

THANK YOU

Thank you all so, so, much for helping me to celebrate my birthday last weekend. Your generosity is incredible, and I felt very humbled. I shall always remember Nov 2025.

May God Bless you richly. With much love Lorna

I have been able to send £250 each to North Devon Hospice and WaterAid. A huge thank you from them.

SOCKS!

At Christmas we like to give our guests at the Friday Diner a small Goody Bag. We would therefore be most grateful for donations of new Men's winter socks. Please leave in the crate at the back of the Church or hand to one of the helpers. Thank you. Lorna

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

There is still time 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.

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

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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 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 –
5 pm 5 Parish Candlelit Advent Service

SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER 2025 THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9.30 am Morning Worship with Holy Communion, and Junior Church
President: Rev'd Robin Pirrie
Talk: Rev'd Claire Rose- Casemore

11.15 am Encounter

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

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the light
of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ

FIRST READINGS: ROMANS 13.11-14 and MATTHEW 24.36-39

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 4.18-22

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

DATES OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Mon 1 Dec	9 am St Marys Advent Service KS1&2 2 pm Mothers Union Craft Afternoon 7 pm Parish Prayer St Mary's House
Tues 2 Dec	10.30 am Holy Communion M.U. Corporate 6.30 pm Alpha Course – The Rectory 7.30-9.15 pm Northam Choral Practice
Wed 3 Dec	9.30 am Music Makers
Thurs 4 Dec	9.45 am E.T.W Christingle Year 3 1.30 pm E.T.W Christingle Year 2 4-5.30 pm Crypt Youth (7-11s) 5.30-7 pm Crypt Youth (12-16s)
Fri 5 Dec	11.15 am-1 pm Friday Diner 6 pm Choir Practice
Sat 6 Dec	8 am Morning Prayer

8.15am Men's Breakfast

9.30am Women's Breakfast, Durrant Hotel

10 am Treblemakers

11.30 am Nativity Practice

2 pm Northam Choral rehearsal

7.30 pm Northam Choral Christmas Concert

Sun 7 Dec 9.30 am Morning Worship with Holy Communion, and Junior Church

11.15 am Encounter

PRAYER

Please pray for the family of Valerie Reed, who has sadly passed away.

Her funeral will take place on Friday 19 December at 12.15 pm at North Devon Crematorium.

There will be a Thanksgiving Service for Valerie in January 2026 at St Mary's Church. Date to be arranged.

ADVENT COURSE AT LITTLEHAM VILLAGE HALL

The Advent Course remaining sessions at Littleham Village Hall are Thursday 4 December, and Wednesday 10 December and is open to everyone in the villages and St Mary's.

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

They are informal discussion afternoons, with tea and cake, from 2.30-4 pm

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHRISTMAS CARD WINNERS

Congratulations to Sophie, Jack, and Emma whose Christmas card designs were chosen for our Christmas cards this year.

Thank you to all the children who entered, and we are sorry we could not pick everyone's designs.

We will be printing off the cards, with the list of Christmas services on the back, to be delivered in the neighbourhood.

If you can deliver any cards, please can you let the office know where you can deliver to (ideally next week), and how many cards you would like, and we let you have some.

VOLUNTEERS NEED TO HELP DECORATE CHRISTMAS TREE

If you would like to help decorate the Christmas tree, please come along at 11 am on Wednesday 3 December after Music Makers.

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)