

**Archdeaconry of Barnstaple**

**Deanery of Holsworthy**



**Holsworthy Benefice**

**Bridgerule, Hollacombe, Holsworthy and Pyworthy with Pancrasweek**

**Website: [www.holsworthybenefice.org.uk](http://www.holsworthybenefice.org.uk)**

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# Holsworthy Benefice



Love bringing my family up in a very caring community.  
Jane

My church is Pancrasweek which my family started attending four years ago when we moved to the area. It has a young, vibrant and forward thinking congregation who make everyone welcome. Julia

## What people from Holsworthy and surrounding area say about living here.....

*'A lovely place to live, growing, dynamic but always at its core, a vibrant and caring community'. Paul.*

North Devon is a beautiful area to live in, with beaches and moorland to discover.

The Church and Town's people of Holsworthy have been very welcoming to us and we feel part of this wonderful place. Katie

Great community, with lots of community sprit. Dave

Holsworthy community is very friendly. You will find complete strangers will say hello or just smile at you. Betty

Quiet and friendly  
Everyone knows everybody  
Crime levels we think are pretty low  
Beautiful beaches and moors for walking. Mandy

*'Friendly, open, engaged and fun, the people here are lovely and there is so much to do'. Sarah*

Holsworthy is an ever changing place with lots of caring, kind and compassionate people.  
Libbi

*'Sleepy it's not, surfing, moorland sports, decent pubs and a long sense of being earthed'. Josh*

## **The Archdeacon's Foreword**

### **The Venerable Verena Breed, Archdeacon of Barnstaple**



Thank you for your interest in this post.

This presents a fantastic opportunity for a priest (male or female) with a heart for pastoral care and a desire to further mission and ministry in and around a thriving and growing rural Market Town. You will be working with a group of parishes seeking to deepen their working together as a Benefice and Mission Community, to bring together churches and communities, and to grow in faith and discipleship. We would hope that the right candidate will bring experience, energy and innovation to this role of Rector, as part of a committed, mainly lay, ministry team.

We are looking for a priest who will get to know those who live and work in the Benefice and Mission Community and work with them to find new and exciting ways to making a difference in the communities, grow new disciples and enable disciples to grow in their discipleship; you will be someone who is open to explore the possibilities of rural ministry, prepared to work collaboratively and ecumenically.

#### **Our Diocesan Vision**

We seek to be people who together are:

##### **Growing in Prayer**

Prayer is conversation with God and is part of a healthy Christian life. Prayer is a life-giving activity that opens up deep places within us to God's transforming grace. It is essential if we are to become the people and the Church God calls us to be.

##### **Making new disciples**

As the Christian story is less and less known, we must find new ways of telling the story, of explaining the faith and giving a reason for the hope that is in us. With Jesus Christ as our companion and guide, we can travel through life differently.

##### **Serving the people of Devon with joy**

As followers of Jesus Christ, we want to make a difference in the world and make God's love and justice known. In our church life, we seek to be local, participatory, and outward-looking.

Further information regarding our Diocesan Vision can be found in our Next Steps document at

[www.exeter.anglican.org/who-we-are/vision-strategy](http://www.exeter.anglican.org/who-we-are/vision-strategy)

## **Living in Mission Communities**

Our strategy centres on Mission Communities - parishes working together to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ more effectively in Devon. The phrase Mission Communities sums up what we need to be as a Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: **mission-orientated, community-focused, and locally-rooted.**

Mission Communities help us to work together and support one another better. They enable us to be more flexible in our mission and more responsive to the different contexts and cultures of Devon.

A Mission Community aims to express the fullness of the life of the Church **locally**. If our Mission Communities are to flourish, they need to be more than just a structure. They need to live and embody the life of Jesus Christ and to share that life with others. Jesus came so that we can have life in all its fullness. That is our vision and our hope for the Church in Devon.

In this Profile, you will find something of the vision and challenges of this Mission Community. I commend it to your study and prayer as you seek to discern your next step in ministry.

## **Diocese & Deanery**

**The Holsworthy Mission Community** falls within the Archdeaconry of Barnstaple, and so under the care of the Bishop of Crediton.

**The MC** covers the same area as Holsworthy Deanery which consists of three Benefices (Holsworthy, Bradworthy and Ruby Country).

**The Rural Dean** is the Revd Richard Freeman; Richard is Rector of the Bradworthy Benefice.

In the Diocese of Exeter we are all working together to live out our three diocesan priorities:

- to grow in prayer,
- to make new disciples and
- to serve the people of Devon with joy.

We aim to be a diverse and truly representative diocese, and particularly welcome applications from women and those from black and minority ethnic groups. Not only is Devon a beautiful place to call home, but we believe the Diocese of Exeter is a great community of which to be a part.

