

WELCOME TO ST MARK'S CHURCH

Bell Street, Swanage, BH19 2SA



THIS SUNDAY: 30th November 2025 – Advent Sunday

10am Celebration Service with St Mark's Band:

Rev Dave Richards

Followed by Coffee and Cake in the Church Room

Gluten/wheat-free refreshments available

6pm Invitation to “Advent at St James Kingston” – Readings and Carols followed by mulled wine and mince pies

6:30pm Advent Carol Service at St Mary's Church, Swanage

DIARY FOR THIS WEEK:

- **St. Mark's Church & Garden Open** 10am- 4pm, Mon – Sat
- Mon 1st December: **Community Café** 10am - 12noon at Herston Village Hall: Citizens Advice, help with technology + Community Pantry
- Mon 1st: **Choir Rehearsal** 6:15pm - 7pm Church Room
- Tue 2nd: **St Mark's Junior Singing Club:** 3:30pm - 4:20pm, Church Room, for children in School years 3 to 6. FREE
- Tue 2nd: **Fortnightly Bible Study & Discussion:** Refreshments 6:45pm, 7pm - 8:30pm Bible study & discussion. Church Room
- Wed 3rd: **Prayer & Share:** 10am - 10:45am Church Room
- Wed 3rd: **Swanage Town Band Concert:** 7:30pm at the Methodist Church. Free entry with a retiring collection for charity and band funds
- Sat 6th: **Swanage Christmas Market:** 10am - 4pm. The Churches Together Choir will sing Christmas Carols from 2:30pm - 3:15pm
- Sat 6th: **Concert by Belvedere Singers:** “Ring Christmas Bells” 7:30pm at St Mary's Church. Entry £9.

Thanks: To everyone who has given a donation to the Churches Together appeal to buy toys for children in low-income families. The total raised last Sunday at St Mark's was £300 and more has been given since then.

Audrey would like to *Thank everyone* for their uplifting prayers and kind words, for her and Audrey's family since the loss of her daughter Jenny.

NEXT SUNDAY: 7th December 2025 – Advent 2

10am Holy Communion *Rev Dave Richards*

Bible Theme: Isaiah 11:1-10 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12

Followed by Coffee & Cake in the Church Room

6pm Invitation to “Worship@ 6” at Emmanuel Baptist Church

St Mark's Christmas Meal: Monday 15th December, 6.30 for 7pm at The Village Inn, Ulwell, Swanage BH19 3DG. Meals need to be ordered by 7th December and paid for by Friday 12th December. Refunds for any cancellations cannot be made after the deadline has passed. The cost for 2 courses is £28 and 3 courses £34. The menu and sign-up sheets are on the table near the font. Uta will collect all food orders and cash payments, as payment is required from one source for the booking. Thanks to Uta.

Our Christmas Charity: Routes to Roots (helping homeless people in Poole) – there will be a raffle at the Christmas meal and people are also welcome to give just one Christmas card to friends at Church (attached to the board in the side chapel) and make a donation to Routes to Roots for the money saved. Thanks to Marion for organising this.

Christmas Tree Festival: Thursday 11th, Friday 12th and Saturday 13th December, 10am - 6pm each day at Emmanuel Baptist Church. Free event with a charity collection. St Mark's Church and School have a Tree jointly, which will be decorated by the schoolchildren. The Junior Singing Club will perform on Thursday 11th at 4:10pm for about 30 minutes.

Christmas Flowers: There's a list in the porch if you can help decorate

Church Alive! December and January: Please collect your copy

COLLECT (Special Prayer) for Advent Sunday: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

St Mark's Church, Herston, is part of the Swanage & Studland Team
www.swanageteam.com

TEAM NOTES

Advent Christingle Service and tea party at All Saints Church, Ulwell TODAY at 4pm.

Come & Join Us at St Mary's TODAY, 30th November at 6.30pm for our Advent Carols Service: *Music & Readings for Advent Sunday*. With candles & light it's a wonderful way to start Advent.

Christmas cards are on sale now in the three Swanage churches, £2 for a pack of 5 cards. Profits will be donated to Swanage parish funds.

Our Special Christmas Events & Services cards are available at the back of each church listing all events and services that are happening in our 4 churches over the Christmas period. Please take one. You are most welcome to join us at whichever event you can make.



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. So if you are on your own on a Wednesday or new to the area and would like to meet others, come along for a cuppa and a chat.



Friday Fun Club – meets on Friday evenings 6.30-8pm in the Rectory Classroom, during term time, for years 4-9 to enjoy food, games and chat. All are welcome.

Community Coffee Studland's Community Coffee Morning has moved back to the Church Hall for the winter season. Please join us on Thursday mornings from 10am to 11am – for coffee, cake and conversation. We'd love to see you there.

Monthly Parish Magazines – you can access both the Church Alive! magazine and Studland Parish News on our new website swanageteam.com/team-magazine.

Studland Men's Breakfast – Saturday 6th December at 8.30am. You will be welcomed by Chef, Tony Edmonds, and Sous Chef, Peter Hawksworth, who will be cooking up a gastronomic treat of bacon rolls, sausages and black pudding, together with toast and marmalade (or honey) - and unlimited tea and coffee. They cater for vegetarians and vegans too – and, of course, offer gluten free options. There is no charge for the breakfast, but we are grateful if you can make a donation. The important thing is that you join us! Any queries, just email Stnicksbreakfast@yahoo.com

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

REFLECTION

ADVENT SUNDAY

***“...give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light...”***

They're on their way...the Wise Men that is! They did come from “*afar*” after all...and though we do not know quite where that was, it was...*afar*!

Advent reminds us that we too need to make a journey to the manger: one that of necessity will need to cross the rough terrain and inhospitable deserts that lie between us and our Lord. As the rigour of Lent seeks to prepare pilgrims for the glories of Easter, so the coming weeks of Advent remind us that - if we are to meet our Incarnate Lord in his manger - we too will need to move on from where we are.

Our Advent candles (progressively lit on the Sundays of the coming month) remind us of the landmarks along the way of our Biblical predecessors. They remind us of **patriarchs** and **prophets** who led the way...in order that people like **John the Baptist** - and even **Mary** herself – might follow. They all trod difficult paths on their faithful journeyings...and encountered many hurdles; but lest we think that such is ‘job done’ for us too, Advent reminds us that (if we needed any prompting) we too need to step out in faith.

The Christian message flourishes in the hearts of those who allow time and space for the Lord to speak to them. In each generation, there is always much to crowd out such encounters; but I am reminded of the prophet Elijah who only heard the Lord on the Holy Mountain in the moments of respite from the elements...in the relative silence. Such oases of calm might seem elusive at this time of year, but the Advent Candles remind us of the necessity to seek them out nevertheless.

Canon Jeremy Oakes