

- - TEAM NOTES - -

Dorset Historic Trust's Ride & Stride Saturday 8th September – This event involves cycling or walking between Dorset's many churches. Would you be willing to take part? The sponsorship monies received will be divided between the Trust and the church you attend - St. Mary's, St. Mark's, St. Nicholas' or All Saints'. Full details of which churches in Dorset are participating are available from your Churchwardens or Margaret Chinchen (425224).

“**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.

EVENTS NEXT SUNDAY:

Annual Lifeboat Service - Sunday 19th August at 6.00pm. To be held at the Lifeboat House (not at Swanage Pier as in previous years). Service led by Revd Tony Higgins and The Very Revd John Mann will be preaching. As in previous years, there will be no Evensong at St Mary's Church on that evening.

Presentation by Wave – over the course of the next few weeks the Wave Team is going to visit all of the churches in Swanage. Next Sunday (19th Aug) they are coming to St Mary's to tell everyone about plans for the future and current work. This will take place at coffee time after the 10.30am service.

Kyle Ingram - Many of us will know Kyle Ingram who has been one of the Wave Kids interns this last year. Kyle is being baptised on Sunday 19th August and he would very much like his friends from other churches to come along. The service will be at All Saints starting at 10.30. But the baptism itself will be by immersion in the sea starting at 12.15. We hope this will give everyone sufficient time to come along after other morning services. We'll be meeting on the beach just below the Grand Hotel. Feel free to join us, and please pray for Kyle as he prepares for this important moment in his life.

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. I have 25 tickets reserved and just over half of them are booked. Please do say to me if you are thinking of coming. There are brochures in all four churches with plenty of information in them. John Mann

The third term of the Aldhelm course starts on 4th Sept. We shall be thinking about faith in a world of work. If you are interested in the course, do pick up a flier from the back of church or get in touch with Revd. Tony Edmonds on t.e.edmonds@btconnect.com or 01929 450097.

SWANAGE & STUDLAND TEAM MINISTRY

St. Mary's – St. Mark's – All Saints' – St. Nicholas'
12th August 2018 ~ Patronal Festival

John 6: 35, 41-51

Two different sets of lectionary readings are in use today, as St Mary's follows those for the Blessed Virgin Mary, for its patronal festival, whilst St Nicholas' and St Mark's have the readings for this Sunday, continuing a progress over several weeks of the sixth chapter of St John's Gospel.

Today this chapter has reached the verses concerning the reaction of the religious establishment to our Lord's description of himself as “The Bread of Life”, and his subsequent explanation of what this heavenly food amounts to. Jesus refers his listeners to human need and divine providence by drawing a parallel with the Children of Israel in the wilderness, wandering in hunger; and the provision by God of manna, upon which they fed.

This was a particularly emotive picture for Jesus to paint because it focused not just on what the gift from heaven fulfilled, but, even before this was given, how they imagined the state of mind of the people to have been reached. They had gone through questioning and the weighing up of the needs and desires of the whole company of the Exodus host. Then God provided.

In these verses before us this morning Jesus indicates that what he gives in himself, as the Bread of Life, is an entirely encompassing life that requires no topping up or replacement. Our Lord gives for eternity; he draws us to himself; he raises us with him; he brings understanding to the listening and teaching to those whose hearts are hungry for Good News. This is a heavenly food, conveying eternity in the very life of Christ himself.

John Mann