

David's Film Night

(For those who live alone but would like to watch a film with others.) The next one will be on Thursday 26th February, 6.45 pm for 7 pm. Please let David know in church by this Sunday. Please note change of day for this month and next month.

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.

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.

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
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 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)

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)

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

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

FIRST READING: GENESIS 2.15-17; 3.1-7

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."'

But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.

Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 4.1-11

The Temptation of Jesus

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written,

"One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you",
and "On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."

Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."'

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

"Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him."

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

DATES OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Mon 23	9.30 am Holy Dusters
Wed 25	9.30 am Music Makers 3.30 pm Messy Church 7 for 7.30-9 pm Lent Course – St Mary's Church
Thurs 26	1 pm Funeral of Linda Ayres 2 for 2.30-4 pm Lent Course, Littleham Village Hall) 4-5.30 pm Crypt Youth (7-11s) 5.30 -7pm Crypt youth (12-16s)
Fri 27	11.15 am - 1 pm Friday Diner 6 pm Choir Practice
Sat 28	8 am Morning Prayer 2-4 pm St Marys Singers Rehearsal
Sun 1 Mar	9.30 am Morning Worship with Holy Communion, and Junior Church 11.15 am Encounter

UCAN Sunday - 22 February

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

Lent Course 2026

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: -

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 to the Lent Course, and whether you plan to attend at St Mary's or Littleham.