

REHEARSALS FOR NATIVITY

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

Saturday, 13 December at 2 pm

Saturday, 20 December at 9.30 am

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

13 DECEMBER – CEILIDH AT ABBOTSHAM VILLAGE HALL

Join us Ceilidh dancing with the Oggie Band at Abbotsham Village Hall on Saturday, 13 December from 19.30 -22.30. Tickets £12.50 per person in aid of The Northam Care Trust- see poster by door for tickets. Rosie

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

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 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

(9.30 am Holy Communion, Weare Giffard – Rev'd Ruth Beckett)

SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER 2025 THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8 am Said Holy Communion
President: Rev'd Robin Pirrie

9.30 am All Age Service
President: Rev'd Claire Rose- Casemore

11.15 am Encounter and Communion
President: Rev'd Madeline Bray

6 pm Nine Lessons and Carols
President: Rev'd Claire Rose- Casemore

(11 am Celtic Communion, Landcross – Rev'd Robin Pirrie)

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,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again
as judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God.

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 11.1-10

The Peaceful Kingdom

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 3.1-12

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight."'

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

DATES OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Mon 8 Dec	9.45-11 am Bideford College GCSE Group Visit
Tues 9 Dec	6-8 pm Christian Aid Christmas Concert
Wed 10 Dec	9.30 am Music Makers 2.30-4 pm Advent Course Littleham Village Hall
Thurs 11 Dec	11 am Sandhurst Care Home Carol Service 2.30 pm Kingsley School Carol Service 4-5.30 pm Crypt Youth (7-11s) 5.30-7 pm Crypt Youth (12-16s)
Fri 12 Dec	11.15 am-1 pm Friday Diner 6 pm Choir Practice
Sat 13 Dec	8 am Morning Prayer 10 am Treblemakers 10.30 am Holy Grounds Cafe 2 pm Nativity rehearsal 6 pm Carols by Candlelight - Pannier Market
Sun 14 Dec	8 am Said Holy Communion 9.30 am All Age Worship 11.15 am Encounter and Communion 6 pm Nine Lessons and Carols

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 on Friday 16 January 2026 at 2.30 pm in St Mary's Church.

ADVENT COURSE AT LITTLEHAM VILLAGE HALL

The final Advent Course session at Littleham Village Hall is on Wednesday 10 December from 2.30-4 pm and is open to everyone in the villages and St Mary's.