



1945



2025

You are warmly invited to the back of the Church for prosecco and cake on Sunday 23 November from 10.30 – 11.15 am. It will be lovely to see you.

REHEARSALS FOR NATIVITY

For anyone involved in the Nativity, rehearsals will be in church on:-
Saturday, 6 December at 2 pm
Saturday, 13 December at 2 pm
Saturday, 20 December at 9.30 am
(Possible rehearsal if needed on Tuesday, 23 December – am)

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

A reminder for anyone who would like to give a monetary donation towards the 40 Christmas gifts Maggie Murray is organising for families in need at St. Mary's School, from our church family. Please give whatever you can in an envelope to Debbie or Karen in the Church Office. Many thanks, Maggie Murray

EMPTY BLISTER PACKS

This is just a gentle reminder that if you have any empty blister packs for recycling, please can you give them directly to Jackie Ballantyne. We have had a few instances of them being left on the side in church. This could be dangerous if the blister packs still contain some medication.

CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Team Rector:
Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore 01237 475765
Rev'd Ruth Beckett 01237 439584
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
Justine Duhig 07941 912090
Parish Administrator: Debbie Crawford 01237 472551
Assistant Karen Johns
Pastoral Care Co-ordinator: Pattie Morris 01237 476501 or 07984 937179
Lift enquiries Karen Johns 07368 637664
Director of Music: Chris Beechey 01237 420652
Bell Tower Captain: Kate Wills 07768 934677
Church Office opening hours: 9 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 16 NOVEMBER 2025

SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

9.30 am Celtic Communion, and Junior Church
President: Rev'd Madeline Bray
Talk: Rev'd Robin Pirrie
11.15 am Encounter
3 pm Commissioning Service for Emily and Brad at
St Mary's Church, Kentisbeare

(9.30 am Holy Communion, Weare Giffard – Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore)
(11 am Holy Communion, Littleham – Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore)

SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2025

CHRIST THE KING

SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE ADVENT

8 am Said Holy Communion
President: Rev'd Madeline Bray
9.30 am Morning Worship with Holy Communion
President: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore
Talk: Sarah Cordingley
11.15 am Encounter
(11 am Holy Communion, Landcross – Rev'd Madeline Bray)
(11 am Morning Praise, Littleham – Rev'd Ruth Beckett)

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

Heavenly Lord,
you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy,
restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

FIRST READING: 2 THESSALONIANS 3.6-13

Warning against idleness

Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labour we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

GOSPEL READING: LUKE 21.5-19

The Destruction of the Temple Foretold

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, 'As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.'

Signs and Persecutions

They asked him, 'Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?' And he said, 'Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and "The time is near!" Do not go after them.

'When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

'But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defence in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.

DATES OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Mon 17 Nov	9.30 am Holy Dusters
Tues 18 Nov	10.30 am Holy Communion 2.30 pm Reflections 6.30 pm Alpha Course – The Rectory 7.30-9.15 pm Northam Choral Practice
Wed 19 Nov	9.30 am Music Makers 11.30 am Moreton Court Holy Communion 2.30 pm Streams at Littleham Village Hall
Thurs 20 Nov	11 am Sandhurst visit 2.30-4 pm Advent Course at Littleham Village Hall 4-5.30 pm Crypt Youth (7-11s) 5.30-7 pm Crypt Youth (12-16s)
Fri 21 Nov	11.15 am-1 pm Friday Diner 6 pm Choir Practice
Sat 22 Nov	8 am Morning Prayer 10 am Treblemakers
Sun 23 Nov	8 am Said Holy Communion 9.30 am Morning Worship with Holy Communion 11.15 am Encounter

PRAYER

Please pray for Stop the Traffik, our Mission Away Giving Charity of the month, who are campaigning to bring an end to human trafficking worldwide.

UCAN SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2025

Next week 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.

ADVENT COURSE AT LITTLEHAM VILLAGE HALL

Because there is an Alpha Course taking place at St Mary's, an Advent Course will take place at Littleham Village Hall which is open to everyone in the villages and St Mary's.

The course will be part one of Pete Grieg's course on the Lord's Prayer.

There will be four informal discussion afternoons, with tea and cake, from 2.30-4 pm in Littleham Village Hall. They will be on Thursdays, 20 and 27 November, and 4 December, and Wednesday 10 December.

You are welcome to join for some or all the sessions. If you would like to book a place, please can you let Church Office know.

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST – DURRANT HOUSE HOTEL

SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER AT 9.30 AM

Do come and enjoy a delicious breakfast, cooked to order and get your strength up for all that Christmas shopping! Why not bring a friend? The cost, as usual, is £10 per person.

To book, please take an envelope from the back of the Church, fill in your details, enclose your payment and hand it in to either Karen Johns, Lorna Thomas or the Church Office by **Sunday 30 November at the latest.**