

**ASCENSION DAY SERVICE AT CHUDLEIGH FORT
THURSDAY 29 MAY AT 11 AM**

There will be an Ascension Day Service on 29 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.

SATURDAY 31 MAY WINE AND WISDOM QUIZ AT NORTHAM HALL

Northam Care Trust are raising money for a hydrotherapy pool and are hosting a Wine and Wisdom night 31 May at Northam Hall, starting at 6.30pm. They're looking for teams of six to take part. We currently have two tables booked but would be great to get a few more! If you are interested in joining, please let Sheenah Middle know 07960678726.

ST MARY'S SCHOOL BIBLES

Each year every Year 5 pupil at St Mary's School receives a bible, before they move on to secondary school, from St Mary's Church.

Some people in the congregation have asked if they can contribute towards the cost. Please give any contributions please to Debbie or Karen in the Church Office in an envelope marked School Bibles.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – 11-17 MAY

Don't forget to return any Christian Aid envelopes to Susan Jeffery or give in to St Mary's House. Please make cheques payable to Christian Aid.

ST MARY'S HELP REQUIRED

The church is looking for help with the following, please:

Parts of the paths surrounding the church have a covering of a green weed on them. We're seeking someone who could investigate this and spend a little time eliminating it. We will fund any supplies needed. Please contact Mark Porthouse (01237 520450)

CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Team Rector:

Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore	01237 475765
Rev'd Robin Pirrie	07584 261686
Rev'd Alan Glover: (Bishop's Licence)	01237 451147
Rev'd Madeline Bray (Bishop's Licence)	01237 477488
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



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 18 MAY 2025
THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

9.30 am Celtic Communion, and Junior Church
President: Rev'd Madeline Bray
Talk: Rev'd Alan Glover

11.15 am Encounter

*(9.30 am Holy Communion, Weare Giffard – Sarah Cordingley)
(11 am Holy Communion, Littleham- Sarah Cordingley)*

**SUNDAY 25 MAY 2025
THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

8 am Said Holy Communion

9.30 am Morning Worship with Holy Communion

11.15 am Encounter

*(11 am Morning Praise, Littleham)
(11 am Holy Communion Landcross)*

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.

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.

FIRST READING ACTS 11. 1-18

Peter's Report to the Church at Jerusalem

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So, when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?' Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance, I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely, I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth." But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved." And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?' When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.'

GOSPEL READING – JOHN 13.31-35

The New Commandment

When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now, I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

PRAYERS

We pray for those that need extra prayers at this time, and for those that have no one to pray for them.

We also pray especially for Claire and her family following the passing of their mum, Pamela Rose-Casemore.

Please also remember Rachel Millard, Ian Squires and Michael Johns.

DATES OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Mon 19	7.30 pm Bookworms, The Trees by Percival Everett (Hazel Bowden's)
Tues 20	10.30 am Holy Communion 2.30 pm Reflections
Wed 21	9.30 am Music Makers 11.30 am Moreton Court Holy Communion 3.30–5.15 pm Messy Church
Thurs 22	4-5.30 pm Crypt Youth (7-11s) 6.30-7 pm Crypt Youth (11-16s)
Fri 23	11.15 am-1 pm Friday Diner 6 pm Choir Practice
Sat 24	8 am Morning Prayer
Sun 25	8 am Said Holy Communion 9.30 am Morning Worship with Holy Communion 11.15 am Encounter

UCAN SUNDAY NEXT WEEK

Next Sunday is UCAN Sunday when 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.

APPLEDORE CHRISTIAN MUSIC FESTIVAL 18 MAY

Sunday 2.30 pm Big Sing selection of favourite hymns and songs
Sunday 4 pm A service aimed at families with contemporary worship, games and refreshments – Appledore Baptist Church

WEDNESDAY 28 MAY – STAY AND PLAY

The next session of Stay and Play will be on Wednesday 28 May from 10-11.30 am for children under 5 and their carers (siblings up to age 8 are also welcome.) There will be lots of toys, story time, parachute games etc. It is free of charge, but a voluntary donation of £2 to cover refreshment costs would be welcome.

WEDNESDAY 28 MAY—DAVID'S FILM NIGHT

(For those who live alone but would like to watch a film with others) The next one will be on Wednesday 28 May, 6.45 for 7 pm. Please let David Sparkes know by today, Sunday 25 May, please.