



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 21 DECEMBER 2025 **THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

9.30 am Morning Worship with H.Communion, and Junior Church
President: Bishop of Crediton, Right Reverend Moira Astin

11.15 am Encounter Carols

(11 am Holy Communion, Littleham – Rev'd Ruth Beckett)
(6 pm Carol Service, Weare Giffard – Rev'd Ruth Beckett)

WEDNESDAY 24 DECEMBER 2025 **CHRISTMAS EVE**

2.30 pm Nativity
4 pm Nativity
11.30 pm Midnight Mass

(4 pm Crib Service, Littleham – Sarah Cordingley & Open the Bible Group)
(6.30 pm Service of Carols and Readings, Monkleigh – Rev'd Ruth Beckett and Sarah Cordingley)

THURSDAY 25 DECEMBER 2025 **CHRISTMAS DAY**

9.30 am Christmas Morning Worship
President: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore

(9.30 am Holy Communion, Littleham – Rev'd Robin Pirrie)
(9.30 am Holy Communion, Weare Giffard – Rev'd Ruth Beckett)
(11 am Holy Communion, Landcross – Rev'd Ruth Beckett)

SUNDAY 28 DECEMBER 2025 **THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

9.30 am 5 Parish Morning Worship with Holy Communion
President: Rev'd Alan Glover

No Encounter Service

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 Madelline 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

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

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory:
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 7.10-16

Isaiah gives Ahaz the Sign of Immanuel

Again, the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 1. 18-end.

The Birth of Jesus The Messiah

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

DATES OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Mon 22 Dec	9.30am Holy Dusters
Tues 23 Dec	12 noon Office Closes
Wed 24 Dec	2.30 pm Nativity 4 pm Nativity 11.30 pm Midnight Mass
Thurs 25 Dec	9.30 am Christmas Day Morning Worship
Sat 27 Dec	8 am Morning Prayer
Sun 28 Dec	9.30 am 5 Parish Morning Worship with Communion

PRAYER

Please remember baby Theo Anderson in your prayers, who is currently not well.

PLEA FOR HELP WELCOMING AT MIDNIGHT MASS SERVICE

We really need people to help welcome at the Midnight Mass Service.

If you are intending to go to the service, please can you consider arriving a bit early to welcome people from our community and give out candles.

Please let the office know if you can help.

RING FOUND IN DISABLED TOILET

A ring has been handed in to the office which was found in the disabled toilet. If it is yours, please let the office know.

We also have a man's gold ring which was found in church several years ago, but no-one came forward about it. If this might be yours, please let the office know.