

THIS WEEK'S READINGS AND DEDICATIONS

Monday 21 August -

Psalm 80; Micah 1. 1-9; Mark 5. 1-20

Tuesday 22 August

Psalm 89. 1-18; Micah 2; Mark 5. 21-34

Wednesday 23 August

Psalm 119. 105-128; Micah 3; Mark 5. 35-end

Thursday 24 August – BARTHOLOMEW THE APOSTLE

Psalm 86; Genesis 28. 10-17; John 1. 43-end

Friday 25 August

Psalm 88; Micah 5. 2-end; Mark 6. 14-29

Saturday 26 August

Psalm 97; Micah 6; Mark 6. 30-44

CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Team Rector:

Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore	01237 475765
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
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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 20 AUGUST

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9.30 am MORNING WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

President: Rev'd Marisa Cockfield

Talk: Rev'd Chris Hutchins

11.15 am ENCOUNTER SERVICE

SUNDAY 27 AUGUST

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.00 am SAID HOLY COMMUNION

9.30 am MORNING WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

President: Rev'd Alan Glover

Talk: Rev'd Chris Hutchins

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.

MESSAGE FROM REV'D CLAIRE

I am sorry I won't be with you this Sunday as I am presiding in Weare Giffard and Littleham where I will send your greetings!

I hope you have a super Service with Marisa and may I just add my thanks to Ben who will be officially 'sworn in' as our Churchwarden. Ben was unable to attend the Archdeacon's Visitation and so there will be short legal part taken by Marisa as our Area Dean in the 9.30am Service.

My thanks to Ben and to Sally. We are truly blessed - they are so hard working and do so much for us. Thank you both.

God bless, Claire

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST – ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

COLLECT

God of glory,
the end of our searching,
help us to lay aside
all that prevents us from seeking your kingdom,
and to give all that we have
to gain the pearl beyond all price,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

THE FIRST READING

Genesis 45.1-15

Joseph Reveals Himself to His Brothers

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, 'Send everyone away from me.' So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?' But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come closer to me.' And they came closer. He said, 'I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of

We hope this will be a real opportunity to come together as church family with invited friends to explore our faith in a lively and non-threatening environment, to strengthen the bonds of friendship within our 5 parishes and hopefully to provide an opportunity to welcome any new friends you may wish to invite.

Please let either Robin, Chris or Debbie know if you would like to book a place on the course and whether you would like to invite a friend.

We are all really looking forward to seeing as many people as possible.

Claire, Marisa, Chris and Robin

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.

Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, “Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.” And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honoured in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.’ Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

THE SECOND READING

Matthew 15. 21-28

The Canaanite Woman’s Faith

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, ‘Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.’ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, ‘Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.’ He answered, ‘I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.’ But she came and knelt before him, saying, ‘Lord, help me.’ He answered, ‘It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.’ She said, ‘Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.’ Then Jesus answered her, ‘Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.’ And her daughter was healed instantly.

Dates of Events and Meetings

Mon 21 Aug	9.30am Holy Dusters
Tues 22	10.30am Northumbria Prayer
Wed 23	10.00am Stay & Play
Thurs 24	12 noon Lunchtime concert with John Nixon
Fri 25	11.15 am Friday Diner
Sat 26	8.00 am Morning Prayer
	12.30-4pm Church BBQ in Rectory Garden
Sun 27	8 am 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, Hazel Taylor and Roger Phillips

JOHN WADEY

It is with sadness that we have heard that John Wadey (husband of Joan) died on Monday 7th August 2023 aged 90. His funeral is taking place at St Mary's Church, Bideford on Friday 8 September at 2pm followed by burial at Higher Cemetery. John and Joan were very committed members of our 8am Service until both were too unwell to attend. We have very fond memories of them both. Our condolences go to Joan (who now lives in Bristol) and to their son Ian and all the family.

THANK YOU!

Following her recent operation, Pam Beechey would like to thank all the people from church who have sent her cards.

STAY AND PLAY- EACH WEDNESDAY DURING SUMMER HOLIDAYS

The Stay and Play sessions in St Mary's Church continue for the last two Wednesdays of the school holidays, 23 and 30 August 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.

LUNCHTIME CONCERT—THURSDAY 24 AUGUST

The next Lunchtime Concert at St Mary's Church will be on Thursday 24 August at 12 noon with John Nixon on the organ. No admission charge but there will be a retiring collection.

CHURCH BARBECUE – SATURDAY 26 AUGUST

Next week's barbecue will take place in the Rectory garden (address is The Rectory, Abbotsham Road, EX39 3AB) on Saturday 26 August from 12.30pm to 4 pm. However, if it is raining, then we will go with plan B – in St Mary's Church.

Everyone is warmly invited, and it would be great if you could also bring a friend/family member.

There will be games for children and stalls.

Barbecue food will be supplied but it would be good if some people could bring salads or desserts. (List will be at church entrance.)

If you would like to come, please can you sign up on the list by the church entrance by Wednesday 23 August so that we know numbers to cater for. If you cannot sign-up in church, please can you let Debbie know in the office and we can add your name (plus how many people are coming with you.)

It would also be good if you can bring your own drink, cutlery, crockery, and chairs please.

Parking should be available in Bideford Hospital car park and the Methodist Church car park. The Rectory drive will be left free for dropping off anyone who has mobility issues.

Last year's barbecue was a really nice social occasion, and it would be lovely to welcome you and your friend/family this year.

We will let you know if we need to change venue from the Rectory to St Mary's Church but hopefully the weather will be kind again!

The barbecue is free of charge but any donations would be welcome.

U-CAN SUNDAY, 27 AUGUST

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.

CHRISTIAN AID QUIZ – FRIDAY 8 SEPTEMBER

There will be a Quiz to raise funds for Christian Aid on Friday 8th September at 7.00 pm, at Lavington URC Church. Teams of up to 6 people (you can come in teams or team up on the night). Suggested donation £5.00 per person. Tea, coffee and cake will be provided. More details from Sue Jeffery.

ALPHA

This Autumn is Alpha time again but this year we thought we might offer something a little different. In past years we have tried to keep the group to about 12 people which didn't always leave room for all the established members of the congregation who wished to take part in the experience. So, this year we would like to offer a 5 Parish Alpha for everyone in our mission community! This means that we will try to accommodate any member of our congregations and any guests that they might wish to bring on the course.

We hope not to disrupt our home groups so we will meet on a Thursday evening at 7:00pm at St Mary's starting with a social time with drinks and cake followed by watching the Alpha course video together as a large group. We will then break into smaller groups to make it easier for everyone who wishes to take a full part in the discussion.

The course will begin on Thursday 5 October, lasting for 11 weeks, and will end on Thursday 14 December. Approximately midway through, on Saturday 18 November, we will have a day meeting with worship, two or three sessions of the course and lunch.