

- - 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.

Pulpit Exchange - Sunday 25th November

The Churches in Swanage and district are - once again this year - having a pulpit swap. It is not necessarily always possible for all four Anglican Churches to receive a visit from another church minister or priest, but we have confirmed that the Reverend Chris Moreton, Swanage Methodist Minister is to preach in All Saints’, Michelle Oliver from the Salvation Army is to preach in St Nicholas’, the Reverend John Staples is to preach in St Edward’s and I am going to the Salvation Army.

John Mann

P.S. St Mary’s and St Mark’s will be back in the frame next year!

Thursday 22nd November at 6.30pm. A vigil service with candles and prayers is to be held for Darcy May Elm, and prayers said for her injured parents Daniel and Danielle in St Mary’s Church. Family and friends, conscious of support being offered by many people, would like us all to gather for this short service, united in love and concern. Do feel free to come and please let others know. John Mann.

‘Church Alive!’ the Swanage Parish magazine December/January issue will be available from the back of our churches as from next Wednesday (21st November).

Saturday 1st December, 10.30am-12.00pm: Saturday Morning Fun for Primary School Children, St Mary's Church - Bring your children or grandchildren and join us for the next Explore event "Countdown to Christmas". There will be seasonal crafts - including making an advent calendar - a story and lots of singing. Come and have fun! Free tea/coffee/biscuits for parents & carers.

Purbeck Evening Praise: *The Influence Tour* – Sunday 25th November, 6.00pm at All Saints Church. *Please pick up a flyer at the back of church for more details.*

Christmas Day Lunch - following the success of last year's lunch, Link Visiting are hoping to provide Christmas Day lunch for people living on their own. Emmanuel is kindly offering their premises, but they need volunteers willing to prepare food, prepare the room, wait at table, wash up, clear up and collect guests. Please can you spare some time to do one of these tasks? Please let Alan Dominy know at Link Visiting so they know if this is possible – call 07495 534171 or email Alan on swanage@linkinglives.uk. Thank you very much.

Funeral/Thanksgivings in our churches this week:

Mrs Violet Taylor	Mon 19 th	11.00am	St Mary’s
Mrs Margaret Gibson	Fri 23 rd	12 noon	St Mary’s

SWANAGE & STUDLAND TEAM MINISTRY

**St. Mary’s – St. Mark’s – All Saints’ – St. Nicholas’
18th November 2018 ~ 2 before Advent**

Mark 13: 1-8

The four fishermen-disciples, called (in last Sunday’s Gospel) from their nets, today find themselves in a private meeting with Jesus. Those who have stood on the Mount of Olives can imagine quite well the scene. It is a panorama in fact, as the whole of the old city of Jerusalem lies in view on the opposite hillside, across the Kidron valley.

Mark tells us that Peter and Andrew and James and John are sitting alone with Jesus and are looking at the temple which would have dominated the view in from of them. They would have been conscious of the people, and perhaps the noise too, floating across from the temple precincts, but more than anything what was on their minds was our Lord’s response to the whole group of the disciples to the remark by one of them of, “Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!”. Jesus had said in all of their hearing, “Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another, that will not be thrown down.”

Then we read that Jesus sat down with the four and they talked alone about it. He spoke of the turmoil to come, and of the rumourmongering and division which was to be part of this coming crisis, and of the signs of things to come. The whole of chapter 13 forms a passage that was drawing the disciples to contemplate what the Christian Church looks upon as the ‘end time’, and its signs: war, earthquake and cosmic disturbance, in much the same way as the Jewish tradition in Jesus’ day would have anticipated a close of the age.

However, there was a more immediate interpretation of turmoil, with the imminent crisis which ensued from the madness of Caligula in putting a statue of himself in the temple in about AD 40. In all likelihood Jesus is speaking prophetically of this happening, both here and in verses 14 to 20, whilst Mark has put this all into the context of the future return of the Son of Man. It is an interweaving of two things, both of which, in their own way, would have been disturbing. For us they are a conscious marking of the beginning of something new happening at a critical moment: the birth of Jesus, the appearance of John the Baptist; the Passion of Christ, and, yes, the anticipation of the return of Christ in glory, all caused disturbance. We are entering the last days of this Christian Year and the Scriptures chosen for today reflect this consummation.

John Mann