

'Refresh' Service

Sunday 14 June – St Mary's Church

Taunton Minster Choristers will be joining with the Treblemakers and the Church Choir in St Mary's Church at 5 pm for a 'Refresh' service with a range of choral music in different styles. Not to be missed!

Also, if anyone can help serve refreshments at 4 pm to the choirs between the rehearsal and service, please can you let the office know as soon as possible.

Why Questionnaires?

At our Children's groups - questionnaires will be handed out to carers and their children. If you have a child or grandchild that does or doesn't come to Church, or comes occasionally, please would you kindly ask them to fill it in and pass it back to the office. You will find the questionnaires by the Church door.

Why are we doing this?

- 1) We haven't had a review for some time.
- 2) Our leaders/helpers will be encouraged by the positive feedback, and we will have more of a notion of what children enjoy most.
- 3) What might we be missing? What puts parents/children off? How can we make church more of an option for those who *don't* come at the moment?

Timeline: Questionnaires out on 3 June - returned by 14 June if possible (21 June at the latest) - Collating of information on 22 June - Findings taken to Children and Family leaders Meeting on 23 June to consider.

Many thanks,

Emily and Claire

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
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Church Office opening hours: 9 am–12 noon, Mon–Thurs 472551

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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 7 JUNE 2026

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9.30 am Morning Worship with Holy Communion, and Junior Church

President: Rev'd Robin Pirrie

Talk: Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore

11.15 am Encounter

(9.30 am Holy Communion, Weare Giffard – Rev'd Madeline Bray)

(11 am Morning Praise, Littleham – Sarah Cordingley)

SUNDAY 14 JUNE 2026

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8 am Said Holy Communion

President: Rev'd Ruth Beckett

10.30 am All-Age Worship with All-Age Team and

Rev'd Claire Rose-Casemore

5 pm 'Refresh' Service with Treblemakers, Church Choir and

Taunton Minster Choristers

(11 am Celtic 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

God of truth,
help us to keep your law of love
and to walk in ways of wisdom,
that we may find true life
in Jesus Christ your Son.

FIRST READING: Romans 4.13-25

That famous promise God gave Abraham—that he and his children would possess the earth — was not given because of something Abraham did or would do. It was based on God’s decision to put everything together for him, which Abraham then entered when he believed. If those who get what God gives them only get it by doing everything they are told to do and filling out all the right forms properly signed, that eliminates personal trust completely and turns the promise into an ironclad *contract!* That’s not a holy promise; that’s a business deal. A contract drawn up by a hard-nosed lawyer and with plenty of fine print only makes sure that you will never be able to collect. But if there is no contract in the first place, simply a *promise* — and God’s promise at that—you can’t break it.

This is why the fulfillment of God’s promise depends entirely on trusting God and his way, and then simply embracing him and what he does. God’s promise arrives as pure gift. That’s the only way everyone can be sure to get in on it, those who keep the religious traditions *and* those who have never heard of them. For Abraham is father of us all. He is not our racial father—that’s reading the story backward. He is our *faith* father.

We call Abraham “father” not because he got God’s attention by living like a saint, but because God made something out of Abraham when he was a nobody. Isn’t that what we’ve always read in Scripture, God saying to Abraham, “I set you up as father of many peoples”? Abraham was first named “father” and then *became* a father because he dared to trust God to do what only God could do: raise the dead to life, with a word make something out of nothing. When everything was hopeless, Abraham believed anyway, deciding to live not on the basis of what he saw he *couldn’t* do but on what God said he *would* do. And so he was made father of a multitude of peoples. God himself said to him, “You’re going to have a big family, Abraham!”

Abraham didn’t focus on his own impotence and say, “It’s hopeless. This hundred-year-old body could never father a child.” Nor did he survey Sarah’s decades of infertility and give up. He didn’t tiptoe around God’s promise asking cautiously skeptical questions. He plunged into the promise and came up strong, ready for God, sure that God would make good on what he had said. That’s why it is said, “Abraham was declared fit before God by trusting God to set him right.” But it’s not just Abraham; it’s also us! The same thing gets said about us when we embrace and believe the One who brought Jesus to life when the conditions were equally hopeless. The sacrificed Jesus made us fit for God, set us *right with God*.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 9.9-13, 18-26

The Calling of Matthew

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, ‘Follow me.’ And he got up and followed him.

And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, ‘Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?’ But when he heard this, he said, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, “I desire mercy, not sacrifice.” For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.’

A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed

While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, ‘My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.’ And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she said to herself, ‘If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.’ Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, ‘Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.’ And instantly the woman was made well. When Jesus came to the leader’s house and saw the flute-players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, ‘Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping.’ And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. And the report of this spread throughout that district.

DATES OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS

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| Mon 8 | 2 pm M.U. Meeting – Experiences of being a Vicar on Lundy
by Rev’d Madeline Bray
7.30 pm Standing Committee |
| Tues 9 | Morning – Reflections trip to Quince Honey Farm |
| Wed 10 | 9.30 am Music Makers |
| Thurs 11 | 4-5.30 pm Crypt Youth (7-11s)
5.30-7 pm Crypt Youth (11-16s) |
| Fri 12 | 11.15 am -1 pm Friday Diner
6 pm Choir Practice |
| Sat 13 | 8 am Morning Prayer
10 am Treblemakers
10.30 am St Mary’s Café and book stall
2 pm Wedding of Rebecca Fox and Karl Found |
| Sun 14 | 8 am Said Holy Communion
10.30 am All-Age Worship
5 pm ‘Refresh’ Service with combined choristers from
St Mary’s, 4 Parish Choir, Treblemakers, and Taunton
Minster. |