

WELCOME TO ST MARK'S CHURCH

Bell Street, Swanage, BH19 2SA



THIS SUNDAY: 1st February – Presentation of Christ

10am Holy Communion *Rev Dave Richards*

Bible Theme: Malachi 3.1-5 Hebrews 2.14-18 Luke 2.22-40

Followed by Coffee and Cake in the Church Room

Gluten/wheat-free: Please talk to the Welcomer if you'd like a gluten-free Communion Wafer. We also have gluten/wheat-free refreshments

6pm Swanage Churches "Worship @ 6" at EBC

DIARY FOR THIS WEEK:

- **CHURCH & GARDEN OPEN** 10am - 4pm Monday - Saturday
- Mon 2nd: **Community Café** 10am - 12noon at Herston Village Hall with Citizens' Advice, Digital Dorset and Community Pantry
- Mon 2nd: **St Mark's Choir Practice** 6:15pm - 7pm
- Tue 3rd: **St Mark's Junior Singing Club** 3:30pm - 4:20pm
- Tue 3rd: **Fortnightly Bible Study** 6:45pm - 8:30pm
- Wed 4th: **Prayer & Share** 10am - 10:45am Church Room
- Sat 7th: **The Big Quiz Night:** 7pm for 7:30pm start, at All Saints' Church, raising money for Tearfund. Maximum of 8 people per team – come as a team or join others on the night. £5 per person to include nibbles. Soft drinks available, donation bar of wine/lager or bring your own. Please contact Gill.kaiser@aol.com

NEXT SUNDAY: 8th February – 2nd Sunday before Lent

10am Holy Communion *Rev Dave Richards*

Bible Theme: Genesis 1.1 - 2.3 Romans 8.18-25 Matthew 6.25-34

Followed by Coffee and Cake in the Church Room

11:15am Team Teddy Planning Meeting in Church

Safeguarding Training for St Mark's Church Committee:
Wednesday 11th February at 11am in the Church Room.

Lent Course ("The Prayer Course", based on the Lord's Prayer): The weekly sessions at St Mark's start on Tuesday 17th February at 7pm in the Church Room. The course will also run on Mondays at 2pm in St Mary's Rooms (starting 16th Feb), on Thursdays at 11:30am at St Nicholas Church Hall (starting 19th Feb), and on Fridays at 4pm at All Saints' (starting 20th Feb). Please sign up on the list on the table near the font.

Ash Wednesday 18th February: Holy Communion at 5:30pm with Rev John Cooper.

ALTAR FLOWERS IN CHURCH: If you are able to arrange the main display of flowers at the front of Church one Sunday, perhaps for a special date, please sign the list in the porch (this is different from the separate lists for displays on windowsills for festivals).

COLLECT (SPECIAL PRAYER) FOR THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER: Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

PLEASE let Dave (07779079844) know of anyone who is unwell, in hospital or housebound who would like a visit.



For the latest St Mark's News check out our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/StMarksHerston

St Mark's Church, Herston, is part of the Swanage & Studland Team
www.swanageteam.com

St Mark's Website: www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Mark-Herston

Donations for the Work of St Mark's Church are always welcome

There's a plate for cash donations on top of the font, and a QR code on a poster on the wall near the door if you prefer to give online. Thank you.

TEAM NOTES

321 – a 4 week course to discover life according to Jesus. Starts Tues 27th Jan, 6.30pm in All Saints Hall, 26 Ulwell Rd, Swanage. Each week starts with an informal supper, followed by input from films, thought-provoking questions and discussion. All Welcome. For more info contact Revd Jo Levasier at jo@swanageteam.com or on 07725 343768.

Big Quiz Night - Saturday 7th February 2026, 7pm for 7.30pm start at All Saints Church. Max 8 people per team – make your own team or we will introduce you to others on the night. £5.00 per person to include nibbles. Soft drinks will be available – donation bar of wine / lager or bring your own wine/ beer /lager. All funds raised will go to help the work of Tearfund. Please contact Gill Kaiser (Gill.kaiser@aol.com) or Roger Arnett (poshandrog@btinternet.com)

‘Come & Sing’ Choral Evensong Sunday 8th February at 6.30pm in St Mary’s Church. Our guest this month is Carl Jackson, formerly HM Chapel Royal, Hampton Court. *Come and Sing* event is open to all singers. Arrival at St Mary’s is for a 4.00pm rehearsal start. Cups of tea are provided between the rehearsal end and the service start at 6.30pm. All Welcome. Music provided. Just come and sing!

