

WELCOME TO ST MARK'S CHURCH

Bell Street, Swanage, BH19 2SA



THIS SUNDAY: 19th April 2026 – 3rd Sunday of Easter

10am Holy Communion *Rev John Cooper & Rev Dave Richards*
Bible Theme: Zephaniah 3:14-20 Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Luke 24:13-35

Followed by Drinks & 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 afterwards

DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

- **CHURCH AND GARDEN OPEN** 10am - 4pm, Monday - Saturday
- **Mon 20th: Community Café** 10am - 12noon at Herston Village Hall with Citizens' Advice, Digital Dorset and the Community Pantry
- **Mon 20th: St Mark's Choir Rehearsal** 6:15pm - 7pm
- **Tue 21st: Junior Singing Club** 3:30pm - 4:20pm in the Church, for children in School Years 3 – 8 (children in School Year 2 are welcome this term if they want to make an early start)
- **Tue 21st: Annual Parochial Church Meeting:** 7:30pm at All Saints Church, Ulwell. This is the legal meeting for the Parish. Everyone on the Electoral Roll is invited.
- **Wed 22nd: Prayer & Share** 10am - 10:45am in the Church Room

NEXT SUNDAY: 26th April 2026 – St. Mark's Day

10am Celebration Service with St Mark's Band
Bible Theme: St Mark's Message (Mark 1:14-20)

Followed by Drinks & Cake in the Church Room

This is a special celebration for both St Mark's Church and School. Please invite your friends and family to this special Service. Everyone is welcome (especially past and present pupils of St Mark's School)

Message from Rev Dr Ian Bird: Our Curate, Natalie, will be leaving Swanage in August to be licensed as Succentor at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, and Chaplain at St George's School there. She will also be completing her curacy at St George's. The Succentor is a priest who leads and sings worship, supports liturgical planning and administration, and contributes to the pastoral and teaching life of St George's. Natalie is extremely sad to leave Swanage and Studland and the Diocese of Salisbury. She has met and worked with some wonderful people who have become dear friends. She is grateful to be here for one more Summer, and excited to see what God has in store for this next chapter of her ministry. Please do hold Natalie and Joseph in your prayers, along with the people of Swanage, Studland, Windsor and the College of St George.

Donations for the work of St Mark's are always welcome: There's a plate for cash donations on top of the font, and a QR code in the front of the yellow service books 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.

COLLECT (Special Prayer) for 3rd Sunday of Easter: Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; 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: Living God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in all his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

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

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

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

TEAM NOTES

Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Tuesday 21st April, 7.30pm at All Saints Church, Ulwell. All are welcome!

St Mark's Day Celebration Service with St Mark's Band: Sunday 26th April at 10am. A special celebration for both St Mark's Church and School. Please invite friends and neighbours to this special Service, which will be followed by our usual delicious refreshments.

We are creating a fresh section in **St Mary's Library** dedicated to our children and young adults. Some new books have arrived, many thanks to a generous sponsor. If you would like to contribute towards other books in this section, please either contact me directly or the Parish Office (and remember that, by using the envelopes, you can Gift Aid your donation making it worth 25% more without additional cost to you)
Paul Baird (Pauldbaird@aol.com)

Studland's Community Coffee Morning - Down on the Farm. Thursday 23rd April 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!

The Mayday Singers invite you to join them for an hour of Springtime Music, together with a young and talented violinist, Rosie Kent. Venue, St George's Church, Langton Matravers, date **Sunday 26th April** and time 4pm. Tickets £8 on the door, with a delicious tea following the concert. There will be a retiring collection for Purbeck Youth Music - a scheme which supports many of our young, local musicians.

Thank you all very much for the wonderful signed card with your lovely messages, box of Chococo chocolates and beautifully decorated cake given to me last Sunday on my retirement from the Altar Party at St Mary's. It was a great surprise. *Rosemary Carpenter.*



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 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.

Sunday School (every 2nd and 4th Sundays in the month). All children in school years 4-9 are welcome to join us for our Sunday School following the service this morning in St Mary's Rooms, finishing at 12.30pm. Come for snacks and fun activities!

REFLECTION

Luke 24: 13-35

Today's Gospel reading, the account of Cleopas and his companion (Mrs Cleopas?) encountering Jesus on the road to Emmaus. It is a beautifully told story of transformation of deep disappointment and sadness turning to clarity and joy as they meet with the risen Lord Jesus.

The two disciples were walking away from Jerusalem, weighed down by disappointment after Jesus' crucifixion, their hopes and expectations shattered. What is startling is that Jesus Himself draws near and walks with them and yet they simply do not recognize the stranger walking alongside them.

As they share with him their grief and confusion at the story of empty tomb and rumours of Jesus' resurrection, he listens patiently. Then Jesus clearly explains the scriptures and shows them that the Messiah's suffering was part of God's plan. Later in the passage, Luke tells us that Cleopas and his companion experienced 'heart burn' as he explained God's salvation plan to them – something was changing in them as they walked along that road to Emmaus. Yet, it was only later, in the breaking of bread, that their eyes are opened and they truly see Jesus.

This is a wonderful story of revelation. As we journey through our lives may we invite Jesus to walk with us. May we be open to being more transformed, more willing to live as his disciples. May we make space in our lives for prayer, the reading of scripture and reflection to enable us to realise more fully the wonder of our salvation and the fullness of life we are called to live. Just as those disciples shared their joy of meeting the risen Lord Jesus, may we share the good news we have, witnessing to the love and power of God in our lives.

Revd Ian Bird

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