Rural Ministry in this Diocese is recognised as Specialist Ministry. From my own experience, I know that Rural Ministry offers unique opportunities and chances as well as exciting challenges.

Ministry in rural areas is rewarding and enriching. You don't need to have prior experience of rural ministry – all you need is an open heart and willingness to learn. Rural Ministry is simply amazing!

You are warmly invited to contact me directly if you would like a confidential conversation about the post.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Diocese – and to North Devon.

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Cereva".

**Tel: 01271 375475**

**[e-mail: ADB@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:ADB@exeter.anglican.org)**

## INTRODUCTION

The Benefice is one of three in the Holsworthy Deanery and Mission Community. The four parishes of the Holsworthy Benefice (Bridgerule, Hollacombe, Holsworthy and Pyworthy with Pancrasweek) are centred on the North Devon market town of Holsworthy, inland from the Cornish coastal resort of Bude. They have been together as a benefice for seven years. Bridgerule and Pyworthy sit to the West and are both reasonably sized and scattered rural communities, based around villages. Hollacombe and Pancrasweek are both small hamlets with scattered housing. In terms of population, Hollacombe is the smallest parish and Holsworthy, a Market Town, the largest. With major amenities, educational facilities, infrastructure and house and industrial growth, the town's population and character is rapidly changing.

Pyworthy with Pancrasweek is split by the A3072 from Holsworthy to Bude; the two churches of this parish are separated geographically by some distance, with Pyworthy to the south of this road and Pancrasweek to the north. Bridgerule parish is in two parts; split by Pyworthy with Pancrasweek.

With the exception of Holsworthy town, this is a largely rural area with agriculture remaining dominant. The local area is predominantly low wage with very few large employers. Whilst farming still dominates, only 7% of the population are farmers. Although we have a large retired population, increasingly tourism, transport, service, defence, renewables, ecological, forestry and start-up industries are beginning to shape our communities. Village structures of support and cohesion are therefore rapidly changing in our rural communities.

Until fairly recently, the population of the area has been very stable. There is a core of long established families who have been in this area for generations and who have worked the land or run businesses. However in recent years the Benefice has seen new industry and housing, with further development approved, resulting in increased social and cultural diversity.

Because of the changing character of the Benefice, it is essential as we look to the future, to ensure that everyone, both new and established residents, feels valued and that we remain open and committed to a truly united whole. We are keen to appoint a priest who can lead us with vision, perception and compassion.



## VISION

### We are seeking to develop the following:

- A Benefice Action Plan that acknowledges individual and different church abilities, enhances joint working; grows us in a good direction.
- The nurturing of our volunteers and the enthusing of our congregations for growth and mission.
- The existing specialist ministries, including community chaplaincies, community engagement, schools, children & young families.
- Stronger ecumenical and mission team links for growth, mission, joint working and mutual support.
- Stronger and visible Christian presence in our churches and our communities.

### The priest we are seeking will:

- Be open to exploring with us, what it means to be Christian in our rural Benefice.
- Be eager to work collaboratively across our varying traditions and with the other priests in the Mission Community, and continue to grow our established ecumenical partnerships.
- Have a strong sense of mission, across all age groups, especially young people and be willing to explore new approaches to outreach in our villages and rural communities, as well as supporting parish events.
- Be compassionate, inclusive and sensitive to our changing and evolving community groups.
- Be a pastoral lead and have a visible presence in our communities.
- Be able to train, develop and maintain lay worship and mission teams, in order to help us to support you and move forward positively.
- Have a driving license and a vehicle - and a good supply of welly boots and raincoats. 😄

## **BENEFICE INFORMATION**

### **WE OFFER**

A realistic set of expectations and the individual and collective Benefice support to achieve them. Genuine warmth and friendship. A commitment to appropriate local devolved leadership. Recognition that our new priest will need personal development space and time to evolve their role in this place. A mission community that is in positive transition, where joint working and inter-clerical support is key.

Our parishes sit in a deeply rural area which is inter-supportive and where churches remain central to community and pastoral care. Faith remains a very positive and welcome influence, with church contact high and mission opportunities welcomed and abundant. Town and rural institutions are genuinely open to ministry and mission and there is real possibilities to grow significantly here.

We are ready to take time to ensure that our Priest, and Parishes, move forward together positively and joyfully in the mission Christ has set before us.

### **SUPPORT**

The Benefice employs a part time administrator who is responsible for Benefice fees and payments, weekly pew sheets and rotas, is a contact for funeral, baptism and wedding enquiries, on-line content and communications, meeting notes and safeguarding coordination, amongst a range of other duties. We also have a strong working relationship with a South West Youth Ministry 'Connect' worker who supports our schools and youth centre.

