



THIS WEEK'S READINGS AND DEDICATIONS

Monday 29 January –

Psalm 57; Genesis 18. 1-15; Matthew 27 1-26

Tuesday 30 January - Charles, King and Martyr, 1649

Psalm 93; Genesis 18. 16-end; Matthew 27. 27-44

Wednesday 31 January – John Bosco, Priest, Founder of the Salesian Teaching Order, 1888

Psalm 95; Genesis 19. 1.3 & 12-29; Matthew 27. 45-56

Thursday 1 February – Brigid, Abbess of Kildare, c,525

Psalm 143; Genesis 21. 1-21; Matthew 27. 57-end

Friday 2 February – THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE (CANDLEMAS)

Psalm 48; Exodus 13. 1-16; Romans 12.1-8

Saturday 3 February – Anskar, Archbishop of Hamburg Missionary in Denmark and Sweden, 865

Psalm 147; Genesis 23; Matthew 28. 16-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

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

St Mary's House, 9 Church Walk, Bideford. EX39 2BP

Email: admin@stmaryschurchbideford.org

website: www.stmaryschurchbideford.org

CCL Licence No 41147

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

(UCAN SUNDAY)

SUNDAY 28 JANUARY 2024

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

CANDLEMAS

- 8 am SAID HOLY COMMUNION
President: Rev'd Alan Glover
- 9.30 am MORNING WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION
President: Rev'd Madeline Bray
Talk: Rev'd Alan Glover
- 11.15 am ENCOUNTER SERVICE

SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2024

THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

- 9.30 am MORNING WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION
President: Rev'd Marisa Cockfield
Talk: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore
- 11.15 am ENCOUNTER SERVICE
- 3.00 pm BIDEFORD MUSIC CLUB CONCERT

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 29 January 9.30 am Holy Dusters
Tues 30 7.30 pm Northam Choral rehearsal
Wed 31 9.30 am Music Makers
Fri 2 February 11.15 am Friday Diner
6 pm Choir Practice
Sat 3 8 am Morning Prayer
8.15am Men's Breakfast
10 am Treblemakers
Sun 4 9.30 am Morning Worship with Holy Communion
11.15 am Encounter
3.00 pm Bideford Music Club

PRAYERS

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

Moira Mackenzie

Moira Mackenzie was a lovely lady who was part of the Church family for many years until she moved to be nearer her family. She was on our PCC and an active member of the Church family. Sadly, we heard on Monday 22 January that Moira had died that afternoon. She died peacefully with her family around her. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and to Ellie who was such a devoted friend.

Rev'd Marisa's Farewell Service – 11 February

Please can you sign up on the list at front of church if you are planning to go to Rev'd Marisa's Farewell Service at Weare Giffard at 4 pm on 11 February. There is also a sign-up list for anyone who can take finger foods for the tea after the service.

SUNDAY 28 JANUARY THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

COLLECT FOR CANDLEMAS

Almighty and ever-living God,
clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple,
in substance of our flesh;
grant that we may be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

THE FIRST READING – MALACHI 3.1-5

The Coming Messenger

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

THE SECOND READING – Luke 2.22-40

Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

The Return to Nazareth

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.