

**Talk by John Hedge about his new book 'I Ni Che'**  
**Saturday 30 May at 2 pm**

John Hedge will be giving a talk about his new book, which celebrates 25 years of friendship and support for community projects in Mali.

The talk will be followed by a discussion and tea and coffee.

It is free entry with a collection for church funds.

**Volunteers Needed for Goodliving Bookshop**

Volunteers are urgently needed to help serve in the Goodliving Christian Bookshop on a part-time basis.

If you would be interested in a half or full day on a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday, please pop into the bookshop to find out more information.

**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  
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–Thurs 472551  
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Email: [admin@stmaryschurchbideford.org](mailto:admin@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 17 MAY 2026**  
**SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

9.30 am Celtic Communion, and Junior Church  
President: Rev'd Madeline Bray  
Talk: Rev'd Alan Glover

11.15 am Encounter

1 pm Baptism of Rory Jeffery

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

*(11 am Holy Communion, Littleham – Rev'd Ruth Beckett)*

**SUNDAY 24 MAY 2026**  
**PENTECOST**

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

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

11.15 am Encounter

*(11 am Holy Communion, Landcross – 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

Risen, ascended Lord,  
as we rejoice at your triumph,  
fill your Church on earth with power and compassion,  
that all who are estranged by sin  
may find forgiveness and now your peace,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## FIRST READING: ACTS 1.6-14

### The Ascension of Jesus

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

### Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

## GOSPEL READING: JOHN 17.1-11

### Jesus Prays for His Disciples

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the

world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

## DATES OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Tues 19	10.30 am Holy Communion 2.30 pm Reflections
Wed 20	9.30 am Music Makers 11.30 am Holy Communion at Moreton Court
Thurs 21	4-5.30 pm Crypt Youth (7-11s) 5.30-7 pm Crypt Youth (11-16s) 7.30 pm Emergency Briefing follow-up meeting
Fri 22	11.15 am -1 pm Friday Diner 6 pm Choir Practice
Sat 23	8 am Morning Prayer 10 am Treblemakers
Sun 24	8 am Said Holy Communion 9.30 am Morning Worship with Holy Communion 11.15 am Encounter

### Thanksgiving Service for Kay Roberts

#### Monday 1 June at 10.30 am in St Mary's Church

There will be a service to celebrate the life of Steve Roberts' wife, Kay, on Monday 1 June at 10.30 am at St Mary's Church. Everyone is welcome.

There will be light refreshments following the service at the back of church.

### Christian Aid Week 10-16 May

Christian Aid Week between 10-16 May is focussing this year on helping mothers in Kenya to grow fresh vegetables in urban spaces to help provide for their families.

We still have collection envelopes in church. If you are writing a cheque to put in an envelope, please make it payable to Christian Aid. Please give to Sue Jeffery or Sheenah Middle or post your envelope through the Church House letterbox.

### Pentecost

For our services on Sunday 24 May, it would be great to see people wearing something red (if you have anything) as a symbol of joy and the fire of the Holy Spirit.

### Understanding Dementia Talk - St Mary's Hall Lounge, Appledore Thursday 21 May 7-8 pm

Adam Crispin, Chair of Dementia, will be talking about dementia; what it is, common misconceptions, how dementia can affect people, and how we can best support people living with it. There will also be a Q and A session included.

Anyone who is interested is very welcome to attend.