There is one licensed Reader (LLM) living in the Benefice who takes House Communion to individuals and some of the care homes and conducts Sunday morning prayer services. The Benefice has an SSM Associate Priest, who has recently been appointed (from the end of May this year) as the Vicar of the Ruby Country Benefice in the same Deanery. A Chartered Psychologist and an Anna Chaplain, he is currently conducting a six-month research program, funded by the Diocese and BRF, focused upon Community Chaplaincy in the rural context, for deployment across the Mission Community.

Bridgerule, Holsworthy and Pyworthy have established lay worship teams who lead Morning Prayer and family services and are willing to lead other services as necessary. All the parishes have active PCCs. Pyworthy and Pancrasweek operate independently, each with their own PCC.

## **THE RECTORY**

The rectory is a large Victorian four bed property in Holsworthy standing at the end of Bodmin Street. It is a short walk from the town centre and the church of St Peter & St Paul. The spacious building has been recently completely renovated, with off road parking, a large garden and provision for a parish office separate from the main building.



## **DEANERY/MISSION COMMUNITY**

The Holsworthy Deanery and the Holsworthy Mission Community are co-terminus. The Mission Community is a group of three benefices - Bradworthy, Holsworthy and Ruby Country, which together cover about 140 square miles of rural North Devon. Holsworthy is the only town and the largest centre of population.

Outside the town and village centres, the dwellings and farmsteads are thinly scattered. Holsworthy Community College is the only secondary school in the Mission Community although there are number of primary schools, all village schools and academies except the large primary school in Holsworthy.

The Benefice clergy and retired clergy who assist in our parishes, meet regularly as a Chapter. In addition, three or four times each year, the Greater Chapter (including our Reader and Lay Chair of the Deanery) also meet together.

## THE PARISHES AND THE CHURCHES

### BRIDGERULE

Bridgerule is a village and civil parish which lies on the extreme edge of Devon, with the majority of the residents of the village living on the “Cornish” side of the river Tamar, which runs through the village, although the Tamar no longer forms



the border between the counties there. Bridgerule was mentioned (as *Brige*) in the Domesday Book in 1086, when the local manor was held by a Norman, Ruald Adobed. The name, Bridgerule, is thought to come from *bridge* and Ruald.

Bridgerule benefits from a renovated Parish Hall, where regular activities take place including craft groups, exercise classes and an over 50s coffee club. There are monthly table top sales as well as concerts and evening events. A “Revel Week” is held annually at the end of July, with parish groups organising a week of evening events, beginning with an ecumenical service, and culminating in a carnival.

Southlands Court is a small residential home for the elderly in the parish. Prior to Covid-19, services of home communion were regularly taking place for the residents, however these have not resumed since the pandemic.

### THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST BRIDGET

St Bridget’s is Grade 1 listed. It stands in an elevated position in open countryside on the edge of the village of Bridgerule and forms a prominent landmark. St Bridget’s is a 15<sup>th</sup> century church, although the simple font and stoup survive from the original Norman church. Unusually for a village church, there is a peal of 8 bells with an enthusiastic team of ringers who ring for occasional services and meet weekly to practise.



The PCC have exciting plans for an inclusive civic engagement package linked to a grant bid to enable restoration of our church tower which requires re-roofing and repointing. This is a mission-based project focusing on engaging the wider community with the ecology, history and heritage of our church. This will run, grant dependent, over the next two years.

There is currently a set pattern of Sunday services at St Bridget's beginning at 11.00am. Holy Communion (Common Worship) is celebrated twice a month on the second and fourth Sundays, with a Morning Prayer service usually on the first Sunday of each month. The church has strong ecumenical links, with regular joint services held in conjunction with the congregation of the Methodist Chapel in the village. On the third Sunday of the month, the church congregation join with the Methodist community at the service in the Chapel. On the fourth Sunday, the Methodist congregation join the congregation at St Bridget's Church.

Members of the congregation read the lessons and lead the prayers of intercession. The church has Lay Worship Leaders who lead Morning Prayer services. The average congregation for services is 8-12. The costs of maintenance are largely covered by a programme of fundraising events including an annual gift day.

The church maintains links with the thriving Church school in the parish and the school makes use of the church for some annual services e.g., Christingle. In January 2018 Bridgerule Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School became part of Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust. The Trust consists of 17 schools who have come together, based on a shared vision which encompasses the values of both the Cooperative movement and the Church of England. Bridgerule, Bradford and Black Torrington Primary Schools form the "Ruby Hub Primary Schools" within the Trust. These schools work closely together, with shared events and activities. The school welcomes clergy involvement in collective worship along with visits from our local Connect worker.



