



THE SWANAGE & STUDLAND TEAM MINISTRY

PARISH PROFILE & INFORMATION FOR THE POST OF TEAM VICAR

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1. INTRODUCTION TO THE TEAM MINISTRY

Inaugurated in 1986, the Team Ministry covers the contrasting parishes of Swanage and Studland. The full-time staff consist of the team rector, team vicar (vacant), and lay youth minister; there is a part-time non-stipendiary assistant curate; there are several active clergy with permission to officiate, including retired ministers and others in full-time secular employment, and two licensed lay ministers. A stipendiary assistant curate is expected to join the ministry team in summer 2010. There are also voluntary lay pastoral assistants in each of the churches. It is likely that the Team Ministry will enlarge to take responsibility for other village communities in the near future. The ethos of the Team is for strongly collaborative ministry and shared responsibility.

A parish secretary and accounts administrator, both part-time, give administrative support and the parish office offers comprehensive reprographic facilities.

The total electoral roll (2009) for Swanage and Studland is 563.

Swanage and Studland make up the eastern part of the Isle of Purbeck, bounded by the World Heritage Jurassic Coastline and Poole Harbour. Their setting is outstandingly beautiful with wide sandy beaches, white cliffs and headlands. There is a great variety of coastal and ridge paths and bridle ways including the national South West Coastal Path and local Purbeck Way trails. The many local organisations make for a lively cultural life. Poole and Bournemouth, 12 miles away by ferry, offer excellent shopping and entertainment facilities, university and college education, and extensive hospital care. Swanage has a purpose-built Health Centre with a group practice, including a strong Primary Health Care team. The small but busy Swanage Community Hospital has strong local support, and provides palliative and recuperative care, minor surgery, and a variety of specialist clinics.

Although Swanage gives a general impression of affluence, the Herston area, served principally by St Mark's Church and School, is one of the poorest areas of Dorset. Geographical insularity and the popularity of Swanage for retirement and second homes have implications for the affordability of property and the availability of employment and these are matters which local government and community organisations continually seek to address. A new industrial/commercial enterprise site is under construction and there is a number of small areas of commercial and light industrial businesses.

Because of falling rolls, the local schools are subject to a review, now nearing its conclusion. The three-tier system will become two-tier from September 2012, the three First Schools (including St Mark's VA Church of England School on a new site) becoming 5-11 primaries and feeding into the 11-18 upper school, The Purbeck School, at Wareham. Purbeck Heights is an important centre for the teaching and care of young people with autism and Harrow House is a centre for teaching English as a foreign language.

The population of Swanage is around 10,100 (with about 1700 under 18 and 3000 over 65) growing to 30,000 in the summer.

2. TEAM MANAGEMENT

The Parish of Swanage

Swanage is a single parish, with the three churches all having parish church status within it. The congregations are eclectic, reflecting preference for tradition or ethos and in many cases long family connections. Swanage PCC has 20 members drawn from the three churches. It meets every two months, with the Standing & Finance Committee meeting two weeks beforehand. The three churches share financial resources and management under the auspices of the PCC.

Each of the Swanage Churches also has two churchwardens and its own Church Committee to manage the day-to-day life of the individual churches as delegated by Swanage PCC.

The Parish of Studland

Studland PCC oversees the life of St Nicholas' Church and meets six times a year. It appoints the trustees to the Studland Church Lands Trust, giving access to significant funds enabling support for the life of St Nicholas' Church. The Trust is also able to apply funds to wider Team projects such as youth ministry and administrative resources.

Team Council

The Council consists of the eight churchwardens and licensed clergy (currently team rector, team vicar and assistant curate); it meets three times a year with an open agenda to discuss matters of common interest or concern. It has particular responsibility when the team rector's post is vacant.

Chapter Meetings

The licensed clergy meet each Monday morning; on a monthly basis they are joined by the active ordained and lay ministers – retired and PTO clergy, Readers, and Youth Minister. Approximately bi-monthly meetings are held with the clergy of the neighbouring benefices of Langton Matravers and Corfe Castle. The Purbeck Deanery licensed clergy meet and share lunch monthly on a Monday.

3. THE POST OF TEAM VICAR

The post became vacant at the end of 2009 with the move of Revd Will Watts to another post, after sixteen years with responsibility for All Saints' and Studland. The Reverend Wendy Fellingham was appointed to undertake leadership of All Saints until a new Team Vicar could be found.

