WELCOME TO ST MARK'S CHURCH

Bell Street, Swanage, BH19 2SA

THIS SUNDAY: 15th November – 2nd Sunday before Advent

10am Holy Communion: *Rev Dave Richards*

with a special collection for the Swanage Churches Together Appeal for money for Christmas presents for local children in low-income families

Bible Theme: Zephaniah 1:7 & 12-18 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

Followed by Coffee & 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

DIARY FOR THIS WEEK:

- **St. Mark's Church & Garden Open:** 10am - 4pm, Mon - Sat
- Mon 16th: **Community Café:** 10am - 12noon at Herston Village Hall with Citizens Advice, Help with Technology and Community Pantry
- Mon 16th: **Choir Rehearsal:** 6:15pm - 7pm Church Room
- Tue 17th: **Junior Singing Club:** 3:30pm - 4:20pm Church Room
- Wed 18th: **Prayer & Share:** 10am - 10:45am Church Room
- Wed 18th: **PCC Meeting:** 7pm at All Saints' Church Hall

NEXT SUNDAY: 22nd November – Christ the King

(Sunday before Advent)

10am Holy Communion: *Rev Dave Richards*

Bible Theme: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

Followed by Coffee & Cake in the Church Room

Disciples of Christ, sharing the compassionate and caring love of God with the School and Community of which we are a part.

St. Mark's Christmas Meal will be a buffet at the Bowls Pavillion at Beach Gardens on Monday 14th December at 6.30 for 7pm. Partners welcome. The price will be £20 per person. Drinks will be extra at the Bar. Help is needed for setting up before and clearing up afterwards. Thanks to Uta for making the arrangements.

Confirmation Service at St Mark's: The Bishop will be coming to St Mark's on Saturday 6th March at 6pm to Confirm people from St Mark's, and there may be some other people from Churches in the Team and around Purbeck Deanery. The minimum age is 11; there is no upper age limit! If you are interested in finding out more, please talk to Dave or Carol. Preparation sessions will start after Christmas.

Next Celebration Service with St Mark's Band and the Junior Choir: Sunday 29th November at 10am. This is Advent Sunday.

COLLECT (Special Prayer) for 2nd Sunday before Advent: Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

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

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

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

TODAY - 'Come & Sing' Choral Evensong, 15th November at 6.30pm in St Mary's Church. Our guest this month was to be Professor Stephen Darlington, formerly Christ Church, Oxford, but due to ill health he has unfortunately had to withdraw. The upside is Simon Lole, Director of Music at St Mary's, will be taking the lead in his place. *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!

An Evening with Antimo Magnotta – 17th November, 7.30-9.00pm at Newton Manor Hall. Doors open at 7pm and tickets are £12.50 which can be purchased from Alan May 07827 892893, through Eventbrite https://TheArtofListeningwithAntimoMagnotta.evenbrite.com or via BACS if you have the bank details. More info on our website under News & Events.

A Seasonal Crafting Workshop on a current theme from The Mothers' Union. Thursday December 3rd at 10:30 am in St Mary's Rectory Classroom. Tea, coffee, cake and biscuits, good fellowship, topical discussion, and crafting! What more could you want?
Bring along your favourite scissors and any old Christmas Cards you might like to recycle; everything else will be provided. More details from Paul Baird (pauldbaird@aol.com)

Christmas Toys – churches together are raising money to buy Christmas presents for some local children in our schools. If you wish to contribute, donations can be left in the church office or given to the wardens. Alternatively, online donations can be made to: Churches Together in Swanage and District, Sort Code 30-99-12, Acct No. 01619035. Please use the reference 'TOYS'. Thank you.

Christmas cards with a Nativity theme are on sale again this year in our three Swanage churches. Some old and some new designs, packs of five for £2.50, profits to parish funds.

Studland Community Coffee is back in the Church Hall, every Thursday from 10am to 11.30am … cafetiere coffee, brilliant biscuits and fabulous friendship. Do please join us.

Tabletop Sale in Studland Village Hall Saturday 28th November 10am to 2pm. St Nicholas has 2 tables and will be selling books and toys. If you have any books, toys or other saleable items, please could you bring them to the St Nicholas Church Hall on the afternoon of Friday 27th November – or contact Jane Hawksworth to make alternative arrangements. Or contact Jane if you would like to help on the day of the Sale.

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.

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.

REFLECTION

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-end 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30

It's sometimes said that a good preacher's job is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. The prophets managed this at a stroke in their visions of 'the day of the Lord', and Zephaniah (whose comforting last few words are what we usually read) certainly doesn't pull any punches with the comfortable. It's a tradition of teaching that Jesus follows in his round condemnation of the corrupt leaders of Israel. 'The day of the Lord' is essentially about the great reversal: the hungry will be filled with good things and the rich sent empty away.

Whether you relish this reversal, dread it, or simply ignore it, anyone who hungers and thirsts for righteousness will want to see an end to all suffering – certainly their own – by the overthrow of powerful oppressors. It's a near-universal human longing (exploited gleefully by many in the media) to see the mighty put down from their seats, even if the elevation of the humble and meek doesn't make such good clickbait.

The mighty are usually efficient at preventing their own downfall, and often stand together when found out. Justice may catch up with a few, but sadly, it's in the nature of the merciless to maintain a tight grip on their power. The 'day of the Lord' seems only to be slowly, painfully realised – at least for now - not by a greater power violently annihilating a smaller one, but by Jesus's own methods, learned from his Father: patience and long-suffering, love, mercy, truth, obedience-unto-death. *Revelation* draws on the same prophetic tradition: it depicts the hidden but nonetheless fundamental reversal of power realised in and by the crucified and risen Christ. You just need eyes to see it.

Matthew's parable of the talents which immediately follows the parable of the wise and foolish virgins teaches the disciples themselves something more. The 5/2 and the forecast punishment clarify *who* will be called to account on this day of reckoning: it's for Christ's teachers to pass on the teaching they're given with confidence, joy and energy. The Kingdom of Heaven is about service, responsibility – it's *busy.* Shepherds have freedom of choice about if and how they serve, and they're given different opportunities – but they will be called to account for how they've passed on what they have received.

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