

St Mary the Virgin, Clyst St Mary

St Mary's Church, Clyst St Mary, has origins that reach back many centuries. Most of the present building dates from the late medieval period, particularly the 15th century, although an earlier church almost certainly stood on the site in Norman, and possibly Saxon times. Following extensive renovation in the mid-19th century, which saw the internal arrangements rotated through 90 degrees, St Mary's is one of the few Anglican churches with an altar in the north. Architecturally, the church is a fine example of a traditional Devon parish church, with its sturdy west tower, medieval stonework, and a mixture of medieval and Victorian features. Inside are memorials and fittings that reflect centuries of local worship and village life. Unfortunately, much was lost to fire in 1991, and the repair and renovation took two years.

The church is closely associated with one of the most significant events in Devon's history: the Prayer Book Rebellion of 1549. Clyst St Mary and nearby Clyst Heath were at the centre of the conflict, which arose in response to religious reforms introduced during the reign of King Edward VI (primarily the introduction of Cranmer's Book of Common Prayer). Fierce fighting took place in the area, followed by the execution of many captured rebels.

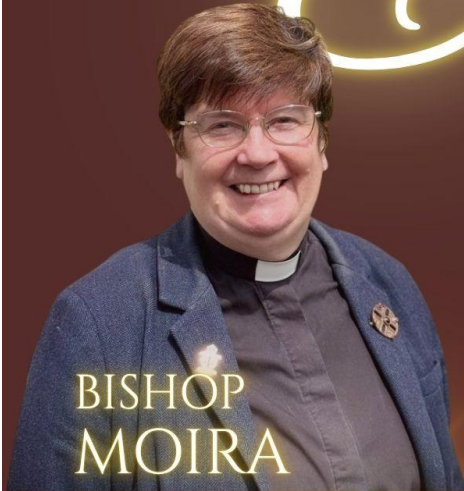
It stands at the end of Church Lane and adjacent to Winslade Manor, of which mention is recorded in the Exeter Domesday Book of 1086. The Manor House has been beautifully restored but, no longer a residence, is at the core of an office complex with a substantial car park. Even from the car park, the ancient church and its graveyard, partly obscured by trees and foliage, can easily be overlooked.

HOW TO GET THERE BY CAR

The post code of the church is EX5 1DY, but this is NOT the code to put into your satnav because it will take you to the church from the Sidmouth Road, down Church Lane. The lane is narrow and leads directly to the church, but there is no parking allowed (access is only granted to emergency vehicles), and although you can see the Winslade Manor car park beyond the hedge, you cannot gain access to it. Therefore, if you do need a postcode, you should use the Winslade Manor Restaurant and Bar postcode (EX5 1FY), which will bring you into Winslade Park from the traffic lights on the A376 (Exmouth Road) a few hundred yards from the roundabout where the Exmouth and Sidmouth roads come together.

Having turned into Winslade Park from the Exmouth Road, turn immediate right and follow Manor Drive up the hill. You will have a cricket field on your left (initially hidden by trees), but you will soon see the white Manor House ahead and slightly left. Ignore any satnav instructions to turn right but follow the road you are on as it bends left, keeping the cricket field on the left. Ahead of you will be the main car park area. If you find the Blue Zone, before parking, you will be a couple of minutes' walk away from the church. In any case, however, keeping the Manor House and Office complex on your right as you walk, exit the car park by the gate adjacent to the bicycle rack, and cross the road to the church entrance.

DEANERY EUCCHARIST SERVICE



BISHOP
MOIRA

AT ST MARY'S
CLYST ST.MARY

Hosted by Rev'd Lewis Eden and
St Mary's Churchwardens

Presiding, and preaching on
Mixed Ecology, one of the five
Diocesan Mission Priorities

WEDNESDAY
JUNE 24
7.00 PM

Free parking at
Winslade Manor car park,
EX5 1FY

ST MARY THE VIRGIN
CLYST ST.MARY

A special service for Deanery Clergy,
elected Lay Representatives and all
who live and worship within the
Aylesbeare Deanery

