

WELCOME TO ST MARK'S CHURCH

Bell Street, Swanage, BH19 2SA



THIS SUNDAY: 8th March 2026 - 3rd Sunday of Lent

10am Holy Communion *Rev John Cooper & Rev Dave Richards*
Bible Theme: Exodus 17:1-7 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42

Followed by Coffee and Cake in the Church Room

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 9th: Community Café** 10am - 12noon at Herston Village Hall with Citizens' Advice, Digital Dorset, and Community Pantry
- **Mon 9th: St Mark's Choir Practice** 6:15pm - 7pm, Church Room
- **Tue 10th: St Mark's Junior Singing Club** 3:30pm - 4:20pm
- **Tue 10th: Lent Course at St Mark's (session 4):** 7pm in the Church Room (refreshments from 6:45pm)
- **Tue 10th: Open Deanery Synod:** The Very Rev'd Nick Papadopulos, Dean of Salisbury, will talk about his recent visit to East Jerusalem. Venue: Sandford School BH20 7BN, 7:30pm
- **Wed 11th: Prayer & Share** 10am - 10:45am Church Room
- **Fri 13th: Lent Lunch at St Mark's:** Everyone is welcome to drop in between 12noon - 1:30pm for a delicious lunch of homemade soup, bread and cheese raising money for Christian Aid.

NEXT SUNDAY: 15th March 2026 – Mothering Sunday

10am Holy Communion *Rev Dave Richards*
Bible Theme: Exodus 2:1-10 Colossians 3:12-17 John 19:25-27

Followed by Coffee and Cake in the Church Room

EBC Men's Italian Night: Monday 16th March, 7pm at the King's Arms, Langton. Let Clive know if you want to go on 07540 187089 or email clive.chance@googlemail.com

St Mark's "Many Hands" Action Day: Saturday 21st March 10am - 1pm. Everyone welcome as we tackle lots of jobs in the church and garden. Please bring your own gloves and any particular tools and cleaning materials you like to use. Mid-morning refreshments provided.

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 are on the table near the font. Further details from Anne Roper.

Easter Flowers: If you'd like to decorate a window for our Easter Celebrations, please sign the list in the porch to show which window

Marian Booth Memorial Service: Friends and family of the late Marian Booth are invited to gather at All Saints' Church on Thursday 19th March at 3pm to celebrate Marian's life.

COLLECT (SPECIAL PRAYER) FOR THE 3rd SUNDAY OF LENT:

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER: Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; 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

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

'Come & Sing' Choral Evensong today, 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. All Welcome. Music provided. Just come and sing!

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. The next meetings are:

St Mary's (St Mary's Rooms)	Mon 9 th Mar	2.00pm
St Mark's Meeting Room	Tues 10 th Mar	7.00pm
Emmanuel Baptist Church	Weds 11 th Mar	6.00pm
St Nicholas Church Hall	Thurs 12 th Mar	11.30am
All Saints	Fri 13 th Mar	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 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!

Annual Revision of Electoral Roll 2026 - This Roll lists those members of the Church aged 16 or over who wish to be on their Parish Church register and thus a voting member of the Church of England at the Annual Parochial church council meeting and for the parish representatives on the deanery synod. To ensure this is kept up to date with any changes of address etc it is revised annually and so you are urged to ensure you are on the Roll by completing the form available in each church which also gives more details.

New books arriving for Lent and Easter in Saint Mary's Library include:

"Dappled Beauty" by Carys Walsh – Through Lent with Gerard Manley Hopkins and

"Wardrobes and Rings" by Julia Golding, Malcolm Guite, and Simon Horobin – Through Lent with The Inklings (C S Lewis JRR Tolkien, Dorothy L Sayers, and T S Eliot)

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/Thanksgiving services in our churches:

David Macrow	Mon 9 th March	12.00pm	St Mary's
Marian Booth	Thurs 19 th March	2.00pm	All Saints

REFLECTION

John 4: 5 - 42

How is your Lent progressing? I hope you are finding the time to engage in activities that bring you closer to God and experience his renewal and transformation in your life.

In today's Gospel, something transformative emerges from a very ordinary situation. Jesus, tired, in the midday heat asks a Samaritan woman, drawing water from a well, for a drink. It was a simple request, but it resulted in her life being transformed. Jesus had the courage to ask her a question, yet his very asking broke boundaries. The woman realised this. Her reply to him hinted at the enmity between Samaritans and Jews at that time and the fact that she was a woman. But all this didn't concern Jesus.

Their conversation then gets complicated. She talks of drawing physical water, of buckets and deep wells, whereas Jesus is talking about 'living water' and its properties. Eventually she understands. Many of us know what it means to draw repeatedly from wells that do not satisfy—achievement, approval, possessions, even relationships. Like the woman returning daily to the same well, we can find ourselves stuck in cycles of thirst.

Jesus then names her life story but without shaming her. He offers her 'living water' which she accepts and is transformed. Her priorities totally change. She leaves her water jar and becomes a witness and messenger to those fellow Samaritans in her community at Sychar, inviting others to 'come and see' Jesus.

We can meet Jesus in the ordinariness of life in these days of Lent. He invites us again to drink his living water that eternally satisfies. May that living water further transform us. Like that woman, may we live more boldly as witnesses to God's love and hope and may we courageously speak of what God has done for us.

Revd Ian Bird

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