## HOLLACOMBE

Hollacombe is a very rural parish of some 20 dwellings, farms, private houses and holiday cottages. St Petroc's Church lies in the centre of the parish.



## THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST PETROC

We are a small but very committed congregation with a desire for a priest who can deepen our faith and spiritual lives, and be centred on the sacramental life of the church.

Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer is currently celebrated on the third Sunday of the month, on Christmas Day, Easter Sunday & Ash Wednesday. Evensong is sung on the first Sunday. We have Stations of the Cross during Lent. Harvest Thanksgiving Evensong is well supported by the wider community, as is the traditional Service of Nine Lessons and Carols held on the third or fourth day of Christmas.

**A resolution is in place under the House of Bishops' Declaration on the priestly and episcopal ministry of women. Sacramental care for the parish is provided by the Bishop of Oswestry and the parish is a member of The Society of St Wilfred and St Hilda.**

The Church is a Grade II listed building and dates back to the Norman era, having a Norman doorway and a no-longer-used square Norman font of five shafts. The font now resides outside the church and has been replaced by a more recent font (possibly late 1880). The church was extensively restored in the 1880s when the tower was partly rebuilt and the whole church reroofed (more detail available in Pevsner's Buildings of England - Devon).

Finished recently (November 2016), the roof of the tower and the north roof of the church have been replaced with the help of the Listed Places of Worship Repair Fund and other grants made available from Devon Historic Churches Trust, All Churches Trust, The Balsdon Trust and The Viscount Amory Trust. The churchyard grass is cut once or twice a year to allow wildflowers to flourish in God's acre.



## HOLSWORTHY

Holsworthy parish has two centres of population: Holsworthy town is the main centre with about 3000 residents, and Chilsworthy Village, about 2 miles to the north of the town on the road to Bradworthy, has a much smaller population.

Holsworthy is an historic market town with over a thousand years of history and is mentioned in the Domesday Book. It is about 10 miles from Bude, 40 miles west of Exeter and 45 miles north of Plymouth. There are regular, but infrequent, bus links with Bude, Launceston, Okehampton, Exeter and Barnstaple, and an indirect service to Plymouth. The bus to Okehampton links with an hourly train service between Okehampton and Exeter and there is low-cost parking at Okehampton Station. The beautiful rugged North Coast of the South-West Peninsula, and the wide-open spaces of Dartmoor are both within easy reach.



The population of Holsworthy is growing with housing estates in the process of development or at the planning stage. There is a small industrial estate, also growing, with a range of businesses, a number of which are associated with agriculture.

On Wednesdays, a small outdoor Pannier Market is held in the Town Square, and one of the largest weekly cattle markets in the South West takes place in a recently purpose-built Agricentre to the north of the town. Holsworthy Livestock Market attracts buyers and sellers from a very wide area with over 500 people passing through the gates every Wednesday sale day. Local people, farmers and their families come to buy and sell and meet friends as they have done for generations.

Working from the Livestock Market is a volunteer ecumenical Market Chaplaincy which includes serving and retired priests and is greatly valued by those who use the market. The Market annual Harvest Festival and Carol services are much appreciated and always well attended.



Holsworthy is an important centre of agriculture which together with its associated trades, provides much employment in the town and surrounding area. The annual Holsworthy and Stratton Agricultural Show held on a Thursday at the end of August is a major local occasion. It is one of the bigger shows in the area and draws large crowds and a wide range of exhibitors.

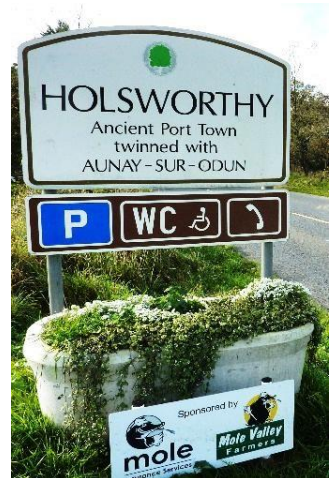
The character of the town is reflected in its strong traditions and cultural life. The annual St Peter's Fair celebrations, in the first week of July, includes the Pretty Maid Ceremony, instituted nearly 200 years ago.

Holsworthy is the centre for a wide area and caters for the needs of numerous groups of adults and children. Sports are provided for with football, bowls, netball, cricket, running and cycling clubs in the town, and others available in the local towns of Bude and Launceston. There is a Sports Centre with a swimming pool, sports hall and gym and a local 18 hole golf course. There are numerous social groups catering to a wide age range including HATS - the local very well regarded amateur theatrical society which has its own theatre. The annual pantomime and the other productions throughout the year draws people from a very wide area. Volunteers run the town museum and many other clubs and societies including the local Food Bank. There is a wide range of children's groups; the Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, Guides and Explorer Scouts meet in their purpose built "hut" and have a permanent camping field on the outskirts of town. There is also a long-standing Army Cadet Group who play an important role in a number of town events.