The opportunity provided by the vacancy has enabled redefinition of the responsibility of the Team Vicar in recognition of the major significance that All Saints' has within the Team. The person appointed will be firstly responsible for leadership at All Saints' but will play a part with all the clergy of the Team Ministry in the leading of worship and ministry throughout the Team churches. It is hoped that special skills and interests the appointee may bring will be used to benefit all the Team churches and communities - for example in hospital or schools ministry, in mission development or the training of pastoral ministers.

In further recognition of the major rôle of All Saints', an excellent house is being purchased nearby to replace the vicarage at Studland.

A comprehensive consultation process with the congregation of All Saints' has identified the qualities and character of an ideal candidate:

- Is a person of prayer with a passion for God, open to the leading of the Spirit
- Has an evangelical approach and a heart for mission, caring for all in the wider community
- Has an understanding and respect for the various traditions and backgrounds currently embraced by All Saints, who will work to maintain the unity of a church family that shares a rich diversity of spirituality, including both informal and liturgical worship
- Makes a ministry of healing and wholeness a priority
- Brings gifts of communication and teaching, whose preaching will be Bible-based, encouraging us to embrace afresh its rich and lively message
- Will work in close collaboration with colleagues in the Team Ministry and in the wider Deanery, committed to chapter meetings and agreed policies
- Who is a leader who leads but also encourages others to take responsibility for ministry, recognising others' gifting and valuing their contribution
- Who feels at home with young and old, is willing to listen and to identify and respond to their needs
- Who will bring fresh ideas, is adaptable, willing to think "outside the box" and take risks
- Who recognises the importance of a ministry that upholds family life
- Is a "saint" – and enthusiastic to join with All Saints'!

All the Team churches welcome clergy of either gender and both male and female priests currently exercise ministry within the Team and across the Deanery.

4. PROFILE: THE PARISH CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS

Electoral Roll – 151

1. General

The Church had its origins in 1915 in a redundant Army Hut, an outreach initiative by the Parish Church of St Mary to serve the growing community of North Swanage. The present building was consecrated in 1956 and the adjoining hall and associated facilities were completed in 2002. The Hall has an excellent kitchen and is extensively hired by regular and casual outside users. Alpha courses and House Groups and a modern style of worship have attracted new Church members. Holiday visitors frequently add to the congregation's numbers. Our worship, broadly evangelical with a mixture of traditional and modern services, caters for a range of needs; we are making extensive use of the newly installed Audio Visual Unit. There is a significant charismatic element among the congregation. The church has a pipe organ, electronic piano and a very strong, popular music group. There are two Churchwardens and two Deputy Wardens and a Verger who looks after occasional offices.

2. Pattern of Services

a) Communion Services

		<u>Average</u>
Sunday 8am	BCP - 3 services per month	27
Sunday 10.30am	Holy Communion (Common Worship - 1 Sunday per month)	85
Wednesday 10am	BCP - Each week	10
Christmas Eve 9pm		63
New Year's Eve		50

b) Other Services

Sunday 8am	Morning Devotion – 1 per month	12
Sunday 10.30	Morning Worship- 2 per month	90
Sunday 10.30	All Age Worship - 1 per month	90
Sunday 7.00 p.m.	Informal Worship - 1 per month	50

Annual Services:

Christingle Service	200
Carol Service	200
Team Services	120
“Churches Together” Services	150

c) Occasional Offices

Funerals	8
Baptisms	Nil
Weddings	1

3. **Church Organisations**

These include:

- a. Junior Church during 10.30am service first 3 Sundays of each month, except August (remaining services are 'all age'). Average attendance 6 out of 12 on roll. Two leaders from rota of seven. Young people (IGNITE) meet 3 Sunday mornings at 9.00am for breakfast, informal group worship and preparation for presentations at 10.30 am. Morning Worship
- b. Toddler group, weekly during term time. 8-20 toddlers, one leader, two helpers from rota of three.
- c. Banner group weekly - five people.
- d. Coffee Pot meets every week, aiming to reach out to the community, "not a club - more a café" - average attendance 30
- e. Prayer Ministry Team.
- f. Saturday morning prayer hour
- g. Prayer Chain
- h. Monthly Communion at two residential homes (Clifftop, and York House)
- i. Pastoral Team of 11 of which 5 are LPAs
- j. A small licensed adult team assist in administration of the Holy Communion.
- k. House groups. Six meeting weekly (plus one joint with Studland) involving about 51 from All Saints'.
- l. Numerous social activities, organised and led by an "Events Committee"
- m. Stewards, readers, lay intercessors and flower arrangers Church on a rota basis
- n. Music Group Practice

Some Community Groups hiring the Church Buildings

Regular Users

Purbeck View School
Swanage U3A
Belvedere Singers
Pilates Group

Swanage French Circle
Ullwell Women's Institute
Swanage Bridge Club
Blood Donor Service

