

THIS WEEK'S READINGS AND DEDICATIONS

Monday 16 December

Psalm 40; Isaiah 49. 14-35; 1 Thessalonians 5. 1-11

Tuesday 17 December – Eglantyne Jebb; Social Reformer, Founder of 'Save the Children'. 1928

Psalm 70; Isaiah 50; 1 Thessalonians 5. 12-end

Wednesday 18 December

Psalm 75; Isaiah 51. 1-8; 2 Thessalonians 1

Thursday 19 December

Psalm 146; Isaiah 51. 9-16; 2 Thessalonians 2

Friday 20 December –

Psalm 46; Isaiah 51. 17-end; 2 Thessalonians 3

Saturday 21 December

Psalm 121; Isaiah 51. 1-12; Jude

Sunday 22 December – THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Micah 5. 2-5a; Psalm 80. 1-8; Hebrews 10. 5-10 Luke 1. 39-45

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 15 DECEMBER 2024

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9.30 am CELTIC COMMUNION, AND JUNIOR CHURCH

President: Rev'd Madeline Bray

11.15 am ENCOUNTER SERVICE

6.00 pm SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

President: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore

9.30 am Holy Communion, Weare Giffard. Rev'd Robin Pirrie

11 am Holy Communion, Littleham. Rev'd Robin Pirrie

SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

UCAN SUNDAY

8.00 am SAID HOLY COMMUNION

President: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore

9.30 am MORNING WORSHIP AND HOLY COMMUNION

President: Rev'd Alan Glover

Talk: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore

11.15 am ENCOUNTER CONTEMPORARY CAROL SERVICE

Dates of Events and Meetings

Mon 16	9.30 am Holy Dusters
Tues 17	10.30 am Holy Communion 10.30 am Christmas Carols at Highwood Care Home 2.00 pm Reflections Bring & Share Lunch
Wed 18	9.30 am Music Makers (last one of term) 11.30 am Holy Communion at Moreton Court 3.30 pm Messy Church
Thurs 19	2.15-3.15pm St Mary's School Christingle 4-5.30 pm Crypt Youth (7-11s) 5.30-7 pm Crypt Youth (11-16s)
Fri 20	11.15 am-1.00 pm Christmas Friday Diner
Sat 21	8.00 am Morning Prayer 10.00 am Nativity Practice
Sun 22	U Can Sunday 8.00 am Said Holy Communion 9.30 am Morning Worship and Holy Communion 11.15 am Encounter Contemporary Carol Service

PRAYERS

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

ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND EVENTS

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE THIS EVENING AT 6 PM

Please join us for this special service TODAY at 6 pm, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

We would be really grateful of any donations of mince pies as there are always a lot of people that stay for refreshments after this big community service.

19 DECEMBER—CHOIR AND TREBLEMAKERS AT AFFINITY OUTLET

If you want to see the Choir and Treblemakers singing, they will be at Affinity Outlet on Thursday 19 December at 6 pm.

22 DECEMBER — ENCOUNTER CONTEMPORARY CAROL SERVICE

Come and join in with Encounter's Contemporary Carol Service from 11.15 am on 22 December.

CHRISTMAS EVE starts with our very popular Nativity Service. Performances at 2.30 pm and 4 pm. A chance for the children (and you!) to dress up as your favourite Nativity character.

Later, ring in Christmas Day with **Midnight Mass at 11.30 pm.**

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

CHRISTMAS DAY

Our Christmas Day Family Morning Worship Service with Holy Communion will start at 9.30 am. Please bring your family and friends.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS AND SERVICES ELSEWHERE

18 DECEMBER - A STAR SHINES BRIGHT MUSIC AT ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, NORTHAM

A Christmas recital at St Margaret's Church, Northam entitled 'A star shines bright' is at 7 pm on Wednesday 18 December. Free entry with a retiring collection.

During interval mince pies and mulled wine will be served. There is also a Christmas raffle.

A varied selection of Christmas and seasonal carols and songs by small group called 'Heart and Voice Ensemble' accompanied by Pam and Chris Beechey.

19 DECEMBER Weare Giffard Carol Service at 6 pm.

24 DECEMBER Candle-lit Crib Service at Littleham at 4 pm.

24 DECEMBER Monkleigh Service of Carols and Readings at 6.30 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY IN THE VILLAGES

9.30 am Holy Communion at Littleham

9.30 am Holy Communion at Weare Giffard

11 am Holy Communion at Landcross

UCAN SUNDAY NEXT WEEK

We would be grateful for donations of food (tins, packets etc) or money, which is used to keep a store cupboard in church to enable us to help those in need.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR ST MARY'S SCHOOL

I have prepared 30 gifts for families in need at St Mary's School from our church family for Christmas.

Monetary donations towards the cost would be very welcome and can be left with St Mary's office.

Many thanks. Maggie Murray

CROCKERY LEFT BEHIND

There are a few plates, and a wooden board left behind from the Harvest Lunch or other functions. Can you please collect if they are yours, or they will be disposed of. Thank you.

SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

COLLECT

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

FIRST READING – Zephaniah 3.14-20

A Song of Joy

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
The Lord has taken away the judgements against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.
And I will save the lame

and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the Lord.

SECOND READING – Philippians 4 4 - 7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL READING – Luke 3. 7 - 18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'