There are several pubs and cafés, a small variety of shops and take-away food outlets, a Waitrose Supermarket, a Co-op and a BP garage with an associated M&S food shop.

The Memorial Hall and the Methodist church hold regular weekly coffee mornings on Market Day. The weekly coffee mornings in the Memorial Hall are hosted throughout the year by different local groups. Holsworthy is twinned with the French town of Aunay-sur-Odon in Normandy and enthusiastic exchange visits are made on a regular basis.

For the very young, there is a playgroup and nursery, and pre-school facilities. Pre-school and primary education is provided by Holsworthy Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School. The school draws children from most of the surrounding villages as well as the town itself. Holsworthy Community College, an 11-16 secondary comprehensive school part of the Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust, has a very wide catchment area. Post 16 education is available at Petroc College, Exeter College, Callywith College and Duchy College as well as at the 11-18 schools in Bude, Launceston





and Okehampton. A School Chaplain/Youth Worker, funded ecumenically and by public subscription, works from Holsworthy Community College.

The Medical Centre and the Community Hospital are both modern and offer a range of facilities and clinics. At present the hospital is used as a base for some outpatient consultations and by the community nurses. Adjacent to the Medical Centre is The Long House – a day-care outpost of the North Devon Hospice. There are three other care facilities in the parish: Deer Park and Bodmeyrick (The Roses) are care homes with some nursing care; Densham Court is an Abbeyfield home offering sheltered accommodation. The nearest main hospital is the North Devon District Hospital at Barnstaple, part of Royal Devon University Healthcare.

The town has a Methodist chapel but no longer has a Roman Catholic church. Currently some of the Catholic community worship in the Parish Church. This bears out the strong links between the churches, all coming together for Civic events and other occasions and supporting one another's events. There is an active ecumenical "Christians Together" group, which organises a number of events, operates the local Food Bank, and organises the annual World Day of Prayer service.

## **CHILSWORTHY**

This village was initially a small hamlet centred round the village green, but has grown much bigger with ribbon development along the main road and a small estate built about 20 years ago which includes a modern Village Hall. There is no Anglican church but there is a 19<sup>th</sup> century Methodist Chapel with an active congregation. There is a part-time post office based in the Village Hall, and the hall is used extensively by village and other groups.

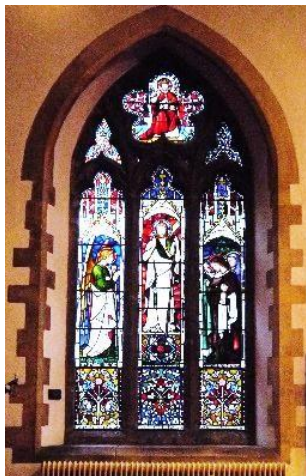
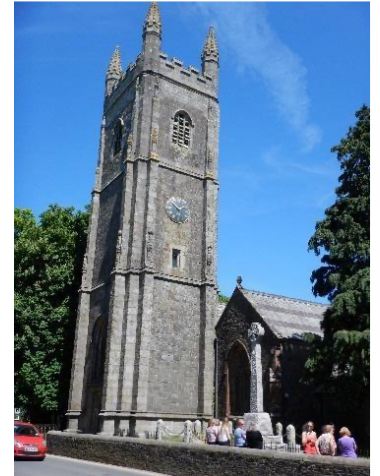


The Holsworthy area is a great place to live and bring up families. A warm welcome will be given to the new priest by the whole community.

## THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL

There has been a church on the site since around 1130. The current Grade II\* listed building, sited just off the town square, is a large granite structure with three aisles. The tower, built in 1450, is the most noteworthy part of the Church and stands proud on all roads leading to the town. There is some fine glass, and the other windows have recently been replaced with clear glass to allow more light into the church.

There is a peal of 8 bells, recast in 1949 by Gillet and Johnson, and considered to be one of their finest. They are one of the best peals of 8 bells in Devon for their weight (15cwt) and are highly regarded in the ringing world.



The tower houses a clock and carillon with hammers which strike the bells. The carillon has 13 tunes held on individual drums. The most notable tune is 'Holsworthy Church Bells'. This was played at the dedication of the organ which is claimed to be the work of Renatus Harris, originally built in 1645 for the parish Church of All Saints, Chelsea, and bought by the parishioners of Holsworthy for £300 in 1865.

The bells are rung before services by a dedicated group of ringers, with visiting ringers regularly welcomed. Worship is centred round Common Worship Eucharistic services, the NRSV translation of the Bible, the new English Hymnal and the BBC Songs of Praise.

