



Sunday 1st February 2026
Holy Communion 10.00am
Revd Tony Edmonds

**A very warm welcome to our
Candlemas Service this morning in
St Nicholas Church, Studland**

Today is Candlemas, when the candles were traditionally brought into the Church for blessing. We hope that you enjoy this service, celebrating the Light of the World.

This is a Family Communion Service, and we hope that there will be lots of families with young children in our congregation today. If you are a parent, or a grandparent, please do not worry if children are noisy or want to run around during the service: we are just delighted to have them in Church with us. There are toys in the two green boxes at the back of the Church - and everyone is welcome to use them.

We do not pass around a collection plate at St Nicholas' Church, but we are most appreciative of donations to help maintain both the Church and its ministry. We have a traditional plate for cash donations with Gift Aid envelopes available as well as a contactless card payments station at the exit to the Church. If you would like to make regular donations, please consider setting up a Standing Order with your bank: if this is of interest, please contact the Treasurer, Eric Stobart at eric@thestobarts.co.uk.

After the service, we serve coffee, tea and other refreshments in the Church Hall. Please join us - and get to know us all a little better. For regular updates on Church activities, check www.achurchnearyou.com You can also follow us on Facebook. (St Nicholas Church Studland) – do give us a like or two!

For additional information about St Nicholas Church and its services, please contact:
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SWANAGE & STUDLAND TEAM MINISTRY

St. Mary's – St. Mark's – All Saints' – St. Nicholas

Candlemas 1st February 2026

Reading for this Sunday: Hebrews 2, 14 to the end

Gospel Reading: Luke 2, 22 - 40

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.' ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹ 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.' ³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' ³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Collect

Almighty and ever-living God,
clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was this day
presented in the Temple,
in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ 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

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and
Anna,
who lived to welcome the Messiah:
may we, who have received these gifts
beyond words,
prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he
comes to bring us to eternal life;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

REFLECTION

Malachi 3: 1-5, Hebrews 2: 14- 18 Luke 2: 22-40

Today we have a succession of readings that carry us through the Presentation of Christ to human kind. Malachi, tiring of his people's unfaithfulness to God announces that a day of judgement will appear. The Lord will send a messenger. He will have human qualities of skill, using work images to announce Godly images. The Lord will pronounce judgement on those who do not respect him.

Luke has begun to illustrate the earthly mission of Jesus. It is seen through the eyes of the faithful old. We who are old (in years at least!) will recognise that moment of a child being shown to his family, and we wonder, how will he or she develop? What are our own hopes and fears? How much of their lives will we enjoy? Simeon and Anna present a tender and yet powerful image. Simeon narrates the prayer of our own familiarity, "Now Lord let your servant depart in peace, according to your word....." Remember as he spoke these words the embryonic parents were listening and wondering, in both senses to what this all meant. There was for Mary the image of the sword and its purpose. Meanwhile Anna in faithfulness attended each day and in her widowhood of great length also receives this child with joy.

The message of this story was that it was not just for the people of Israel but for everyone, folks just like you and me. In our personal expression of faith these passages of scripture might become a pattern for our own use. It might be especially helpful when we embark on our Lent courses. We will each bring different images of faith, being the Annas and Simeons, or the intercessors and those who secure our lives with their prayers.

I haven't forgotten Hebrews. The author emphasises Jesus' humanity. He had to come, it is written, "That he became like his people in every way, in order to be their faithful and merciful High priest, so that their sins could be forgiven. And now he can help those who are tempted because he himself was tempted and suffered."

With every blessing
John Cooper

St Nicholas Church in Studland is part of the Swanage and Studland Team

Team Rector	Revd Dr Ian Bird	Tel 01929 422916 (normal day off Friday)
Team Vicar	Revd Jo Levasier	Tel 01929 208217 (normal day off Friday)
Parish Administrator	Karon Quirey	swanage.team@btconnect.com
Parish Office	Tues & Weds 9am-5pm / Friday 9am – 4pm	Tel: 01929 421117

Visit our Team website www.swanageteam.com

TEAM NOTES

New Year Studland Men's Breakfast Saturday 7th February 2026 - The next Men's Breakfast of 2026 will be held on Saturday, 7th February in Studland Church Hall. It runs on a café style – so come any time between 8.30am – 10am for a great breakfast – and great conversation. 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) – served with 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

Studland's Community Coffee Morning Thursday 5th February . If you enjoy a good cup of coffee and good conversation, please join us for our village coffee morning on Thursday mornings, in the Church Hall from 10am to 11am. We would love to see you there ...

321 – a 4 week course to discover life according to Jesus. Starts Tues 27th Jan, 6.30pm in All Saints Hall, 26 Ulwell Rd, Swanage. Each week starts with an informal supper, followed by input from films, thought-provoking questions and discussion. All Welcome. For more info contact Revd Jo Levasier at jo@swanageteam.com or on 07725 343768.

Big Quiz Night - Saturday 7th February 2026, 7pm for 7.30pm start at All Saints Church. Max 8 people per team – make your own team or we will introduce you to others on the night. £5.00 per person to include nibbles. Soft drinks will be available – donation bar of wine / lager or bring your own wine/ beer /lager. All funds raised will go to help the work of Tearfund. Please contact Gill Kaiser (Gill.kaiser@aol.com) or Roger Arnett (poshandrog@btinternet.com)

'Come & Sing' Choral Evensong Sunday 8th February at 6.30pm in St Mary's Church. Our guest this month is Carl Jackson, formerly HM Chapel Royal, Hampton Court. *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!

Lent Groups: In conjunction with other churches in Swanage we will be 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. Courses will be run in churches across Swanage and Studland. The ones being run in the Team are:

St Mary's (St Mary's Rooms)	Mon 16 th Feb	2.00pm
St Mark's Meeting Room	Tues 17 th Feb	7.00pm
Emmanuel Baptist Church	Weds 18 th Feb	6.00pm
St Nicholas Church Hall	Thurs 19 th Feb	11.30am
All Saints	Fri 20 th Feb	4.00pm

We will let people know what groups are being run in other Swanage churches soon. We hope you can join us!