

Sun 29 9 am Procession with the donkey from Kingsley Statue
 9.30 am Morning Worship with Holy Communion
 11.15 am Encounter
 7 pm Excerpts from Handel's Messiah – St Mary's Singers



BIDEFORD PARISH BULLETIN

Part of the Mission Community of
 Bideford, Landcross, Littleham, Monkleigh and Weare Giffard

Today at 4 pm - New Youth Church

Today (and every fourth Sunday of the month) there will be an exciting new Youth Church starting (4-5 pm) at St Mary's Church.

This is aimed at children aged 7-14 and will include drama, music, discussions and prayer. For more information, please email brad.emily.childrenandfamilies@gmail.com

Revision to Electoral Roll

There is still time to add your name to the Electoral Roll if you are new to St Mary's in the last year, have changed address, or think you may not already be on the Roll (and are baptised and aged 16 or over.)

Please let Justine or Debbie have the forms today as the revision will take place between 22 and 30 March 2026. Forms are available in church.

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. There is a sign-up up sheet in Church so please add your name if you'd like to come, by 26 March latest.

29 March, 7 pm – Excerpts from Handel's Messiah

Please come along next Sunday, 29 March at 7 pm to hear St Mary's Singers perform Easter excerpts from Handel's Messiah, with bass soloist John Hobbs, soprano soloist Ellie Laugharne; and organist Chris Beechey; conducted by John Nixon. There will be a retiring collection for Edukid.

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
 Email: admin@stmaryschurchbideford.org
 website: www.stmaryschurchbideford.org

CCL Licence No. 41147

Our Purpose:
 TO SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD

SUNDAY 22 MARCH 2026
THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
PASSIONTIDE BEGINS
UCAN SUNDAY

8 am Said Holy Communion
 President: Rev'd Ruth Beckett
 Passion Readings

9.30 am Morning Worship with Holy Communion
 President: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore
 Passion Readings

11.15 am Encounter
 President: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore

4 pm Youth Service
 (11 am Holy Communion, Landcross – Rev'd Ruth Beckett)

SUNDAY 29 MARCH 2026
PALM SUNDAY

9 am Procession with Donkey from Kingsley Statue, then ...

9.30 am Morning Worship with Holy Communion
 President: Rev'd Claire Rose- Casemore

11.15 am Encounter

7 pm Excerpts from Handels' Messiah- St Marys Singers
 (11 am 4 Parish Communion Service with Passion Readings, 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

Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son
out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviours blood
Jesus Christ our Lord

FIRST READING: ROMANS 8.6-11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason, the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

GOSPEL READING: JOHN 11.1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So, the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.' When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to

him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So, the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So, they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

DATES OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Tues 24	11.45 am Visit from St Helens' Primary School 7.30-9.15 pm Northam Choral rehearsal
Wed 25	9.30 am Music Makers, 3.30 pm Messy Church 7 for 7.30pm Lent Course St Marys' Church
Thurs 26	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)
Fri 27	11.15 am - 1 pm Friday Diner 6 pm Choir Practice
Sat 28	8 am Morning Prayer 8.15 am Men's Breakfast 9.30 am Women's Breakfast at Brewers Fayre 10 am Treblemakers