

WELCOME TO ST MARK'S CHURCH

Bell Street, Swanage, BH19 2SA



THIS SUNDAY: 2nd August 2026 – Trinity 9

Short Music Practice before the Service from 10:30am

11am Holy Communion *Rev Dave Richards*

Please note change of time

Bible Theme: Genesis 32.22-31 Romans 9.1-5 Matthew 14.13-21

Followed by St Mark's Church BBQ

Gluten/wheat-free: Please talk to the Welcomer if you'd like a gluten-free Communion Wafer. We also have gluten/wheat-free food at the Church BBQ

DIARY FOR THIS WEEK:

- **CHURCH & GARDEN OPEN** 10am - 4pm Monday - Saturday
- Mon 3rd: **Community Café** 10am - 12noon at Herston Village Hall
- Mon 3rd: **NO St Mark's Choir Rehearsal** for the Summer holiday. Instead, we'll have a quick run-through the music before the Morning Service each Sunday. The next full practice will be on 7th September.
- Wed 5th: **Walk and Pray for our Community:** Meet at St Mark's Church at 10am, and we'll walk and pray for the residents of the Herston area east of St Mark's (Steer Road, Priests Road, Quarry Close, Panorama Road, Hill View Road, Hillsea Road, Newton Grange Close, Cow Lane and all side roads). If wet, we'll stay at St Mark's. This is in place of Prayer & Share this month.

NEXT SUNDAY: 9th August 2026 – Trinity 10

Short Music Practice before the Service from 9:30am

10am Holy Communion *Rev Dave Richards*

Bible Theme: Genesis 37.1-4,12-28 Romans 10.5-15 Matthew 14.22-33

**6:30pm Evensong at St Mary's and Rev Natalie's
Farewell to the Swanage & Studland Team**

Thanks: To everyone who helped in any way with the Carnival events, and especially the Churches Together activities.
To everyone who has worked hard to provide the Church BBQ today.

Lifeboat Service: Sunday 16th August on the Pier at 5:30pm.

Town Band Concert at the Bandstand: Wednesday 26th August 7pm. If wet, at the Methodist Church at 7:30pm. Free with a collection.

Next Celebration Service with St Mark's Band: Sunday 30th August at 10am

Rev Natalie's Installation in St George's Chapel, Windsor

This will take place at Evensong at 5:15pm on Tuesday 1st September. People from Swanage are welcome to attend. Parking is available in Town Centre car-parks. Please arrive by 5pm at the King Henry VIII gate, and the police officers on duty will advise when you can enter.

COLLECT (Special Prayer) for 9th Sunday after Trinity: Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church: open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; 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: Holy Father, who gathered us here around the table of your Son to share this meal with the whole household of God: in that new world where you reveal the fullness of your peace, gather people of every race and language to share in the eternal banquet of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

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 on a poster on the wall near the font and in the front of the Communion Service Books. 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.

TEAM NOTES

Saying Goodbye to Revd Natalie - Revd Natalie's last Sunday before she leaves for her new role as Succentor, St George's Chapel Windsor Castle and Chaplain, St George's School, will be next Sunday, 9th August. She will be preaching and presiding at 8am and 10.30am services and Natalie and Joseph's final service with us in the Team will be Choral Evensong at St Mary's at 6.30pm followed by refreshments - all are welcome!

Swanage Lifeboat Service: Sunday 16th August on the Pier at 5:30pm. ~There will no 6.30pm Evensong at St Mary's.

Carnival Week - Congratulations to Friday Fun Club who won 1st Prize in the walking float category in the Carnival Procession!! A huge thank you to all who were involved in the Carnival and in the Churches Together Tent on Sandpit Field during Carnival Week.

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!

A Studland Summer Date for your Diary. Hymns and Pimms at St Nicholas, Studland 23rd August at 6.30pm.



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, we'd love to see you.

Please note that T-Pot will continue meeting every week through the summer, all are welcome to join us.



Natalie's installation in St George's Chapel will take place at Evensong at 5.15pm on 1st September. All are welcome. Parking is available in the town centre car parks. Please arrive to King Henry VIII gate by 5pm, the police officers on duty will let you know when the Chapel doors have opened (seating in the Quire is limited so early arrival is recommended to give the best chance of a view- (the screen between Quire and Nave is annoyingly solid!))

St Mary's 'Children's Area' : We are considering moving the children's area to the other side of the aisle, behind the welcomers' desk. If you have any comments or feedback, please speak to one of the churchwardens.

REFLECTION

Genesis 32:22-31, Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

It's not about the loaves! (or the fishes...) A careful reading of Matthew's gospel reveals that the 'feeding' of the 5,000 with 5 loaves is yet another way for Matthew to teach that God had not abandoned Israel. After the shocking betrayal and death of John the Baptist by Herod – the murder of Israel's prophet and priest-by-lineage their own king - Jesus went to the wilderness where John had drawn crowds of people hungry for God.

Jesus had compassion on them, healed them, and taught them. His teaching was entrusted to the disciples, passing on what they had received themselves, just as they gave out the loaves and fishes. That teaching was a continuation of the teaching of Moses from Sinai, but – and here's the thing – it either deepens the Torah which was the defining and redeeming gift to Israel, or it replaces it. How do you read it?

['5000' is the give-away – 5 represents the 5 books of the written Torah which constitutes and defines Israel, and the 12 baskets remaining suggests the overflowing indwelling and redeeming Wisdom given to the twelve tribes of Israel. The later feeding of the 4000, which follows Jesus's encounter with 'a woman' in Gentile territory who begs Jesus to heal her daughter, represents the gift being extended to the whole world - all 4 corners of it - by 7 loaves, seven being the Hebrew number of completion.]

Paul's letter to the Romans, written long before Matthew's gospel, expresses his transformative experience of the crucified Jesus and the Holy Spirit now indwelling people's hearts. To him, it fulfilled every saving promise made to Israel through his prophets, but this continuity and fulfilment wasn't the experience of all Jewish people. He wrestles with what he felt would be the consequences for his own people and a seeming reneging by God of those promises.

The wrestling of Jacob with 'a man' who (re)names Jacob while withholding his own names still resonates with Jews and Christians. 'Israel' is usually translated as 'the one who wrestles with God', or 'God wrestles' – though it *could* also be 'the man who saw God'. Wrestling is to be expected. Don't be surprised, then, or offended, if scripture truthfully reflects our realities. It is 'a light to our path and a lantern to our feet' both in our certainties and our perplexities.

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)

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Parish Office

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Visit our Team website swanageteam.com