

# WELCOME TO ST MARK'S CHURCH

Bell Street, Swanage, BH19 2SA



**THIS SUNDAY: 16<sup>th</sup> November – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent**

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

*Bible Theme: Malachi 4:1-2a    2 Thessalonians 3:6-13    Luke 21:5-19*

***Followed by Coffee & 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 17<sup>th</sup>: **Community Café** 10am - 12noon at Herston Village Hall with Citizens Advice, help with technology and Community Pantry
- Mon 17<sup>th</sup>: **Choir Rehearsal** 6:15pm - 7pm Church Room
- Tue 18<sup>th</sup>: **St Mark's Junior Singing Club:** Church Room 3:30pm - 4:20pm, for children in School years 3 to 6. FREE
- Tue 18<sup>th</sup>: **Bible Study and Discussion:** 6:45pm refreshments, the session is 7pm - 8:30pm in the Church Room. Everyone welcome.
- Wed 19<sup>th</sup>: **Prayer & Share:** 10am - 10:45am Church Room
- Wed 19<sup>th</sup>: **P.C.C. Meeting:** 7pm at All Saints' Church Hall

**NEXT SUNDAY: 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2025 – Christ the King**

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

*Bible Theme: Jeremiah 23:1-6    Colossians 1:11-20    Luke 23:33-43*

***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.***

**Invitation to EBC Men's Christmas Curry Party:** Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm at Winston Churchill Room, Con Club, 27 Kings Road West. Clive asks people to contact him early if you'd like to go on 07540 187089 or [clive.chance@googlemail.com](mailto:clive.chance@googlemail.com) as the Con Club want to know numbers several days in advance.

**Next Celebration Service with St Mark's Band:** Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 10am. This is Advent Sunday.

**Swanage Town Band Concert:** Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 7:30pm at Swanage Methodist Church. Free, with a collection for charity and Band funds.

**St Mark's Christmas Meal:** Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December at the Village Inn, Ulwell, Swanage BH19 3DG at 6:30pm for 7pm.

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**COLLECT (Special Prayer) for 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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**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 font. If you've got the QR App on your mobile phone, you can click on the code, and it goes straight to the donations page. Thank you to everyone for your donations, however they're given.

►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](https://www.facebook.com/StMarksHerston)**

**St Mark's Website: [www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Mark-Herston](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Mark-Herston)**

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

# TEAM NOTES

**Safeguarding Sunday** – TODAY 16<sup>th</sup> November is marked in the Church of England as Safeguarding Sunday. Revd Jo Levasier will be preaching, at St Mary's 10.30am service, about how important safeguarding is for us all.

**'Come & Sing' Choral Evensong** TODAY, 16<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm in St Mary's Church. Our guest this month is Martin Baker, formerly Westminster Cathedral. *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 starts at 6.30pm. All Welcome. Music provided. Just come and sing!

**Please Note:** St Mary's Church will be closed on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> and Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November all day for recording purposes. Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

**WSLTableTop Sale. 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 10 am in the Village Hall.** St Nicholas Church has 2 tables, a book stall and a bric a brac stall. We would love your donations! Just bring them to the Church Hall, either on a Sunday morning or on a Thursday morning. Thank you!

**Christmas gifts for local children** - Next Sunday (23<sup>rd</sup> November), we will be taking a collection to buy presents for primary school children in the area whose families are in need and would otherwise would not receive presents this year. This is being organised by Churches Together in Swanage. Any contribution of any size would be very gratefully received. Many thanks in advance for your support.

**Come & join us at St Mary's** on Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm for our Advent Carols Service: *Music & Readings for Advent Sunday*. With candles & light it's a wonderful way to start Advent.

**Christmas cards** are on sale now in the three Swanage churches, £2 for a pack of 5 cards. Profits will be donated to Swanage parish funds.

**Community Coffee** Studland's Community Coffee Morning has moved back to the Church Hall for the winter season. Please join us on Thursday mornings from 10am to 11am – for coffee, cake and conversation. We'd love to see you there.

**The New Parish Website** has now launched, the website stays the same - [www.swanageteam.com](http://www.swanageteam.com). We are aware the website still requires tweaks, so we are keen to receive any feedback – please email Karon in the Parish Office ([swanage.team@btconnect.com](mailto:swanage.team@btconnect.com))

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## 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 Monday)

**Parish Administrator**

Karon Quirey [swanage.team@btconnect.com](mailto:swanage.team@btconnect.com)

# REFLECTION

## 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

**Anglican diversity at its best!** It seems that all 4 of our churches have different readings this Sunday. We have a choice of the Communion Lectionary, the Morning Prayer readings, special readings for Safeguarding Sunday, and a whole different theme at All Saints. The message today, then, is **unity in diversity!**

**St Paul knew all about unity in diversity.** He compared the Church to a body, with all sorts of different parts, all with different purposes and functions, but all working together in unity.

*“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.” (1 Cor 12:12-13)*

**We are all different**, and our Churches are different, but we share the same faith in Jesus, and are led and guided by the same Holy Spirit.

If, (God forbid), a management consultant were ever to review our Team, he might well conclude that we could all fit into St Mary's on an average Sunday, and our other 3 churches could be sold as attractive development sites: (well, maybe not Studland...). If our churches were merely businesses that would make perfect economic, practical, efficient, sense. The truth is, however, that we are not businesses; **we are the Body of Christ**, doing His work, led by His Spirit, where he has placed us and called us.

**While St Paul would, I think, allow us to continue to express our diversity**, he might want to issue some good advice:

*“..... no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.” (1 Corinthians 12:25-26)*

Our Churches have different forms of worship and different ways of reaching out; that is wholly right, because we work in different contexts, have different mission opportunities, and are **willing to work as the Body of Christ together**.

*Revd David Richards*