Occasional Users

Wessex Court Management
Ballard Estate Management
Purbeck Railway Circle
Dorset LDWA Group (Walkers)
RNLI
Lions Club of Swanage
Friends of Swanage Practice
Frequent children's birthday parties

Suncliffe Court Management
Dorset County Council (Elections)
East Dorset Ramblers
The Wild Flower Society
Purbeck Strings
Weldmar Hospice Trust
Daybreak

5. BRIEF PROFILES OF THE OTHER TEAM CHURCHES

PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARK, HERSTON & ST MARK'S CEVA FIRST SCHOOL

Electoral Roll – 68

St. Mark's Church serves the Herston area, which forms the western part of Swanage. There is a mixture of council and private housing, as well as a large proportion of holiday accommodation. There is also a higher percentage of young families - with pockets of social deprivation – living in this part of Swanage. The congregation is drawn from various parts of Swanage but continues to have a strong identity as the local village church at Herston.

St. Mark's has an open catholic tradition. Worship is mainly Eucharistic (CW1), vestments are worn and the Sacrament is reserved. The Imposition of Ashes forms part of the Ash Wednesday Liturgy and the Vigil and Service of Light is held on Easter Eve; incense is sometimes used at these and other special services. There is a pipe organ and a robed choir and a team of licensed communion assistants with lay pastoral assistants and other lay ministers taking a full part in the liturgy and in pastoral care. There is an 'All Age Worship' service once a month, sometimes non-eucharistic.

A church committee of twelve meets bi-monthly to hear reports and discuss issues relating to St. Mark's Church. Meetings are chaired by the Team Rector and Churchwardens on a rotating basis.

There are good links with local Methodists who attend Evensong at St. Mark's once a month during the Spring to Autumn period. A Mother and Toddler Group meets once a week in the Church room and is run by CRB checked staff and committee from the Pre-School. Also, a monthly Prayer meeting is held on every second Monday evening and there is a varied social programme organised by members of the Social Committee.

St. Mark's congregation are friendly, dedicated, adaptable and supportive with a strong sense of community. The Team Ministers look after the spiritual and pastoral needs of the church on a rota basis as St. Mark's does not have a resident priest.

St. Mark's School is a voluntary-aided First School (5-9 years) adjacent to St. Mark's Church with a door directly from the school into the church grounds. 97 children, in five teaching groups, attend the school at present. The children attend church for one weekday assembly every half term and for Harvest and Christmas services.

Good links exist between the School and Church and the Chair of Governors, Head Teacher, Team Rector and Churchwardens are in the process of formulating a service that it is hoped will encourage the children and parents to attend church on a more regular basis. Clergy and Lay members of the Team and of Churches Together in Swanage lead a weekly assembly in the school on a rota basis.

St. Mark's Pre-School meets in the old Herston Reading Room, which is sited next to St. Mark's School. The group, whilst not a specific Church group, is supported by and has good links with St. Mark's Church and holds a Christmas Service each year at St. Mark's.

An After School Club has recently begun to meet in St. Mark's School where the children enjoy craft, stories and games. The Club is led by the Chair of Governors and Church Committee Secretary and it is hoped that it will provide an eventual link into the All Age Worship service.

Church Attendance (2009) :

Weekly attendance (average)	45
Easter Day	53

Other Services

Weddings	3
Funerals & Thanksgivings	7
Baptisms	10

**PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN
Electoral Roll - 237**

Buildings

Situated near the centre of the town, St Mary's was rebuilt in 1860, incorporating the existing 14th century tower, and the north transept and second nave were added in 1907/8. It is the largest public building in the town, accommodating up to 500 people. St Mary's has excellent acoustics and is a popular venue for concerts and recitals. Civic and community services are held here and it is often referred as "Swanage Parish Church". A longstanding choral tradition enhances the main services and the excellent organ is used for a popular series of summer organ recitals. St Aldhelm's Chapel in the North Transept is used for small services including the daily Morning Office. The Tower has a fine peal of 8 bells and an excellent band of ringers. The north side of the Church is a flexible area able to accommodate events as varied as the harvest supper and barn dance and recent hustings for the general election.

The Rectory Classroom adjacent to St Mary's has been recently refurbished and offers a meeting room with kitchen, toilet and storage space.

St Mary's Rooms, at the West End of the Church, has the Parish Office on the first floor, with a meeting room (normally used to store staging), a kitchen, and toilets, at ground level.

