



26th December 2021 - First Sunday of Christmas

Holsworthy Benefice

Bridge-rule, Hollacombe, Holsworthy and Pyworthy with Pancrasweek

Administrator: Libbi York - admin@holsworthybenefice.org.uk

Rector: Mother Elizabeth Burke

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Services in the Holsworthy Benefice - All Welcome

		Bridgerule	Hollacombe	Holsworthy	Pancrasweek	Pyworthy
Boxing Day	26th Dec	10am Benefice All Age Service at Pancrasweek				
Holy Innocents	28th Dec	3pm Nine Lessons Christmas service - outside if fine with Carols, inside if inclement with music (no singing) - Hollacombe.				
Epiphany	2nd Jan	11am Morning Prayer	(No Evening Prayer)	11am Said Eucharist		(No service)
Baptism of Christ (Plough Sunday)	9th Jan	11am Said Eucharist		11am All Age Eucharist	3pm Plough Service outside if fine. Inside if inclement.	9.30am Eucharist
Epiphany 2	16th Jan	11am Joint Service at the Methodist Chapel	9.30am BCP Holy Communion	11am Sung Eucharist		9.30am Morning Prayer
		3.30pm CREATIVE CHURCH for All Ages, St Peter and St Paul's church				

Weekly via Zoom - All Welcome

Fridays	12 Noon	Midday Prayers - pop in when you can	Zoom details; https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82633460276? To join by phone: 0131 460 1196 ID 826 3346 0276 Password: benefice
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For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9. 6



May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God almighty, the ☩ Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Huge thank you to all those who helped with the Christmas Tree and Crib Festival at Holsworthy.

It was wonderful to have 40 organisation involved and to see the art work of Bridgerule and Holsworthy Primary Schools, along with the decorations the pupils made for the Community College Christmas Tree.



IT IS CURRENTLY MANDATORY TO WEAR MASKS IN PLACES OF WORSHIP

Where did Christmas stockings come from?

No one is really sure, but a story is told of St Nicholas, a bishop who lived in the 4th century, who may have started the custom by accident. St Nicholas was of a wealthy family, and of a generous heart. As Christmas approached one year, he wanted to help a poor family whom he knew, but he did not want them to know it was him. So he climbed up on their roof on Christmas Eve and dropped some coins down the chimney.

The next morning the coins, to the great surprise of the family, were found in the stockings of the ladies, who had hung them to dry by the fire the night before. Every year after that they put their stockings out, in the hope that some more money would fall into them. They told the story of this amazing appearance to their friends and neighbours, and the custom caught on.

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Why was Jesus born in a barn?

Our pretty Christmas cards do not do it justice – the stable that Jesus was born in would have been smelly, dirty, and full of mess. So why did God not provide something better for His beloved Son? Why let Joseph and Mary scrounge around until they ended up in a smelly stable?

Perhaps because the King of Kings being born in a foul stable is a perfect picture of redemption. Jesus came from glory into a world filled with the dirt, filth and darkness of sin. And Jesus was not put off by darkness in the least – instead, He came to be the Light of the World. Thank God for His unspeakable gift. No wonder the angels sang “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” (Luke 2:14)

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Why the world was ready for Christmas

Ever wonder why Jesus was born when He was? The Bible tells us that “when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son...” The Jewish people had been waiting for their Messiah for centuries. Why did God send Him precisely when He did?

Many biblical scholars believe that the ‘time had fully come’ for Jesus because of the politics of the time. The Roman Empire’s sheer size and dominance had achieved something unique in world history: the opportunity for travel from Bethlehem to Berwick on Tweed without ever crossing into ‘enemy territory’ or needing a ‘passport’.

For the first time ever, it was possible for ‘common’ people to travel wide and far, and quickly spread news and ideas. And all you needed were two languages - Greek to the east of Rome, and Latin to the west and north. You could set sail from Joppa (Tel Aviv) and head for any port on the Med. And the Roman roads ran straight and true throughout the empire.

