

THIS WEEK'S READINGS AND DEDICATIONS

Monday 12 February

Psalm 30; Genesis 37. 1-11; Galatians 1

Tuesday 13 February

Psalm 36; Genesis 37. 12-end; Galatians 2.1-10

Wednesday 14 February – ASH WEDNESDAY

Isaiah 58.1-12; 2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10; Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21

Thursday 15 February - Sigfrid, Bishop, Apostle of Sweden, 1045;

Thomas Bray, Priest, founder of the SPCK and the SPG 1730

Psalm 77; Genesis 39; Galatians 2. 11-end

Friday 16 February

Psalm 3; Genesis 40; Galatians 3. 1-14

Saturday 17 February – Janani Luwum, Archbishop of Uganda, Martyr, 1977

Psalm 71; Genesis 41. 1-24; Galatians 3. 15-22

CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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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 11 FEBRUARY 2024

SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

8 am SAID HOLY COMMUNION
President: Rev'd Robin Pirrie

9.30 am FAMILY WORSHIP WITH THE ALL-AGE TEAM
AND REV'D ROBIN PIRRIE

11.15 am ENCOUNTER SERVICE

SUNDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2024

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

9.30 am CELTIC COMMUNION
President: Rev'd Chris Hutchins
Talk: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore

11.15 am ENCOUNTER SERVICE

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.

Mon 12 Feb	9.30 am Holy Dusters 2.00 pm Mother's Union – Poetry readings 7.30 pm Standing Committee via Zoom
Tues 13	7.30 pm Northam Choral rehearsal
Wed 14	10.00am Stay & Play 10.00am Ash Wednesday Service at Landcross 7.00 pm Ash Wednesday Service at St Mary's
Fri 16	11.15 am Friday Diner 6 pm Choir Practice
Sat 17	8 am Morning Prayer 10.00 am Treblemakers 1.00 pm Wedding of Niamh Doyle and Neil Ackroyd followed by drinks and nibbles
Sun 18	9.30 am Celtic Communion 11.15 am Encounter
Mon 19	9.30 am Holy Dusters 7.30 pm Extra PCC Meeting

PRAYERS

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

We also pray for Moira Mackenzie's family and friends as her funeral takes place on Monday 12 February at 11 am at St Edmunds Church in Hayes.

There will be a Thanksgiving Service for Moira at St Mary's Church on Monday 26 February at 11.30am followed by light refreshments at the back of church. The church family are warmly invited to the service.

We also pray for Niamh Doyle and Neil Ackroyd as they get married next Saturday. May they enjoy many happy years together.

REV'D MARISA'S FAREWELL SERVICE –TODAY (11 FEB) AT 4 PM AT WEARE GIFFORD

Everyone is welcome at Rev'd Marisa's Farewell Service at Weare Giffard this afternoon at 4 pm which will be followed by refreshments.

CHRISTIAN AID LENT APPEAL

Today, Sunday 11 Feb we will be handing out Smartie tubes. Please do take them home, eat the goodies and then during Lent fill them with money! All contributions will be given to Christian Aid, an organisation which works all over the world to try and eradicate poverty. We are so fortunate. Please, in thanks to God for what we have, help those who are in need. Please return tubes to church on Easter Day. Thank you. Sue Jeffery and Nigel Chick

mouths of their descendants. For I know what they are inclined to do even now, before I have brought them into the land that I promised them on oath.' That very day Moses wrote this song and taught it to the Israelites.

Then the Lord commissioned Joshua son of Nun and said, 'Be strong and bold, for you shall bring the Israelites into the land that I promised them; I will be with you.'

When Moses had finished writing down in a book the words of this law to the very end, Moses commanded the Levites who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord, saying, 'Take this book of the law and put it beside the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God; let it remain there as a witness against you. For I know well how rebellious and stubborn you are. If you already have been so rebellious towards the Lord while I am still alive among you, how much more after my death! Assemble to me all the elders of your tribes and your officials, so that I may recite these words in their hearing and call heaven and earth to witness against them. For I know that after my death you will surely act corruptly, turning aside from the way that I have commanded you. In time to come trouble will befall you, because you will do what is evil in the sight of the Lord, provoking him to anger through the work of your hands.'

The Song of Moses

Then Moses recited the words of this song, to the very end, in the hearing of the whole assembly of Israel:

THE SECOND READING - Mark 9: 2 – 9

The Transfiguration

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you.'

Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel: 'Be strong and bold, for you are the one who will go with this people into the land that the Lord has sworn to their ancestors to give them; and you will put them in possession of it. It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.'

The Law to Be Read Every Seventh Year

Then Moses wrote down this law, and gave it to the priests, the sons of Levi, who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and to all the elders of Israel. Moses commanded them: 'Every seventh year, in the scheduled year of remission, during the festival of booths, when all Israel comes to appear before the Lord your God at the place that he will choose, you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing. Assemble the people—men, women, and children, as well as the aliens residing in your towns—so that they may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God and to observe diligently all the words of this law, and so that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God, as long as you live in the land that you are crossing over the Jordan to possess.'

Moses and Joshua Receive God's Charge

The Lord said to Moses, 'Your time to die is near; call Joshua and present yourselves in the tent of meeting, so that I may commission him.' So Moses and Joshua went and presented themselves in the tent of meeting, and the Lord appeared at the tent in a pillar of cloud; the pillar of cloud stood at the entrance to the tent.

