

WELCOME TO ST MARK'S CHURCH

Bell Street, Swanage, BH19 2SA



THIS SUNDAY: 29th March 2026 – Palm Sunday

N.B. Clocks went forward 1 hour on Saturday night

10am Celebration Service with St Mark's Band

Bible Theme: Matthew 21:1-11 Rev Natalie Davies & Rev Dave Richards

Followed by Coffee & Cake (including gluten-free refreshments)

3pm - 4:30pm Easter Teddy Bear's Picnic at St Mark's Church for children aged 3 - 8 and at least 1 adult – a FREE afternoon of fun, craft, songs, stories and yummy treats.

DIARY FOR THIS WEEK – HOLY WEEK *Please also see the flyer with a full list of Services across the Swanage & Studland Team*

- **CHURCH & GARDEN OPEN** 10am - 4pm Monday - Saturday
- Mon 30th: **Community Café** 10am - 12noon at Herston Village Hall
- Mon 30th: **Night Prayer with Meditation** 6pm - 6:45pm St Mark's
- Mon 30th: **St Mark's Choir Practice** 6:45pm - 7:15pm (*Note Time*)
- Tue 31st: **Night Prayer with Meditation** 6pm – 6:45pm St Mark's
- Wed 1st April: **Prayer & Share** 10am - 10:45am Church Room
- Wed 1st: **Night Prayer with Meditation** 6pm - 6:45pm St Mark's
- Fri 3rd: **"Around the Cross" at St Mark's** 10am - 10:45am, followed by **Churches Together Good Friday Walk of Witness** leaving Emmanuel Baptist Church at 11am. People can also drive to the Bandstand for a short Service at 11:30am (*15 mins*).

NEXT SUNDAY: 5th April 2026 – Easter Sunday

6:30am Churches Together Sunrise Praise on the Beach (near Banjo Pier)

10am Easter Family Communion *Rev Dave Richards*

Bible Theme: Jeremiah 31.1-6 Acts 10.34-43 John 20.1-18

Followed by Coffee & Cake in the Church Room

Please take a copy of the April “Church Alive!” Magazine – St Mark’s dates for April are included in the St Mark’s article.

Christian Aid Lunch: Thank you to everyone who supported our Lent Lunch. We raised a fantastic £262.10 (Plus Gift Aid of £47.50) **A Total of £309.60.**

St Mark’s Junior Singing Club takes a break for the Easter holiday and restarts on Tuesday 14th April at 3:30pm at St Mark’s Church, this is the same day that the School term restarts. New members are welcome in School years 3 - 8 (School Year 2 are welcome to join now if they want to start early).

The next Celebration Service with the Band is St Mark’s Day: Sunday 26th April at 10am. A special celebration for both St Mark’s Church and St Mark’s School. We hope to celebrate with a group photo of St Mark’s Band, St Mark’s Choir and Junior Choir, after the Service.

AGM: Following St Mark’s AGM last Sunday, our Church Committee is: Rev Dave Richards, plus Anne Roper and John Way (Churchwardens), Colin Burgess, David Hudson, Uta Keats (PCC Reps), Sue Hudson, Mike Keats, Joanna Penley, Anne Johnson, Gerard Jensen, Anthony Malpas (Church Committee Members), Carol Richards, and Anne Roper (Deanery Synod Reps). Please pray for your new Church Committee. Names from St Mark’s AGM will go forward to the meeting for the wider Parish (which includes St Mary’s and All Saints Churches), which will be held on Tuesday 21st April at 7:30pm at All Saints’ Church, Ulwell.

COLLECT (Special Prayer) for Palm Sunday: Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; 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.**

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

Today is Palm Sunday. This year we will all be together for the start of the 10.30 am service in St Mary's and there will not be a procession from the station.

St Mary's Holy Week and Easter Services

(see our Easter card for details of the services at other churches in the team)

7.30pm Thursday 2nd April Maundy Thursday Eucharist

If you wish to take part in the foot washing in this service, please sign up on the sheet at the back of St Mary's.

Good Friday, 3rd April 11.00am Churches Together Walk of Witness followed by 11.30am service at the Bandstand (15 mins)

12noon Three Hours at the Cross: Readings, prayers, reflections, silence and music. Please come and go during the hymns every 20 mins.

8.30pm Saturday 4th April Easter Eve Vigil with lighting of the Paschal Candle

Easter Sunday 5th April: 8.00am Easter Communion (said)
10.30am Choral Eucharist for Easter Day
6.30pm Festal Evensong

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



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 10am to 12.30pm in the Rectory Classroom. Come along for a cuppa and a chat. Everyone welcome!



REFLECTION

Psalm 118 Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 26:14-27:66

A cinematographer of this dense Passion might choose long, slow, close-ups of the confrontations between Jesus and Judas over the cup and in the garden. It started when a mother and son (an ass and her foal ass - Zechariah 14.4) entered Jerusalem: God's presence with humanity is being restored.

It is the fulfilment of God's warning (Genesis 3.15) that there will be enmity between Satan and the Woman/Eve, and his children and hers. Satan will 'bruise the heel' of the Woman's child, but the child will 'bruise his head'. The same life-and-death confrontation between the dragon and the woman (Revelation 12) glimmers through this Gospel, from Herod's murderous search for the 'mother and her child' to the chief priests at the foot of the cross.

At the Passion it all comes into open. Jesus can be hailed as 'the Son of David'. His disciples, children of the Spirit, wave palm branches or garments, symbols of the Spirit's true teaching, as they welcome Spirit and Son on their passage to the temple. Psalm 118 reads as a liturgical Temple celebration of some sort, which, for Christians, foreshadows Jesus and the Eucharist – though Satan has finally got his prey – the one rival he will accept for the ransom of humankind. The Eucharist recalls and celebrates the Trinity's self-giving love that pays off Satan so dearly.

Meanwhile, Judas twice addresses Jesus as 'Rabbi', defying Jesus's instruction: 'Call no one "rabbi" for you have only one teacher, and you are all her children' (Matthew 23.8). The final act of betrayal is when Judas calls Jesus 'rabbi' a second time and kisses him (or does Matthew suggest that Judas is actually kissing 'affectionately' the 'rabbi', the Spirit, within Jesus?)

Jesus responds with 'Comrade' – the same word spoken by the master of the wedding feast to the man with no Wisdom garment before ejecting him. And just as Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, so 'Satan's brood' of the chief priests and their slaves taunt Jesus on the cross. Evil will be decisively defeated, but only by the Son's loving obedience to the very end, which means relinquishing even the comfort of the Spirit in order to die. That final, total emptying, described in Philippians 2.5-11, gives Satan no further claim over his family.

Revd Terence Handley MacMath

Team Contact details

Team Rector Revd Dr Ian Bird Tel: 01929 422916 (normal day off Friday)
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Visit our Team website swanageteam.com