



HOLSWORTHY BENEFICE PARISH PROFILE FOR A PROSPECTIVE TRAINING POST



General Information

Benefice / Parish(es): **Holsworthy Benefice consisting of Bridgerule, Hollacombe, Holsworthy, and Pyworthy with Pancrasweek**

Mission Community: **Holsworthy**

Archdeaconry: **Barnstaple**

Training Incumbent name: **The Rev'd Elizabeth Burke**

Contact details for incumbent:

**The Rectory
Bodmin Street
Holsworthy
EX22 6BH
01409 255490**

E-mail address (if any): **elizabethmaburke@icloud.com**

Date of ordination: **2013**

Length of time in present parish(es): **3 years**

Other responsibilities and duties currently undertaken by incumbent:

**Chaplain to Holsworthy Livestock Market
Chaplain to Holsworthy Mayor and Town Council
Part of the Holy Ground team at Exeter Cathedral**

Nature of post

Please tick which are applicable:

Training post for deacon who expects to be ordained priest

Training post for permanent deacon



The Altar of Repose on Maundy Thursday

The context: the parish setting

Set in the picturesque west of Devon, next to the Cornish border, the parishes of Bridgerule, Hollacombe, Holsworthy and Pyworthy with Pancrasweek are a mixture of town, village and rural. Farming and the Holsworthy market town are at the heart of community life, and often families have lived in the area for generations. Increasingly though, people have moved into the parishes from elsewhere and many visit the area on holiday. Holsworthy itself is a good sized community with much going on for all ages.



The population of the benefice is approximately 6500 with around 4000 of that being in Holsworthy. There are two CoFE primary schools, and one secondary school. There are five residential homes across the benefice for older people. There is also a mental health support unit. There are many recreational groups, including Scouting organisations, arts and crafts, youth centre, adult education centre, many sports and fitness classes, including a public swimming pool and gym.

The area has a very broad social mix, but on the whole it is a lower social economical area with most working people earning the minimum wage and 40% of children receive free school meals. The town of Holsworthy has a livestock market and many businesses are involved in the farming industry. The surrounding area is mainly made up of dairy or mixed farming.

Please also indicate from the following the main broad category (or categories), as you think most accurate:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Rural ✓ | Urban |
| Semi-rural | City centre |
| Country town ✓ | Inner city |
| Industrial | Housing estate |
| Suburban | |



BBC Radio Devon @BBCDevon · 2h

@ElizabethBurke_ blessing our #Communitree with @TobyBuckland here in Holsworthy



The Church(es)

In this part of Devon the church remains an important part of community life. Over the past three years the Benefice has been concentrating on being the church in the community. The Eucharist is at the heart of the worship. Each church has their own tradition giving a good mix. A full Holy Week is followed. There is also a broad and growing depth of pastoral ministry. There is always more to do than is possible, and recognising this and deciding on what is important or reaches out to the largest number of people is critical in the mission of the church in this Benefice.

The Parish of St Bridget, 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. It is a growing village with new housing. There are many families living in the village.



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 15th century church, although the simple font and stoup survive from the original Norman church. There is a set pattern of weekly Sunday services at St Bridget's beginning at 11.15am. A sung Eucharist is celebrated twice a month on the first and third Sundays, with a Morning Prayer service usually on the second Sunday each month. Members of the congregation read the lessons and lead the prayers of intercession. A lay-led family service is sometimes held on the fourth Sunday, making use of the church's PA system and data projector. Unusually for a village church, there is a peal of 8 bells with an enthusiastic team of ringers who ring for services and meet weekly to practise.

Bridgerule benefits from a recently 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 organisations organising a week of evening events, beginning with an ecumenical service and culminating in a carnival. The costs of maintenance are largely covered by a programme of well supported fundraising events including luncheons, dances and an annual gift day. The church has strong



ecumenical links, with regular joint services held in conjunction with the congregation of the Methodist Chapel.

