

THIS WEEK'S READINGS AND SERVICES

Monday 19 December

Ps. 146; Isaiah 46; Mark 10. 32-end

Tuesday 20 December

Ps.46; Isaiah 48; Mark 11. 1-26

Wednesday 21 December – Thomas the Apostle

Ps. 121; Job 42. 1-6; John 14. 1-7

Thursday 22 December

Ps. 124; Isaiah 52.13-end of 53; Mark 2. 13-34

Friday 23 December

Ps. 130; Isaiah 56. 1-8; Mark 2.35-13.13

Saturday 24 December – CHRISTMAS EVE

Ps. 45; Isaiah 58; Mark 13. 14-end

CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Team Rector:

Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore	01237 475765
Rev'd Marisa Cockfield	01237 239339
Rev'd Robin Pirrie	01237 479192
Rev' Chris Hutchins	07776 191789
Rev'd Alan Glover: (self-supporting)	01237 451147
Churchwardens: Ben Duhig	07799 076361
Ro Day	01271 860520

Parish Administrator: Debbie Crawford 01237 472551

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator: Lorna Dorrington
01237 477117 (please use area code as well)

Director of Music: Chris Beechey 01237 420652

Church Office

opening hours: 9 am–12 noon, Mon–Thurs 472551

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

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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 18 DECEMBER 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 9.30 am | MORNING WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION
President: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore
Talk: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore |
| 11.15 am | ENCOUNTER CAROL SERVICE |
| 7 pm | NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE
President; Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore
(To be recorded by Radio Devon) |

SATURDAY 24 DECEMBER 2022

CHRISTMAS EVE

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 2.30 & 4 pm | FAMILY NATIVITY |
| 11.30 pm | MIDNIGHT MASS |

SUNDAY 25 DECEMBER 2022

CHRISTMAS DAY

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 9.30 am | FAMILY COMMUNION SERVICE
President: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore
Rev'd Chris Hutchins |
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Dates of Events and Meetings

Mon 19	9.30am Holy Dusters 6 pm A Quiet Christmas Service, Holy Trinity, Landcross
Tues 20	10.30am Holy Communion 1.30 pm Reflections Bring and Share Lunch 6.00pm A Quiet Christmas Service – St Mary’s Church
Wed 21	10.00 am Stay and Play
Thurs 22	10.00am Nativity Rehearsal 2.00 pm Funeral of Dorothy Clark
Fri 23	NO Friday Diner 6.00 – 7.00pm Choir Practice
Sat 24	2.30 pm Family Nativity 4.00 pm Family Nativity 11.30pm Midnight Mass
Sun 25	9.30am Christmas Day Family Communion Service NO Encounter Service

PRAYERS

Please hold the family of Dorothy Clark in your prayers ahead of her funeral in St Mary’s Church on Thursday 22 December at 2 pm.

ENCOUNTER CAROL SERVICE, TODAY 18 DECEMBER AT 11.15AM

Come along to our contemporary service of carols, readings and seasonal message.

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE- TODAY 18 DEC AT 7PM

Join our special service of Nine Lessons and Carols (to be recorded this year by Radio Devon for broadcasting on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.) After the service there will be mulled wine and mince pies.

A QUIET CHRISTMAS SERVICE – TUESDAY 20 DECEMBER AT 6PM

A gentle Christmas service for the bereaved, estranged and those going through a tough time.

This service will also take place at Holy Trinity, Landcross on Monday 19 December at 6 pm.

CHRISTMAS STAY AND PLAY – WED 21 DEC, 10AM-12 NOON

For children under 5 (siblings up to age 8 welcome) and their carers. There will be a baby corner, craft/colouring table, songs, story time, toys, books and snacks. Free of charge (voluntary contributions of £2 to cover refreshment costs would be very welcome.)

Postage Stamps

Mothers Union Exeter are asking MU Branches to collect used postage stamps, as they have an outlet for used stamps. Can you please make sure that they are cut leaving at least ¼ inch/ 1cm surround. If they are cut too close the stamps can be damaged and are of no use. Please put them in the box at the back of church marked ‘Mothers Union Stamps’. The money raised goes to MU funds at Exeter. Any queries phone Maggie Murray: 477568

Church Office closed over Christmas

Please note that the Church Office will be closed from 12 noon on Thursday 22 December and re-open at 9 am on Tuesday 3 January 2023.

SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER, FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

COLLECT

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 7. 10-16

Isaiah Gives Ahaz the Sign of Immanuel

Ahaz the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: ‘Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

THE SECOND READING

Matthew 1. 18 – end

The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel’,

which means, ‘God is with us.’ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

