

- - TEAM NOTES - -

“All things Bright and Beautiful” continues each Tuesday at 2.30pm, in St Mary’s with accompanying activities and fellowship suitable for people living with dementia, memory loss or other special needs, their families and carers.

Opening Organ Recital at St Mary’s

Thursday 28th June at 7.30pm,
with Dr Gordon Stewart, Borough Organist, Kirklees
Tickets £10 - on the door or from the Parish Office

Date for your Diary – This year’s **Swanage Parish Fete** is on Saturday, 21st July from 12 noon until 4pm in St Mary’s Church and grounds.

The Oberammergau Passion Play 17th – 24th June 2020. It seems a long way off, but if you are interested in seeing the Oberammergau Passion Play in 2020, then you will need to think about it fairly soon. I do hope to take a party from Swanage, but will need to see if it is going to be viable within the next couple of months. I have 25 tickets reserved and a number of people have expressed interest. Please do say to me if you are thinking of coming. There are brochures in all 4 churches with plenty of information in them. *John Mann*

Flourish, the eco-therapy programme at Livability Holton Lee, needs more sessional workers to be recruited to the bank of available staff. We are particularly looking for people with woodworking, gardening or other practical skills. Candidates must be easy going with a positive attitude and a good sense of humour, flexible and adaptable, a good communicator with excellent listening and empathy skills. You need to be confident to facilitate activity sessions with a group and enable Flourish participants to succeed and achieve. The roles are paid, but are not for fixed hours, typically 5-6 hours at a time. We draw on sessional staff as required to ensure staffing levels are appropriate for the number of participants and the activities that are scheduled for the day. Currently sessions are open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays but expansion is envisaged over the next six months. Interested candidates should email ebrowning@livability.org.uk for more information and an application form.

A special opportunity to find out more about Israel – on Thursday 5th July we have Dr Garth Gilmour visiting Swanage. Garth is the Executive Director of CMJ Israel (CMJ is the Church’s Ministry amongst Jewish People). Israel is rarely out of the headlines and Garth, who trained as a biblical archaeologist and is a fluent Hebrew speaker, will be sharing with us about the work of CMJ and what God is doing in Israel right now. This will be a brilliant opportunity to hear from someone with huge experience on the ground to discover more about the Holy Land – the meeting is at All Saints starting at 7.30, refreshments from 7.15. There are flyers at the back of church with more information.

SWANAGE & STUDLAND

TEAM MINISTRY

St. Mary’s – St. Mark’s – All Saints’ – St. Nicholas’
17th June 2018 ~ Trinity 3

Mark 4: 26-34

There may be a few gardeners amongst us that will give a wry smile (or even a grimace) at the first parable of today’s Gospel, which gives the impression that a crop can be grown, even through the secret hours of darkness, without ploughing, harrowing and weeding; without feeding, protecting or watering; all the man in the parable does is scatter seed and then puts in the sickle when the harvest has come. Having lost most of a double row of runner beans, at least half of the French beans and more young lettuce plants than I care to count, I am not so sure that “the earth produces of itself”.

So why is the carefree nature of this harvest stressed? No drought; no storm; no struggle. There seem to be two possible explanations: either, Jesus is encouraging his readers not to be anxious, as with the birds of the air and the lilies of the field in Matthew chapter 6, or he is referring back to the Parable of the Sower which occurs earlier in chapter 4 of Mark, and that this man *was deliberately sowing in good, well-prepared soil* that would readily give him the crop promised in that parable.

I think that on balance that it is probably the latter. Jesus is called upon to do the sowing, admittedly with a confident approach, but, at the same time, he is encouraging his new followers to approach with an expectant attitude the building of the life of the Kingdom; building on God’s promises, with hearts ready - like the good soil - affecting our thinking and feeling, our doing and our speaking - becoming good soil for the seed/word is thus becoming second nature - and God will give the growth.

Yes, it is carefree, but not irresponsible; yes, we are not to be anxious, but at the same time we must be alert and ready - and then day or night, sleeping or waking, we are constantly aware that the Father’s work is being done; nothing can stop it, and there will be a great harvest! Guaranteed.

John Mann