Southlands is a small, family-run, residential home for the elderly in the parish of Bridgerule. Services of home communion are held on a monthly basis with a dedicated team, including an organist, supporting whoever is taking the service.

The church maintains strong links with the thriving school in the parish. Bridgerule Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School is part of the Holsworthy Federation, which includes Holsworthy Community College, Black Torrington C of E Primary School and Bradford Primary School. The federation primary schools work closely together, and a shared Ethos Committee meets regularly to maintain and

develop the Christian character of the two church schools in the Federation. The school welcomes clergy involvement in collective worship, the ethos group and after school clubs as well as services in St Bridget's and the Methodist Chapel.

The Parish of St Petroc, Hollacombe

A very rural parish of some twenty dwellings - farms, private houses and holiday properties. The parishioners support the church and turn out for the traditional services such as the patronal, harvest, and carol service but do not generally attend the regular services.

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 on five shafts. This font now resides outside the church, and has been replaced inside the church by more recent font (possibly late 1880). The church was extensively restored in the 1880s, when the tower was partly



Lenten Cross from the Rectory Christmas tree

rebuilt and the whole church re roofed (more detail available in Pevsner's Buildings of England – Devon).

In 2016 the tower and north roofs of the church have been replaced with the help of the Listed Places of Worship Roof repair fund and with other grants made available from Devon Historic Churches Trust, All Churches Trust, The Balsdon Trust and The Viscount Amory Trust.

Services are held twice monthly with an Evensong at 3.00 pm on the first Sunday, and Holy Communion at 9.30 am on the third Sunday. Both services are sung BCP services. Hollacombe PCC has passed a resolution under the House of Bishops' Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests asking that Holy Communion be conducted by a male priest as well as the other Sacraments at the request of the family. Holsworthy Benefice is an excellent example of how parishes work together with these sorts of differences.



The Parish of St Peter and St Paul, Holsworthy

Holsworthy is an historic market town with over a thousand years of history and is mentioned in the Domesday Book. The town 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, Exeter and Barnstaple, and an indirect service to Plymouth. The beautiful rugged North Coast of the South-west Peninsula, and the wide-open spaces of Dartmoor are both within easy reach. The town of Holsworthy is expanding with four new estates and another already part built. There is a small industrial estate, also expanding, with a range of businesses, a number of which are associated with agriculture.



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, golf, bowls and cricket clubs in the town, and others available in the local towns of Bude and Launceston. There is a swimming pool and a sports hall; numerous social groups including the Town Band and HATS - the local amateur theatrical society. There is a volunteer-run museum, many children's groups, a twice weekly Luncheon Club and other social facilities for the elderly. The Moorland Training Group works throughout the year to prepare local young people for the annual Ten Tors Challenge. There are several inns and cafés, a small variety of shops and take-away food outlets, a Waitrose Supermarket and a BP garage with an M&S food shop. The Memorial Hall and the Methodist church host regular weekly coffee mornings on Market Day. Holsworthy is twinned with the French town of Aunay-sur-Odon in Brittany and enthusiastic exchange visits are made on a regular basis.

For the very young, there is a playgroup and nursery, and pre- school facilities. Holsworthy Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School, in new buildings, draws children from most of the surrounding villages as well as the town itself. Holsworthy Community College, an 11-16 secondary comprehensive school, also has a very wide catchment area. Sixth form education is available at Petroc College (FE) in Barnstaple and at the 11-18 schools in Shebbear, Bude, Launceston and Okehampton.



The Medical Centre and the Community Hospital are both modern and offer a range of facilities and clinics. Adjacent to the Medical Centre is the Long House – a day-care outpost of the North Devon Hospice. There are four care facilities in the parish: Deer Park and Bodmeyrick are care homes with some nursing care; Densham Court is an Abbeyfield home offering sheltered accommodation, and the Hayloft provides assisted living for people more active than those at Deer Park and Bodmeyrick.

In addition to the Anglican church, the town has a Methodist chapel with a resident minister. There is no local Roman Catholic church – the nearest churches are in Okehampton, Launceston and Bude, and 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 and operates the local Food Bank. The three denominations come together to take it in turns to lead the annual Women's World Day of Prayer service.