The Sunday services are currently sung Holy Communion with an average of about 20 communicants on the first three Sundays of the month and Morning Prayer on the fourth Sunday. Pre-covid, an enthusiastic choir sang anthems and led the congregational singing under the direction of an able organist and choirmaster. The choir is in the process of reuniting. There are a loyal group of servers including sacristan and crucifer. Many of the congregation act as sidespeople, read the lessons and psalm and lead the Prayers of Intercession. There is an established team of worship leaders who lead Morning Prayer once a month, currently on the fourth Sunday, and at other times as necessary. Refreshments are served after services.

The church hosts Primary School services throughout the year and the Community College is beginning to use the church more. Also hosted are the annual Town Carol service, a Civic Service in Fair Week; and, in turn with the Methodist Chapel, the Remembrance Day service.

In the past, an ecumenical group has run Messy Church sessions on a monthly basis at the Primary School. This stopped during covid but over the past year, a new ecumenical initiative – Creative Church – has been held monthly on a Sunday afternoon. This is aimed at introducing adults and children to Christian ideals and the Gospels through craft activities, play, stories and informal worship. This is now been put on hold until the appointment of a new priest. Pre-covid, “Open the Book”, an ecumenical activity at the Primary School, was well established and enjoyed by the pupils. It is hoped to begin this again when conditions allow. Also pre-covid, a volunteer member of the congregation led a school assembly at the Primary School.



There are many volunteers willing to help at parish events as well as flower arranging, church cleaning and catering. There is a small area for social activities in the church, but we lack kitchen and toilet facilities in the building. For large events we need to hire other premises.

The Church's finances are currently on a sound footing with a good number of the parishioners signed up to the Parish Giving Scheme. The PCC considers meeting the Common Fund request to be a priority, and holds a number of fund-raising events through the year. The rental from a church-owned bungalow, originally built in 1968 for an assistant priest, and now let at the discretion of the PCC, provides a good base for income.

## PYWORTHY

Pyworthy is a small rural village about 2 miles from Holsworthy. West Devon is very popular with visitors and Pyworthy boasts a number of hosts for B&B being so close to the sea. This welcoming community has a wide and diverse variety of clubs and communities, ranging from our very own Art Group, walking clubs, keep fit, line dancing and Strictly Ballroom, coffee mornings and social evenings in the Village Hall and both a Gun and Golf Club close at hand. The parish is the largest in area in the Benefice and is a strong and vibrant farming community of over 800 parishioners with about 300 living in the village itself.



## THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST SWITHUN

Our church, St Swithun, is a Grade II listed building dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> Century which has had new heating installed and has completed an internal wood work preservation and maintenance plan, and there are plans for fabric improvements including a new Altar frontal to mark the coronation of King Charles III.

The Church is situated in the middle of the village next to the Molesworth Arms, which has limited opening hours, and down the road from the Village Hall which is a focal point for many of the church fundraising activities, including the Annual Christmas Fair and Sunday Lunches. From the top of the church tower, on a fine day, one can see the sea and seven other churches.



Pyworthy has a strong Lay Team (established in 1995, the first parish in the Diocese to do so) and there are 2 lay-led services each month. We have a solid base of cleaners and talented flower arrangers. Members of the congregation read lessons, lead intercessory prayers and help at the administration of the Eucharist in the sung Eucharist from Common Worship.

We support a wide variety of wildlife and have a tree planting and wild-flower Ecological Plan for our churchyard, which is beautifully kept.

Our Parish is very supportive and would welcome a new Rector, with a good understanding of rural life, to work with to enable growth across all age groups. We have members from six different Christian denominations worshipping together in St Swithun's; we are warm, welcoming and open.

## **PANCRASWEEK**

Pancrasweek church is a daughter church of Pyworthy, but as the two areas are geographically separated and the churches both serve their own congregations, Pancrasweek operates independently with its own PCC and church officers.

Pancrasweek is to the north of the main Holsworthy to Bude road, and has a population of about 300 people. The area is almost wholly open countryside and farmland with scattered clusters of houses and cottages. Agriculture was formerly the main employer and although farming remains very important in the parish, many people now commute out of the parish for employment. Running through Pancrasweek is the disused Bude Canal, the towpath is now a footpath passing through the Dunsdon and Vealand Nature reserves. Next to the church is a modern parish hall, this hosts a variety of community groups and activities including a sequence dance club, a ladies club, and bowls club. The hall can also be hired for use by the church as and when required.



