

## THIS WEEK'S READINGS AND DEDICATIONS

### Monday 1 January – THE NAMING AND CIRCUMCISION OF JESUS

Salm 103; Genesis 17. 1-3; Romans 2 17-end

**Tuesday 2 January – Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus Bishops, Teachers 379 and 389;** Seraphim, Monk of Sarov, Spiritual Guide, 1833; Vedonayagam Samuel Azariah, Bishop in South India, Evangelist 1945

Psalms 18. 1-30; Ruth ch.1; Colossians 2.8-end

### Wednesday 3 January

Psalms 127; Ruth ch.2; Colossians 13. 1-11

### Thursday 4 January

Psalms 89. 1-37; Ruth ch.3; Colossians 3.12-4.1

### Friday 5 January

Psalms 48; Ruth 4. 1-7; Colossians 4. 2-end

### Saturday 6 January – THE EPIPHANY

Psalms 132; Jeremiah 31. 7-14; John 1 29-34

## CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Team Rector:

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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
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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 31 DECEMBER THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

9.30 am 5 PARISH MORNING WORSHIP WITH HOLY  
COMMUNION  
President: Rev'd Alan Glover

**NO** ENCOUNTER SERVICE

## SUNDAY 7 JANUARY 2024 THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

9.30 am MORNING WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION,  
and Junior Church  
President: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore  
Talk: Rev'd Marisa Cockfield

11.15 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 1 January	New Year's Day – Bank Holiday
Tues 2	10.30 am Holy Communion (M.U. Corporate)
Wed 3	9.30 am Music Makers
Fri 5	11.15 am Friday Diner
Sat 6	8.00 am Morning Prayer 8.15 am Men's Breakfast 10 am Treblemakers
Sun 7	9.30 am Morning Worship with Holy Communion, and Junior Church 11.15 am Encounter 3 pm Bideford Music Club. Hather Duo – Meera Maharaj, flute and Lucy Nolan, harp

*(Please note that for January, Parish Prayer will be on second Tuesday, 9 January at 7.30 pm in St Mary's House.)*

### **PRAYERS**

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

### **Tabi Hutchins Thanksgiving Service**

Originally planned for May 2020 and then repeatedly postponed for various reasons, we are finally having a Thanksgiving service for Tabi! It's on Sunday 14 January as part of the Encounter service (11.15am). All who care for Tabi and would like to celebrate her with us are very welcome. There will be light refreshments (and probably cake!) after the service. Chris and Rachael Hutchins

### **GUITAR WORKSHOP- SATURDAY, 20 JANUARY, 10AM-12.30 PM**

There will be a Guitar Workshop led by Michael Wright with Pete Scott at St Mary's Church on Saturday, 20 January from 10 am to 12.30 pm.

It is open to all ages. Just bring your own guitar. There will be free refreshments. For more information contact Chris Beechey on [stmarysmusicbideford@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysmusicbideford@gmail.com)

### **SUNDAY 31 DECEMBER – THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

#### **COLLECT**

God in Trinity,  
eternal unity of perfect love:  
gather the nations to be one family,  
and draw us into your holy life  
through the birth of Emmanuel,  
our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **THE FIRST READING – Isaiah 61.10 – 62.3**

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.  
The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will give.  
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

### **THE SECOND READING – Galatians 4. 4 - 7**

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

### **THE GOSPEL READING – Luke 2. 15 - 21**

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us. 'So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

### **Jesus Is Named**

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.