

WELCOME TO ST MARK'S CHURCH

Bell Street, Swanage, BH19 2SA



THIS SUNDAY: 4th October 2026 – Harvest Festival

11am Holy Communion: *Rev Dave Richards*

Bible Theme: Deuteronomy 8:7-18 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 Luke 12:16-30

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

Approx 12:30pm: Harvest Bring-and-Share Lunch in Church

6pm Invitation to Worship @6 at EBC with Swanage Churches

DIARY FOR THIS WEEK:

- **St. Mark's Church & Garden Open** 10am - 4pm, Mon - Sat
- **Mon 5th: Community Café** 10am - 12noon at Herston Village Hall with Citizens Advice, Help with Technology and Community Pantry
- **Mon 5th: Choir Rehearsal** 6:15pm - 7pm Church Room
- **Tue 6th: Junior Singing Club** 3:30pm - 4:20pm Church Room
- **Wed 7th: Prayer & Share** 10am - 10:45am Church Room
- **Thurs 8th: St Mark's School Harvest** 1:45pm in Church
- **Thurs 8th: Any Questions?** 6:30pm for 7pm at Swanage Methodist Church. The speaker is Dr Alan Kerry, and the topic is, "Is God good for your (mental) health?"

NEXT SUNDAY: 11th October 2026 – Trinity 19

10am Holy Communion: *Rev Dr Ian Bird & Rev Dave Richards*

Bible Theme: Exodus 32:1-14 Philippians 4:1-9 Matthew 22:1-14

Followed by Coffee & Cake in the Church Room

Thanks: to everyone who has decorated the Church for Harvest. Thanks also to everyone who has contributed to the Harvest Lunch, and thanks to people for donations to the Swanage Foodbank.

Jonathan Veira, Christian singer and comedian, is performing at EBC on Friday 16th October at 7:30pm. Tickets are £10 each, available from Corbens Estate Agent and local churches. Please see Carol at St Mark's.

Wear it Pink! On Sunday 18th October there will be special refreshments after the Morning Communion Service, and a collection for the charity "Breast Cancer Now". People are invited to wear something pink.

Deanery Links with the Church in Sudan and South Sudan: On Thursday 22nd October at 7pm for 7:30pm everyone in Purbeck Deanery is invited to an open meeting of Deanery Synod to find out more about our links with the Church in Sudan and South Sudan.

The next Celebration Service with St Mark's Band is on Sunday 25th October at 10am, followed by coffee and cake in the Church Room

COLLECT (Special Prayer) for Harvest: Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; 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: Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom: by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy; through 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**

DONATIONS for the work of St Mark's Church are always welcome:

There is a plate for cash donations on top of the font, or you can use this QR code if you've got the App on your mobile phone. Thank you to everyone for your donations, however they are given.



TEAM NOTES

Church Harvest Festival Services. **St Mary's** will celebrate today Sunday 4th October at 10.30am and **St Mark's**; also today, at the later time of 11am. St Mark's service will be followed by a Bring-and-Share Lunch. Drinks provided. Everyone is most welcome to join us at any of our Harvest Services.

'Come & Sing' Choral Evensong next Sunday, 11th October at 6.30pm in St Mary's Church. Our guest this month is Dr Philip Moore, formerly York Minster. *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!

Reading Scripture Together – A course exploring the ancient and rich spiritual practice of *lectio divina*. To be held in St Mary's Rooms on Thursday evenings from 1st October – 19th November at 5pm for 5.15pm – 6.30pm. *Please see leaflets in church for more details or speak to Revd Terence Handley MacMath.* There is a sign-up sheet and further details at the back of St Mary's church for anyone interested in attending.

Confirmation - We have a couple of members of the congregation taking part in confirmation preparation. If anyone else is interested in being confirmed, please speak to Ian or one of the church wardens.

Advance Diary Date:

Jonathan Viera – at Emmanuel Baptist Church on Friday 16th October, 7.30pm. Jonathan, renowned singer and musician, will be performing his acclaimed one man show, filled with music, singing, moving and hilarious anecdotes from his professional and personal life. Tickets £10 available from Parish Office or see Rector Ian.



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.

On your own on a Wednesday? Or new to the area and would like to chat to others? **T-Pot is held** every Wednesday from 10.00am to 12.30pm in the Rectory Classroom. Come along for a cuppa and a chat.



Friday Fun Club – meets on Friday evenings 6.30-8pm, during term time, in the Rectory Classroom for school years 4-9 to enjoy food, games and chat. If you would like to join or need more information please contact Trish Clark at jandtclark@hotmail.com or Tel: 01929 425427.

REFLECTION

2 Corinthians 9.6-15 Luke 12.16-30

St Mary's and St Mark's are both celebrating Harvest Festival this week. Our celebrations come at the very end of the Church's **Season of Creation**, a time to reflect on God's wonderful world, and how we relate to it.

Harvest is a time to give thanks for God's provision. In past times, when more people lived closer to the land, it was all about the produce of the land; (when I was a Curate in industrial Wales, in the early 80s, our church Harvest displays included a bag of coal and a gallon of oil – both produced in our local community). Our readings today encourage us to think about more than just food, to recognise God's total provision for us, and our complete dependency on Him.

Our Gospel reading reminds us that we should not be too obsessed with material things. *"For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing"*. There are far more important things in life than our possessions, and of course, we must one day leave them all behind. It's interesting that Matthew tells us that the possessions are temporary, (moth and rust etc.), while Luke reminds us that **we** are temporary. Both emphasise the need for an eternal, rather than a temporal, perspective.

St Paul talks about *"a harvest of righteousness"*, and uses the image of sowing and reaping to encourage generosity. This is, of course, an important part of Harvest. We bring token offerings to decorate the Church, and, hopefully, more substantial offerings to stock up the Foodbank. We are reminded that while we have enough, and sometimes more than enough, others live in poverty. The Old Testament Harvest Celebrations, as described in Deuteronomy, always carry a warning not to forget *"the widow, the orphan and the alien"* – those most likely to be destitute.

The Harvest message is clear. God has blessed us; we must thank Him for these blessings, which are to be shared, not hoarded. **We thank God for the Creation, but worship the Creator!**

Revd Dave Richards

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 07725 343768 (normal day off Monday)

Karon Quirey swanage.team@btconnect.com

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

Visit our Team website swanageteam.com