

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.

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

Rev'd Ruth Beckett

Rev'd Robin Pirrie

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

Rev'd Madeline Bray (Bishop's Licence)

Churchwardens: Sally Strutt

Justine Duhig

Parish Administrator: Debbie Crawford

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

Bell Tower Captain: Kate Wills

Church Office opening hours: 9 am–12 noon, Mon–Fri

St Mary's House, 9 Church Walk, Bideford. EX39 2BP

Email: admin@stmaryschurchbideford.org

website: www.stmaryschurchbideford.org

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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 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)

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)

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,
give us reverence for all creation,
and respect for every person,
that we may mirror your likeness
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

FIRST READING: PSALMS 136.1-6

God's Work in Creation and in History

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.
O give thanks to the God of gods,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.
O give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
who alone does great wonders,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
who by understanding made the heavens,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
who spread out the earth on the waters,
for his steadfast love endures for ever

SECOND READING: ROMANS 8.18, 22-25

Future Glory

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 6. 25-END

'Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore, do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed, your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

'So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

DATES OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Mon 9	9.30 am Holy Dusters 2 pm M.U. AGM and festive tea 7.30 pm Standing Committee Meeting - St Mary's House
Tues 10	7.30 pm Northam Choral rehearsal
Wed 11	9.30 am Music Makers
Thurs 12	4-5.30 pm Crypt Youth (7-11s), 5.30-7 pm (11-16s)
Fri 13	11.15 am -1 pm Friday Diner 6 pm Choir Practice
Sat 14	8 am Morning Prayer 10 am Treblemakers 10.30 am Holy Grounds
Sun 15	9.30 am Celtic Communion and Junior Church 11.15 am Encounter

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.

Bric-a-Brac needed for Holy Grounds Café on 14 February

Karen Johns is running a bric-a-brac stall (to raise funds for St Mary's) on Saturday 14 February at the next Holy Grounds Café between 10.30 am to 12.30 pm.

Please can you let Karen have any good quality bric-a-brac at St Mary's Office on the morning of Friday 13 February, or bring it to the Holy Grounds Café on Saturday 14 February. Thank you.

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.

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.