

Lent Course

The Course we are following this year is Pete Grieg's "Unanswered Prayer" from 'God on Mute' and follows the themes of Holy Week in five sessions.

Once again there is the opportunity to go deeper with extra resources from the Prayer Course and some new ones too.

The course is open to home groups and individuals.

The sessions will take place on the following dates:-

St Mary's Church (7 pm for 7.30-9 pm) or
for 2.30-4 pm)

Littleham Village Hall (2 pm

Wednesday 25 February

Thursday 26 February

Thursday 5 March

Thursday 5 March

Wednesday 11 March

Thursday 12 March

Wednesday 18 March

Thursday 19 March

Wednesday 25 March

Thursday 26 March

To give us an idea of numbers, please can you let St Mary's office know if you would like to come and whether you plan to attend at St Mary's or Littleham.

Ucan Sunday 25 January 2026

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.

Wednesday 28 January — David's Film Night (For those who live alone but would like to watch a film with others.) The next one will be on Wed 28 January 6.45 pm for 7 pm. Please let David know in church by this Sunday.

CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Team Rector:

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Rev'd Ruth Beckett

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Rev'd Robin Pirrie

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Rev'd Alan Glover: (Bishop's Licence)

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tbc

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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 25 JANUARY 2026
THE CONVERSION OF PAUL
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY
UCAN SUNDAY

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

9.30 am Morning Worship with Holy Communion
President: Rev'd Ruth Beckett

11.15 am Encounter

(11 am Holy Communion, Landcross- Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore)

SUNDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2026
CANDLEMAS
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

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

11.15 am Encounter
President: Rev'd Robin Pirrie

(9.30 am Holy Communion, Weare Giffard - Rev'd Ruth Beckett)
(11 am Morning Praise - Littleham - Rev'd Ruth Beckett)

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,
who caused the light of the gospel
to shine throughout the world
through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul:
grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion
may follow him in bearing witness to your truth;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: ACTS 9. 1-22

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.' But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.' All who heard him were amazed and said, 'Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?' Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 19. 27-END

Then Peter said in reply, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.'

DATES OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Mon 26	9.30 am Holy Dusters
Tues 27	2 pm Pastoral Care Meeting, St Mary's House 7.30 pm Northam Choral rehearsal
Wed 28	9.30 am Music Makers 10.30 am Christians Together Meeting, St Mary's House 3.30 pm Messy Church
Thurs 29	4-5.30 pm Crypt Youth (7-11s) 5.30-7 pm Crypt Youth (12-16s)
Fri 30	11.15 am -1 pm Friday Diner 6 pm Choir Practice
Sat 31	8 am Morning Prayer 8.15 am Men's Breakfast 9 am - 5 pm Bell ringing training event – St Mary's House
Sun, 1 Feb	9.30 am Morning Worship with Holy Communion, and Junior Church 11.15 am Encounter 3 pm Bideford Music Club Concert - Arie Dakesian on guitar

PRAYER

Please remember Alan Body in your prayers who is unwell.

Plea on behalf of someone needing a one-bedroom flat to rent

Pattie has a colleague from work who is in her fifties and had to leave an abusive relationship before Christmas. She is currently renting a caravan in Westward Ho!, but it is very damp and cold. She needs a one-bedroom flat but can only afford a rent up to £480 a month.

If anyone knows of anything, please contact Pattie.

Christian Aid Lent Appeal

On Sunday 8 February and Sunday 15 February we will be handing out Smartie tubes. Please do take them home, eat the goodies and then during Lent fill them with Money! All contributions will be given to Christian Aid, an organisation which works all over the world to try to eradicate poverty. We are so fortunate, please in thanks to God for what we have, help those who are in need. Please return tubes to Church on Easter Day.
Thank you. Susan Jeffery and Sheenah Middle.

5 February - Intercessors and Readers training

There will be training for Intercessors and Readers (new and more experienced) on Thursday 5 February in St Mary's Church. Intercessors at 2 pm and Readers at 3.30 pm.