

# - - 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.

An 'Ah in the Month' - the next meeting of the poetry group comes along very shortly, meeting in All Saints Church Hall at 2.00 pm on **19th February**. Do join us then, and bring your poems - on the theme: **'Moon and Stars'**.

**New Electoral Roll.** If you are currently on the Electoral Roll, and have not yet collected your letter, please do so TODAY. They must be returned to the Parish Office by 14th March at the latest. It contains an invitation to join the new Electoral Roll and an application form for you to complete. We would also like you to sign the Additional Information box so that we can contact you about parish matters.. Application forms are also available in church for new members to complete. If you have any queries, please send them to me at the Parish Office, St Mary’s Rooms, Church Hill, Swanage BH19 1HU. Tel. 421117. Thank you for your co-operation. *Danny Smith, ER Officer*

**'Explore' Saturday Morning Fun for Primary School Children. Saturday 2nd March, 10.30am-12.00pm in St Mary's.** Bring your kids or grandchildren and join us for craft, interactive stories and magic from the brilliant Kevin Burke all exploring what it might be like to spend 40 days and nights in the wilderness with nothing to eat or drink. What would it be like to have nothing? Come and find out... If anyone has any food, clothing or toy catalogues/magazines they would like to donate for use at this event, please give them to Hatty Fawcett by Sunday 24th Feb - or leave them in the children's area at the back of church. Many thanks!

**Soup Lunch** - Following the World Day of Prayer service in St. Mary's on Friday 1st March, the *Swanage Bible Society* invite you to enjoy a soup lunch in the Rectory Classroom, Church Hill from 12.00 Noon to 1.30 p.m. Anyone is welcome to the lunch - donations towards the ministry of Bible Society around the world.

**Wave Coffee Morning** - Come along on Saturday 23rd February to Swanage Methodist Church for the Wave Coffee Morning from 10.30 to 12.00. There will be lots of good coffee (and tea), home made cakes, some games and puzzles, and an opportunity to find out more about the work of the Wave. The event is completely free - all are welcome.

**Wave Prayer Breakfast** - we are moving the monthly Wave Prayer meetings from the afternoon to the morning. We will be meeting for breakfast on the first Thursday of every month at 8.30 at the Salvation Army lower hall. As well as praying for the Wave there will be good coffee, croissants and toast. The first breakfast meeting will be on Thursday 7th March.

**Space Academy**, is the new after-school club run by Wave Kids at St Mark’s School, on Friday afternoons, 3:15-4:15pm. We need people to hand out refreshments, help children cut out spaceships and encourage them to join in with the games. Age is no barrier, but, for child protection purposes, we will need to do a DBS check for anyone who signs up to help. If you'd like to find out more, contact Rob Foster on 01929 [421772/rob@wavekids.org.uk](mailto:421772/rob@wavekids.org.uk). Come and join the fun!

# SWANAGE & STUDLAND TEAM MINISTRY

St. Mary’s – St. Mark’s – All Saints’ – St. Nicholas’  
17<sup>th</sup> February 2019 ~ 3 before Lent

**Jeremiah 17: 5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15: 12-20; Luke 6: 17-26**

There is an embarrassment of riches in the readings appointed for today, but my eye is caught by verse 8 of Jeremiah chapter 17, which looks like an expanded copy of Psalm 1 verse 3. But then again, maybe the psalmist is creating a precis of what the writer of Jeremiah had penned earlier. We don't really know which came first, but they are remarkably similar, speaking as they do of the tree planted by the waterside.

This is a gorgeous image of what it means to trust God, and both writers, either independently or getting their inspiration from the other, find comfort in contemplating this tree. Jeremiah speaks of the tree rooting itself in the bank of the stream, so it is able to draw water even in the hottest of weather and in conditions of drought. Its leaves remain green and it continues to bear fruit. The psalmist, in parallel, envisages the season for fruiting and the tree that will not fail in its time.

The psalm, but even more so the verses from Jeremiah, compare the lush growth and fruitfulness of the well-watered tree with the barren dryness of the desert, and even extending this, in the case of the prophet's words, picturing the inhospitable environment of the uninhabited land of salt - surely referring to the area around the Dead Sea.

The Gospel for today brings us a greater sense of place, even than these striking images of trees by water, contrasted with barren desert and salt encrusted sand, for Jesus having called his twelve disciples, after praying on the mountainside, comes down onto the plain and speaks and heals and is touched physically and metaphorically by the needs of many people. Luke speaks of power going forth from Jesus; of him lifting up his eyes and addressing those before him with inspired words of beatitude - of supreme blessing - of promise and fulfilment and hope.

John Mann