



Sunday 10th May 2026
Morning Prayer 10.00am
Jane Hawksworth

A very warm welcome to our service this morning in St Nicholas Church, Studland

And a special welcome if you are new to our church or are visiting the area!

Children are most welcome in our church. Do not worry if they are noisy or make a break for freedom: we are just delighted to have the children 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 are always most appreciative of donations to help maintain both the Church here in Studland, and its ministry. If you would like to make a gift, we have a traditional plate for cash donations with Gift Aid envelopes available, as well as a contactless card payment station at the exit to the Church. If you would like to make a donation directly from your bank account or set up a regular donation by Standing Order, the Church's bank account is '*PCC of Studland, sort code 55-61-19, account number 69056935*'. If you have any queries or questions, 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 do join us - and get to know us all a little better.

For regular updates on Church activities throughout the week, please find us on 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:

Associate Minister: Revd Dr Tony Edmonds 01929 450097 revtonyedmonds@outlook.com
Church Wardens: Keith Tillyard 07720 734055 ktillyard@btinternet.com
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SWANAGE & STUDLAND TEAM MINISTRY
St. Mary's – St. Mark's – All Saints' – St. Nicholas'
Easter 6

1st Reading for this Sunday: Acts 17, 22 - 31

Gospel Reading: 14, 15 - 21

Psalm 66, 7 - 18

⁷ He rules forever by his power, his eyes watch the nations—let not the rebellious rise up against him. ⁸ Praise our God, all peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard; ⁹ he has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping. ¹⁰ For you, God, tested us; you refined us like silver. ¹¹ You brought us into prison and laid burdens on our backs. ¹² You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us to a place of abundance. ¹³ I will come to your temple with burnt offerings and fulfil my vows to you—¹⁴ vows my lips promised and my mouth spoke when I was in trouble. ¹⁵ I will sacrifice fat animals to you and an offering of rams; I will offer bulls and goats. ¹⁶ Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me. ¹⁷ I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue. ¹⁸ If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;

Collect:

God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
grant that, as by his death he has recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy;
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.

REFLECTION

Acts 17:22-31 1 Peter 3:13-end John 14:15-21

John's 'farewell discourse' contains Jesus's teaching about 'another *paraclete*'. This *paraclete* (?comforter/legal advocate/advisor) is mysterious: he *will be* sent, but already *dwells within you*; is distinct from Jesus, and yet seems to be the fulfilment of Jesus's promise 'I will come to you'. In that day, says Jesus, *you will know* that there is an intimate union between Father, Son and those who love the Son. -They (and you) live in love – and life and love are one and the same thing.

Paul speaks confidently about this to the Athenians because this promise was known to him and every Jew who read the prophecies of Isaiah and Ezekiel. It was the hope not just of a reconstructed Temple but of a society where God's loving laws would be as universal and natural as breathing.

Karl Rahner often commented about the future of Christian faith: 'The Christian of the future will be a mystic or he (*sic*) will not exist at all.' Don't confuse 'mystic' with 'misty'. Rahner – and the Bible – couldn't be more precise. We seek a direct, personal experience of God rather than religiosity. Religion's value is only as great as its ability to hold open a space for the Spirit to dwell within us. The *shekinah*/presence of God which was purged from the Temple will return, and this time, she will flood the earth, filling all people with the interior knowledge and love of God. This is contrasted by Ezekiel with a Torah set literally and metaphorically in stone (*Ezekiel 37*). Rahner also talked about 'anonymous Christians' – those whose lives embody God's life whatever their religious affiliation.

Dionysius and Damaris are venerated as saints in the East, and Dionysius is beginning to be savoured again in the West – this Dionysius or, as many argue, a later writer known as 'Pseudo-Dionysius'. His writings reveal ways in which we experience God beyond words and concepts (*apophatic* theology). They inspired a mystical tradition of spirituality that included the 14th-century English author of *The Cloud of Unknowing*.

Look out! Ascension and Pentecost articulate for us the sometimes paradoxical, wordless experience of faith – presence and absence. Knowing and unknowing. Stories and explanations, but also the hidden power of the Gospels' mystery. Ascension and Pentecost assure us that, although we live, move and have our being in a material world, our capacity for life and love is God living within us. Look within!

Revd Terence Handley MacMath

TEAM NOTES

Studland's Community Coffee Morning - Thursdays at 10am in Studland Church Hall, for great coffee and yummy biscuits and cake. . We'd be delighted if you could join us.

Ascension Day Service 14th May 6.30am. On Thursday May 14th. we will be celebrating Ascension Day with a simple Holy Communion service at 6:30am at St Nicholas Church in Studland. The Service will be followed by a light breakfast in the Church Hall.

From Soil to Sky, a Celtic Service of Worship 17th May at 6.30pm, St Nicholas Church, Studland. Everyone is welcome!

'Come & Sing' Choral Evensong today, 10th May at 6.30pm in St Mary's Church. Our guest this month is Jeremy Jackman, Conductor and ex-King's Singer. *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!

Christian Aid Week 10th - 16th May. There will be a coffee morning and cake sale (in the Rectory Classroom) on 16th May between 10 - 12 noon. This is supported by churches in Swanage so we do hope you will find time to come and meet people. On 10th May at 10:30 there will be a service at the Methodist Church highlighting the work of Christian Aid.

Ascension Day services will be held on Thursday 14th May at St Nicholas, Studland, 6.30am, followed by breakfast in the Church Hall and at St Mary's. 7.30pm.

Funerals in our churches this week:

Patricia Norman	Fri 15 th May	12.00pm	St Mary's
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St Nicholas Church in Studland is part of the Swanage and Studland Team Ministry. Contact details are given below:

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)
Priest at St Nicholas	Revd Tony Edmonds	Tel 01929 450097
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