

# WELCOME TO ST MARK'S CHURCH

Bell Street, Swanage, BH19 2SA



## THIS SUNDAY: 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2026 – Trinity 12

Short Music Practice before the Service from 9:30am

### 10am Holy Communion

*Rev Dave Richards and Chris Campbell (Ordinand from USA)*

Bible Theme: Exodus 1:8-2:10 Romans 12:1-8 Matthew 16.13-20

Gluten-free: Please talk to the Welcomer if you'd like a gluten-free Communion Wafer. We also have gluten-free refreshments.

## DIARY FOR THIS WEEK:

- **CHURCH & GARDEN OPEN** 10am - 4pm Monday - Saturday
- Mon 24<sup>th</sup>: **Community Café** 10am - 12noon at Herston Village Hall
- Mon 24<sup>th</sup>: **NO St Mark's Choir Rehearsal** until 7<sup>th</sup> September.
- Wed 26<sup>th</sup>: **Walk and Pray for our Community:** Meet at St Mark's Church at 10am and we'll walk and pray for the residents of Bell Street, Marsh Way, Higher Days Road, Benlease Way, Jubilee Road and all the side streets. If wet, we'll stay at the Church and pray. This is in place of Prayer & Share this month.
- Wed 26<sup>th</sup>: **Town Band Concert at the Bandstand:** 7pm. If wet, the Concert will be at the Methodist Church at 7:30pm. Free with a collection.

## NEXT SUNDAY: 30<sup>th</sup> August 2026 – Trinity 13

Short Music Practice before the Service from 9:30am

### 10am Celebration Service with St Mark's Band

*Rev Dave Richards*

Theme: **Jesus – a man worth knowing** John 1:35-51

**Mark's Big Swim!** We're still waiting for a date for Mark's swim from Chapmans Pool to Swanage Pier to raise funds for the Air Ambulance.

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

This will take place at Evensong at 5:15pm on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**Swanage Christian Men's Breakfast:** Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September, 8:15am-10am at McAllisters in Institute Road. Further details from John Way.

**Cakes for Staff at St Mark's School:** The staff really appreciate a welcome gift of cakes at the start of the new School year. If you are able to make or buy some buns/cakes, please bring them to Church on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September and give them to Carol. We will deliver them on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Sept.

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**COLLECT (Special Prayer) for 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity:** Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of 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:** God of all mercy, in this eucharist you have set aside our sins and given us your healing: grant that we who are made whole in Christ may bring that healing to this broken world, in the name of Jesus Christ.

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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](http://www.facebook.com/StMarksHerston)**

**St Mark's Church, Herston, is part of the Swanage & Studland Team**  
**[www.swanageteam.com](http://www.swanageteam.com)**

St Mark's Website: [www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Mark-Herston](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Mark-Herston)

### **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 Communion Service Book and on a poster on the wall near the font. 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 are given.

# TEAM NOTES

**TONIGHT 23<sup>rd</sup> August at 6.30pm at St Nicholas in Studland. Hymns and Pimm's.** . The hymns we are singing have been requested by members of the congregation – and represent a happy memory – or maybe just have a nice tune! And the clue is in the name --- Pimm's and soft drinks will be served after the service. So, if you fancy a drive out on Sunday evening, do come. Everyone will be made welcome.

**Some great news!** Following our recent 'Generous God, Generous People' series, 10 new donors have joined our Parish Giving Scheme, which is most encouraging. I don't know who you are, whether couples or individuals, but I just want to thank you for your generosity and commitment to our Parish. If you have been considering joining the scheme and want further information please do not hesitate to talk to one of the clergy, John our Treasurer, or a warden. Next month, we will give a fuller update on our financial situation.

Thank you again and thank you to all who give to support our worship and mission. Ian, Rector.

**Purbeck International Chamber Music Festival – Concert at St Nicholas at 11.00am on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September.** As part of the festival, which has a theme of the Sea, there will be a concert at St Nicholas Church at 11.00am on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September entitled 'Still Waters'. Full details of the concerts and a booking link can be found at [info@picmf.org](mailto:info@picmf.org).



**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 tory Classroom. Come along for a cuppa and a chat, we'd love you.



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**Keys for St Mary's** - The Yale lock for St Mary's Rooms has been replaced. Please ask a churchwarden if you need a replacement key. If you hold keys, please see a churchwarden (Cliff or Avril) to complete an updated form. If you have keys you no longer need, please return them to a churchwarden. This is a good opportunity to update our record of key holders!

**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!

# REFLECTION

## Isaiah 43: 8-13, Acts 5:12-16, Luke 22: 24-30

Today we celebrate the Feast Day of St Bartholomew the Apostle which is actually tomorrow.

So I thought my reflection might extend to what we know about Bartholomew. My first problem occurred in the first line of my chosen study book which said, "also known as Nathanael" Mmm, I reflected, so why Bartholomew and not Nathanael? Is this just a C of E whim?

Looking at the list of Apostles in Matthew, Mark and Luke we find Bartholomew listed, but in John no Bart, only Nathanael. In some there is an aside, "sometimes called Nathanael." I came across several assertions that scholars "generally" agree that Bartholomew and Nathanael are one and the same person. Who am I, a poor old retired parson, to disagree with them? Never the less I did spend a bit of time reflecting, and I invite you to do the same.

Bartholomew is named in the apostle lists in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and the Book of Acts, but no individual stories or teachings are explicitly attributed to the name Bartholomew in canonical scripture.

Nathanael plays a minor role in the gospels, yet his brief appearance in the Gospel of John is significant. When Jesus met him, he said, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit." Jesus commended Nathanael's honest character and his genuine hope for the Messiah. Nathanael was astonished that Jesus had noticed him under the fig tree.

So there you have it, let's presume that Bartholomew and Nathanael are one and the same person. This person had an astounding record of post resurrection missionary work. He traveled to regions like India, Mesopotamia, and Armenia to spread the Gospel and was credited with helping bring Christianity to Armenia. Tradition states he was martyred in a particularly barbaric way.

Saint Bartholomew is revered in the Anglican lectionary as one of the Twelve Apostles, a foundational witness to Christ's earthly ministry, resurrection, and ascension, and a representative of early missionary expansion to the ends of the earth. His feast is traditionally celebrated on the 24th August. A record worth reflecting on?

With blessings, John Cooper

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### **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)

**Parish Administrator**

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**Parish Office**

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

Visit our Team website [swanageteam.com](http://swanageteam.com)