The Lord said to Moses, 'Soon you will lie down with your ancestors. Then this people will begin to prostitute themselves to the foreign gods in their midst, the gods of the land into which they are going; they will forsake me, breaking my covenant that I have made with them. My anger will be kindled against them on that day. I will forsake them and hide my face from them; they will become easy prey, and many terrible troubles will come upon them. On that day they will say, "Have not these troubles come upon us because our God is not in our midst?" On that day I will surely hide my face on account of all the evil they have done by turning to other gods. Now therefore write this song, and teach it to the Israelites; put it in their mouths, in order that this song may be a witness for me against the Israelites. For when I have brought them into the land flowing with milk and honey, which I promised on oath to their ancestors, and they have eaten their fill and grown fat, they will turn to other gods and serve them, despising me and breaking my covenant. And when many terrible troubles come upon them, this song will confront them as a witness, because it will not be lost from the

STAY AND PLAY—14 FEBRUARY

There will be a Stay and Play session on Wednesday, 14 February from 10 am to 12 noon for children under 5 and their carers. (Siblings up to age 8 also welcome.)

There will be toys, craft table, songs, parachute games etc.

There is no charge to attend, although a voluntary contribution of £2 to cover refreshments would be very welcome.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES—14 FEBRUARY

There will be two Ash Wednesday Services, one at 10 am at Landcross, and one at 7 pm at St Mary's Church.

DAVE'S FILM CLUB (For those who live alone but would like to watch a film with others)

The next film will be on **Tuesday, 27 Feb.** The change in day, for this month, is because the Lent Course will have started and is taking place every Wednesday. As usual please ring me to book a place. Many thanks. Lorna 01237 477117

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE FRIDAY DINER

We are asking if anyone would like to join our Friday Diner Team, not every week but every other week or once a month. We have various roles that make up the team from working in the kitchen and using the cooker; serving tea, coffee and squash; waitressing and talking to the folk coming in, and there is a rota, so we know who is helping and when.

The numbers or people coming in varies each week from 26 to 42 and there are more folk coming in to just enjoy the company of others rather eat on their own. We set up at 9.30 am approximately, serve meals from 11.15 - 1.00 pm, and try to leave before 2.15 pm.

This is a part of St Mary's mission to reach the wider community of Bideford, so If you feel that this is something you would like to help with, are able to help with or know more about, then come into the Diner on a Friday to see what we do or talk to Richard James, Pam Howlett or Ro Day.

TALK FROM JUSTINE DUHIG—WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH

On Wednesday 6 March at 2.30 pm in the Church, our own Justine Duhig will be coming to give us a talk about her work and what she can offer, as a Social Prescriber, working out of the surgeries within the local area.

Please spread the word, everyone very welcome. Thank you. Lorna

IS CHURCH A GLASS HALF FULL?



**Do you feel confident to talk about your faith?
Come and join us at St Mary's, Bideford,
or Littleham Village Hall
for 5 sessions designed to help you feel more
relaxed about it.**

St Mary's Bideford
7.30—9pm
Wednesday, 21 Feb.
Wednesday, 28 Feb.
Wednesday, 6 March
Thursday, 14 March
Wednesday, 20 March

Littleham Village Hall
2.30—4 pm
Thursday 22nd Feb
Thursday 29th Feb
Thursday 7th March
Thursday 14th March
Thursday 21st March

BEN DUHIG ON CHARITY TREK

In March I'm taking part in a challenging charity trek through the Columbian jungle, hiking to the Lost City through steamy jungle, rural farmland and the remote river valleys of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. I'll be trekking by day, sleeping in hammocks at night, and hoping not to see any spiders, snakes and scorpions!

The trip aims to raise funds for 2 charities, Planeterra and ABTA LifeLine. Every penny raised will be divided equally to support the charities as I have paid for the trip costs already.

Planeterra do amazing work with vulnerable communities around the world and have projects in multiple countries. ABTA LifeLine provide support to those from the travel industry who are suffering real financial hardship caused by those unexpected moments in life such as redundancy, relationship breakdown or life-changing medical conditions.

Any prayers would be gratefully received – that the hills aren't too extreme, the humidity not too overwhelming, and that the creepy crawlies stay hidden from sight. And if you wanted to sponsor me, my JustGiving page can be found here; <https://bit.ly/3UanNQz>
Thank you! Ben

SUNDAY 11 FEBRUARY – THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT COLLECT

Holy God,
you know the disorder of our sinful lives:
set straight our crooked hearts,
and bend our wills to love your goodness
and your glory
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE FIRST READING – DEUTERONOMY 31

Joshua Becomes Moses' Successor

When Moses had finished speaking all these words to all Israel, he said to them: 'I am now a hundred and twenty years old. I am no longer able to get about, and the Lord has told me, "You shall not cross over this Jordan." The Lord your God himself will cross over before you. He will destroy these nations before you, and you shall dispossess them. Joshua also will cross over before you, as the Lord promised. The Lord will do to them as he did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, and to their land, when he destroyed them. The Lord will give them over to you and you shall deal with them in full accord with the command that I have given to you. Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is