There has been a church on the site since around 1130. The current Grade II* listed building is a large granite structure with three aisles, just off the town square. 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 stained glass. There is a peal of 8 bells, recast in 1949 by Gillet and Johnson. The tower houses a clock and carillon with 13 tunes on individual drums, one of which plays at three hourly intervals during the day. The most notable tune is "Holsworthy Church Bells" known and loved worldwide, and reputed to have been written by Samuel Sebastian Wesley beneath the large beech trees in the town's Badock Garden. The organist at Exeter Cathedral, gave the first rendering of his composition at the dedication of Holsworthy Church organ in 1865. This instrument, claimed to be the work of Renatus Harris, was originally built in 1645 for the parish Church of All Saints, Chelsea, and was bought by the parishioners of Holsworthy for £300 in 1865.



Worship is liberal Catholic centred around the Common Worship Eucharist with the NRSV translation of the Bible and the new English Hymnal. There is a team of servers, a group of bell ringers and a robed choir. The congregation, servers, ringers and choir are all growing in numbers. There are plans and finances in place to start a junior robed choir. Members of the congregation read the lessons and lead the prayers. There is a new team of Lay Worship Leaders that lead the monthly Morning Prayer. Refreshments are served after services. The church also holds primary school services twice a term as well as weekly Open the Book and Collective Worship. There are all age services for St George's Day, Good Friday, Easter, Christmas and the civic service at the start of St Peter's Fair, all of which are attended by 50-80 children.

The Parish of St Pancras, Pancrasweek



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

Pancrasweek is on the north side of the Holsworthy to Bude road, and about 300 people live in this part of the parish. The area is almost wholly open country, with farms and clusters of houses and cottages. Agriculture was formerly the main employer, but now most people commute out of the parish to a variety of employments and destinations. Running through is the old redundant Bude Canal, with the original towpath

now a footpath passing through the Dunsdon and Vealand Nature reserves. Next to the church is a modern parish hall which hosts a variety of community activities including a sequence dance club, a ladies club, and bowls.

The church of St Pancras is high on a hill near to the Bude to Holsworthy road. It has typical Devon wagon roofs, Norman work, Perpendicular windows, a Jacobean pulpit and a tower with five bells. The church has just finished having a new roof (2019) and complete interior renovation. This was possible due to the hard work of the churchwardens and a grant of £250,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The congregation has increasingly grown and includes children. There is a serving team and bell ringers. The monthly service is an All Age Eucharist with children and adult involvement. The plough and harvest services are very important to the whole community.

The Parish of St Swithun, Pyworthy



Pyworthy is a small village about 2 miles from Holsworthy. The Church, a grade II listed building dating from the 12th century, is in the centre, next to the Molesworth Arms. The parish is the largest in area in the benefice. It is mostly farmland, and around 700 people live in this part of the parish, of whom about 300 live in the village.

Many parishioners support the church with generous donations for special projects and at the Patronal Festival. The church is noted for its wonderful flower displays and a beautifully kept churchyard. There is also a peal of 6 bells, well maintained and rung regularly.



St Swithun's has lay worship leaders, and there are two lay-led services each month, one of which is the All Age Service. Members of the congregation read lessons and lead the prayers. St Swithun has the lowest churchmanship of the Benefice and their services tend to be less formal.



