

Plea for donations of flowers and foliage

We would be very grateful for donations of flowers and foliage (a chance to do some pruning!) to be given out in Church on Sunday 15 March at the 10.30 am Mothering Sunday Service.

Please come to Church on Saturday 14 March at 9.30 am, help make the bunches, have a coffee (and cake as it is Holy Grounds Café that morning!) and enjoy some fun. No experience required.

Plea for spare Amazon bags or boxes

Sheenah Middle would like any spare Amazon bags or boxes that could be reused for packing outgoing goods. If anyone can help, please email her on shop@stmaryschurchbideford.org.

Women's Breakfast – New Venue!

Our next Women's Breakfast will be at Brewer's Fayre, Atlantic Park, Clovelly Road on Saturday 28 March at 9.30 am. (Please note this is a change to the date you may have been given.)

There's no need to pay in advance, but we do need to give them numbers. There is a sign-up up sheet at the back of the Church so please add your name if you'd like to come, by 26 March latest.

If you'd like any more information, please have a chat to Karen (Johns) or Lorna (Thomas).

Message from John Henderson

John Henderson has advised that his landline has been overtaken by 21st Century technology: please use 07776923578.

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
Churchwarden and Safeguarding Rep: Sally Strutt	07876 618387
Churchwarden: Justine Duhig	07941 912090
Parish Administrator: Debbie Crawford	01237 472551
Assistant Administrator: 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

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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 MARCH 2026 THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

9.30 am Morning Worship with Holy Communion, and Junior Church
President: Rev'd Robin Pirrie
Talk: Rev'd Alan Glover

11.15 am Encounter

*(9.30 am Holy Communion, Weare Giffard- Rev'd Ruth Beckett/Sarah Cordingley)
(11 am Morning Praise, Littleham – Sarah Cordingley)*

SUNDAY 8 MARCH 2026 THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

8 am Said Holy Communion
President: Rev'd Madeline Bray

9.30 am All Age Worship
President: Rev'd Robin Pirrie

11.15 am Encounter

1 pm Baptism of Elara-Rose Stephens
Rev'd Claire Rose- Casemore

(11 am Celtic Communion, Landcross- Rev'd Madeline Bray)

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,
by the prayer and discipline of Lent
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings
and by following in his Way
may we come to share in his glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FIRST READING: ROMANS 4.1-5, 13-17

The Example of Abraham

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

God's Promise Realized through Faith

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

GOSPEL READING: JOHN 3.1-17

Nicodemus visits Jesus

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has

ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

DATES OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Mon 2	9.30 am Holy Dusters 11.30 am Funeral of Gillian Short
Tues 3	10.30 am Holy Communion M.U. 7.30 pm Parish Prayer St Mary's House 7.30-9.15 pm Northam Choral rehearsal
Wed 4	9.30 am Music Makers 7.30 pm Bideford Music Club Concert Daniel Shao (Flute) & Kumi Matsuo Piano
Thurs 5	2 for 2.30-4 pm Lent Course, Littleham Village Hall 4-5.30 pm Crypt Youth (7-11s) 5.30 -7 pm Crypt youth (12-16s) 7 for 7.30-9 pm Lent Course St Mary's Church
Fri 6	11.15 am - 1 pm Friday Diner 6 pm Choir Practice
Sat 7	8 am Morning Prayer 10 am Treblemakers
Sun 8 Mar	8 am Said Holy Communion 9.30 am All Age Worship 11.15 am Encounter 1 pm Baptism of Elara-Rose Stephens

Lent Course 2026

The Lent Course following Pete Grieg's "Unanswered Prayer" from 'God on Mute' continues on the following dates: -

<u>St Mary's Church</u> (7 pm for 7.30-9 pm) or	<u>Littleham Village Hall</u> (2 pm for 2.30-4 pm)
Thursday 5 March	Thursday 5 March
Wednesday 11 March	Thursday 12 March
Wednesday 18 March	Thursday 19 March
Wednesday 25 March	Thursday 26 March

Don't worry if you cannot attend all the sessions. You are very welcome to come to any you are able to either at St Mary's or Littleham.

World Day of Prayer Service 2026

The World Day of Prayer Service will take place on Friday 6 March at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, Bideford at 2 pm.

The materials from Nigeria are based on Jesus' invitation: 'Come to me, all you who are weary.' All are welcome to attend.