

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

Urgent help needed with Maintenance Team

We are appealing to anyone who can help on the Maintenance Team.

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

If you think you can help, please speak to Sally Strutt or Justine Duhig, Churchwardens, or let the office know as soon as possible.

Help Needed for Diner Aprons

If anyone can help with the washing and ironing of the Diner aprons, would you let someone from the Diner team or the office know please. They can be collected from church on a Sunday.

UCAN Sunday - 22 February

Next week 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 build up our supplies for Friday Diner. Also, any cash donations that we can buy suitable items to top-up Friday Diner.

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

Email: admin@stmaryschurchbideford.org

website: www.stmaryschurchbideford.org

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 15 FEBRUARY 2026 QUINQUAGESIMA THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

- 9.30 am Celtic Communion, and Junior Church
President: Rev'd Robin Pirrie
Talk: Rev'd Madeline Bray
- 11.15 am Encounter
Rev'd Robin Pirrie

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

SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2026 THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT UCAN SUNDAY

- 8 am Said Holy Communion
President: Rev'd Robin Pirrie
- 9.30 am Morning Worship with Holy Communion
President: Rev'd Ruth Beckett
Talk: Rev'd Claire Rose Casemore
- 11.15 am Encounter
Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore

(11 am Holy 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

Holy God,
you know the disorder of our sinful lives:
set straight our crooked hearts,
and bend our wills to love your goodness
and your glory
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

FIRST READING: 2 PETER 1.16-END

For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain. We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 17. 1-9 The Transfiguration

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

DATES OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Mon 16	9.30 am Holy Dusters
Tues 17	10.30 am Holy Communion 2.30 pm Reflections 7.30 pm Northam Choral rehearsal
Wed 18	10-11.30 am Stay and Play 10 am Ash Wednesday Service - Landcross 11.30 am Moreton Court Communion 7 pm Ash Wednesday Service – St Mary's
Thurs 19	9- 10.30 am Breakfast Club
Fri 20	11.15 am -1 pm Friday Diner 6 pm Choir Practice
Sat 21	8 am Morning Prayer

	10 am Treblemakers
	2.30 pm Rev'd Tim Hewes 'Finding Beauty Behind Bars' Talk
Sun 22	8 am Said Holy Communion 9.30 am Morning Worship with Holy Communion 11.15 am Encounter

Christian Aid Lent Appeal

Today 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.

Ash Wednesday Services on 18 February

Please come and join us for the start of Lent and a chance to worship together at our Ash Wednesday Services. The services will be at 10 am at Landcross or 7 pm at St Mary's.

Stay And Play – 18 February

Stay and Play will run on Wednesday 18 February from 10-11.30 am for children under 5 and their carers (siblings up to age 8 are also welcome.) There will be lots of toys, story time, parachute games etc. It is free of charge, but a voluntary donation of £2 to cover refreshment costs would be welcome.

Finding Beauty Behind Bars – Talk and Discussion

2.30 pm on Saturday, 21 February, St Mary's Church

The Rev'd Tim Hewes will be speaking about issues of faith, the climate emergency and prison. A C of E priest and former climate change activist with Christian Climate Action, Tim was remanded in custody for alleged involvement in Just Stop Oil's direct action to close the M25 in November 2022. He spent six weeks in custody, followed by a long wait for the trial which eventually acquitted him of all charges. His talk will be based on his recently published book, which has a foreword by Gavin Collins, Bishop of Dorchester. Tim will be sharing his struggles with faith, and the challenges and unexpected moments of beauty and humanity that he encountered while navigating the harsh realities of prison life.

Free entry. For further details or enquiries contact John Hedge, 07414 255500 or hedgejohn59@gmail.com

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. The course is open to home groups and individuals and will take place on:-

<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)
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