So, the Roman Empire achieved something it never intended: it helped spread news of Christianity far and wide for 400 years. After that, the Empire crumbled, and the borders shut down. Not until the 19th century would people again roam so freely. The time for Jesus to be born, and for news of Him to be able to travel, had indeed ‘fully come’.

COLLECT

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your
own image
and yet more wonderfully restored us
through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in our
humanity,
so we may share the life of his
divinity;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 2:18-20. 26

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD"; and then they would return to their home. Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the LORD and with the people.

PSALM Psalm 148

R *Praise, O praise the name of the Lord.*



Alleluia.
Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights.
Praise him, all you his angels;
praise him, all his host. **R**

Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you stars of light.
Praise him, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens. **R**

Let them praise the name of the Lord;
for he commanded and they were
created.
He made them fast for ever and ever;
he gave them a law which shall not
pass away. **R**

Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;
Fire and hail, snow and mist,
tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word;
Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;
Wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and birds on the
wing; **R**

Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;
Young men and women,
old and young together;
let them praise the name of the Lord. **R**

For his name only is exalted,
his splendour above earth and
heaven.

He has raised up the horn of his
people
and praise for all his faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who
are near him.
Alleluia. **R**

SECOND READING

Colossians 3:12-17

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

GOSPEL Luke 2:41-end

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

Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

POST COMMUNION

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son shared at
Nazareth the life of an earthly home:
help your Church to live as one family,
united in love and obedience,
and bring us all at last to our home in
heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Sunday 26 December 2021
 Luke 2:41-52
**The Holy Family of Jesus,
 Mary and Joseph**

In the
GOSPEL TODAY

I love my family

Circle the right words:
**I can show my family
 I love them by...**



shouting

helping

arguing



hugging them

doing as they ask

As they were on their way home from the festival in Jerusalem, Mary and Joseph realise that Jesus is missing. He is not where they thought he was, with the rest of their family and friends. Mary and Joseph search for three whole days. Eventually they find Jesus, in the Temple with the teachers. Even if they have misunderstood each other, everyone is safe and happy to be together again.

Search and find

Help Mary and Joseph. Today you are a detective. Fill in the detective badge with your name and colour it.



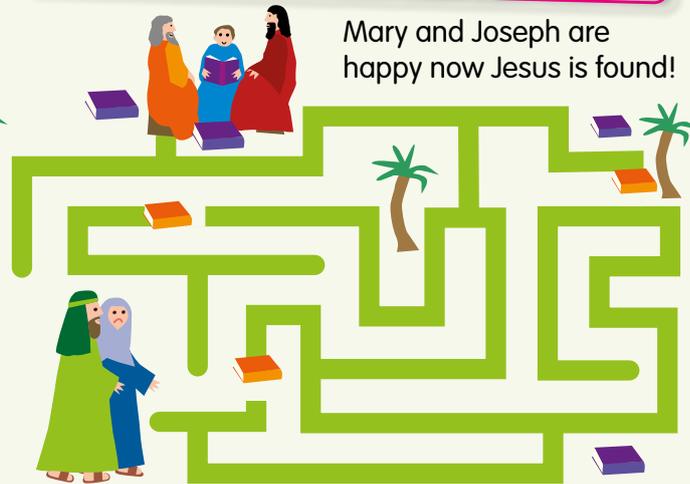
Find the letters

Hidden on the page are the letters which spell the name of a missing person. When you find one, write it in the right place in the box.



Maze

Help Mary and Joseph find Jesus. They are very worried about him.



Mary and Joseph are happy now Jesus is found!

Answers: Find the letters: JESUS, More detective Work: God is my Father. He loves me.

A PRAYER TO SAY

Thank you, Jesus, for my family. Thank you for the love they give me. Help me to show them how much I love them. Amen.



More detective work!

Break the code and read the message.

6 11 3 ♦ 8 13 10 16 ♦ 5 1 14 7 4 12. 7 4 ♦ 9 11 15 4 13 ♦ 10 4.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
A	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	L	M	O	R	S	T	V	Y

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