

THIS WEEK'S READINGS AND DEDICATIONS

Monday 4 December – John of Damascus Monk, Teacher c.749; Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon, Founder of the Little Gidding Community, 163

Psalm 50; Isaiah 25. 1-9; Matthew 1. 1-21

Tuesday 5 December

Psalm 80; Isaiah 26. 1-13; Matthew 12. 22-37

Wednesday 6 December – Nicholas, Bishop of Myra. C.326

Psalm 7; Isaiah 28. 1-13; Matthew 1. 38-end

Thursday 7 December – Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, Teacher. 397

Psalm 42; Isaiah 28. 14-end; Matthew 13. 1-23

Friday 8 December – The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Psalm 25; Isaiah 29. 1-14; Matthew 13. 24-43

Saturday 9 December

Psalm 9; Isaiah 29. 15-end, Matthew 13. 44-end

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

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Churchwardens: Ben Duhig 07799 076361

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Parish Administrator: Debbie Crawford 01237 472551

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 3 DECEMBER FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9.30 am ADVENT MORNING WORSHIP WITH HOLY
COMMUNION AND JUNIOR CHURCH
President: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore
Talk Rev'd Madeline Bray

11.15 am ENCOUNTER SERVICE

4.30 pm 5 PARISH CANDLELIT ADVENT SERVICE AT
ST SWITHUN'S CHURCH, LITTLEHAM
(4 pm for refreshments)

SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8.00 am SAID HOLY COMMUNION
President: Rev'd Chris Hutchins

9.30am MORNING WORSHIP WITH THE ALL-AGE TEAM
President Rev'd Chris Hutchins

11.30 am ENCOUNTER

*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 4 Dec	9.30 am Holy Dusters 2.00 pm Mothers Union Christmas quiz and festive tea
Tues 5	10.30 am Holy Communion MU Corporate 7.30 pm Northam Choral Rehearsal
Wed 6	9.30 am Music Makers
Thurs 7	10.00 am East-the-Water School (Year 3) Christingle 7.00 pm Alpha Course
Fri 8 Dec	11.15 am Christmas Friday Diner 6.00 pm Choir Practice
Sat 9	8.00 am Morning Prayer 10.00 am Treblemakers 10.30 am Holy Grounds Café 2.00 pm Northam Choral Rehearsal 7.30 pm Northam Choral Concert
Sun 3	8.00 am Said Holy Communion 9.30 am Family Worship with All Age Team 11.15 Encounter

PRAYERS

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

5 PARISH CANDLELIT ADVENT SERVICE

Please try to join us for the 5 Parish Candlelit Advent Service at St Swithun's Church, Littleham this afternoon. Refreshments will be at 4 pm, followed by the service at 4.30 pm.

NORTHAM CHORAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT – ST MARY'S CHURCH, SATURDAY 9 DECEMBER AT 7.30 PM

Northam Choral Christmas Concert will take place at St Mary's Church on Saturday 9 December at 7.30 pm. Entry is £5 which includes refreshments. Please come along; the more the merrier!

CAKES FOR HOLY GROUNDS ON 9 DECEMBER - Nadine would appreciate any donations of cakes for the Holy Grounds Café on 9 December.

CHANCE TO WIN HANDMADE DOUBLE QUILT

We have been given a beautiful handmade double quilt. It can be seen at the back of the Church and will be raffled. Tickets are £1.00 a strip or 6 strips for £5.00. The raffle will be drawn at the December Holy Grounds Coffee Morning on Saturday 9 December. Nadine.

SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER– FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

COLLECT

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ

came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead;
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

THE FIRST READING 1 Corinthians 1. 3 – 9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you — so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE SECOND READING Mark 13. 24 – end

The Coming of the Son of Man

'But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

The Necessity for Watchfulness

'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.