Services

The main focus of worship is a Sunday morning. Mid-week services have been introduced. At present only the Eucharist on a Friday morning in Holsworthy has continued. It is hoped to carry out some of the daily offices in church if a colleague is appointed. There is also all age 'Creative Church' which attracts the unchurched and young families. 'Creative Church' is an interactive service with crafts.

| | Bridgerule St Bridget | Hollacombe St Petroc | Holsworthy St Peter & St Paul | Pancrasweek St Pancras | Pyworthy St Swithun |
|-------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1st Sunday of the month | 11.15am Sung Eucharist (CW) | 3pm Sung BCP Evening Prayer | 9.30am Sung Eucharist (CW) | | 11.15am All Age Service |
| 2nd Sunday of the month | 11.15am Morning Prayer (CW) | | 9.30am Sung Eucharist (CW) Music Group | | 11.15am Sung Eucharist (CW) |
| 3rd Sunday of the month | 9.30am Sung Eucharist (CW) | 9.30am Sung BCP Holy Communion | 9.30am Sung Eucharist (CW) | | 11.15am Morning Prayer (CW) |
| 4th Sunday of the month | 11.15am All Age Service | | 9.30am Morning Prayer (CW) | 9.30am (CW) Eucharist with Hymns | 11.15am Sung Eucharist (CW) |
| 5th Sunday | 10am Sung Eucharist with guest preacher rotates around the Benefice | | | | |

| | Bridgerule St Bridget | Hollacombe St Petroc | Holsworthy St Peter & St Paul | Pancrasweek St Pancras | Pyworthy St Swithun |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Tradition | Middle with bells (CW) | Traditional incense at the minister's discretion (BCP) | High with bells and incense on Feasts (CW) | Middle/low (CW) | Middle/low (CW) |
| Electoral Roll | 20 | 5 | 61 | 11 | 51 |
| Normal Congregation | 12 | 6 | 49 | 16 | 13 |
| Ecumenical services | Festivals with Methodists | n/a | Christians Together | Mixed congregation | n/a |
| Baptisms 2019 | 2 | 1 | 11 | 0 | 4 |
| Weddings 2019 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 |
| Funerals 2019 | 4 | 0 | 9 | 3 | 2 |
| Lay worship Leaders | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 3 |
| School services | 1 a term | n/a | 2 a term | n/a | n/a |
| Collective Worship | 2+ a term | n/a | Twice weekly | n/a | n/a |

Church Groups

As well as servers, bellringers and a robed choir and as part of the diocesan three priorities of pray, grow, serve the Benefice has started four new groups;

1. Prayer Group specifically to pray for growth
2. Home Group - Pilgrim and other resources
3. Holsworthy Church Strategic Group - looking at the Mission of the church in Holsworthy
4. Sunday Night Club - fun discussion group for teenagers

Just some of the Ministry Opportunities

The curate will be encouraged and welcomed to take a full part of Benefice life. There is much going on in addition to church life, to gain necessary training and to choose from.

Livestock Market

If they wish the person appointed could join the Livestock Market chaplaincy team.

Community Coffee Mornings

A great mission opportunity where there is a church stall and we can reach out to the wider community.

Scouting Groups

Clergy are always welcome at the scout hut and camps. All the age groups are very popular and has a strong leadership team.

Fridays at Five

A draw held in one of the local pubs to increase business. A great place to meet the wider community.

Residential Homes

With five residential homes there is much scope to take services and pastoral ministry.

Pre-Schools and Schools

The doors are always open for the church to get involved as much they would like.

Sports (Football, Cricket and others)

Another great opportunity for mission if the person appointed felt called to this.

Civic and charity functions

Clergy are always welcome and often expected! to attend. The curate would also be welcome other commitments permitting.

Foodbank and cafe

This is run by Holsworthy and surrounding areas Christians Together.



Holsworthy Livestock Market
on a busy Market day

People

Mary Aicheler is our PTO Reader. She has a very active ministry taking services in the church and in the residential homes. Mary also takes a share in distributing Home Communion.

Sarah Battams helps with pastoral ministry. Sarah visits people at home and also takes a share in distributing Home Communion.

All the churches have committed PCC members and Officers with a good mixture of ages and gender.

Ruth Jones is an ecumenical youth worker in the area. She spends most of her time in the secondary school and worships with the Methodists. Ruth does occasionally lead all age worship.

Katie North is our part time paid administrator. Katie worships at St Peter and St Paul's church.

