

# 30th January 2022 - Candlemas transferred

## Holsworthy Benefice

Bridgerule, Hollacombe, Holsworthy and Pyworthy with Pancrasweek

**Administrator: Libbi York - [admin@holsworthybenefice.org.uk](mailto:admin@holsworthybenefice.org.uk)**

**Rector: Mother Elizabeth Burke**

Tel: 01409 255490, Mob: 07990978485, Email: [elizabethmaburke@icloud.co](mailto:elizabethmaburke@icloud.co)



### Services in the Holsworthy Benefice - All Welcome

		Bridgerule	Hollacombe	Holsworthy	Pancrasweek	Pyworthy
<b>Presentation of Christ</b> - Candlemas	30th Jan					10am Benefice Sung Eucharist
<b>4th Sunday before Lent</b>	6th Feb	11am Morning Prayer	3pm BCP Evening Prayer	11am Sung Eucharist		9.30am All Age Service
<b>3rd Sunday before Lent</b>	13th Feb	11am Eucharist		11am All Age Eucharist		9.30am Sung Eucharist
<b>2nd Sunday before Lent</b>	20th Feb	11am Joint Service at Methodist Chapel	9.30am BCP Holy Communion	11am Sung Eucharist		9.30 Morning Prayer
		3.30pm <b>CREATIVE CHURCH</b> for All Ages, St Peter and St Paul's church				
<b>Sunday before Lent</b>	27th Feb	11am Ecumenical All Age Eucharist		11am Morning Prayer	9.30am All Age Eucharist	9.30am Said Eucharist

### Weekly via Zoom - All Welcome

Fridays	12 Noon	Midday Prayers - pop in when you can	Zoom details; <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82633460276?">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82633460276?</a> To join by phone: 0131 460 1196 ID 826 3346 0276 Password: benefice
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### Dates for your Diary

Thur 10th Feb	7pm	Holsworthy PCC meeting	Rectory / Zoom
Tue 15th Feb	7.30pm	Pyworthy PCC	Zoom

### Text for the Week -Psalm 24:1

The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it, the compass of the world and all who dwell therein.

### How did this 2nd February come to be called Candlemas?

It was the day of the year when all the candles, that were used in the church during the coming year, were brought into church and a blessing was said over them - so it was the **Festival Day** (or 'mass') **of the Candles**.

Candles were important in those days not only because there was no electric lights. Some people thought they gave protection against plague and illness and famine. For Christians, they were (and still are) a reminder of something even more important. Before Jesus came to earth, it was as if everyone was 'in the dark'. People often felt lost and lonely. Afraid. As if they were on their own, with no one to help them. Then came Jesus with his message that he is with his followers always ready to help and comfort them. As if he is a guiding light to them in the darkness. Christians often talk of Jesus as 'the light of the World' - and candles are lit during church services to remind Christians of this.



## Smile Lines

### With Epiphany in mind...

I was telling my three boys the story of the Nativity and how the Wise Men brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh for the infant Jesus. Clearly giving it a lot of thought, my six-year-old observed, "Mum, a Wise Woman would have brought nappies."

### Cry Pharaoh!

A visiting minister was very long-winded. Every time he felt he'd made a good point in his sermon, he would repeat it all over again. Finally, the host pastor started responding to every few sentences with 'Amen, Pharaoh!' The guest minister wasn't sure what that meant, but after several more 'Amen, Pharaohs' he concluded his very lengthy sermon.

After the service was over and the congregation had left, the visiting minister turned to his host and asked, "What exactly did you mean when you said 'Amen, Pharaoh?'"

His host minister replied, "I was begging you to let my people go!"

### The end?

A local priest and pastor stood by the side of the road holding up a sign that said, "The End is Near! Turn yourself around now before it's too late!"

"Leave us alone, you religious nuts!" yelled the first driver as he sped by. Then from around the curve they heard a big splash.

"Do you think," said one clergyman to the other, "we should just put up a sign that says 'bridge out' instead?"

### Knock knock

The passenger tapped the taxi driver on the shoulder to ask him something. The driver screamed, lost control of the car, nearly hit a bus, went up on the pavement, and stopped inches from a shop window.

For a second everything went quiet in the car, then the driver said, "Look mate, don't ever do that again. You scared the daylights out of me!"

The passenger apologised and said he didn't realise that a little tap could scare him so much.

