

WELCOME TO ST MARK'S CHURCH

Bell Street, Swanage, BH19 2SA



THIS SUNDAY: 11th January 2026 – Baptism of Christ

10am Holy Communion *Rev John Cooper & Rev Dave Richards*
Bible Theme: Isaiah 42:1-9 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew: 3:13-17

Followed by Coffee and 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 after the Service.

DIARY FOR THIS WEEK:

- **CHURCH & GARDEN OPEN:** 10am - 4pm Monday - Saturday
- Mon 12th: **Community Café** 10am - 12noon at Herston Village Hall with Citizens' Advice, Digital Dorset and the Community Pantry
- Mon 12th: **St Mark's Choir Practice:** 6:15pm - 7pm Church Room
- Tue 13th: **St Mark's Junior Singing Club** restarts in the Church Room 3:30pm - 4:25pm, for children in School Year 2 and above
- Wed 14th: **Prayer & Share:** 10am - 10:45am Church Room

NEXT SUNDAY: 18th January – 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

10:30am Everyone is invited to the Swanage Churches' United Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at Emmanuel Baptist Church, 160 Victoria Avenue, Swanage BH19 1AZ

NO SERVICE AT ST. MARK'S CHURCH ON THIS SUNDAY

Thanks: To everyone who donated to **Routes to Roots**, the local charity working with homeless people, via the raffle at the Christmas Dinner (which raised £101) and donations in lieu of Christmas Cards (which raised £123). The total was £224, which is £80 more than last year. Well done!

Thanks: To everyone who helped in any way with the Epiphany Services and refreshments last Sunday.

SOME ADVANCE DATES:

Tuesday 20th Jan – Fortnightly Bible Study 7pm - 8:30pm in the Church Room (refreshments from 6:45pm)

Thursday 22nd Jan – PCC Meeting 7pm at All Saints' Church Hall

Sunday 25th Jan – Celebration Service with St Mark's Band 10am, with a shortened Communion Service since there is no Holy Communion on 18th.

Emergency Contact Details: If someone becomes unwell at church we may not know who to contact, especially for those who come on their own. To help in this situation we have an Emergency Contact Details form on which you can put the name and telephone number of a person to ring should you become unwell. The details will be kept securely in the church safe. If you would like to complete a form, please ask Marion Marchant for one. Thank you

COLLECT (SPECIAL PRAYER) FOR THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; 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.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER: Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 NOTICES

'Come & Sing' Choral Evensong TODAY, Sunday, 11th January at 6.30pm in St Mary's Church. Our guest this month is Dr Barry Rose OBE, formerly Guildford, St Paul's and St Albans Cathedrals. *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!

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.

Advance notice Lent Groups: Lent 2026 begins on 18th February and in conjunction with churches across Swanage, we will be running Lent Groups looking at Prayer. More information and sign up sheets available soon.

The Bible. The Most Important Book in the world! And we can help get it into the hands of people here and abroad with Bake or Bring a Cake for Bibles at United Service at EBC Sunday 18th January at 10:30am. This is the annual Bible Society Fundraiser which will help provide Bibles to many who need hope, faith and love through the Word of God. Kindly bring any donations/cakes along to the service that morning. For any more information please contact Liz Fielder at St. Mary's at 07384741716. Thank you.

T-Pot is held every Wednesday from 10.00am to 12.30pm in the Rectory Classroom. So if you are on your own or new to the area and would like to meet others, come along for a cuppa and a chat.



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. The service is particularly suitable for carers and those for whom they care and is dementia friendly. All are welcome.

Friday Fun Club – returns on Friday 9th January and meets on Friday evenings 6.30-8pm, during term time, in the Rectory Classroom for 10-13 yr olds 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:

Roy Church

Fri 16 Jan

12.00 noon

All Saints

REFLECTION

PLOUGH SUNDAY...and MONDAY?

Apart from being the *1st Sunday after the Epiphany*, today is also known by some as **Plough Sunday**: maybe not such a portentous '**Red Letter Day**' as such (and especially so to 'townies' like me) but a traditional celebration nevertheless of the beginning of the agricultural year...set to be observed (since medieval times) on the day *before* the first Monday after the *12 Days of Christmas* have been completed...when prayers would be offered...and farmers would return to their ploughs...and the preparations for seedtime and harvest would begin the following day on **Plough Monday**.

The good old "CofE" has published an updated prayer for *Plough Sunday*...and – with only a little bit of transposition and imagination – I think it is rather appropriate for us all coming out of Christmas...and into a New Year of possibility...when we too might want to think about sewing a few seeds: ***The Blessing of the Plough***.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
for in your abundant care
you have given us fertile land,
rich soil, the seasons in their courses.
You provide seed for sowing, water, light and warmth
to bring forth the miracle of growth.
You give us skill to work the land,
to prepare and nourish it, that it may be fruitful.
By your blessing,
let this plough be a sign of all that you promise to us.
Prosper the work of our hands,
and provide abundant crops for your people to share.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever. Amen.

Canon Jeremy Oakes

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