Vision and Priorities

The Benefice has gone through much reorganisation and then rapid changes in clergy, so a time of stability has been very important. Each church has their own priorities, but one of the priorities the incumbent has continued to encourage is that the congregations are supported, and where needed, empowered to fully live out their baptismal vocation. The vocation to grow in prayer and become confident in sharing the Gospel message whilst not becoming 'busy' for the church.

Holsworthy being the largest parish has started a strategic review of 'being the body of Christ in Holsworthy today'. All of the congregation were invited to be a part of this review. The review identified six areas to concentrate on;

1. Eucharist and Prayer
2. Meeting People's Needs
3. Being Jesus
4. Inclusive Church
5. Social Media
6. An Accepting Church

The outcomes started to be implemented by the members of the PCC and incumbent in February 2020. It is on hold at the moment due to the Coronavirus situation. It will be important to revisit the actions in light of any new norms due to the pandemic.

How does the incumbent understand the role of training?

Research shows that lasting learning comes in three ways; (Exeter Diocese MDR forms)

Approximately

10% comes from formal education (CMD courses, websites, books etc.) *15% IME phase 4-7*

20% comes from learning with others (e.g Reflective Practice Groups, cell groups, work consultant or mentor)

70% comes from experience and reflection (e.g visiting other places, shadowing others, identifying a project, inviting feedback from others, sabbatical)

Supporting the curate in ensuring lasting learning is a vital role of the Training Incumbent. As well as giving the the curate the freedom and a safe environment the Training Incumbent needs to allow the curate time and support to grow into being an ordained minister. Time will be given for reading, reflection and to 'be with God' and not just to 'do for God'. It's also important for the Training Incumbent to encourage the newly ordained minister to be the person God has called them to be so that they can truly flourish.

Ensuring lots of opportunities to shadow the Training Incumbent, experience ministry for themselves, reflecting together, and quality feedback will all be essential for the new minister to meet the learning outcomes and prepare them for future ministry.

There can be much day to day pressure on clergy. Establishing a good discipline of time off, time with family and friends, time for study and courses, retreats, prayer and reading during the title post will be vital foundations for ongoing ministry. It will be important for the Training incumbent to both demonstrate and encourage this.



We never stop learning and the Training Incumbent - Curate relationship is not just a one way process. It is hoped that the Training Incumbent and congregation will also learn much from the curate.

What is the likely role of the curate in future plans?

It is hoped that the curate will bring fresh ideas and experiences to the Benefice. As this is a training role, and not a permanent role, long term plans will not take into account a curate. However that said, they will be an important part of the team. The curate will be involved in all the planning, meetings and execution as far as their training requirements and their own preferred areas of ministry allow.

Areas of particular responsibility for curate in training:

Holsworthy Benefice is wide and varied and will offer lots of opportunities for taking particular responsibilities. Any particular areas will be discussed and agreed with the new curate. As time goes on it is hoped that the curate will identify areas of ministry they would like to be responsible for and also ministry that they have little experience or they find challenging. Much support will be given to the curate to expand in these areas. Whilst a deacon, there will be plenty of opportunity to carry out the deacon's role in the Eucharist. On being ordained a Priest they will be given as many opportunities as possible to carry out sacraments.

As there is no dedicated curate's house at the moment there is an opportunity to decide where might be best for the curate and any family. It is envisaged this will be in Bridgerule. Bridgerule is a growing village with a CofE primary school and a good mix of ages and backgrounds. Living here would be beneficial to both the curate and the benefice due to the parish having lots of ministry and missional opportunities. A curate would easily be able to become fully involved and in time take responsibility for the mission of the church in this area. It would give the curate some freedom for day to day ministry in a parish, whilst not being overwhelmed.

Accommodation

There are a couple of options for accommodation which can be discussed with the potential candidate.

Anything else?

If there is a family, and they go to church, any need for stability in becoming part of a congregation will be taken into account, whilst still ensuring that the curate's training requirements are met.

It will be important for the person appointed to respect and take time to understand why there is a resolution in place at Hollacombe. They will need to work positively within the resolution.

Contact for more information:

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