

**NEXT SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER 2019  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



Readings: Rom 1: 1-7  
Matt 1: 18-end

8 am HOLY COMMUNION  
President: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore  
Preacher: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore

10 am PARISH COMMUNION  
President: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore/Steve Roberts  
Preacher: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore

7 pm Service of Nine Lessons & Carols followed by mulled wine and mince pies

**THIS WEEK'S READINGS AND SERVICES**

**Monday 16 December**

Ps 40; Isa 38: 1-8, 21-22; Matt 16: 13-end

**Tuesday 17 December**

Gen 49: 2, 8-10; Ps 72: 1-5, 18-19; Matt 1: 1-17

10.30 am Communion Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore

**Wednesday 18 December**

Ps 75; Isa ch39; Matt 17: 14-21

**Thursday 19 December**

Ps 146; Zeph 1: 1-2; 3; Matt 17: 22-end

**Friday 20 December**

Ps 46; Zeph 3: 1-13; Matt 18: 1-20

**Saturday 21 December**

Ps 121; Zeph 3: 14-end; Matt 18: 21-end  
8 am Prayers

**CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

Team Rector:

Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore 475765

Rev'd Marisa Cockfield 239339

Rev'd Alan Glover: (self supporting) 451147

Churchwardens: Chris Hall 479450/07521 956006

Ben Duhig 07799 076361

Parish Administrator: Debbie Crawford 474078

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator: Lorna Dorrington 477117

*Church Office*

opening hours: 10 am-12 noon, Mon-Fri 474078

St Mary's House, 9 Church Walk, Bideford. EX39 2BP

Email: [admin@stmaryschurchbideford.org](mailto:admin@stmaryschurchbideford.org)

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**BIDEFORD PARISH BULLETIN**

Part of the Mission Community of  
Bideford, Landcross, Littleham, Monkleigh  
and Weare Giffard

*Our Purpose:*

*TO SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD*

**SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER 2019  
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

*WELCOME!* Please stay for tea or coffee after the service—we would love to chat with you.

If you don't normally take communion but would like God's blessing, please come up to the altar rail bringing this bulletin. Alcohol free wine is available at the 10 am service: please go to the right hand side of the altar and then ask the chalice administrator. Gluten free wafers are also available on request before the service.

This morning's preacher at the 8 am and 10 am services is Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore.

Tonight's service is Taize at 7 pm.

This Sunday is *UCAN SUNDAY* when your gifts of cans and/or cash are appreciated for those in need.

Next Sunday is our **SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS** at 7 pm, after which we serve mulled wine and mince pies. Please invite friends and family to this special service.

We would be very grateful for any mince pies for the Carol Service: please bring them ideally to the 8 am or 10 am service, or before the 7 pm service.

We are currently very short of sidespeople for the services over Christmas. More volunteers would be much appreciated. Please contact Mary Dendle if you are able to help for any of the services. Tel 476095.

There are some special Christmas cards for sale in church showing the nativity in the east stained glass window, taken by Ken Williams. They are £1 each and all money will be given to St Mary's Church.

There are also cards of the window panel showing the annunciation—4 for £1 with proceeds going to the church.

The next **REFLECTIONS** meeting will be a *Bring and Share Christmas Lunch*. This will be at 12.30 for 1 pm on Tues 17 December (not the usual 2.30 pm) and everyone is welcome to attend.

Please note there will be *NO BULLETIN* for Sunday 29 December. The office will close from noon on Friday 20 December, re-opening on Thursday 2 January. If you have any notices for 5 Jan please let Debbie have them by 18 December.

<b>Dates of Events and Meeting</b>	
Mon 16	1.45 pm Funeral of Phil Pester 6-7.30 pm Cryptonites (last of term)
Tues 17	12.30 for 1 pm Reflections Bring and Share Lunch 7 pm All Age Planning
Wed 18	1.30 pm Bideford College Yr 7 Carol Service 3.45-5.30 pm Messy Church
Fri 20	2 pm St Mary's Christmas Service 2.30 pm Moreton Court Christmas Service

If we can do anything to help you please get in touch. If we don't have the answers we will try to put you in touch with someone who does. Contact Church Office 474078 or Lorna 477117.

