6.00pm	Eucharist, St Giles's, Northleigh
	8.30pm	Eucharist, St Winifred's, Branscombe
	9.00pm	Eucharist, St Lawrence's, Southleigh
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass, St Andrew's, Colyton
Weds 25th December	8.00am	Eucharist, St Andrew's, Colyton
<i>Christmas Day</i>	9.30am	Family Communion, St Michael's, Colyford
	10.00am	Family Communion, St Andrew's, Colyton
	10.00am	Family Communion, St Michael's, Musbury
	11.15am	Family Communion, St Winifred's, Branscombe
Thursday 26th December	8.30am	Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Colyton
<i>St Stephen</i>		
Friday 27th December	8.30am	Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Colyton
<i>St John</i>		
Saturday 28th December		
<i>The Holy Innocents</i>		
Sunday 29th December	8.00am	Eucharist, St Andrew's, Colyton
<i>Christmas I</i>	9.30am	Eucharist, St Andrew's, Colyton
	6.30pm	Carol Service, St Lawrence's, Southleigh



Sunday 22nd December 2024

Advent IV

Website: www.holyford.org

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Prayers and Readings for this Sunday

Collect God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Micah 5. 2–5a But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

Luke 1. 46–55/The Magnificat And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Hebrews 10. 5–10 Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God" (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).' When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered

according to the law), then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Luke 1. 39–45 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

Post-Communion Collect Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Notices

There will be no Friendly Friday on **Friday 27th December**. We look forward to seeing everyone again on **Friday 3rd January 2025!**

Silent Prayer for Peace. There will be **no** Silent Prayer for Peace or Evening Prayer on December 25th or January 1st.

Crib Service at St Andrew's, Colyton, 4pm on Christmas Eve. A nativity service featuring live music and animals! Particularly suitable for children and families. Children (and adults!) are welcome to come in costume. Costumes will be available to borrow in church from 3.30pm.

Southleigh Carol Service, Sunday 29th December, 6.30pm in St Lawrence's Church. Everyone is welcome to our Christmas Carol Service.

Everyday First Aid Training. Tim Stone and Christine Sansom have arranged a First Aid training session for anyone who assists with services in St Andrew's Church. The British Red Cross will be running the session and it will cover a wide range of everyday first aid scenarios and how to use a defibrillator. The training will be on **Saturday 25th January** from 10am–11.30am in the Sunday School Building. Please

let Caz Jefferies in the office know if you are planning to attend. There are a limited number of spaces available.

Please note that the Mission Community office will be closed from Wednesday 25th December to 7th January 2025. Fr Steven will be taking some annual leave between 26th December and 8th January. For pastoral emergencies please contact Fr Colin 01297 552141 or other members of the Ministry Team whose details can be found at holyford.org. Other matters will be dealt with when Fr Steven returns.

A huge thank you from Fr Steven and all the members of the Ministry Team for your kind wishes, cards and gifts. They are very much appreciated.

ColyTots and Chorister Club will resume on Tuesday 14th January.

Funday Club will resume at St Andrew's, Colyton, on Sunday 5th January for the Feast of the Epiphany. Fr Steven will be leading the activities, and we shall be having a party. After the service there will be king making ceremony, complete with traditional *gallettes des rois* and tea/coffee. There will also be a special Epiphany Carol service at 6.30pm.

Your Prayers this week are asked:

Sunday:	For an openness to the Holy Spirit
Monday:	For all those who stand alongside us in our times of need
Tuesday:	For the world that God loves so much
Wednesday:	For all new born babies
Thursday:	For those who give up their lives for others
Friday:	For the growth of our churches, spiritually and numerically
Saturday:	For all who feel lonely

A prayer for this week

O God, our loving Father, help us rightly to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the songs of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake.

Robert Louis Stevenson (1850–1894)