

THIS WEEK'S READINGS AND DEDICATIONS

Monday 6 May

Psalm 65; Numbers 16. 1-35; Luke 6. 27-38

Tuesday 7 May

Psalm 126; Numbers 16. 36-end; Luke 6. 39-end

Wednesday 8 May – Julian of Norwich, Spiritual writer, c.1417

Psalm 132; Numbers 17. 1-11; Luke 7. 1-10

Thursday 9 May – ASCENSION DAY

Psalm 110; Isaiah 52. 7-end; Hebrews 7 (11-25) 26-end

Friday 10 May

Psalm 81; Numbers 2. 1-13; Luke 7. 11-17

Saturday 11 May –

Psalm 47; Numbers 21. 4-9; Luke 7. 18-35

Sunday 12 May –SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION DAY)

Psalm 76; Isaiah 14. 3-15; Revelations 14. 1-13

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: Sally Strutt 01271 329177

Mark Porthouse 01237 520450

Parish Administrator: Debbie Crawford 01237 472551

Pastoral Care: Pattie Morris 01237 476501 or 07984937179

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 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: Rev'd Dr Chris Southgate

11.15 am ENCOUNTER SERVICE

SUNDAY 12 MAY 2024

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

(SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION DAY)

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

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

Tues 7	10.30am Holy Communion (MU Corporate) 7.30 pm Northam Choral Rehearsal 7.30 pm Parish Prayer in St Mary's House
Wed 8	9.30 am Music Makers
Thurs 9	11 am Ascension Day Service at Chudleigh Fort
Fri 10	11.15 am Friday Diner 6 pm Choir Practice
Sat 11	8.00 am Morning Prayer 10.00 am Treblemakers 10.30 am Holy Grounds Café (Music Groups) 11.00 am Worship Band 7.00 pm Bideford Bells Concert (see below)
Sun 12	8.00 am Said Holy Communion 9.30 am Family Worship with All Age Team 11.15 am Encounter Service 6 pm Choral Evensong at Weare Giffard

PRAYERS

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

ASCENSION DAY SERVICE AT CHUDLEIGH FORT – THURSDAY 9 MAY AT 11 AM

There will be an Ascension Day Service on 9 May at 11 am at Chudleigh Fort.

Anyone who attended last year will know it is a very atmospheric location with lovely views over Bideford. There is also plenty of parking for anyone who needs it.

11 MAY (7PM) – BIDEFORD BELLS CONCERT

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.

£7 entry on door with all proceeds will going towards the repair and maintenance of St Mary's Church bells.

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.

THE SECOND READING – Romans 8.19-22

For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now;

GOSPEL READING – John 15. 9 - 17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

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 which raised £655.

CHRISTIAN AID CONCERT—31 MAY AT BIDEFORD METHODIST CHURCH

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.

GOODBYE AND THANK YOU!

We would like to thank you all very much for such a wonderful send off on Sunday 21 April, and for your very generous leaving gift which we will put towards a new laptop for Chris, as well as a few treats for our new house. The incredible book Bill collated, the amazing cakes from Madeline and the kind words from Claire made us feel so special. We will miss you all, and our time at St Mary's will stay with us forever.

Please stay in touch! Our email addresses and phone numbers are unchanged, and if you would like our new postal address, please ask Debbie in the church office who can pass it on. We'll be back to visit! Lots of love, Chris, Rachael and Tabi xx

Thank you from Ben and Lorna

I just wanted to say a huge, huge thank you for the lovely card, with so many touching and humbling messages in it, as well as the incredibly generous gift. I'm pondering buying a hammock for the garden from which I can "abide" and consider how to use my newfound free time! Thanks again – so kind of you all. **Ben**

Thank you so, so much for the wonderful gifts which you gave me on Sunday. You are extremely generous, and I feel very humbled. None of the things I did in the last 6 years could have been done without God and your loving, cherishing and caring support. May God bless you all as we move forward in these exciting times. With much love **Lorna.**

ACCOMMODATION TO RENT IN BIDEFORD?

Please see below message from one of our church family:-

"I am currently looking for somewhere else to live. Flat to rent or a bed sit but in Bideford if possible.

I do have a job I work part time at the moment until I can find somewhere. I can afford anywhere between £400-£500 a month rent maximum".

If anyone knows of somewhere, please can they let Debbie know in Church Office, and she will pass on the information.

HELP NEEDED FOR LIFTS

We are asking if anyone would be happy to be a driver for friends at St Mary's Church to help with lifts to doctors/hospital appointments etc.

This is a casual arrangement between friends, but it would be useful for the office to know who could offer this, and how often people might be available to help.

Please can you let Debbie know in the office in the first instance. Tel. 01237 472551 or email admin@stmaryschurchbideford.org

NEW PCC 2024-2025

Following the APCM on Sunday 28 April the following people have been elected to the PCC as follows:-

Churchwarden Sally Strutt
Churchwarden Mark Porthouse
Deanery Synd Reps Lorna Thomas
Maggie Murray (already serving)
Ro Day (already serving)

PCC Lay Members

Chris Beechey
David Bertie
Justine Duhig
Michael Elliott
Richard Holwill
Pam Howlett
Pattie Morris
Bill Owen
Rachel Porthouse
David Sparkes

SUNDAY 5 MAY – SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

COLLECT

Risen Christ,

by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples:

help your Church to obey your command

and draw the nations to the fire of your love,

to the glory of God the Father.

THE FIRST READING – Job 38.1-18 The Lord Answers Job

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind:

'Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?
Gird up your loins like a man,
I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

'Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?
Tell me, if you have understanding.
Who determined its measurements—surely you know!
Or who stretched the line upon it?
On what were its bases sunk,
or who laid its cornerstone
when the morning stars sang together
and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

'Or who shut in the sea with doors
when it burst out from the womb?—
when I made the clouds its garment,
and thick darkness its swaddling band,
and prescribed bounds for it,
and set bars and doors,
and said, "Thus far shall you come, and no farther,
and here shall your proud waves be stopped"?

'Have you commanded the morning since your days began,
and caused the dawn to know its place,
so that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth,
and the wicked be shaken out of it?
It is changed like clay under the seal,
and it is dyed like a garment.
Light is withheld from the wicked,
and their uplifted arm is broken.

'Have you entered into the springs of the sea,
or walked in the recesses of the deep?
Have the gates of death been revealed to you,
or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?
Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?

Declare, if you know all this.