

WELCOME TO ST MARK'S CHURCH

Bell Street, Swanage, BH19 2SA



THIS SUNDAY: 22nd February – 1st Sunday of Lent

10am Celebration Service with St Mark's Band

Bible Theme: God's Call – Peter (Luke 5:1-11) Rev Dave Richards

Followed by drinks and cake in the Church Room for everyone and we'll celebrate Anne & Dave Roper's Golden Wedding

We have gluten/wheat-free refreshments – please see the special box

1pm Baptism of Ace Joseph Penny at St Mark's

3pm Service of Prayer for Ukraine at All Saints' Church,
followed by tea and Ukrainian cakes. All welcome.

DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

- **CHURCH & GARDEN OPEN** 10am - 4pm Monday - Saturday
- Mon 23rd: **Community Café** 10am - 12noon at Herston Village Hall with Citizens' Advice, Digital Dorset, and Community Pantry
- Mon 23rd: **St Mark's Choir Practice** 6:15pm - 7pm, Church Room
- Mon 23rd: **Church Committee Meeting** 7:30pm, Church Room
- Tue 24th: **St Mark's Junior Singing Club** 3:30pm - 4:20pm
- Tue 24th: **Lent Course at St Mark's (session 2)**: 7pm in the Church Room (refreshments from 6:45pm).
- Tue 24th: **Any Questions?** 6:30pm for 7pm at All Saints Church with a presentation by Kevin Burke "All done by Kindness - Magic, Performance and Faith"
- Wed 25th: **Prayer & Share** 10am - 10:45am Church Room
- Fri 27th: **Lent Lunch**: 12noon - 1:30pm in the Rectory Classroom near St Mary's Church, raising money for Christian Aid

Thank you to Members of Swanage Churches: The collection for Christmas gifts for needy children attending local schools raised £1381.37, the cost of gifts was £946.24, the balance of £435.13 is ring-fenced for next year's gifts.

NEXT SUNDAY: 1st March 2026 - 2nd Sunday of Lent

10am Holy Communion *Rev Dave Richards*

Bible Theme: Genesis 12:1-4a Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17

Followed by Coffee and Cake in the Church Room

12noon - St Mark's Church Sunday Lunch at the Globe:

Please sign the list on the table by the font so we can give the Globe an idea of numbers and menu choices. We will pay separately on the day at the Globe. Please feel free to invite anyone you normally eat with on a Sunday.

Please collect your copy of the Church Alive! Magazine.

World Day of Prayer: Friday 6th March, 10:30am at Emmanuel Baptist Church. This year's Service has been prepared by Christians in Nigeria.

St Mark's AGM is on Sunday 22nd March after the 10am Service. The following officers need to be nominated to serve St Mark's for the coming year: 2 Churchwardens, 1 PCC Member, 2 Committee Members, 2 Deanery Synod Members. There is a leaflet with further information. Please consider prayerfully who to nominate. Nomination Forms and further details from Marion Marchant.

COLLECT (SPECIAL PRAYER) FOR THE 1st SUNDAY OF LENT:

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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

TEAM NOTES

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!

Lent Groups: In conjunction with other churches in Swanage we are running a Lent Course, entitled '*The Prayer Course*'. Based on the Lord's Prayer, this excellent 6 week course will enable us to grow and deepen our prayer lives. Courses have now started and the next meetings are:

St Mary's (St Mary's Rooms)	Mon 23 rd Feb	2.00pm
St Mark's Meeting Room	Tues 24 th Feb	7.00pm
Emmanuel Baptist Church	Weds 25 ^h Feb	6.00pm
St Nicholas Church Hall	Thurs 26 th Feb	11.30am
All Saints	Fri 27 th Feb	4.00pm

Don't worry if you can't make all the group sessions at one particular church, as you will be able to 'mix and match' to your convenience, as each week we will be studying the same themes in each church.

Lent Lunches 2026 Everyone is welcome to join us for delicious soup, rolls and cheese at the following venues during Lent as we raise funds for the invaluable work of Christian Aid in our troubled world.

Friday 27th February 12:00 - 1:30 in the Rectory Classroom

Thursday 5th March 12:00 - 1:30 at All Saints' Church

Friday 13th March 12:00 - 1:30 at St. Mark's Church

Friday 20th March 12:00 - 1:30 at URC Church

You are assured of a warm welcome in good company!

'Come & Sing' Choral Evensong Sunday, 8th March at 6.30pm in St Mary's Church. Our guest this month is David Ogden, conductor and composer. *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 start at 6.30pm. All Welcome. Music provided. Just come and sing!

Any Questions? – Tues day 24th February at All Saints Church, Ulwell Rd. Doors open at 6.30pm tea/coffee. Presentation 7.00pm by Kevin Burke – 'All done by kindness – Magic, Performance and Faith'. An intriguing evening awaits! All welcome.

Parables from Palestine. Open meeting and talk by The Very Revd Nick Papadopoulos. Tues 10th March, 7.30pm at Sandford School, Wareham, BH20 7BN. Come and hear first hand experiences and perspectives from the Holy Land. Free event. No booking required.

Funerals in our churches:

Barrie Green	Fri 27 Feb	12.00pm	St Mary's
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REFLECTION



On the wall in my study, I have certain pictures, documents and other items which mean something to me. I have some framed certificates reminding me of the significant stepping stones of my life. I have one or two group photographs of past gatherings with colleagues and friends; and I have the inevitable pictures of loved ones. As I look around the walls, they all transport me to bits of what I am.

I have long cherished a small book I first read whilst at Theological College called *"Becoming What I Am"*. The book is a compilation of short talks given by its author (Fr. Harry Williams) about *prayer*. I liked the book because it was simple and down to earth, and I have re-read it many times over the years. It talks to me about *where I was*...and not necessarily as if I was already *"there"*. A young ordinand appreciated that kind of approach...and I still do!

Not without humour, the book used the day to day experiences of life - the important and the trivial - to illustrate great truths about the *"spiritual"* that are common to us all. It also had a title that caught my eye! By using the word, *"becoming"* the author pointed to a journey to a future point. But by qualifying it with, *"Becoming...what I am"* we are reminded of the futility of always looking for some distant peak of spirituality to which we shall all doubtless ascend 'one day'...if we do our homework!

This ought to be the attitude to accompany us into the season of Lent. **Do not** adopt airs and graces about what you ought to be. **Do not** enter it with unrealistic expectations of your own application to rigorous routines. **Do** give yourself one or two simple goals; and **do** come regularly to church to be with God and his other very fallible people. In other words, enter it with *simplicity* and *openness*...and you will not be disappointed at its end. It's a bit like life really!

Rev Canon Jeremy Oakes

Team Contact details

Team Rector

Team Vicar

Parish Administrator

Parish Office

Revd Dr Ian Bird Tel: 01929 422916 (normal day off Friday)

Revd Jo Levasier Tel 01929 208217 (normal day off Friday)

Karon Quirey swanage.team@btconnect.com

Tues & Weds 9am-5pm / Friday 9am – 4pm Tel: 01929 421117

Visit our Team website swanageteam.com