

**READINGS AND DEDICATIONS FROM  
MONDAY 30 DECEMBER TO SUNDAY 5 JANUARY 2025**

**Monday 30 December**

Psalm 113; Isaiah 60. 13-end; Luke 12.22-34

**Tuesday 31 December –New Year’s Eve**

John Wyclif, reformer, 1384

Psalm 102; Isaiah 62; Luke 12.35-48

**Wednesday 1 January 2025 - NEW YEAR’S DAY**

***The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus***

Numbers 6.22-end; Galatians 4.4-7; Luke 2. 15-21

**Thursday 2 January**

Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, bishops, teachers of the faith, 379 and 389

Psalm 18.1-30; Isaiah 63.1-6; Matthew 1.18-end

**Friday 3 January**

Psalm 127; Isaiah 64; Matthew 2

**Saturday 4 January**

Psalm 89.1-37; Isaiah 63.7-16; Matthew 3.1-4.11

**Sunday 5 JANUARY—THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

Jeremiah 31.7-14; Ephesians 1.3-14; John 1.(1-9) 10-18

**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

Assistant Karen Johns

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator: Pattie Morris 01237 476501 or 07984937179

Lift enquiries Karen Johns 07368637664

Director of Music: Chris Beechey 01237 420652

Bell Tower Captain: Kate Wills 07768 934677

*Church Office*

opening hours: 10 am–12 noon, Mon–Fri 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 22 DECEMBER 2024**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**UCAN SUNDAY**

- 8 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

**TUESDAY 24 DECEMBER 2024**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

- 2.30 pm NATIVITY
- 4.00 pm NATIVITY
- 11.30 pm MIDNIGHT MASS  
President: Rev’d Robin Pirrie  
Talk: Rev’d Claire Rose-Casemore

**WEDNESDAY 25 DECEMBER 2024**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

- 9.30 am MORNING WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION  
President: Rev’d Claire Rose-Casemore  
Talk: Rev’d Claire Rose-Casemore

**SUNDAY 29 DECEMBER 2024**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

- 9.30 am 5 PARISH MORNING WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION  
President: Rev’d Alan Glover  
Talk: Rev’d Alan Glover
- No Encounter Service

## Dates of Events and Meetings

- Mon 23 9.30 am Holy Dusters  
12 noon Church Office closes
- Tues 24 2.30 pm Nativity  
4.00 pm Nativity  
11.30 pm Midnight Mass
- Wed 25 9.30 am Christmas Morning Worship & Holy Communion
- Friday 27 NO Friday Diner
- Sat 28 8.00 am Morning Prayer
- Sun 29 9.30 am 5 Parish Morning Worship and Holy Communion  
NO Encounter Service
- Thurs 2 Jan 9 am Church Office re-opens
- Fri 3 Jan 11.15 am Friday Diner
- Sat 4 Jan 8 am Morning Prayer  
8.15 am Men's Breakfast
- Sun 5 Jan 9.30 am Morning Worship with HC, and Junior Church  
11.15 am Encounter  
3 pm Bideford Music Club Concert

## 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

### 22 DECEMBER — ENCOUNTER CONTEMPORARY CAROL SERVICE

Come and join in with Encounter's Contemporary Carol Service from 11.15 am today.

**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.**

### CHRISTMAS DAY

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

## SECOND READING—COLOSSIANS 3.12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

## GOSPEL READING—LUKE 2.41-52 THE BOY JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

## **THIS WEEK'S READINGS AND DEDICATIONS**

### **Monday 23 December**

Psalm 130; Isaiah 52. 13-end of 53; 2 Peter 1. 1-15

### **Tuesday 24 December –CHRISTMAS EVE**

Psalm 45; Isaiah 54; Revelation 22. 6-end

### **Wednesday 25 December - CHRISTMAS DAY**

Isaiah 9. 2-7; Titus 2. 11-15; Luke 2.1-14 (15-20)

### **Thursday 26 December – STEPHEN, DEACON, THE FIRST MARTYR**

Psalm 13; Jeremiah 26. 12-15; Acts 6

### **Friday 27 December – JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST**

Psalm 21; Exodus 33. 12-end; 1 JoHn 2. 1-11

### **Saturday 28 December - THE HOLY INNOCENTS**

Psalm 36; Genesis 37. 13-20; Matthew 18. 1-10

### **Sunday 29 December THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

1 Samuel 2. 18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3. 12-17; Luke 2. 41-end

## **SUNDAY 29 DECEMBER FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

### **COLLECT**

God in Trinity,  
eternal unity of perfect love:  
gather the nations to be one family,  
and draw us into your holy life  
through the birth of Emmanuel,  
our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **FIRST READING—1 SAMUEL 2.18-20, 26 The Child Samuel at Shiloh**

Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD'; and then they would return to their home.

Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the LORD and with the people.

## **CHRISTMAS EVENTS AND SERVICES ELSEWHERE**

**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 TODAY (22 DECEMBER)**

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 CARDS AT BACK OF CHURCH**

Please remember to check pigeonholes at the back of church for Christmas cards as there are many that have not yet been collected.

### **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

### **HELP WITH SUNDAY COFFEE TEAMS**

Please can you let Ann Kent or Debbie Crawford know if you would be able to help on one of the Sunday Coffee Teams as they are very short on volunteers.

You would only be needed every five weeks to help set up, serve, and clear away for coffee time between the 9.30 am and 11.15 am services.

### **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED OVER CHRISTMAS**

Please note that Church Office closes at 12 noon on Monday 23 December and re-opens on Thursday 2 January 2025 at 9 am.

We will answer any emails as soon as possible on our return.

Happy Christmas from Debbie and Karen!

**SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER - FOURTH SUNDAY OF  
ADVENT**

**COLLECT**

Eternal God,  
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,  
so we wait for his coming in glory;  
bring us through the birth pangs of this  
present age  
to see, with her, our great salvation  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**FIRST READING – Micah 5. 2-5a  
The Ruler from Bethlehem**

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labour has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of  
the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;  
and he shall be the one of peace.

If the Assyrians come into our land  
and tread upon our soil,  
we will raise against them seven shepherds  
and eight installed as rulers.

**GOSPEL READING – Luke 1.39-55  
Mary Visits Elizabeth**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a  
Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the  
house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When  
Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her  
womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and  
exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among  
women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why  
has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord  
comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your  
greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And  
blessed is she who believed that there would be a  
fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

**Mary's Song of Praise**

And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his  
servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
or the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to  
generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their  
hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the  
rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his  
mercy,