

### WELL DONE TO CHOIR AND TREBLEMAKERS!

Well done to Chris and Pam Beechey, and the Choir and Treblemakers, who sang at the Devon County Show on Saturday 17 May.

They did St Mary's Church proud and there were many positive comments following their two performances at 11 am and 2 pm. (Read more about their day in the June Newsletter.)

### ST. MARY'S CHURCH AWAY GIVING

As a church community we embrace Jesus' words to give to those in need and therefore each year donate 10% of our income to support charities working both at home and abroad.

During the next couple of months, the Mission Away Giving Committee will be looking at how we recommend the money is spent for 2025.

If you have an organisation which God has placed on your heart we would love to hear from you. Please can you supply

- The name of the group
- The work in which it is involved
- A short idea of how the money would be spent
- A name and contact details

Thank you. Lorna Dorrington on 01237 477117 dorrington@btinternet.com

### 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

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website: [www.stmaryschurchbideford.org](http://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 25 MAY 2025 THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8 am	Said Holy Communion President: Rev'd Madeline Bray
9.30 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion President; Rev'd Robin Pirrie Talk: Richard Holwill

11.15 am Encounter

*(11 am Morning Praise, Littleham – Sarah Cordingley)*  
*(11 am Holy Communion, Landcross – Rev'd Alan Glover)*

### SUNDAY 1 JUNE 2025 THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

9.30 am	Morning Worship, and Junior Church President: Rev'd Robin Pirrie Talk: Rev'd Alan Glover
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11.15 am Encounter

*(9.30 am Joint Patronal Service for Weare Giffard & Landcross at Weare Giffard – Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore)*

*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,  
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

## **FIRST READING ACTS 16. 9-15**

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she prevailed upon us.

## **GOSPEL READING – JOHN 5.1-9**

### **Jesus Heals on the Sabbath**

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralysed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, 'Do you want to be made well?' The sick man answered him, 'Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.' Jesus said to him, 'Stand up, take your mat and walk.' At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now that day was a sabbath.

## **PRAYERS**

Please pray for baby Luke Anderson, Rachel Millard, Ian Squires and Michael Johns.

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

## **GRAHAM JOHNSTON**

We learnt this week that Graham Johnston (who was known to many of the church family) sadly passed away on 15 May. His funeral will take place at St Mary's Church on Monday 9 June at 1.45 pm.

Any members of M.U. please note that the meeting on 9 June will start an hour later that day at 3 pm.

## **DATES OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS THIS WEEK**

Tues 27	11 am Highwood Care Home
Wed 28	10-11.30 am Stay and Play
Thurs 29	11 am Ascension Day Service at Chudleigh Fort
Fri 30	11.15 am -1 pm Friday Diner 6 pm Choir Practice
Sat 31	8 am Morning Prayer 8.15 am Men's Breakfast 10 am Treblemakers
Sun 1	9.30 am Morning Worship, and Junior Church 11.15 am Encounter

## **UCAN SUNDAY**

Today is Ucan Sunday, which is every fourth Sunday of the month, when we welcome donations of tins and packets to give to those in need and also build up our supplies for Friday Diner. Also, any cash donations that we can buy suitable items to top-up Friday Diner.

## **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 Sunday 25 May, please.

## **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.