Worship

Regular Sunday worship consists of CW1, said at 8am (average attendance 14) and choral at 10.30am (121), with BCP Choral Evensong at 6.30pm (37). There is an annual Civic Service for Swanage Town Council and ecumenical services include the Remembrance Sunday Service and the Town Carol Service at Christmas, each attracting between 300 and 400 people. The popular annual Swanage Folk Festival Service was attended by 452 people in September 2009.

Morning Prayer is said in St Mary's at 8am every day except Sunday; there is a service of Holy Communion in the Chapel on Wednesdays at 11am

Church and Community Organisations

Groups and activities directly connected with the Church include the Pastoral Care Team, Prayer Circle, and Children's Ministry group, St Mary's Choir, Bellringers, servers and lay communion assistants, Noah's Ark weekly toddler group and the monthly Tuesday Group, which has an annual programme of speakers. TPot meets weekly as a community-focused gathering that provides refreshment and companionship.

Community Groups that regularly hire the Church buildings include the Whist Club, Blind Club, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Club, Wine Makers' Circle, Camera Club, Film Circle, Swanage Museum, Swanage Railway and Purbeck Strings for violin & viola lessons.

Concerts and recitals are held throughout the year in the Church.

PARISH CHURCH OF ST NICHOLAS', STUDLAND **Electoral Roll – 103**

The Village

Studland is a dispersed village covering a large geographical area in relation to its population. There are approximately 450 residents of whom about 60 are children, who attend school in Swanage, Wareham, or Bournemouth.

There is a diverse social profile with some residents born and bred in the village and others resident for many years, and some who have arrived recently. There is a significant number of affluent residents, some with their second home in Studland, but also many on low incomes. Local employment is largely with the National Trust, tourism and agriculture; many residents work in Poole, Bournemouth, or elsewhere in Purbeck.

Despite the geographical dispersion and the social diversity, there is a strong sense of community in the village. A new village hall was built in 2005 after a long fund-raising campaign. The new hall is widely used for both sporting and social activities and is equipped to a high standard.

Studland is set amid particularly beautiful countryside and coastline. The National Trust is a significant local presence and is involved in the upkeep of the village in addition to the beach and maintenance of the nationally important heathland reserve. There is a village shop and post office, which plays an important part in the life of the village. There are two hotels and a pub. The village and Studland beach attract many thousands of visitors each year.

The Church and Congregation

St Nicholas' is a beautiful Norman Church listed in Simon Jenkins' "Thousand Best English Churches". It is set in an ancient churchyard, which is of great interest to the Dorset Wildlife Trust. The small Church Hall is used by the church and village organisations.

There is a small but committed congregation and the Church fills at festivals. There is a modest but enthusiastic choir and able organist. The electoral roll has 103 members of which 25 are non-resident. There is also a significant number of people who attend the church when visiting their holiday homes, of which there are about 50 in the village.

Ministry and Worship

A resident, non-stipendiary priest, Tony Higgins, shares pastoral and liturgical ministries with the Team clergy and lay ministers. There is a mixture of BCP and Common Worship with a weekly Sunday morning service at 9.45 and additional services at special seasons. In 2009 there were 5 baptisms, 9 weddings and 6 funerals.

6. A VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF THE TEAM

The Swanage community has many strengths including an above-average proportion of churchgoers and strong ecumenical relationships, exemplified by the Christian Centre & Bookshop in the town centre. The local community is close-knit and resistant to change; its insular situation allows some protection from contemporary cultural problems, though its isolation engenders both privilege for the better-off and deprivation for those unable to find work or affordable accommodation. The Team Ministry seeks to serve all sections of the community regardless of social status and through the occasional offices and family support, through youth ministry, Alpha courses, hospital chaplaincy and engagement with the schools, especially St Mark's School, to identify and respond to the most pressing needs of individuals. We seek also to exercise a ministry appropriate to the nature of the wider community, differentiating between the needs of town and village, but sharing the skills and resources of each. It is likely that in the near future the Team Ministry will have care of neighbouring churches and communities, as fewer stipendiary clergy are available for parochial ministry.

There is a need to address the appropriateness of our Sunday traditions, to train and support ongoing teams of lay ministers for worship and pastoral care, to identify skills within our congregations and to encourage a greater participation and contribution to the life of the wider community.

We hope that the person appointed to the post of Team Vicar will play a full part in this work but also bring new vision, direction and energy to the life not only of All Saints' Church but also of the Team Ministry and Purbeck Deanery.

7. FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information, including recent annual reports and financial statements, is available from the Team Rector, Revd John Wood, at The Parish Office, St Mary's Rooms, Church Hill, Swanage, BH19 1HU or john.s.wood@btinternet.com