

THIS WEEK'S READINGS AND DEDICATIONS

Monday 11 December

Psalms 44; Isaiah 30. 1-18; Matthew 14. 1-12

Tuesday 12 December

Psalms 56; Isaiah 30. 19-end; Matthew 14. 13-end

Wednesday 13 December – Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse, 304;

Samuel Johnson Moralists, 1784

Psalms 62; Isaiah 31; Matthew 5. 1-20

Thursday 14 December- John of the Cross, Poet, Teacher, 1591

Psalms 54; Isaiah 32; Matthew 15. 21-28

Friday 15 December

Psalms 86; Isaiah 33. 1-22; Matthew 15. 29-end

Saturday 16 December

Psalms 145; Isaiah 55; Matthew 16. 1-12

CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Team Rector:

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Rev'd Robin Pirrie 07584 261686

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Pastoral Care Co-ordinator: Lorna Dorrington

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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 10 DECEMBER SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 8.00 am SAID HOLY COMMUNION
President: Rev'd Chris Hutchins
- 9.30 am MORNING WORSHIP WITH THE ALL-AGE TEAM
and Rev'd Chris Hutchins
- 11.30 am ENCOUNTER

SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 9.30 am CELTIC COMMUNION
President: Rev'd Madeline Bray
Talk: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore
- 11.15 am ENCOUNTER SERVICE
- 6.00pm NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

*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 11 Dec	9.30 am Holy Dusters 7.30 pm Standing Committee Meeting (via zoom)
Wed 13	9.30 am Music Makers (last one of the term) 3.30 pm Messy Church
Thurs 14	2.30 pm Kingsley School Christmas Service
Fri 15 Dec	11.15 am Friday Diner (finish serving at 12.30) 2.00 pm St Mary's School KS2 Christmas Service 6.00 pm Choir Practice
Sat 16	8.00 am Morning Prayer 10.00 am Treblemakers 6.30 pm Candles by Candlelight – Pannier Market
Sun 17	9.30 am Celtic Communion 11.15 am Encounter 6.00 pm Nine Lessons and Carols Service

PRAYERS

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

APPLEDORE SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT TODAY

The Appledore Singers will be performing a Christmas concert at 2.30 pm today at Northam Hall. Entry is £6 which includes refreshments.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT – SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER

There will be a Carols by Candlelight Service at Bideford Pannier Market on Saturday, 16 December at 6.30 pm. The Carol Service will be accompanied by Bideford Town Band and St Mary's School Choir. There will be the chance to light a candle for someone special. All donations to go to Children's Hospice South West and North Devon Hospice.

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE – SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER

The Nine Lessons and Carols Service on 17 December at St Mary's Church will be at the slightly earlier time this year of 6 pm. There will be mince pies and mulled wine following the Service.

We hope you will be able to join us.

UCAN SUNDAY – 17 DECEMBER

We would normally have UCAN Sunday on the fourth Sunday of the month but, because it falls on Christmas Eve this month, it has been decided to bring it forward a week to Sunday 17 December. We would be grateful for 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.

CHRISTMAS FRIDAY DINER - 8 DECEMBER – A huge thank you to everyone who so kindly donated socks to give out in the Christmas goody bags to everyone attending our Christmas Friday Diner. Thank you, on behalf of the Diner Team – Pam.

SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER– SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

COLLECT

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as
judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God.

THE FIRST READING – 2 Peter 3. 8 – 15a

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Final Exhortation and Doxology

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

THE SECOND READING – Mark 1. 1 - 8

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight",

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'