

WELCOME TO ST MARK'S CHURCH

Bell Street, Swanage, BH19 2SA



THIS SUNDAY: 10th May 2026 – 6th Sunday of Easter

10am Holy Communion *Rev Tony Higgins*

Bible Theme: Genesis 8:20 - 9:17 Acts 17:22-31 John 14:15-21

Followed by Drinks & Cake in the Church Room

Gluten Free – please talk to the Welcomer if you'd like a gluten-free Communion Wafer. We also have gluten-free refreshments afterwards

DIARY FOR THIS WEEK: Christian Aid Week

- **CHURCH & GARDEN OPEN** 10am - 4pm, Monday - Saturday
- Mon 11th: **Community Café** 10am - 12noon at Herston Village Hall
- Mon 11th: **St Mark's Choir Practice** 6:15pm - 7pm Church Room
- Mon 11th: **Invitation to EBC Men's Chinese Night**, 7pm at the Kings Arms Langton. With a Guest Speaker talking about the most amazing coincidences to emerge from the 2nd World War. Please let Clive know if you would like to go on 07540187089 or clive.chance@googlemail.com
- Tue 12th: **NO Junior Singing Club this week**
- Tue 12th: **NO Bible Study this week**
- Wed 13th: **Prayer & Share** 10am - 10:45am in the Church Room
- Thur 14th: **Ascension Day Service** at St Mary's Church at 7:30pm
- Sat 16th: **Swanage Town Band Spring Concert**: Swanage Methodist Church at 7pm. Free, with a collection for Band funds.
- Sat 16th: **Belvedere Singers' Spring Concert**: St Mary's Church, Tickets £10 from Pearl or on the door.

Christian Aid Week 10th - 17th May: There are some envelopes in Church this Sunday and during this week if people want to make a donation, and special refreshments after the Service on 17th May, with donations for Christian Aid. Thanks to Anne Roper for organizing this.

NEXT SUNDAY: 17th May 2026 – 7th Sunday of Easter

10am Holy Communion *Rev Jo Levasier*

Bible Theme: Ezekiel 36:24 - 28 Acts 1:6-14 John 17:1-11

Followed by Drinks, snacks & and lots of Cake in the Church Room, with donations for Christian Aid

Please take a copy of the May “Church Alive!” Magazine.

PCC: The 1st Meeting of the new Parochial Church Council, following the Parish Annual Meeting, is on Wednesday 20th May at 7pm at All Saints’ Church, Ulwell BH19 1LL.

Any Questions – Science and God, Friends or Foes? Thursday 21st May at 7pm (refreshments from 6:30pm) at All Saints Church, Ulwell BH19 1LL. The speaker is Professor Andrew Halestrap, Emeritus Professor of Biochemistry, Bristol, and Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences. Andrew is passionate about helping see how Science is a friend of the Christian faith and not an enemy.

The next Celebration Service with St Mark’s Band is on Sunday 24th May at 10am, which is Pentecost. Everyone is welcome. This is the 4th Sunday rather than the 5th – a change from the original schedule.

COLLECT (Special Prayer) for 6th Sunday of Easter: God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

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



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

TEAM NOTES

'Come & Sing' Choral Evensong today, 10th May at 6.30pm in St Mary's Church. Our guest this month is Jeremy Jackman, Conductor and ex-King's Singer. *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!

Christian Aid Week 10th - 16th May. There will be a coffee morning and cake sale (in the Rectory Classroom) on 16th May between 10 - 12 noon. This is supported by churches in Swanage so we do hope you will find time to come and meet people. On 10th May at 10:30 there will be a service at the Methodist Church highlighting the work of Christian Aid.

Ascension Day services will be held on Thursday 14th May at St Nicholas, Studland, 6.30am, followed by breakfast in the Church Hall and at St Mary's. 7.30pm.

Studland's Community Coffee Morning - Thursdays at 10am in Studland Church Hall, for great coffee and yummy biscuits and cake. . We'd be delighted if you could join us.

Date for your diary 17th May at 6.30pm, St Nicholas Church, Studland. A special service From Soil to Sky, a Celtic Service of Worship. Everyone is welcome!



All Things Bright and Beautiful takes place in St Mary's Church each Tuesday from 2.30pm – 3.30pm. A short service, which includes well known hymns, is followed by tea and cake. All Things Bright and Beautiful is particularly suitable for carers and those for whom they care and is dementia friendly. Is there someone who you could bring along or encourage to come? All are welcome..

T-Pot is held every Wednesday from 10.00am to 12.30pm in the Rectory Classroom. Come along for a cuppa and a chat.



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: 01929 425427

Sunday School (every 2nd and 4th Sundays in the month). All children in school years 4-9 are welcome to join us for our Sunday School following the service this morning in St Mary's Rooms, finishing at 12.30pm. Come for snacks and fun activities!

Funerals in our churches this week:

Patricia Norman

Fri 15th May

12.00pm

St Mary's

REFLECTION

Acts 17:22-31 1 Peter 3:13-end John 14:15-21

John's 'farewell discourse' contains Jesus's teaching about 'another *paraclete*'. This *paraclete* (?comforter/legal advocate/advisor) is mysterious: he *will be sent*, but already *dwells within you*; is distinct from Jesus, and yet seems to be the fulfilment of Jesus's promise 'I will come to you'. In that day, says Jesus, *you will know* that there is an intimate union between Father, Son and those who love the Son. -They (and you) live in love – and life and love are one and the same thing.

Paul speaks confidently about this to the Athenians because this promise was known to him and every Jew who read the prophecies of Isaiah and Ezekiel. It was the hope not just of a reconstructed Temple but of a society where God's loving laws would be as universal and natural as breathing.

Karl Rahner often commented about the future of Christian faith: 'The Christian of the future will be a mystic or he (*sic*) will not exist at all.' Don't confuse 'mystic' with 'misty'. Rahner – and the Bible – couldn't be more precise. We seek a direct, personal experience of God rather than religiosity. Religion's value is only as great as its ability to hold open a space for the Spirit to dwell within us. The *shekinah*/presence of God which was purged from the Temple will return, and this time, she will flood the earth, filling all people with the interior knowledge and love of God. This is contrasted by Ezekiel with a Torah set literally and metaphorically in stone (*Ezekiel 37*). Rahner also talked about 'anonymous Christians' – those whose lives embody God's life whatever their religious affiliation.

Dionysius and Damaris are venerated as saints in the East, and Dionysius is beginning to be savoured again in the West – this Dionysius or, as many argue, a later writer known as 'Pseudo-Dionysius'. His writings reveal ways in which we experience God beyond words and concepts (*apophatic* theology). They inspired a mystical tradition of spirituality that included the 14th-century English author of *The Cloud of Unknowing*.

Look out! Ascension and Pentecost articulate for us the sometimes paradoxical, wordless experience of faith – presence and absence. Knowing and unknowing. Stories and explanations, but also the hidden power of the Gospels' mystery. Ascension and Pentecost assure us that, although we live, move and have our being in a material world, our capacity for life and love is God living within us. Look within!

Revd Terence Handley MacMath

Team Contact details

Team Rector

Revd Dr Ian Bird Tel: 01929 422916 (normal day off Friday)

Team Vicar

Revd Jo Levasier Tel 07725 343768 (normal day off Monday)

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