



**THIS WEEK'S READINGS AND DEDICATIONS**

**Monday 29 April –Catherine of Siena, Teacher, 1380**  
Psalm 145; Numbers 9. 15-20; Luke 4.38-end

**Tuesday 30 April - Pandita Mary Ramabai, translator of the Scriptures, 1922**  
Psalm 19; Numbers 11. 1-33; Luke 5. 1 -11

**Wednesday 1 May – PHILIP AND JAMES, APOSTLES**  
Psalm 139; Job 23.1-12; John 6.1-14

**Thursday 2 May – Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, Teacher 373**  
Psalm 57; Numbers 13. 1-3, 17-end; Luke 5. 27-end

**Friday 3 May**  
Psalm 138; Numbers 14. 1-25; Luke 6. 1-11

**Saturday 4 May – English saints and martyrs of the Reformation Era**  
Psalm 146; Numbers 14. 26-end; Luke 6. 12-26

**Sunday 5 May – The Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 10.44-end; 1 John 5.1-6; John 15.9-17

**CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

Team Rector:  
Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore 01237 475765  
Rev'd Robin Pirrie 07584 261686  
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

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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 28 APRIL 2024**  
**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**UCAN SUNDAY**

- 8 am SAID HOLY COMMUNION  
President: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore
- 9.30 am MORNING WORSHIP AND HOLY COMMUNION  
President: Rev'd Robin Pirrie  
Talk: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore
- 11.15 am APCM

*(Please join us if you can for the Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting at 11.15 am this morning (28 April))*

**SUNDAY 5 MAY 2024**  
**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

- 9.30 am MORNING WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION AND JUNIOR CHURCH  
President: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore  
Talk: Dr Chris Southgate
- 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.*

### **Dates of Events and Meetings**

Mon 29 April	9.30 am Holy Dusters
Wed 1 May	9.30 am Music Makers
Fri 3 May	11.15 am Friday Diner 6 pm Choir Practice
Sat 4 May	8.00 am Morning Prayer 10.00 am Treblemakers
Sun 5 May	9.30 am Morning Worship with H.C and Junior Church 11.15 am Encounter Service

### **PRAYERS**

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

### **UCAN SUNDAY – 28 APRIL - Today**

Today is UCAN Sunday when we would be very grateful for tins or packets to boost the Friday Diner.

### **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – 12-18 MAY**

Please look out for Christian Aid week between 12-18 May. The focus is on helping people in Burundi to set up small businesses and improve farming methods in order to provide resilience against poverty and climate change.

We will be handing out envelopes in church. If you are writing a cheque to put in an envelope, please make it payable to Christian Aid and write OR number 26267 on the back. Please give to Sue Jeffery or Nigel Chick or post your envelope through the Church House letterbox. (If you aren't in church to get an envelope you can still write a cheque in the same way and indicate it is for Christian Aid on the envelope).

And a very big thank you to everyone who gave so generously to the Christian Aid Smartie tube appeal.

### **11 MAY (7PM) – BIDEFORD BELLS**

This promises to be a special evening at St Mary's Church (Saturday, 11 May at 7pm), celebrating our Bideford bells with music and poetry.

The £7 entry on the door will include a glass of wine/soft drink and all proceeds will go towards the repair and maintenance of St Mary's Church bells.

### **FRIDAY 31 MAY – CONCERT AT BIDEFORD METHODIST CHURCH (7PM)**

There will be a concert to raise funds for Christian Aid's Burundi Appeal at Bideford Methodist Church on Friday 31 May at 7.00 pm, featuring the Barnstaple Ladies' Choir. Entry free – Cash donations for Christian Aid.

### **VACANCY FOR PART-TIME PARISH ADMINISTRATOR, CHURCH OFFICE**

We currently have a vacancy for a part-time Parish Administrator in Church Office for 5 hours on a Friday to assist Debbie who works Monday-Thursday.

More details will be in the May Newsletter, and if you would like a job description and further information, please email the office on [admin@stmaryschurchbideford.org](mailto:admin@stmaryschurchbideford.org)

Closing date for applications is Monday 13 May 2024.

### **SUNDAY 28 APRIL – FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

#### **COLLECT**

Risen Christ,  
your wounds declare your love for the world  
and the wonder of your risen life:  
give us compassion and courage  
to risk ourselves for those we serve,  
to the glory of God the Father.

#### **THE FIRST READING – Acts 8.26-40**

##### **Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch**

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.  
In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
Who can describe his generation?  
For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

#### **THE SECOND READING – John 15.1-8**

##### **Jesus the True Vine**

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.