Lent Groups: In conjunction with other churches in Swanage we will be running a Lent Course, entitled ‘*The Prayer Course*’. Based on the Lord’s Prayer, this excellent 6 week course will enable us to grow and deepen our prayer lives. Courses will be run in churches across Swanage and Studland. The ones being run in the Team are:

St Mary’s (St Mary’s Rooms)	Mon 16 th Feb	2.00pm
St Mark’s Meeting Room	Tues 17 th Feb	7.00pm
Emmanuel Baptist Church	Weds 18 th Feb	6.00pm
St Nicholas Church Hall	Thurs 19 th Feb	11.30am
All Saints	Fri 20 th Feb	4.00pm

We will let people know what groups are being run in other Swanage churches soon. We hope you can join us!

Candle Wax for Ukraine - Ukraine still needs our support. Candle wax is being collected from local churches and communities to create cooking candles (“trench candles”) and candles for villages without electricity. Please donate candles ends, candle wax, and unwanted candles in the box in St Mary’s Church porch, from where it will be taken to a Ukraine support group.

T-Pot is held every Wednesday from 10am to 12.30pm in the Rectory Classroom. Come along for a cuppa and a chat. Everyone welcome!



All Things Bright and Beautiful takes place in St Mary’s Church each Tuesday from 2.30pm – 3.30pm. A short service, particularly suitable for carers and those for whom they care and is dementia friendly. All are welcome.

Friday Fun Club – meets on Friday evenings 6.30-8pm, during term time, in the Rectory Classroom for school years 4-9 to enjoy food, games and chat. If you would like to join or need more information please contact Trish Clark at jandtclark@hotmail.com or Tel: 425427

REFLECTION

Malachi 3: 1-5, Hebrews 2: 14- 18 Luke 2: 22-40

Today we have a succession of readings that carry us through the Presentation of Christ to human kind. Malachi, tiring of his people's unfaithfulness to God announces that a day of judgement will appear. The Lord will send a messenger. He will have human qualities of skill, using work images to announce Godly images. The Lord will pronounce judgement on those who do not respect him.

Luke has begun to illustrate the earthly mission of Jesus. It is seen through the eyes of the faithful old. We who are old (in years at least!) will recognise that moment of a child being shown to his family, and we wonder, how will he or she develop? What are our own hopes and fears? How much of their lives will we enjoy? Simeon and Anna present a tender and yet powerful image. Simeon narrates the prayer of our own familiarity, "Now Lord let your servant depart in peace, according to your word....." Remember as he spoke these words the embryonic parents were listening and wondering, in both senses to what this all meant. There was for Mary the image of the sword and its purpose. Meanwhile Anna in faithfulness attended each day and in her widowhood of great length also receives this child with joy.

The message of this story was that it was not just for the people of Israel but for everyone, folks just like you and me. In our personal expression of faith these passages of scripture might become a pattern for our own use. It might be especially helpful when we embark on our Lent courses. We will each bring different images of faith, being the Annas and Simeons, or the intercessors and those who secure our lives with their prayers.

I haven't forgotten Hebrews. The author emphasises Jesus' humanity. He had to come, it is written, "That he became like his people in every way, in order to be their faithful and merciful High priest, so that their sins could be forgiven. And now he can help those who are tempted because he himself was tempted and suffered."

With every blessing
John Cooper

Team Contact details

Team Rector	Revd Dr Ian Bird Tel: 01929 422916 (normal day off Friday)
Team Vicar	Revd Jo Levasier Tel 01929 208217 (normal day off Friday)
Parish Administrator	Karon Quirey swanage.team@btconnect.com
Parish Office	Tues & Weds 9am-5pm / Friday 9am – 4pm Tel: 01929 421117

Visit our Team website swanageteam.com