**Please pray for those people living in:**

- Monday: Park Lane, Penpott Court
- Tuesday: Pill Road, Pimlico Place
- Wednesday: Pit Lane, Pollards Place
- Thursday: Providence Row, Pynes Lane
- Friday: Pynes Walk, Railway Terrace
- Saturday: Rowe Close, Royston Road

**Please pray for those who are sick:**

- Amanda Beer, Maryanne Benson, Trish Bishop, Pauline Carpenter, Tim Cotter, Nicky Day, Gill Dean, Alan Hooper, Tyler Hooper Graham and Karel Johnston, Eileen King, Alan Power, Beryl Pullin, David Sharp, Kevin Smith, Jean Stewart, Iris Way, Marion Woolf



**Christmas Services at St Mary's**

**Sun 22 Dec.** 7 pm Nine Lessons and Carols Service, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

**Tues 24 Dec.** 10.30 am Holy Communion  
2 pm Nativity Service  
4 pm Nativity Service  
11.30 pm Midnight Mass

**Wed 25 Dec.** 10 am Christmas Family Communion Service

*So here I am to worship,  
Here I am to bow down,  
Here I am to say that You're my God;  
And You're altogether lovely,  
Altogether worthy,  
Altogether wonderful to me.*

King of all days,  
Oh so highly exalted,  
Glorious in heaven above;  
Humbly You came  
To the earth You created,  
All for love's sake became poor.

And I'll never know how much it cost  
To see my sin upon that cross.  
(Repeat)

### **FINAL HYMN**

Lo, he comes with clouds descending,  
once for favoured sinners slain ;  
thousand thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train :  
Alleluia !  
God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him  
robed in dreadful majesty ;  
those who set at naught and sold him,  
pierced and nailed him to the Tree,  
deeply wailing,  
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion  
still his dazzling body bears,  
cause of endless exultation  
to his ransomed worshippers :  
with what rapture  
gaze we on those glorious scars !

Yea, Amen, let all adore thee,  
high on thine eternal throne ;  
Saviour, take the power and glory,  
claim the kingdom for thine own :  
Alleluia !  
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

**Please remember the souls of the departed,** especially Phil Pester, and the families of those who have recently been bereaved, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time.



St Mary's has two prayer lines. Each one has a group of about 10-12 people who commit to praying for a list of people each day, all with differing needs. Some people prefer to remain anonymous so just an initial is used. It is done in complete confidence and anyone can ask to be prayed for or ask for another person to be prayed for. We communicate by email so that "pray-ers" can be notified quickly about urgent prayers. This is separate from the list of people to be prayed for on the bulletin. Contact the church office or Pattie on 01237 476501/07984937179  
morrispattie59@gmail.com

### **ENTRANCE HYMN**

Awake, awake : fling off the night !  
For God has sent his glorious light ;  
and we who live in Christ's new day  
must works of darkness put away.

Awake and rise, with love renewed,  
and with the Spirit's power endued.  
The light of life in us must glow,  
and fruits of truth and goodness show.

Let in the light : all sin expose  
to Christ, whose life no darkness knows.  
Before his cross for guidance kneel ;  
his light will judge and, judging, heal.

Awake, and rise up from the dead,  
and Christ his light on you will shed.  
Its power will wrong desires destroy,  
and your whole nature fill with joy.

Then sing for joy, and use each day ;  
give thanks for everything alway.  
Lift up your hearts ; with one accord  
praise God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **COLLECT**

God for whom we watch and wait,  
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way  
of your Son:  
give us courage to speak the truth,  
to hunger for justice,  
and to suffer for the cause of right,  
with Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **THE FIRST READING**

### **James 5: 7-10**

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

## **GRADUAL HYMN**

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh ;  
awake and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings from the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every breast from sin ;  
make straight the way for God within ;  
prepare we in our hearts a home,  
where such a mighty guest may come.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward ;  
without thy grace we waste away,  
like flowers that wither and decay.

To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,  
and bid the fallen sinner stand ;  
shine forth, and let thy light restore  
earth's own true loveliness once more.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee  
whose advent sets thy people free,  
whom with the Father we adore,  
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

## **GOSPEL READING**

### **Matthew 11: 2-11**

When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?" Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me." As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see?

A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: "'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

## **OFFERTORY HYMN**

Hills of the North, rejoice,  
river and mountain-spring,  
hark to the advent voice ;  
valley and lowland, sing.  
Christ comes in righteousness and love,  
he brings salvation from above.

Isles of the Southern seas,  
sing to the listening earth,  
carry on every breeze  
hope of a world's new birth :  
In Christ shall all be made anew,  
his word is sure, his promise true.

Lands of the East, arise,  
he is your brightest morn,  
greet him with joyous eyes,  
praise shall his path adorn :  
your seers have longed to know their  
Lord ;  
to you he comes, the final word.

Shores of the utmost West,  
lands of the setting sun,  
welcome the heavenly guest  
in whom the dawn has come :  
he brings a never-ending light  
who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

Shout, as you journey home,  
songs be in every mouth,  
lo, from the North they come,  
from East and West and South :  
in Jesus all shall find their rest,  
in him the universe be blest.

## **COMMUNION HYMNS**

EMMANUEL, Emmanuel,  
We call Your name, Emmanuel.  
God with us, revealed in us,  
We call Your name, Emmanuel.

LIGHT OF THE WORLD,  
You stepped down into darkness,  
Opened my eyes, let me see  
Beauty that made this heart adore You,  
Hope of a life spent with You.