THIS WEEK'S READINGS AND DEDICATIONS

Monday 3 July – THOMAS THE APOSTLE Psalm 80; Nehemiah 4; Romans 14. 13-end

Tuesday 4 July Psalm 89. 1-18; Nehemiah 5; Romans 15. 1-13

Wednesday 5 July Psalm 119. 108-128; Nehemiah 6.1 – 7.4; Romans 15. 1-13

Thursday 6 July – Tomas Moore, Scholar and John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester Reformation Martyrs, 1535 Psalm 92; Nehemiah 7.73b – 8.end; Romans 15. 22-end

Friday 7 July Psalm 88; Nehemiah 9. 1-23; Romans 16. 1-16

Saturday 8 July Psalm 97; Nehemiah 9. 24-end; Romans 16. 17-end

CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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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 website: 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 2 JULY FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

- 9.30 am CELTIC COMMUNION President: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore Talk: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore
- 11.15 am ENCOUNTER SERVICE

SUNDAY 9 JULY FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

- 8 am SAID HOLY COMMUNION President: Rev'd Marisa Cockfield
- 9.30 am FAMILY WORSHP SERVICE President: Rev'd Robin Pirrie
- 11.15 am ENCOUNTER SERVICE
- 6 pm EVENSONG at St Swithun's, Littleham

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

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Mon 3 July	9.30am Holy Dusters
	7.30pm PCC Meeting
Tues 4	10.30am Holy Communion (M.U. Corporate)
	1.00pm Funeral of Karel Johnston
	7.30 pm Parish Prayer Group (in St M's Church)
Wed 5	9.30 am Music Makers (book through church office)
Thurs 6	9.30am Kingsley School set-up and rehearse
	2.30pm Kingsley School end of year service
Fri 7	11.15 am Friday Diner
Sat 8	8.00 am Morning Prayer
	10.00am Treblemakers
	10.30am Holy Grounds Café
Sun 9	8.00am Said Holy Communion
	9.30 am Family Worship Service
	11.15 am Encounter

PRAYERS

Please remember the following church family in your prayers: John Day, Gwynne Dendle and Hazel Taylor.

Also, please continue to pray for Karel Johnston's family (Graham, Karen, Ian and Amanda.) Karel's funeral will take place this week on Tuesday, 4 July at 1 pm at St Mary's Church.

Please also pray for Beryl Drew's family (Roger, Julie and Sarah-Jane) ahead of Beryl's funeral on Tuesday 11 June at 1.40 pm at North Devon Crematorium.

MAGGIE'S GARDEN WARMING STRAWBERRY AFTERNOON - TODAY

Don't forget Maggie's Garden Warming today, 2 July, from 2.30 pm onwards at Netherby (in front of Rickards Green), Abbotsham, EX39 5FS. Tel. 07908406126. Donations for fizzy strawberry cream tea are for St Mary's fundraising fund and proceeds from tombola and raffle will go to M.U. charities.

Thank You from Christian Aid

St Mary's collected £339.33 through envelopes in Christian Aid week which, added to the £948.48 raised through the Smarties Appeal, makes a total this year of £1287.81. This is a fantastic amount! Very many thanks to everyone for their support. *Sue Jeffery*

SUNDAY 2 JULY COLLECT

Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus you brought salvation to our wayward world: draw us into harmony with your will, that we may find all things restored in him, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

THE FIRST READING Romans 6. 12 - end

That means you must not give sin a vote in the way you conduct your lives. Don't give it the time of day. Don't even run little errands that are connected with that old way of life. Throw yourselves wholeheartedly and full-time—remember, you've been raised from the dead!—into God's way of doing things. Sin can't tell you how to live. After all, you're not living under that old tyranny any longer. You're living in the freedom of God.

What Is True Freedom?

So, since we're out from under the old tyranny, does that mean we can live any old way we want? Since we're free in the freedom of God, can we do anything that comes to mind? Hardly. You know well enough from your own experience that there are some acts of so-called freedom that destroy freedom. Offer yourselves to sin, for instance, and it's your last free act. But offer yourselves to the ways of God and the freedom never quits. All your lives you've let sin tell you what to do. But thank God you've started listening to a new master, one whose commands set you free to live openly in *his* freedom!

I'm using this freedom language because it's easy to picture. You can readily recall, can't you, how at one time the more you did just what you felt like doing—not caring about others, not caring about God—the worse your life became and the less freedom you had? And how much different is it now as you live in God's freedom, your lives healed and expansive in holiness?

As long as you did what you felt like doing, ignoring God, you didn't have to bother with right thinking or right living, or right *anything* for that matter. But do you call that a free life? What did you get out of it? Nothing you're proud of now. Where did it get you? A dead end.

But now that you've found you don't have to listen to sin tell you what to do, and have discovered the delight of listening to God telling you, what a surprise! A whole, healed, put-together life right now, with more and more of life on the way! Work hard for sin your whole life and your pension is death. But God's gift is *real life*, eternal life, delivered by Jesus, our Master.

THE SECOND READING Matthew 10. 40- end Rewards

'Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.'