

THIS WEEK'S READINGS AND DEDICATIONS

Monday 25 December – CHRISTMAS DAY

Isaiah 9. 2-7; Titus 2. 11-14; Luke 2. 1-14 (15-20)

Tuesday 26 December – STEPHEN, DEACON, FIRST MARTYR

Psalms 13; Jeremiah 26. 12-15; Acts 6

Wednesday 27 December – JOHN APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

Psalms 21; Exodus 33. 12-end; 1 John 2. 1-1

Thursday 28 December - THE HOLY INNOCENTS

Psalms 36; Genesis 37. 13-20; Matthew 18. 1-10

Friday 29 December – Thomas Beckett, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr, 1170

Psalms 19; Jonah 1; Colossians 1. 1-14

Saturday 30 December

Psalms 113; Jonah 2; Colossians 1. 15-23

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
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

opening hours: 9 am–12 noon, Mon–Thurs 472551

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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 24 DECEMBER FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - CHRISTMAS EVE

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| 8.00 am | SAID HOLY COMMUNION
President: Rev'd Chris Hutchins |
| 9.30 am | MORNING WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION
President: Rev'd Robin Pirrie
Talk: Rev'd Chris Hutchins |
| 11.15 am | ENCOUNTER CONTEMPORARY CAROL SERVICE |
| 2.30 pm | NATIVITY |
| 4.00 pm | NATIVITY |
| 11.30 pm | MIDNIGHT MASS
President: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore
Talk: Rev'd Robin Pirrie |

MONDAY 25 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DAY

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|---------|--|
| 9.30 am | MORNING WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION
President: Rev'd Chris Hutchins
Talk: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore |
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SUNDAY 31 DECEMBER THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

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| 9.30 am | 5 PARISH MORNING WORSHIP
WITH HOLY COMMUNION
President: Rev'd Alan Glover |
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NO ENCOUNTER SERVICE

Dates of Events and Meetings

Mon 25 Dec	9.30 am Christmas Day Morning Worship with Holy Communion
Tues 26	No Northumbria Prayer
Fri 29	10.30 am – 12.30 pm Possible Winter Warmer (see below)
Sat 30	8.00 am Morning Prayer
Sun 31	9.30 am Morning Worship with Holy Communion No Encounter Service

PRAYERS

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

WINTER WARMER - 22 December

There will be no Friday Diner on 22 or 29 December, but we will be having a Winter Warmer on 22 December, serving tea, coffee, juice, homemade soup and a roll, and pudding from 10.30 am – 12.30 pm. Hopefully we will be able to do the same on 29 December so watch this space.

DAVE SPARKES' CHRISTMAS RAVE

If you live alone and are on your own on Thursday 28 December at 5 pm, you are very welcome to Dave's Rave.

Nibbles supplied but please bring something to drink. Please let me know if you would like to come. Lorna 477117

THANK YOU FROM CHRIS TURNER

Thank you to everyone that donated to Edukid's appeal towards the Days of Joy programme to provide psychosocial support to children in Gaza traumatised by war and to the rebuilding of Al Ahli Hospital (recently bombed).

Due to everyone's support Edukid were able to transfer £16,400. Thank you for helping us bring hope to a seemingly hopeless situation. Chris Turner

THANK YOU TO MAGGIE MURRAY

A big thank you to Maggie for all the hard work she put into making up, and delivering, the Christmas hampers to the schools. They were very much appreciated. If anyone would still like to donate towards the cost, please hand contributions in to the office.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

The pigeonholes at the back of the church are groaning under the weight of Christmas cards! Please check to see if any are for you. Thank you.

St Mary's Office closing times over Christmas

St Mary's Office is closed now for Christmas until 9 am on Tuesday 2 January 2024.

We wish you a very peaceful Christmas and New Year.

SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER– CHRISTMAS EVE

COLLECT

Almighty God,
as we prepare with joy
to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child,
embrace the earth with your glory
and be for us a living hope
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE FIRST READING –Romans 16. 25-end

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

THE SECOND READING – Luke 1. 26-38

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.