

# WELCOME TO ST MARK'S CHURCH

Bell Street, Swanage, BH19 2SA



## THIS SUNDAY: 12<sup>th</sup> July 2026 – Trinity 6

**10am Holy Communion** *Rev Natalie & Rev Dave*

*Bible Theme: Genesis 25:19-34 Romans 8:1-11 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23*

***Followed by Refreshments 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:

- **CHURCH & GARDEN OPEN** 10am - 4pm Monday - Saturday
- Mon 13<sup>th</sup>: **Community Café** 10am - 12noon at Herston Village Hall with Citizens' Advice, Digital Dorset and the Community Pantry
- Mon 13<sup>th</sup>: **St Mark's Choir Rehearsal** 6:15 - 7pm Church Room
- Tue 14<sup>th</sup>: **Junior Singing Club** 3:30pm - 4:20pm Church Room – this is the last session until 8<sup>th</sup> September
- Wed 15<sup>th</sup>: **Prayer & Share** 10am - 10:45am in the Church Room
- Wed 15<sup>th</sup>: **Carnival Tent Training** 4pm at All Saints'
- Thurs 16<sup>th</sup>: **St Mark's School Summer Fair**: 2pm to 4:30pm, featuring family activities like face-painting, stalls and games, a raffle, and refreshments. Entry is free.

## NEXT SUNDAY: 19<sup>th</sup> July 2026 – Trinity 7

**10am Holy Communion** *Rev Dave Richards*

*Genesis 28:10-19a Romans 8:12-25 Matthew 13:24-30 &36-43*

***Followed by Coffee and Cake in the Church Room***

**Pimm's and Hymns: 3:30pm at St Mark's.** Enjoy afternoon tea with a glass of Pimm's (non-alcoholic version available) and sing some of your favourite hymns. If you'd like to choose a hymn please see Dave to collect a form. Admission Free – Collection for Christian Aid Venezuela Earthquake Appeal and St Mark's Church.

There is **NO** Service at St Mark's on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July. Everyone is welcome to attend the Churches Together Carnival Praise Service in the main marquee on Sandpit Field at 10:30am.

**Rev Natalie's Farewell:** Rev Natalie is doing a Farewell Tour of Churches in the Team before she heads to St George's Chapel in Windsor. The "Big" Farewell is on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August at 6:30pm at St Mary's Church. Natalie will be licensed in Windsor on 1<sup>st</sup> September. People from Swanage are welcome to attend – there are details of the Service in the Church Alive! magazine.

**Churches Together at Swanage Carnival:** If members of St Mark's are able to do a Session helping in the Churches Together Carnival Tent during Carnival Week, please see Dave for an Application Form. Dave will need to give you a reference and you'll need to attend a briefing session. The final briefing session is on Wednesday at 4pm at All Saints'. There will also be an opportunity to join in the Churches Together walking entry in the Carnival procession – meet at 2pm on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July at the Church Tent on the Carnival field. If possible, please wear a cowboy hat and a check shirt.

**St Mark's Church BBQ:** Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August. The Morning Service starts at **11am** and it's followed by the Church BBQ. To book your place please sign the list on the table by the font. Family and friends are welcome. Veggie and gluten-free options available. Please sign the 2<sup>nd</sup> sheet if you can provide a salad or a pudding. Drinks provided.

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**COLLECT (Special Prayer) for 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity:** Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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 of our pilgrimage, you have led us to the living water: refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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St Mark's Church, Herston, is part of the Swanage & Studland Team  
[www.swanageteam.com](http://www.swanageteam.com)



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

# TEAM NOTES

This Sea Sunday if you wish to donate to the work of The Mission to Seafarers please go to their website: <https://www.missiontoseafarers.org/support-us>

**'Come & Sing' Choral Evensong** today, 12<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30pm in St Mary's Church. Our guest this month is Dr Peter Nardone, formerly Chelmsford and Worcester 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!

