

WELCOME TO ST MARK'S CHURCH

Bell Street, Swanage, BH19 2SA



THIS SUNDAY: 13th September 2026 – Trinity 15

10am Holy Communion: *Rev Dave Richards*

Bible Theme: Exodus 14.19-31 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35

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*

DIARY FOR THIS WEEK:

- **St. Mark's Church & Garden Open** 10am - 4pm, Mon - Sat
- Mon 14th: **Community Café** 10am - 12noon at Herston Village Hall with Citizens Advice, Help with Technology and the Community Pantry
- Mon 14th: **Choir Rehearsal** 6:15pm - 7pm Church Room
- Tue 15th: **St Mark's Junior Singing Club** 3:30pm - 4:20pm Church Room. For children in School years 3 – 8.
- Tue 15th: **Fortnightly Bible Study** 6:45pm - 8:30pm Church Room
- Tue 15th: **PCC Meeting** 7pm All Saints' Church Hall
- Wed 16th: **Prayer & Share** 10am - 10:45am Church Room

NEXT SUNDAY: 20th September 2026 – Trinity 16

10am Holy Communion: *Rev Dave Richards*

Bible Theme: Exodus 16:2-15 Philippians 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16

Followed by Coffee and Cake in the Church Room

Our next Celebration Service with St Mark's Band is a Thanksgiving for our Pets: Sunday 27th September at 10am, followed by coffee, cake, and dog biscuits! Please invite your friends to come along with their pets. As well as blessing the animals there will be a time of reflection to thank God for pets who are no longer with us.

St Mark's Church Harvest Festival: Sunday 4th October at the later time of 11am, followed by a Bring-and-Share Lunch. Drinks provided. Everyone is welcome. There is a list to sign about the food you can bring on the table near the font. There will also be a Harvest collection of food for Swanage Foodbank and people are invited to help decorate the Church (please sign the list on the noticeboard in the church porch).

Any Questions? Thursday 8th October 6:30pm for 7pm at Swanage Methodist Church. The speaker is Dr Alan Kerry, and the topic is "Is God good for your (mental) health?"

Wear it Pink! On Sunday 18th October there will be special refreshments after the Morning Communion Service, and a collection for the charity "Breast Cancer Now". People are invited to wear something pink.

COLLECT (Special Prayer) for 15th Sunday after Trinity: God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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: Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; 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

DONATIONS for the work of St Mark's Church are always welcome:

There is a plate for cash donations on top of the font, or you can use this QR code if you've got the App on your mobile phone. Thank you to everyone for your donations, however they are given.



TEAM NOTES

Swanage Folk Festival Service at 10.30am today. A very warm welcome to all our visitors!

‘Come & Sing’ Choral Evensong - TODAY, 13th September at 6.30pm in St Mary’s Church. Our guest this month is Dr David Hill, Music Director, the Bach Choir. *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!

St Mary’s Choir are going to **Salisbury Cathedral** on **Saturday 19th September** to sing evensong with the cathedral choir. We have 10 spare seats on the coach. If anyone would like to come along on that day, please get in touch with Simon Lole. The cost is £13 per head.

Reading Scripture Together – A course exploring the ancient and rich spiritual practice of *lectio divina*. To be held in St Mary’s Rooms on Thursday evenings from 1st October – 19th November at 5pm for 5.15pm – 6.30pm. *Please see leaflets in church for more details or speak to Revd Terence Handley MacMath*. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of St Mary’s church for anyone interested in attending.

Refreshments – Can anyone help with refreshments at the 10.30 services? Judith is away later this month and the rota is currently blank, so we may have no refreshments. If you’re able to help, please let the church wardens know.

Confirmation - We have a couple of members of the congregation taking part in confirmation preparation. If anyone else is interested in being confirmed, please speak to Ian or one of the church wardens.

Advance Diary Date:

Jonathan Viera – at Emmanuel Baptist Church on Friday 16th October, 7.30pm. Jonathan, renowned singer and musician, will be performing his acclaimed one man show, filled with music, singing, moving and hilarious anecdotes from his professional and personal life. Tickets £10 available from Parish Office or see Rector Ian.

St Mary’s will celebrate **Harvest Festival** on Sunday 4th October at 10.30am.



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. 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.

REFLECTION

Hope that Dances

Isaiah 35: 4-7a & 8-10 and John 12: 12-19

This weekend Swanage is filled with dancing and music. A wonderfully diverse array of teams are dancing as part of this year's Swanage Folk Festival and we have the joy of having three teams with us dancing in our service at St Mary's this Sunday morning.

In our reading from Isaiah, we hear a promise of God's salvation: *"Be strong, do not fear; here is your God."* The prophet speaks of a world transformed by God's presence — the blind seeing, the deaf hearing, the lame leaping like a deer, and the wilderness becoming a place of life and joy. It is a beautiful vision of what happens when God comes among his people and the world is transformed by his presence - a world where sorrow gives way to gladness and where people journey together towards hope. That feels particularly appropriate this weekend, as the Folk music and dancing bring people together. Strangers become partners, and a community is created through rhythm, movement and shared joy.

In our reading from John's Gospel, Jesus enters Jerusalem with people waving branches, joyfully shouting his praise. But amidst the celebration, Jesus alone knows that great suffering and the cross are his destiny. I think there is a challenge here for us all. Christian joy is not pretending that life is always easy. It is choosing to celebrate God's goodness even in the face of fear, loneliness, grief or pain.

So this festival, whether we are dancing, or watching others dance, may our hearts be filled with joy and may our community be a place where people discover hope. And may Christ, who entered Jerusalem amid songs of praise, walk with us — turning our celebration into thanksgiving and our dancing into a joyful expression of God's love.

Every blessing
Ian

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