## **THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST PANCRAS**

The church of St Pancras stands atop a hill overlooking the main Bude-Holsworthy road. It has typical Devon wagon roofs, some Norman work in the walls, perpendicular windows, a Jacobean pulpit and a tower with five bells. Recently the church has been re-roofed and the interior renovated including the installation of heating and a kitchen area. This was made possible with the help of a £250,000 Heritage Lottery Fund grant and this project was overseen entirely by the PCC and churchwardens. As a part of this project historical information displays, church trails and guide leaflets were created. More recently the outside doors and stained-glass windows have also been repaired.



The church is open daily for visitors and private prayer and uses a timed lock to enable this, with on average 10 people visiting the church per month. St Pancras has a low church tradition and our Common Worship services are relaxed and family friendly. All age groups are represented in the congregation with children aged between 2 and 16 present at all services.

Members of the congregation including some of the children are happy to be involved and take part in services. Our services are once a month and on an average Sunday attendance is 15 to 20. Reflecting the parish's rural identity, Plough Sunday and Harvest Festival are popular and well attended. For these and other special and Benefice services through the year, there is a much larger congregation of up to 50.



## CURRENT BENEFICE SERVICE ROTA

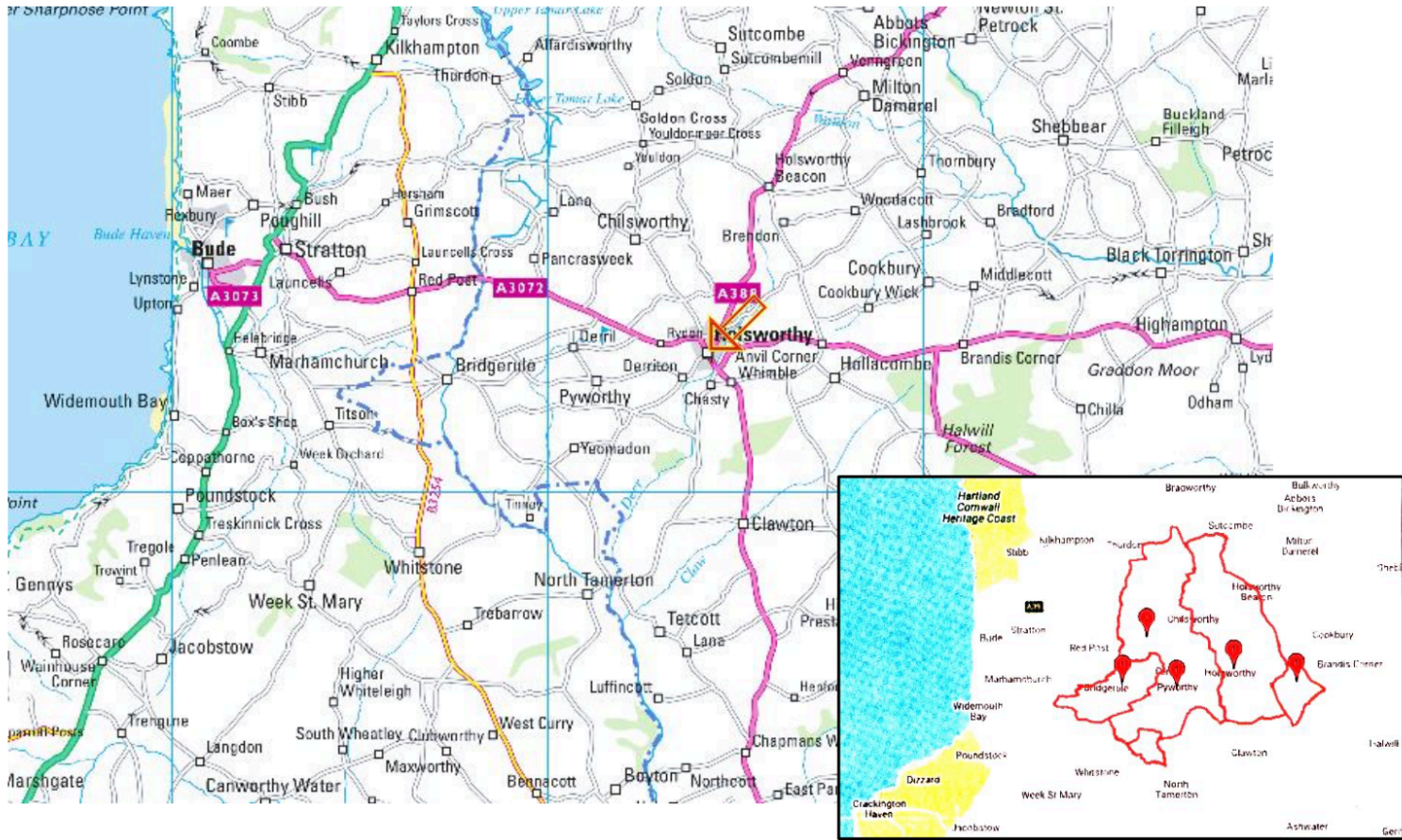
Until very recently, the service pattern has been:

