

WELCOME TO ST MARK'S CHURCH

Bell Street, Swanage, BH19 2SA



THIS SUNDAY: 17th May 2026 – 7th Sunday of Easter

10am Holy Communion *Rev Jo Levasier*

Bible Theme: Ezekiel 36:24 - 28 Acts 1:6-14 John 17:1-11

Followed by Drinks & Cakes in the Church Room, with donations for Christian Aid

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 18th: **Community Café** 10am - 12noon at Herston Village Hall
- Mon 18th: **St Mark's Choir Practice** 6:15pm - 7pm Church Room
- Tue 19th: **NO Junior Singing Club this week**
- Tue 19th: **NO Bible Study this week**
- Wed 20th: **NO Prayer & Share this week**
- Wed 20th: **PCC Meeting** at All Saints' Church Hall at 7pm
- Thurs 21st: **Any Questions – Science and God, Friends or Foes?** at 7pm (refreshments from 6:30pm) at All Saints Church. The speaker is Professor Andrew Halestrap, Emeritus Professor of Biochemistry, Bristol, and Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences.
- Sat 23rd: **Swanage Town Band at the Bandstand:** 2:30pm.
This concert is part of the Pirate Festival.

NEXT SUNDAY: 24th May 2026 – Pentecost

10am Celebration Service with St Mark's Band

Bible Theme: When the Spirit comes (Acts 2:1-21) Rev Dave Richards

Followed by Drinks & Cake in the Church Room

Pilgrimage: The Exhibition You are invited to this powerful exhibition, sharing in a personal pilgrimage from brokenness to healing, through artworks crafted along the way. Saturday 23rd May 10am - 6pm, Sunday 24th May 12:30pm - 6pm at Emmanuel Baptist Church (last admission an hour before close).

The Next Fortnightly Bible Study is on Tuesday 26th May at 7pm. The leader is John Way.

Trinity Sunday 31st May: Holy Communion at 10am and start of a 4-week series in all churches in the Parish – Generous God, Generous People, Generous Giving, Generous Service.

St Mark's Afternoon Concert: Sunday 14th June at 3:30pm. An hour of light music followed by refreshments. FREE entry, retiring collection in aid of Allsort'd Café at the Focus Centre and St Mark's Church Funds.

COLLECT (Special Prayer) for 7th Sunday of Easter: O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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



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

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

There is a plate for cash donations on top of the font, and a QR code on the front page of the service book or on a poster on the wall near the door, if you prefer to give online. Thank you to everyone for your donations, however they are given.

TEAM NOTES

TODAY - 17th May at 6.30pm, St Nicholas Church, Studland. A special service From Soil to Sky, a Celtic Service of Worship. Everyone is welcome!

Studland's Community Coffee Morning - Down on the Farm. Thursdays at 10am, the Manor Farm Tea Rooms. The Community Coffee group has moved to Manor Farm for the summer season. Same fun. Same great conversation. Lovely coffee and excellent scones! See you there!



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 Things Bright and Beautiful is 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

Friday Fun Club leaders needed

We are in need of some more leaders to run this very popular and successful youth group at St Mary's. The Club takes place on Friday evenings 6.30-8pm. You do not need to come every week as we work a rota around everyone's availability. Roles include leading activities, games, reflections and prayers, or cooking pizzas and looking after the refreshments. If you think you can help, please speak to Revds Natalie or Ian.

Dates for your Diary:

Fabulous Free Family Fun Day – All Saints Church, Friday 12th June, 4-8pm. Free activities for all ages with free tea, cake and hotdogs.

Dorset County Orchestra Summer Concert – St Mary's Church, Saturday 27th June, 7.30pm. With music from Mendelssohn and Glazunov. Tickets in advance £15 or on the door £17. Please see posters for more details (on display soon).

REFLECTION

“Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!”

As we emerge from the liturgical celebration of Easter in Church, how might we ‘sally forth’...to do justice to the enormity of the message we ask others to believe?

In my first parish in Leicester nearly 50 years ago, we had a wonderfully inspiring Sunday School Superintendent called Katherine Grigson. I always remember her saying that “children remember 20% of what they read...50% of what they see...and 90% of what they do.” As a result, her lessons in the basics of Christian life were always fun; and the children loved her. Though she could be stern, the children probably learnt more by her manner and obvious integrity than anything else. In other words, her faith was infectious.

Katherine was one of those quietly confident Christian souls who radiated her faith by being what she was: a caring and thoughtful person who always sought a Christian way through the day’s encounters with others. Our geographical parish housed the Midlands’ centre of Mormonism; and our parishioners were always being visited by pairs of brave young American men seeking converts to their faith. Katherine’s response was to accept their invitation to visit them...if they would come to Parish Evensong in return...as some did! I never heard her speak ill of anyone; and she was immensely tolerant of other people’s idiosyncrasies...not to mention those of the succession of green curates that passed through the parish! I was one of many who will never forget her; though she would be amazed to hear it. (She also gave me a bottle of sherry every Christmas!)

Katherine’s unassuming daily witness was founded upon several “rules” that revolved around regular Bible reading, daily prayer and a total commitment to church on Sundays. She wasn’t manifestly pious, and she never “preached”; but she probably knew more than most of us put together.

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 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