

WELCOME TO ST MARK'S CHURCH

Bell Street, Swanage, BH19 2SA



THIS SUNDAY: 18th January 2026 – 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

**10:30am Swanage Churches Together United Service
for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
at Emmanuel Baptist Church**

NO SERVICE AT ST. MARK'S CHURCH ON THIS SUNDAY

DIARY FOR THIS WEEK:

- **THE CHURCH IS OPEN** from 10am - 4pm Monday - Saturday
- Mon 19th: **Community Café** 10am - 12noon at Herston Village Hall with Citizens' Advice, Digital Dorset and the Community Pantry
- Mon 19th: **St Mark's Choir Practice** 6:15pm - 7pm Church Room
- Tue 20th: **St Mark's Junior Singing Club** 3:30pm - 4:20pm in the Church Room, for children in School Year 2 and above
- Tue 20th: **Fortnightly Bible Study** 6:45 - 8:30pm Church Room
- Wed 21st: **Prayer & Share** 10am - 10:45am Church Room
- Thurs 22nd: **PCC Meeting** 7pm at All Saints' Hall

NEXT SUNDAY: 25th January 2026 – 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

**10am Celebration Service with St Mark's Band,
with a shortened Communion Service as there's no
Communion on 18th Jan** *Rev Dave Richards*
Bible Theme: God's Call – St Paul (Acts 9:1-19)

Followed by Coffee and Cake in the Church Room

ALTAR FLOWERS IN CHURCH: If you are able to arrange the main display of flowers at the front of Church one Sunday, perhaps for a special occasion, please sign the list in the porch (this is different from the displays on window sills for festivals).

Christmas Cards: We raised £48.00 for the Parish Funds. *Thank You.*

SOME ADVANCE DATES: At the St Mark's Church Committee meeting on 8th January, we went through the 2026 Diary and fixed some dates for events during the year. Please put them on your Calendar.

Lent Course at St Mark's: The weekly sessions start on Tuesday 17th February at 7pm in the Church Room

"Many Hands at St Mark's": Saturday 21st March 10am – 1pm.
Spring Cleaning in the Church and lots of work in the Church Garden.
Everyone welcome.

Team Teddy Easter Event: Sunday 29th March 3:30pm at St Mark's, for children aged 3 – 8. Craft activities, stories, songs and a picnic.

St Mark's Afternoon Concert: Sunday 7th June at 3:30pm

Pimm's & Hymns: Sunday 19th July at 3:30pm

A Thanksgiving for our Pets: Bring your pet to the Celebration Service on Sunday 27th September at 10am

We still need to fix dates for the Lent Lunch raising money for Christian Aid, the Church BBQ (after the very successful event last year), the Harvest Service & Church Lunch, more Team Teddy events.

COLLECT (SPECIAL PRAYER) FOR 2nd SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; 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.

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

St Mark's Website: www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Mark-Herston

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

TEAM NOTES

The Bible. The Most Important Book in the world! And we can help get it into the hands of people here and abroad with Bake or Bring a Cake for Bibles at United Service at EBC Sunday 18th January at 10:30am. This is the annual Bible Society Fundraiser which will help provide Bibles to many who need hope, faith and love through the Word of God. Kindly bring any donations/cakes along to the service that morning.

321 – a 4 week course to discover life according to Jesus. Starts Tues 27th Jan, 6.30pm in All Saints Hall, 26 Ulwell Rd, Swanage. Each week starts with an informal supper, followed by input from films, thought-provoking questions and discussion. All Welcome. For more info contact Revd Jo Levasier at jo@swanageteam.com or on 07725 343768.

Advance Notice Lent Groups: Lent 2026 begins on 18th February and in conjunction with churches across Swanage, we will be running Lent Groups looking at Prayer. More information and sign up sheets available soon.

Candle Wax for Ukraine - Ukraine still needs our support. Candle wax is being collected from local churches and communities to create cooking candles ("trench candles") and candles for villages without electricity. Please donate candle ends, candle wax, and unwanted candles in the box in St Mary's Church porch, from where it will be taken to a Ukraine support group.

T-Pot is held every Wednesday from 10.00am to 12.30pm in the Rectory Classroom. So if you are on your own or new to the area and would like to meet others, come along for a cuppa and a chat.



 **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,

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.

Funerals in our churches this week:

Pamela Mead	Thurs 22 Jan	11.00am	St Mary's
Carole Gibson	Fri 23Jan	12 noon	St Mary's

REFLECTION

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Today is the start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This is an ecumenical celebration that gives us an opportunity to focus our prayers on Christian unity with our siblings in Christ across the globe. We will join in this celebration at EBC this morning in our United Service with Churches Together in Swanage.

The central text that has been chosen for this year is Ephesians 4: 1-13 which includes the words “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling.” This verse summarises Paul’s teachings about unity and emphasises that the followers of Christ are to represent “one body and one Spirit” united in a single hope. This metaphor shows the Church as a unified entity transcending barriers of geography, nationality, ethnicity, and tradition.

This seems particularly apt in light of the incredibly divisive and inflammatory actions taken across the pond in the first two weeks of this year... Never have we needed unity more, a unity that is shaped by the love of Christ which can bring into the world be deep love and care for our neighbours.

Paul adds “one Spirit” in the passage above to emphasize that it is the Holy Spirit who sustains this fellowship and empowers the Church to fulfil its mission. To stand united against the evils of this age, against though who would sew division and hatred amongst us, requires strength, a strength that comes from God in his Spirit.

Let us pray as we go through this week that we will be reading to respond to God’s call to seek reconciliation and spread unity and peace in the world.

Revd Natalie Davies

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 Friday)
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