

THIS WEEK'S READINGS AND DEDICATIONS

Monday 8 January – Lucian, priest and martyr, 290 (BCP) (Baptism of Christ)

Psalms 89.20-29; Isaiah 44.6-end; John 1.19-34

Tuesday 9 January

Psalms 9; Genesis 1.20-2.3; Matthew 21.18-32

Wednesday 10 January – William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1645

Psalms 20; Genesis 2.4-end; Matthew 21.33-end

Thursday 11 January – Mary Slessor, missionary in West Africa, 1915

Psalms 21; Genesis 3; Matthew 22.1-14

Friday 12 January – Aelred of Hexham, Abbot of Rievaulx, 1167; Benedict Biscop, Abbot of Wearmouth, scholar, 689

Psalms 67; Genesis 4.1-16, 25-26; Matthew 22.15-33

Saturday 13 January – Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, teacher of the faith, 367 (also BCP); Kentigern (Mungo), missionary bishop in Strathclyde and Cumbria, 603; George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends (the Quakers), 1691

Psalms 33; Genesis 6.1-10; Matthew 22.34-end

CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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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 7 JANUARY 2024 THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- 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 SERVICE

SUNDAY 14 JANUARY 2024 THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- 8 am SAID HOLY COMMUNION
President: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore
- 9.30 am FAMILY WORSHIP
All-Age Team and Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore
- 11.15 am ENCOUNTER AND TABI HUTCHINS' THANKSGIVING
SERVICE
- 6 pm CHORAL EVENSONG AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

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 8 January	9.30 am Holy Dusters 12 noon for 12.30 pm M.U. New Year Lunch at Royal Hotel 7.30 pm PCC Meeting
Tues 9	9.30 am Pastoral Care Meeting (St Mary's House) 7.30 pm Parish Prayer (St Mary's House) 7.30 pm Northam Choral rehearsals (St M's Church)
Wed 10	9.30 am Music Makers
Fri 12	11.15 am Friday Diner 6 pm Choir Practice
Sat 13	8 am Morning Prayer 10 am Treblemakers (including 1 st birthday celebration) 10.30 am – 12.30 pm Holy Grounds Café
Sun 14	8 am Said Holy Communion 9.30 am Family Worship 11.15 am Encounter and Thanksgiving Service for Tabi 6 pm Choral Evensong at St Mary's

PRAYERS

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

PASTORAL CARE

Our next committee meeting is on Tuesday, 9 January at 9.30 am in Church House. If there is anything you would like to bring to our attention, please let me know. Many thank. Lorna 477117.

TREBLEMAKERS' FIRST BIRTHDAY – SATURDAY 13 JANUARY

Come along and hear Treblemakers sing a few of their favourite songs at 10.45 am followed by cutting of the birthday cake.

HOLY GROUNDS CAFÉ – SATURDAY 13 JAN – 10.30 AM-12.30 PM

The clergy will be hosting Holy Grounds Café. Come along for tea/coffee, cake and chat.

TABI HUTCHINS THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Tabi's Thanksgiving Service is next Sunday on 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

SUNDAY 7 JANUARY – FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

COLLECT

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE FIRST READING – Isaiah 60. 1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

THE GOSPEL READING – Matthew 2.1-12

THE VISIT OF THE WISE MEN

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.