

THIS WEEK'S READINGS AND DEDICATIONS

Monday 2 December

Psalms 50; Isaiah 42. 18-end, Revelation 19

Tuesday 3 December

Psalms 80; Isaiah 43. 1-13; Revelation 20

Wednesday 4 December – John of Damascus, Monk, Teacher c749 Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon, Founder of the Little Gidding Community, 1637

Psalms 7; Isaiah 43 14-end, Revelation 21. 1-8

Thursday 5 December

Psalms 42; Isaiah 44. 1-8; Revelation 21. 9-21

Friday 6 December – Nicholas, Bishop of Myra c326

Psalms 25; Isaiah 44. 9-23; Revelation 21.22-22.5

Saturday 7 December – Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, Teacher 397

Psalms 9 Isaiah 44.24-45.13; Revelation 22. 6-end

Sunday 8 December – THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Malachi 3.1-4; Philippians 1.3-11; Luke 3.1-6

CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Team Rector:

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Rev'd Robin Pirrie 07584 261686

Rev'd Alan Glover: (self-supporting) 01237 451147

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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 1 DECEMBER 2024

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 9.30 am ADVENT MORNING WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION, AND JUNIOR CHURCH
President: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore
Talk: Rev'd Alan Glover
- 11.15 am ENCOUNTER SERVICE
- 1.00 pm BAPTISM OF GRACE KEMP
- 4.15 pm TEA FOLLOWED BY 5 PARISH CANDLELIT ADVENT SERVICE
President: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore

SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER 2024

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 8.00 am SAID HOLY COMMUNION
President: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore
- 9.30 am FAMILY WORSHIP WITH THE ALL-AGE TEAM and Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore
- 11.15 am ENCOUNTER SERVICE

11 am Celtic Communion, Landcross. Rev'd Robin Pirrie

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 2	9.00 am St Mary's School Advent Service 10.30 am Holy Dusters 2.00 pm Mother's Union
Tues 3	10.30 am Holy Communion, MU Corporate 7.30 pm Parish Prayer – St Mary's House
Wed 4	9.30 am Music Makers 7.30 pm Advent Reflections
Thurs 5	9.30 am East-The-Water Year 3 Christingle visit 4-5.30 pm Crypt Youth (7-11s) 5.30-7 pm Crypt Youth (11-16s) 6.30 pm Carols by Candlelight at Pannier Market
Fri 6	11.15 am–1.00 pm Friday Diner 6.00 pm Choir practice
Sat 7	8.00 am Morning Prayer 8.15am Men's Breakfast 10.00 am Treblemakers 11.00 am Worship Band practice 11.30 am Nativity practice 2.00 pm Northam Choral rehearsal 7.30 pm Northam Choral Christmas Concert
Sun 8	8.00 am Said Holy Communion 9.30 am Family All-Age Worship 11.15 am Encounter 2 pm Appledore Singers Christmas Concert at Northam Hall (for MND Association) £6 on door.

PRAYERS

Please remember the following church family in your prayers: John Day, Marian Johns, Roger Phillips, and Alan Power.

We also welcome Grace Kemp into the Church family as she is baptised later today.

5 PARISH CANDLELIT ADVENT SERVICE TODAY

Please come and join us later today for our special 5 Parish Candlelit Advent Service.

The service starts at 5 pm, but there will be a tea from 4.15 pm.

We would be very grateful for any cakes or biscuits or savouries people can contribute.

CHRISTMAS HOLY GROUNDS WILL BE ON 14 DECEMBER from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm, when we will have the usual lovely coffee and cake. We will also be able to join Treblemakers singing carols at 10.40 am.

As it will be the Bideford Victorian Christmas Frost Fair all day in town, feel free to join in the fun and dress like a Victorian!

As part of the Frost Fair in Bideford Emily, our Youth Worker, has organised a Christmas Craft fair from 2 – 6 pm where there will be craft stalls and gift ideas. There will also be tea, coffee and cakes from 2-4 pm.

CHRISTMAS FRIDAY DINER 20TH DECEMBER

Our Christmas Friday Diner will be on 20 December, and we would like to give out the usual gift bags to those coming to the Diner. We would be grateful for donations of new socks, for men and women, that we can give out in the bags. There will be a box at the back of the church for all your donations. Thank you, on behalf of the Friday Diner Team

SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER - - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

COLLECT

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

THE FIRST READING – 1 Thessalonians 3.9-end

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

THE SECOND READING – Luke 21.25-36

'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.'

'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'