The driver replied, "You're right. I'm sorry, it's not really your fault. Today is my first day as a taxi driver. I've been driving a hearse for the last 15 years."

### Visitors

The minister came home after church one Sunday morning looking very satisfied.

"Many people in church?" asked his wife, bustling around the kitchen.

"Yes, and we had at least three strangers, though I didn't see them."

"Then how do you know?"

"Because there were three £10 notes in the collection plate."

### Inspection

My husband, a US Coast Guard pilot, was on an exchange tour with the Royal Navy in England. Everyone who drove through the base's gates was required to hold an official ID card up to the windscreen for inspection by the guards. As a friendly competition, my husband's squadron started flashing different forms of ID, such as a driving licence, just to see how far they could go to fool the busy guards. The winner? The fellow who breezed past waving a piece of toast.

### COLLECT

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed  
in majesty,  
whose beloved Son was this day  
presented in the Temple,  
in substance of our flesh:  
grant that we may be presented to you  
with pure and clean hearts,  
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### FIRST READING Malachi 3:1-5

*A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.*

Thus says the LORD God: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

### PSALM Psalm 24:[1-6] 7-end

**R** *The Lord of hosts: he is the King of glory.*

The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it,  
the compass of the world and all who  
dwell therein.

For he has founded it upon the seas  
and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep. **R**

"Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord,  
or who can rise up in his holy place?"

"Those who have clean hands and a pure  
heart,  
who have not lifted up their soul to an idol,  
nor sworn an oath to a lie; **R**

"They shall receive a blessing from the Lord,  
a just reward from the God of their  
salvation."

Such is the company of those who seek him,  
of those who seek your face, O God of  
Jacob. **R**

Lift up your heads, O gates;  
be lifted up, you everlasting doors;  
and the King of glory shall come in.

"Who is the King of glory?"

"The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord  
who is mighty in battle." **R**

Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted  
up, you everlasting doors;  
and the King of glory shall come in.

"Who is this King of glory?"

"The Lord of hosts, he is the King of  
glory." **R**

### SECOND READING Hebrews 2:14-end

*A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.*

Since the children share flesh and blood,  
Jesus himself likewise shared the same  
things, so that through death he might  
destroy the one who has the power of  
death, that is, the devil, and free those  
who all their lives were held in slavery  
by the fear of death. For it is clear that  
he did not come to help angels, but the  
descendants of Abraham. Therefore he  
had to become like his brothers and  
sisters in every respect, so that he might  
be a merciful and faithful high priest in  
the service of God, to make a sacrifice  
of atonement for the sins of the people.  
Because he himself was tested by what he  
suffered, he is able to help those who are  
being tested.

### GOSPEL Luke 2:22-40

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Luke.*

When the time came for their purification  
according to the law of Moses, Mary and  
Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to  
present him to the Lord (as it is written  
in the law of the Lord "Every firstborn  
male shall be designated as holy to  
the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice  
according to what is stated in the law of  
the Lord, "a pair of turtle-doves or two  
young pigeons." Now there was a man in  
Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this  
man was righteous and devout, looking  
forward to the consolation of Israel, and  
the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been

revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he  
would not see death before he had seen  
the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit,  
Simeon came into the temple; and when  
the parents brought in the child Jesus,  
to do for him what was customary under  
the law, Simeon took him in his arms and  
praised God, saying, "Master, now you  
are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word; for my eyes  
have seen your salvation, which you have  
prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles and  
for glory to your people Israel." And the  
child's father and mother were amazed  
at what was being said about him. Then  
Simeon blessed them and said to his  
mother Mary, "This child is destined for  
the falling and the rising of many in Israel,  
and to be a sign that will be opposed so  
that the inner thoughts of many will be  
revealed – and a sword will pierce your  
own soul too." There was also a prophet,  
Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the  
tribe of Asher. She was of a great age,  
having lived with her husband seven years  
after her marriage, then as a widow to  
the age of eighty-four. She never left the  
temple but worshipped there with fasting  
and prayer night and day. At that moment  
she came, and began to praise God and  
to speak about the child to all who were  
looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.  
When they had finished everything  
required by the law of the Lord, they  
returned to Galilee, to their own town  
of Nazareth. The child grew and became  
strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour  
of God was upon him.

### POST COMMUNION

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon  
and Anna,  
who lived to welcome the Messiah:  
may we, who have received these gifts  
beyond words,  
prepare to meet Christ Jesus  
when he comes to bring us to eternal life;  
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.