	Bridgerule	Hollacombe	Holsworthy	Pancrasweek	Pyworthy
	Common Worship	Book of Common Prayer	Common Worship	Common Worship	Common Worship
Sunday 1	11.00 am Morning Prayer LLM/LWL	3.00 pm Sung Evensong Priest/LWL	9.30 am Sung Eucharist		9.30 am Morning Prayer LWL
Sunday 2	11.00 am Sung Eucharist		11.00 am All age Eucharist		9.30 am Sung Eucharist
Sunday 3	Service with Methodists at Chapel	9.30 am Sung Holy Communion	9.30 am Sung Eucharist		9.30 am Morning Prayer LLM/LWL
Sunday 4	11.00 am Sung Eucharist (with Methodists)		9.30 am Morning Prayer LWL	9.30 am All age Eucharist	9.30 am Sung Eucharist
Sunday 5	10.00 am Benefice service (rotates round churches)				

When there have been two Eucharistic services at the same time, local retired priests and occasionally the Rural Dean, have officiated at one of the two services.

As previously mentioned, Hollacombe PCC has passed a resolution under the House of Bishops' Declaration on the Priestly and Episcopal ministry of women. The parishes of the benefice are entirely open to either a woman or a man being appointed as Rector, but priestly functions, such as celebrating Holy Communion, at Hollacombe need to be performed by a male priest ordained by a bishop in male apostolic succession. This has been the arrangement during the tenure of the previous incumbent.

# HOLSWORTHY AND SURROUNDING AREA





## Mission Community Factsheet to include in MC Profiles

	Bridgerule	Hollacombe	Holsworthy	Pyworthy	Pancrasweek
<b>1. PARISH FIGURES</b>					
A. Number of churches in the parish	1	1	1	1	1
B. Population of the parish	795	41	3500	840	300
C. Current number on electoral roll	19	7	59	64	11
D. Current number of participants	13	7	30	11	11
E. Usual Sunday attendance over 16	11	6	20	14	11
F. Usual Sunday attendance under 16	0	0	0	0	6
<b>2. SPECIAL SERVICES IN THE LAST YEAR</b>					
A. Numbers of baptisms	2	1	6	3	2
B. Numbers of confirmation candidates	0	0	0	0	0
C. Numbers of weddings	0	0	0	2	0
D. Numbers of funerals in church	1	1	6	4	1
E. Numbers of funerals in crematorium	0	0	3	2	0
<b>3. PARISH INSTITUTIONS</b>					
A. Names of schools in the parish. State whether they are church or community or independent schools	Bridgerule Church of England (VC) Primary School	0	Holsworthy Church of England (VC) Primary School  Holsworthy Community College	0	0
B. Number of residential/nursing homes	1	0	3	0	0

	Bridgerule	Hollacombe	Holsworthy	Pyworthy	Pancrasweek
C. Names of hospital(s) in the parish	0	0	Holsworthy Community Hospital	0	0
D. Other key institutions	0	0	Holsworthy Medical Centre  The Long House - An outreach centre for North Devon Hospice	0	0
<b>4. PARISH FINANCE</b>					
A. How much Common Fund is requested from the parish for the <u>current</u> year?	£4769	£732	£14,634	£4326	£3091
B. Is the parish up to date with CF payments in the <u>current</u> year?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
C. What percentage of the CF request was paid <u>last</u> year?	All	All	All	All	All
D. If there is a capital project in hand, what is the projected cost?	Yes - Tower £227,000	No	No	No	No
<b>5. PEOPLE</b>					
A. Number of clergy active in the MC. Are they stipendiary/SSM/PtO?	1 FT Stipendiary Minister (retiring July 2023) 1 FT Stipendiary Minister (appointed from end May 2023) 0.5 FT Stipendiary Minister (until end May 2023) 1 Vacancy 1 SSM (until end May 2023) 1 PtO				
B. Number of Readers/ other licensed lay workers in the MC. Are any on PtO?	1 Reader (PtO)				

	Bridgerule	Hollacombe	Holsworthy	Pyworthy	Pancrasweek
C. Please list any other staff employed in the MC (such as a Children's/Youth Worker or Administrator)?	Paid Administrator in Holsworthy Benefice Volunteer Administrator in Ruby Country Benefice				
<b>6. MISSION</b>					
A. Does the MC run a discipleship course (eg. Alpha, Emmaus, Pilgrim, Exploring Christianity)?	No but we are developing a Community Chaplaincy program				
B. Does the MC have a Mission Action Plan? When was it last reviewed?	The mission community action plan is being reviewed now, due to staff changes.				