

THIS WEEK'S READINGS AND DEDICATIONS

Monday 17 July – Elizabeth Ferrard, First Deaconess of the Church of England, Founder of the Community of St Andrew. 1883
Psalm 124; Ester 4; 2 Corinthians 6. 1-7.1

Tuesday 18 July- Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, and his sister Macrina, Deaconess, Teachers c. 394 and c. 379
Psalm 132; Ester 5; 2 Corinthians 7. 2-end

Wednesday 19 July
Psalm 119 153-end; Ester 6. 1-13; 2 Corinthians 8. 11-15

Thursday 20 July – Margaret of Antioch, Martyr, 4th century;
Bartolome de las Casas, Apostle to the Indies, 1566
Psalm 143; Ester 6. 14-end f 7; 2 Corinthians 8. 16-9.5

Friday 21 July
Psalm 144; Ester 8; 2 Corinthians 9. 6-end

Saturday 22 July – MARY MAGDALENE
Psalm 30; 1 Samuel 16. 14-end Luke 8. 1-3

CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Team Rector:

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Rev'd Marisa Cockfield	01237 239339
Rev'd Robin Pirrie	07584 261686
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Rev'd Alan Glover: (self-supporting)	01237 451147
Churchwardens: Ben Duhig	07799 076361
Sally Strutt	01271 329177
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

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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 16 JULY SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9.30 am MORNING WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION
President: Rev'd Robin Pirrie
Talk: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore

11.15 am ENCOUNTER SERVICE

SUNDAY 23 JULY SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

9.30 am MORNING WORSHIP with Holy Communion
President: Rev'd Robin Pirrie
Talk: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore

11.15 am ENCOUNTER SERVICE

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 17 July	9.30am Holy Dusters
Tues 18 July	10.30am Holy Communion 2.30pm Reflections
Wed 19	9.30 am Music Makers (book through church office) 3.30pm Messy Church (book through church office)
Thus 20	2 pm Mother's Union Garden Party at Helen Holwill's
Fri 21	11.15 am Friday Diner 6.00pm Choir Practice
Sat 22	8.00 am Morning Prayer
Sun 23	8.00am Said Holy Communion 9.30 am Morning Worship with Holy Communion 11.15 am Encounter

PRAYERS

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

LOCAL CHURCHES EVENING AT LEE ABBEY, TODAY - SUNDAY 16 JULY

Lee Abbey is hosting a Local Churches Evening today, Sunday 16 July, tea and cake from 5.45 pm, worship from 6.30 pm. Admission free. You can just turn up but letting them know would be helpful.

CHRISTIAN AID SUMMER SUPPER, WEDNESDAY 26 JULY

Christian Aid is holding a Summer Supper on Wednesday 26 July, at 6pm, at Bideford Baptist Church Hall. There will be quiche and salad, a range of desserts, and tea or coffee. Please let Sue Jeffery know if you are coming, or put your name on the sign-up sheet, as this will help with catering. Donations of £6 please which will go to Christian Aid.

FRIDAY DINER – Help needed please!

We are now serving an average of 35 meals at our Friday Diner, but we cannot run the diner every week without the help of the volunteers and the amazing people who provide the food (cooked at home and brought in on a Friday). Are you able to offer help in providing home-made vegetable soup, main meals or puddings? We can reimburse people for cost of food (with a receipt). If you are able to help, or want to know more about the Friday Diner, please speak to Richard James, Pam Howlett or Ro Day. Thank you.

U-CAN SUNDAY, 23 JULY

Next Sunday is "U-Can Sunday. We would be very grateful of donations of food (tins, packets etc) or money, which is used to keep a store cupboard in Church to enable us to help those in need. We would also be very grateful for any spare carrier bags that you may have.

SUNDAY 16 JULY – COLLECT

Creator God,
you made us all in your image:
may we discern you in all that we see,
and serve you in all that we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 55. 10-13

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

THE SECOND READING - Matthew 13. 1-9 and 18-23

The Parable of the Sower

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!'

The Parable of the Sower Explained

'Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

STAY AND PLAY- EACH WEDNESDAY DURING SUMMER HOLIDAYS

There will be Stay and Play sessions in St Mary's Church each Wednesday of the Summer holidays starting on Wednesday 26 July from 10 am to 12 noon for children under 5 and their carers (siblings up to age 8 are also welcome.) There will be lots of toys, story time, parachute games etc. It is free of charge, but a voluntary donation of £2 to cover refreshment costs would be welcome.

It would also be very helpful to have a couple more volunteers. Please speak to Rachael Hutchins if you think you might be able to help.

THANK YOU FROM REV'D CLAIRE

Dear all,
Thank you so much for the most amazing All-Age Service last Sunday- on 9 July!

The All-Age team had really gone to town on producing a true Service of Celebration and I think a lot of folk had been beavering behind the scenes!



Brilliant references to those born and the events of 1963! (Some were new to me!) ...The children finding party bits around the church, the lovely songs and great message of God's plan for us unfolding in remarkable and often miraculous ways as we listen to Him and work together.

The Philippians passage is one of my favourites where St Paul urges us to change our worries into prayers!

⁶⁻⁷ Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. (The Message Version)

And amazingly...the videos from 'absent friends' the lovely cards and wishes from St Mary's School. The montage to 'Dancing Queen' hilarious!....the beautiful prayers and then bubbly and delicious cake!

It was a party, feast and celebration rolled into one! Thank you so much!

And the sum in the card, plus flowers and wine was also so generous....I am really overwhelmed by your generosity. I have been very spoilt and thank God for you!

Love and God bless. Claire

Project Mustard Seed (Reordering) Update:

A short update on the work and progress so far, and the next steps in the process.

- The core plan to remove the pews and relocate the kitchen to the site of the current vestry was approved by the PCC on 13 March 2023 and Church family on 22 April 2023.
- Community consultation is underway with generally positive feedback from the morning held on 10 June.
- A session with key stakeholders including the Councils, schools, Friends, Chamber & others is planned for August/September. Date TBC.
- Key sub committees have been formed to focus on the legalities/paperwork, sustainability, finance and communication of the project.
- Claire, Sally & Ben met with the architects to feed back comments from the church family and community consultation morning.
- Sally is heading up discussions on heating solutions in July and August and liaising with the Sustainability sub committee.
- Once a heating solution is identified it will allow the architects to complete initial drawings, taking account of any implications from the agreed heating solution, which will show how the levels will be addressed, and which will be suitable to take to the DAC for initial approval.
- Once outline DAC approval is secured, builders will be asked to quote before a full faculty application is made - to include Statement of Need and Statement of Significance
- When we get the faculty, the fund raising/grant applications can then begin in earnest!

In putting together a Statement of Need we really need your input saying how you or a community user of the Church would benefit from the proposed changes. See below for some examples.

'I sit at the back of Church because the chairs are more comfortable... the plans would mean....'

'When I came for my niece's baptism, we sat in pews which faced in a different direction to the font....new chairs would mean...'

'When we had the Concert with many singers it was very cramped....the new layout would mean...'

If you could send any comments by email to the Church Office on admin@stmaryschurchbideford.org with the title Project Mustard Seed, we would be very grateful.

If there are any questions, please speak to Claire, Sally, Ben or Ro. We will keep you updated as progress is made.

