

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.

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** Littleham Village Hall (2 pm for 2.30-4 pm)

Wednesday 25 February
Thursday 5 March
Wednesday 11 March
Wednesday 18 March
Wednesday 25 March

Thursday 26 February
Thursday 5 March
Thursday 12 March
Thursday 19 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.

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. EX3 2BP

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CCL Licence No. 41147



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 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 Talk: Lorna Thomas

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

SUNDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2026

SEXAGESIMA

THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

8 am	Said Holy Communion President; Rev'd Claire Rose- Casemore
9.30 am	All Age Service President: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore
11.15 am	Encounter President: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore
4 pm	Evensong - Weare Giffard

(11 am Celtic Communion, Landcross- 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

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God.

FIRST READING: MALACHI 3.1-5

The Coming Messenger

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

GOSPEL READING: LUKE 2. 22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.' Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.' And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting

and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

DATES OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Mon 2	9.30 am Holy Dusters
Tues 3	10.30 am Holy Communion (M.U. Corporate) 7.30 pm Parish Prayer St Mary's House 7.30 pm Northam Choral rehearsal
Wed 4	9.30 am Music Makers 12 noon Funeral of Basil Pidgeon
Thurs 5	2 pm Intercessions Training, 3.30 pm Readers Training 4-5.30 pm Crypt Youth (7-11s), 5.30-7 pm (11-16s)
Fri 6	11.15 am -1 pm Friday Diner 6 pm Choir Practice
Sat 7	8 am Morning Prayer 9 am – 1 pm North Devon 8 Bell Striking Competition 10 am Treblemakers
Sun 8	8 am Said Holy Communion 9.30 am All-Age Worship 11.15 am Encounter 4 pm Evensong -Weare Giffard

3 February - St Mary's Church Hall, Appledore at 7 pm

Rev'd Preb. Rosie Austin speaking about her visit to Israel and Palestine

The next Deanery Synod meeting is open to everyone to attend as Rev'd Preb. Rosie Austin (Rector of Shirwell Mission Community) will reflect on her recent visit to Israel and Palestine. If you would like to hear about her trip, please do go along.

5 February - Intercessors and Readers Training

There will be training for Intercessors and Readers (for new people and as a refresher for the more experienced) on Thursday 5 February in St Mary's Church. Intercessors at 2 pm and Readers at 3.30 pm. Please let the office know if you plan to attend.

Urgent help needed on Fabric (Maintenance) Team

We are appealing to anyone who can help Steve Roberts on the Fabric (Maintenance) Team.

The help needed is varied, from setting the heating in St Mary's Church for the week, to putting up a shelf, to clearing a drainage channel etc.

Steve cannot do as much at the moment as his wife is not well, so we need people as soon as possible, please.

If you think you can help boost the team, please speak to Sally Strutt or Justine Duhig, Churchwardens; or let the office know.