THIS WEEK'S READINGS AND SERVICES

Monday 20 February

Psalm 71; Jeremiah 1; John 3: 1-21

Tuesday 21 February

Psalm 73; Jeremiah 2: 1-13; John 3: 22-end

Wednesday 22 February - ASH WEDNESDAY

Psalm 38; Daniel 9: 3-6; 1 Timothy 6: 6-19

Thursday 23 February – Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna,

Martyr, c.155

Psalm 77; Jeremiah 2.14-32; John 4.1-26

Friday 24 February

Psalm 3; Jeremiah 3: 6-22; John 4: 27-42

Saturday 25 February

Psalm 71; Jeremiah 4: 1-8; John 4.43-end

CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Team Rector:

 Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore
 01237 475765

 Rev'd Marisa Cockfield
 01237 239339

 Rev'd Robin Pirrie
 07584 261686

 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 Crawford01237 472551

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator: Lorna Dorrinton 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 19 FEBRUARY 2023 THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

9.30 am MORNNG WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

President: Rev'd Chris Hutchins Talk: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore

11.15am ENCOUNTER SERVICE

SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2023 THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

8.00 am SAID HOLY COMMUNION

President: Rev'd Robin Pirrie

9.30 am MORNING WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

President: Revd Robin Pirrie

11.15am ENCOUNTER SERVICE

Please note that next month the All-Age Service will be on the third Sunday, 19 March at 9.30 am (rather than the usual second Sunday) to coincide with Mothering Sunday.

This church currently has a policy of not taking collections during services.

If you would like to donate to the work and ministry of St Mary's Church, we would be very grateful. You can donate at the door using our contactless machine or post cash in the slot in the same unit.

If you would like to find out about regular giving, then please speak to one of the clergy or one of the Church Wardens. Thank you for your kind generosity.

Dates of Events and Meetings

Mon 20 February 9.30am Holy Dusters Tues 21 10.30am Holy Communion

2.30pm Reflections

7.30pm Northam Choral Rehearsal

Wed 22 9.30am Music Makers (book through church office)

10 am Ash Wednesday Service, Landcross

3.30pm Messy Church (book through church office)

7.00pm Ash Wednesday Service, St Mary's

Thurs 23 2.00pm Funeral of Brian Slade

Fri 24 11.00am Friday Diner

6.00 pm Choir Practice

Sat 25 8.00am Morning Prayer 10.00am Treblemakers

Sun 26 8.00am Said Holy Communion

9.30am Morning Worship with Holy Communion

11.15am Encounter Service

PRAYERS

We welcome Lucas Sykes into the Church family today when he is baptised. Please hold him and his parents, Michelle and Lee, and family and friends in your prayers on this special occasion.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES ON WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY

Please join us for the start of Lent and a chance to worship together at our Ash Wednesday Services. Either 7 pm at St Mary's or earlier in the day at 10 am at Landcross.

LENT COURSE 2023

The Lent Course we will be following this year 'Dust and glory – A Lent journey of faith, failure and forgiveness' is recommended by Archbishops of York and Canterbury. The course will be either at St Mary's Church on Thursday 2 March, then Wednesdays 8,15,22,29 March from 7.30-9 pm or Littleham Village Hall on Fridays 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 March, 2.30-4 pm.

Please let the Church Office know if you would like to join the course (and which one), either as part of a home group or as an individual.

MESSY CHURCH

Please contact Church Office by Monday lunchtime (20 Feb) Tel. 472551 for a place at Messy Church at 3.30 pm on Wednesday 22 February.

CHRISTIAN AID 2023 LENT APPEAL

On Sunday 19 Feb we will be handing out Smartie tubes. Please do take them home, eat the goodies inside and then during Lent fill them with money! All contributions will be given to Christian Aid, an organisation which works all over the world to try and eradicate poverty. Please return tubes to Church on Easter Day. Thank you. Sue Jeffery and Nigel Chick.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES

Thank you to all those people who have had Children's Society boxes over the past year. *Please can you bring them to Church Office by 12 noon tomorrow*, Monday 20 February, so they can be counted. Many thanks. Liza Junkison.

MOTHERING DAY REQUEST

Foliage and /or flowers gratefully received on **Friday 17 March** to make up the bunches of flowers for Mothering Day. If you are able to help, even better (many hands make light and quicker work!) We will meet 10 am in the church by the font area. If anyone wants me to collect any greenery, please let me know.

SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY - THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

COLLECT

Holy God, you know the disorder of our sinful lives: set straight our crooked hearts, and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory in Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE FIRST READING

2 Peter 1: 16 - end

Eyewitnesses of Christ's Glory

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, 'This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.' We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

THE SECOND READING Matthew 17: 1 - 9

The Transfiguration

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.