

- - TEAM NOTES - -

Confirmation 2018 - Bishop Karen is to hold a confirmation service on the morning of 8th July in St Mary's for the Purbeck area. Classes are underway now and this week will be held on Wednesday 18th April from 7.00pm to 8.15pm in *The Rectory*.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING is TOMORROW Monday 16 April at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church.

Aldhelm Course - Any questions? Want to go deeper? Would you like to explore your Christian faith? Then take a look at the flier for the Aldhelm course. This local course runs for 20 weeks over three terms and gives a great opportunity for really digging deeper and travelling further in your Christian faith. If no flier is available drop an email to Revd Tony Edmonds on t.e.edmonds@btconnect.com or give him a ring on 01929 450097, or you can always read more about it on the team website, swanageteam.com which also gives information as to how to book a place for the first term.

Christian Aid Week 13th - 19th May 2018. House to House collection. We have a loyal team of collectors from St. Mary's who, last year, collected £2,321, before Gift Aid. There are two more roads to cover, one with 12 and the other with 22 houses. If you feel able to join the team we would be very grateful. Please contact Joanna Baird: joannabaird52@gmail.com or phone 07710714294.

Evensong at St Mary's - On the first Sunday of May, - Sunday 6th – we are going to start a new initiative by having an "Open" Choral Evensong. The idea is to encourage singers from around the area who enjoy singing Evensong but don't have time to make a regular commitment, to come and join us for a short rehearsal and Evensong. We are planning to do this on the first Sunday of every month. So we shall all meet at 4pm and rehearse. A cup of tea will be served at 6pm for thirsty singers before the start of Evensong at 6.30pm. Music by Smith, Stanford and Bob Chilcott will be sung at the first one. Do make a note in your diary.

Have you checked out the new team website yet? Go to: swanageteam.com

How about a trip to the Holy Land in 2019? if you've never been to the Holy Land before, it is an unforgettable experience. In September next year Revd Andrew Corke and Canon Chris Tebbutt will be leading our third pilgrimage to Israel and Jordan. We'll be taking in the Judaeen Desert, Herod's hilltop fortress of Masada, a dip in the Dead Sea, the site of Jesus' baptism on the River Jordan, Galilee, Mount Carmel, Caesarea, Bethlehem and Jerusalem. If that sounds like a lot in ten days, it isn't - Israel is a small country and there will be plenty of time for worship and reflection. The trip includes a stay at Christchurch inside the Old City of Jerusalem - and an optional extension to Jordan to see the rose red city of Petra. There's more information on the brochures which are at the back of the church today and we're arranging a meeting to tell you more about the trip. Contact Andrew on 07711 898723 or vicar@allsaints-swanage.org if you are interested in finding out more. Visiting Israel and Jordan is not a cheap holiday - but we can promise you the experience of a lifetime. Reading the Bible will never be the same again!

SWANAGE & STUDLAND

TEAM MINISTRY

St. Mary's – St. Mark's – All Saints' – St. Nicholas'
15th April 2018 ~ Easter 3

Acts 3: 12-19; Luke 24: 36b-48

Throughout the Easter Season we read not only the Gospel accounts of the resurrection appearances of Jesus, we are also directed by the lectionary to read from the Acts of the Apostles, and this is the instruction that occurs throughout these weeks: I quote, "*The reading from Acts must be used as either the first or second reading.*"

Users of the lectionary, which gives us readings for Sundays and weekdays throughout the year, rarely find ourselves with a "must" instruction. We know that the Gospel is there to be read, but usually there is choice, when only one other reading is used, between an Old Testament lesson and a reading from the Epistles, and sometimes there is more than one option from each too. But, for these days we observe the "must"; we read from Acts as directed, and we ask ourselves the question, "Why are we doing this?" or, to put it another way, "What is special about these verses from the Acts of the Apostles that they are essential reading for the Easter Season?"

The answer is simple and obvious when we think about it, and take the draconian 'must' of the lectionary for what it is: as intelligent and wise guidance; rather than with the pique of "Why should I be told what I *must* read?" Let us take today's account as an example: Peter and John have witnessed the healing of the lame man in the Temple. The man is leaping about and praising God and clinging to the two Apostles as we enter the story at verse 12. As the account unfolds we hear Peter witnessing to the risen Christ, and that it is *he* that has healed the man and given him the strength to walk, not John and Peter.

Next Sunday we will hear a further part of this story as Peter is questioned by the high priests as to how the man was healed. Again, Peter is given the opportunity to speak of the risen Christ, and his power to restore and make whole. Gradually, as the Acts readings between Easter and Ascension develop, there is more and more evidence that Christ is alive and active and working in the young Church. Now, clearly, these are post-Pentecost stories, and we shall hear of the coming of the Holy Spirit soon, going back to the beginning of the Acts for that reading; but the effect, the outcome, is bound up so closely with the risen life of Christ that we see the positive sense that these accounts are a 'must' for us on these Sundays, and why we are directed to read them now.

John Mann