**Venezuela - Christian Aid Appeal** - In response to the devastation caused by the earthquakes, we are being asked to donate via the Emergency Appeal Collection Envelopes in church, or via the following link: [Donate to the Venezuela Earthquake Appeal - Christian Aid](#)

**Pimm's and Hymns:** next Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July at 3:30pm at St Mark's. Enjoy afternoon tea with a glass of Pimm's (non-alcoholic version available) and sing some of your favourite hymns. If you'd like to choose a hymn please see Dave to collect a form. Admission Free – Collection for Christian Aid Venezuela Earthquake Appeal and St Mark's Church.



**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 are welcome.



On your own on a Wednesday? Or new to the area and would like to chat to others? **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](mailto:jandtclark@hotmail.com) or Tel: 01929 425427.

## Dates for your Diary:

**Goodbye to Revd Natalie** - Revd Natalie's last Sunday before she leaves for her new role as Succentor, St George's Chapel Windsor Castle and Chaplain, St George's School, will be 9<sup>th</sup> August. Hers and Joseph's final service with us will be Choral Evensong at St Mary's at 6.30pm followed by refreshments. She will also be presiding at 8am and 10.30am. Natalie will be working around the other churches in our team to take final services as follows- St Mark's at 10am on 12<sup>th</sup> July, All Saints at 8am & 10.30am on 19<sup>th</sup> July, and St Nicholas' Studland at 10am on 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

Natalie's installation in St George's Chapel will take place at Evensong at 5.15pm on 1<sup>st</sup> September. All are welcome. Parking is available in the town centre car parks. Please arrive to King Henry VIII gate by 5pm, the police officers on duty will let you know when the Chapel doors have opened (seating in the Quire is limited so early arrival is recommended to give the best chance of a view- the screen between Quire and Nave is annoyingly solid!).

# REFLECTION

## Matthew 13: 1-9 and 18-23 – The Parable of the Sower

The Parable of the Sower is one of Jesus' most memorable teachings and familiar to many of us. In this passage, Jesus describes a farmer scattering seed on different types of ground. Some seed falls on the path, some on rocky ground, some among thorns, and some on good soil. In the later verses of today's Gospel, Jesus explains this parable to his disciples. The seed represents the word of God, while the different soils represent the condition of people's hearts. This parable challenges us to reflect on how we receive and respond to God's message in our own lives. It encourages us to take a look at our lives regularly and determine whether we are continuing to be that good soil, being fruitful for God, or whether other things are creeping in that might mar or stunt our spiritual growth and fruitfulness as his disciples.

The good soil is the example we should strive to always be, with hearts that are open, faithful and obedient, and through applying God's word to our lives bear fruit through acts of kindness, love, forgiveness, and service to others. This fruit not only strengthens our own faith but also is a really positive witness to the power and presence of Christ those around us.

This Sunday is Sea Sunday, when the Church particularly prays for seafarers and those who work at sea. As an island kingdom, the sea is vital for our trade and life, so today we give thanks for those who work in often hazardous circumstances to bring us food, fish and goods and who often bear privations that most of us would find too hard to bear. Also, we remember and pray for chaplaincy services such as *The Mission to Seafarers*, who minister to seafarers in our ports and around the world, offering practical help and support to those far away from home for long periods. Those of us on land are called to be "good soil" by responding with compassion, supporting organisations that care for seafarers and remembering them in our prayers.

Every Blessing  
Ian  
Rector

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### Team Contact details

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| <b>Team Rector</b>          | Revd Dr Ian Bird Tel: 01929 422916 (normal day off Friday)                              |
| <b>Team Vicar</b>           | Revd Jo Levasier Tel 07725 343768 (normal day off Monday)                               |
| <b>Parish Administrator</b> | Karon Quirey <a href="mailto:swanage.team@btconnect.com">swanage.team@btconnect.com</a> |
| <b>Parish Office</b>        | Tues & Weds 9am-5pm / Friday 9am – 4pm Tel: 01929 421117                                |

Visit our Team website [swanageteam.com](http://swanageteam.com)