

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 welcome table, 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**.

REHEARSALS FOR NATIVITY

For anyone involved in the Nativity, rehearsals will be in church on:-

Saturday, 6 December at 11.30 am

Saturday, 13 December at 2 pm

Saturday, 20 December at 9.30 am

(Possible rehearsal if needed on Tuesday, 23 December – am)

Please note change of time of rehearsal on 6 December which will be 11.30 am and not 2 pm as Northam Choral will be rehearsing at 2 pm.

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 Jacquie 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

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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 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

Please note the planned Commissioning Youth Service at St Mary's for Emily and Brad at 4 pm today has been postponed until early next year.

(11 am Holy Communion, Landcross – Rev'd Madeline Bray)

(11 am Morning Praise, Littleham – Rev'd Ruth Beckett)

SUNDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2025

ADVENT SUNDAY

9.30 am Advent Morning Worship with Holy Communion
President; Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore

11.15 am Encounter

4.15 pm Tea followed by ...

5pm 5 Parish Candlelit Advent Service

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

God the Father,
help us to hear the call of Christ the King
and to follow in his service,
whose kingdom has no end:
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God, one glory

FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 23.1-6

Restoration after Exile

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴ I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

GOSPEL READING: LUKE 22.33-43

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews. 'One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.

LORNA'S SPECIAL BIRTHDAY

Everyone is warmly invited to the back of church today after the 9.30 am service from 10.30-11.15 am for prosecco and cake with Lorna.

15 YEARS OF CLAIRE'S MINISTRY

It is now 15 years since Rev'd Claire started her ministry with us at St Mary's and the Villages.

We are blessed to have Claire leading us. We celebrate the 15 years she has been with us and look forward to the years ahead.

UCAN SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2025

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.

5 PARISH CANDLELIT ADVENT SERVICE ON SUNDAY 30 NOVEMBER

As well as the usual 9.30 am Morning Worship Service and 11.15 am Encounter Service, there will be a special 5 Parish Candlelit Advent Service at 5 pm.

There will also be a tea before the Service from 4.15 pm which everyone is invited to. Any contributions - savoury or cakes - would be appreciated.

DATES OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Mon 24 Nov	9.30 am Holy Dusters
Tues 25 Nov	11 am Highwood 6.30 pm Alpha Course - The Rectory 7.30-9.15 pm Northam Choral Practice
Wed 26 Nov	9.30 am Music Makers 3.30 pm Messy Church
Thurs 27 Nov	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 28 Nov	11.15 am-1 pm Friday Diner 6 pm Choir Practice
Sat 29 Nov	8 am Morning Prayer 10 am Treblemakers
Sun 30 Nov	9.30 am Advent Worship with Holy Communion 11.15 am Encounter 4.15 pm Tea followed by - 5 pm 5 Parish Candlelight Advent Service

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.