



ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Sunday 3 DECEMBER to Sunday 10 DECEMBER inclusive



This Month's Diary



Sat 4 November, 8.30 am MEN'S BREAKFAST

Sat 4 November, 12.30-5 pm STREAMS for ladies, Littleham Village Hall

Mon 6 November, 7.30 pm JULIAN PRAYER GROUP

Wed 8 November, 2 pm TEA WITH FRIENDS - 'Fire in the Belly the N Devon Suffragettes' with Pamela Vass

Sat 11 Nov, 10.50 am ARMISTICE service outside church

Sun 12 November, approx 11.30 am REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Mon 12 November, 2.30 pm MOTHERS' UNION - Cycling in Peru with Martin and Sue Fishleigh

Tues 14 November, CARDS FOR GOOD CAUSES start trading

Tues 14 November, 7 pm OPEN MEETING of Christians Together in Bideford & District, at Bideford Baptist Church

Mon 20 November, 7.30 pm BOOKWORMS at Maggie's

Tues 21 November, 2.30 pm REFLECTIONS for the bereaved

Wed 22 November, 3.45 pm MESSY CHURCH

Tues 28 November, 2 pm DEEPENING PRAYER

Sat 2 December, 8.30 am MEN'S BREAKFAST

Sun 3 to Sun 10 December, CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

DEADLINE for the next edition: the last Sunday of the month - contact John Henderson, email: winspens1213@gmail.com

St Mary's Church, St Mary's House, 9 Church Walk, Bideford. EX39 2BP Tel: 01237 474078
Email: admin@stmaryschurchbideford.org Website: stmaryschurchbideford.org



ST MARY'S
PARISH
CHURCH
BIDEFORD

ST MARY'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2017

Issue No 81

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders Fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who died
We shall not sleep, though poppies grown
In Flanders fields.

Lt Col John MCrae, MD, Canadian Army (1872-1918)



PASTORAL LETTER FROM REV'D CLAIRE ROSE-CASEMORE

Dear Friends,

In the last month two announcements have been made which will impact us all in our Mission Community of Bideford, Landcross, Littleham, Monkleigh and Weare Giffard.

Firstly, Rev'd Maddy Bray who is of course currently our Administrator and self-supporting Assistant Priest has been appointed as Team Vicar in the Hartland Coast Mission Community. We are delighted for Maddy as she will be able in the New Year to concentrate solely on being a Priest which is what she really wants to do. We will, however, miss her tremendously as she has been so much part of St Mary's Church family for many years. Her gifts as an Administrator have been invaluable and her pastoral care and

professional approach to everything she does has been second to none. Hopefully we will hear more about Maddy's plans in a future newsletter!

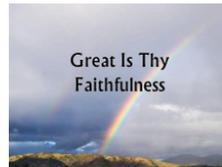
Secondly, Rev'd Marisa Cockfield has been appointed as Team Vicar for Bideford, Landcross, Littleham, Monkleigh and Weare Giffard working 50/50 between the villages and ministry in Bideford. Marisa is currently Assistant Curate at Staverton with Landscope, Littlehempston, Buckfastleigh and Dean Prior and is Curate with our very own Revd Tom Benson who was our Curate here 6 years ago.



Marisa I'm sure will introduce herself fully in a later Newsletter, but here is a brief thumbnail sketch! Marisa is married to Bernard and both her sons live in London. She is musical, playing the organ and harpsicord, and enjoys sailing. Having brought up two boys she is a keen rugby fan and cricket scorer! She has a dog called 'Mouse' who she and Bernard enjoy walking. She has current experience with the NHS and is Chaplain to the police, and you may have heard her taking the Sunday morning service on Radio Devon a time or two. As well as affirming the ministry going on in the villages and being an excellent pastor, we felt she would be able to offer Bideford a lot with her past experience in teaching, music and equality work.

Thank you for all your prayers and for those who were involved in showing the candidates around. There are many 'hellos' and 'goodbyes' in our lives, but God remains unchanging in His love for us.

"Great is Thy faithfulness," O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.



Marisa will be licensed by the Bishop of Crediton on the evening of 13 February at venue to be confirmed – so please "save the date". Madeline's licensing date will be a day earlier on the 12 February! Please continue to hold both in your prayers. We look forward to what new windows of opportunity God will open through Marisa's ministry amongst us, and hold Maddy in our thoughts and prayers too as she moves forward in ministry.

God bless you,

Revd Claire

A NOTE FROM MADDY

As Claire has said in her newsletter, I've been appointed Team Vicar to the Hartland team of churches - an appointment which I strongly felt God was calling me to, and the interview panel (of 10!) obviously agreed. Although licensed and working across all 9 parishes of that Mission Community whose Team Rector is Rev Brenda Jacobs, I shall have pastoral responsibility for *Alwington, Buckland Brewer and Parkham* - and therefore I shall be moving to Parkham Vicarage.



As it's a part time post I shall use my own home here in Bideford as a 'bolthole' at times, so you may well see me around. It's wonderful that I don't have to leave my friends behind (I'll only be 15 minutes away), let alone the doctor, dentist etc! And it's not forever: as due to my age I'll be back with you in no longer than 6 years, although obviously not in the same roles as now. Thank you all so much for your congratulations and best wishes, which I have appreciated very much. My last Sunday in St Mary's will probably be 21 or 28 January.

Work Begins on Lundy Church

Work to keep open Lundy's iconic church as a sanctuary for visitors and worshippers is underway, but more donations are needed. This work will conserve St Helen's for the future and develop it into a centre for learning and research, as well as worship - providing education facilities for the schools that come to visit Lundy's unique natural environment. The project costing £1,400,00 has benefited from grants such as from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the National Churches Trust etc, with £400,000 being raised through local fundraising.



Rev Brenda Jacobs, Team Rector, of Hartland Coast Mission Community, said "We are very grateful for the grants we have received. They have caught our vision for St Helen's which will remain as the centre of worship on the island, but will also provide a place of sanctuary, study and refreshment to all who visit Lundy. We look forward to the re-opening of the church and hearing the bells ring out once more." To donate to the project please visit www.sthelenslundy.co.uk.

DEEPENING PRAYER continues to offer different experiences of prayer using licence. This year we are having 2 or 3 monthly sessions of the same methods so we become more confident in using the practices in our regular prayer lives. Alongside this a new 'Julian' group is forming, to meet at different times so as to be more accessible to those who cannot come on Tuesdays. The first of these is on Monday 6 November, 7.30-8.30 pm in church. All welcome. Any queries to Fiona on 421079.

