

## THIS WEEK'S READINGS AND SERVICES

### Monday 27 March

Psalm 73; Jeremiah 21. 1-10; John 11. 28-44

### Tuesday 28 March

Psalm 35; Jeremiah 22. 1-5, 13-19; John 11.45-end

### Wednesday 29 March

Psalm 55; Jeremiah 22. 20-23.8; John 12. 1-11

### Thursday 30 March

Psalm 40; Jeremiah 23.9-32; John 12.12-19

### Friday 31 March – John Donne, Priest, Poet, 1631

Psalm 22; Jeremiah 24; John 12.20-36a

### Saturday 1 April – Frederick Denison Maurice, Priest, Teacher, 1872

Psalm 23; Jeremiah 25. 1-14; John 12. 36b-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 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

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

website: [www.stmaryschurchbideford.org](http://www.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 26 MARCH 2023

#### THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – (Passiontide begins)

- 8.00 am SAID HOLY COMMUNION WITH PASSION READINGS  
President: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore
- 9.30 am MORNING WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION AND  
PASSION READINGS  
President: Rev'd Robin Pirrie
- 11.15 am ENCOUNTER SERVICE

### SUNDAY 2 APRIL PALM SUNDAY

- 9.10 am Procession with donkey from Victoria Park
- 9.30 am ALL AGE PALM SUNDAY SERVICE  
President Rev'd Claire Rose Casemore
- 11.15 am ENCOUNTER SERVICE
- 7.00 pm ST MARY'S SINGERS CONCERT –  
Easter Excerpts from Handel's Messiah

*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 27 March	9.30am Holy Dusters
Tues 28	10.30am Northumbria Prayer 11.15 am Visit by Abbotsham School (Class 2) 2.30pm Friends of St Mary's Talk by Sharron Braddick (see below) 7.30pm Northam Choral Rehearsal
Wed 29	9.30am Music Makers (book through church office) 7.30pm Lent Course (last one)
Thurs 30	9.00am St Mary's School Service 2.30pm Kingsley School Service
Fri 31	11.00am 'Easter' Friday Diner 2.30pm Lent Course at Littleham Village Hall (last one) 6.00pm Choir Practice
Sat 1 April	8.00am Morning Prayer 8.15am Men's Breakfast 10.00am Treblemakers
Sun 2	9.10am Procession with donkey from Victoria Park 9.30am All Age Palm Sunday Service 11.15am Encounter Service 2.30pm Practice for Handel's Messiah 7.00pm St Mary's Singers Concert – Easter Excerpts from Handel's Messiah

## Easter Excerpts from Handel's Messiah

On Palm Sunday, 2 April, at 7 pm, St Mary's Singers present Easter excerpts from Handel's Messiah with soprano Tina Gibbons, bass John Hobbs and organist Chris Beechey, conducted by John Nixon. Retiring collection for SEOD Nepalese Children's Home (Contact: Bill Owen)

## FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S – TALK BY SHARON BRADDICK ON BIDDEFORD, USA

Everyone is welcome to the next Friends' event on Tuesday 28 March at 2.30 pm in St Mary's Church when Sharon Braddick will be giving a talk on Biddeford, USA. The event will be free for members of Friends and £5 to non-members.

## NOTICE OF REVISION OF ELECTORAL ROLL AND PCC COMMITTEE

The revision of the Electoral Roll continues to take place until Sunday 2 April.

Being on the Roll means you regard this church as a church of worship for you (and your family). You can still be a member of our Roll if you also attend other churches.

Being a member on the Roll allows you to vote on important issues for your church at the APCM on 30 April in St Mary's Church at 11.15 am. *(Please note there will be no Encounter Service that day.)*

If you are new to St Mary's, changed address in the last year or think you may not already be on the Roll (and are baptised and aged 16 or over), then please fill out a form (by the main door.) Please then either give the form to Justine Duhig (Electoral Roll Officer) or drop it at Church House by Sunday 2 April.

The APCM this year will be on 30 April at 11.15 am, following the 9.30 am service. We hear what has happened over the past year and what plans there are for the future. We will also be electing 2 Churchwardens and 10 PCC members (1 year term) AND 3 Deanery Synod Reps ((3-year term.) *Please consider who you would like to be part of the leadership team of St Mary's Church— and if it could be you. The lists will be at the back of church for your nominations next week.*

## EASTER GARDEN

We will be planting the Easter garden at the All-Age Service on Palm Sunday. Donations of small flowers, plants and moss would be most welcome. Please bring to church on that day (2 April) or contact Pattie on 476501 or Lorna on 477117.

## SUNDAY 26 MARCH– THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

### COLLECT

Gracious Father,  
You gave up your son  
Out of love for the world:  
Lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,  
That we may know eternal peace  
Through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

### THE FIRST READING

#### Romans 8. 6 – 11

#### Life in the Spirit

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

## **THE SECOND READING**

**John 11. 1 - 45**

### **The Death of Lazarus**

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

### **Jesus Weeps**

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet

come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.