

## DATES OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS

- 4 Jan 9.30 am Morning Worship with Holy Communion (No Junior Church)  
No Encounter Service
- 5 Jan 9 am Church Office re-opens  
9.30 am Holy Dusters
- 6 Jan 10.30 am Holy Communion (M.U.Corporate)  
7.30 pm Northam Choral rehearsal  
7.30 pm Parish Prayer – St Mary's House
- 7 Jan 9.30 am Music Makers
- 8 Jan 4-5.30 pm Crypt Youth (7-11s), 5.30-7 pm Crypt Youth (11-16s)  
7.30 pm Home Group Leaders Meeting at Rectory
- 9 Jan 11.15 am – 1 pm Friday Diner  
6 pm Open Choir Practice
- 10 Jan 8 am Morning Prayer, 10 am Treblemakers Third Birthday Celebration  
10.30 am Holy Grounds Café
- 11 Jan 8 am Said Holy Communion  
9.30 am All-Age Worship  
11.15 am Encounter  
3 pm Bideford Music Club Concert – Mikeleiz-Zucchi Duo (Saxophone and accordion)  
4 pm New Year Celtic Evensong at Littletham

### Please

Jesus calls us to be servants and one of the wonderful ways in which the people at St. Mary's serve the local community is through the Friday Diner. Please can you ask God if he is asking you to become part of that team. We need:-

Some people who would be willing to share in the heating of pre-cooked food in the church cooker and plating it up. This will enable, at the moment mainly one person, to undertake other tasks, have the time to engage with our guests and go on holiday. Tuition will be given!

Also, a group of people who would be willing to be called upon, perhaps only four times a year, for holiday cover. This would entail helping to serve the meals.

For more information, please see Richard James, Pattie Morris, David Sparkes, or Lorna Dorrinton.

## 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 tbc  
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](mailto:admin@stmaryschurchbideford.org)  
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 28 DECEMBER 2025 THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS UCAN SUNDAY**

9.30 am 5 Parish Morning Worship with Holy Communion  
President: Rev'd Alan Glover  
No Encounter Service

### **SUNDAY 4 JANUARY 2026 THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS EPIPHANY**

9.30am Morning Worship with Holy Communion (No Junior Church)  
President: Rev'd Claire Rose- Casemore  
Talk: Rev'd Robin Pirrie  
No Encounter Service

### **SUNDAY 11 JANUARY 2026 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

8 am Said Holy Communion  
President: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore

9.30 am All- Age Worship  
All-Age Team and Rev'd Robin Pirrie

11.15 am Encounter

4 pm New Year Celtic Evensong at Littleham

*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*

**SUNDAY 28 DECEMBER**  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

**COLLECT**

God in Trinity,  
eternal unity of perfect love:  
gather the nations to be one family,  
and draw us into your holy life  
through the birth of Emmanuel  
our Lord Jesus Christ.

**FIRST READING: 1 Corinthians 1. 26-29**

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

**GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 2. 13-18**

**The Escape to Egypt**

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

**The Massacre of the Infants**

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

'A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

**SUNDAY 4 JANUARY 2026**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**  
**EPIPHANY**

**COLLECT**

Creator of the heavens,  
who led the Magi by a star  
to worship the Christ-child:  
guide and sustain us,  
that we may find our journey's end  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 60.1-6**  
**The Ingathering of the Dispersed**

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the Lord will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.  
Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.  
Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.  
Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,<sup>[a]</sup>  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.  
A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

**GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 2.1-12**

**The Visit of the Wise Men**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.