



## **Sunday 11th January 2026 Holy Communion 10.00am Revd Tony Edmonds**

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

... and a special welcome if you are a visitor to our Church! This is a Holy Communion service, and you are most welcome to take Communion with us. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please ask. Or if you would prefer to have a blessing, just bring this Notice Sheet with you to the communion rail, to give an indication to the priest. And, if you would prefer to receive communion in your seat, just mention this to the sides person (the person who welcomed you when you came into church).

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 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:revtonyedmonds@outlook.com)

Church Wardens: Barbara Matthews 01929 450218 [barmat18@btinternet.com](mailto:barmat18@btinternet.com)  
Eric Stobart 01929 450222 [eric@thestobarts.co.uk](mailto:eric@thestobarts.co.uk)

**SWANAGE & STUDLAND TEAM MINISTRY**  
**St. Mary's – St. Mark's – All Saints' – St. Nicholas**  
**11 January 2026 – The Baptism of Christ**

**Reading for this Sunday is:** Acts 10, 34 - 43

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 3, 13 to the end

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

**Collect:**

Eternal Father,  
who at the baptism of Jesus  
revealed him to be your Son,  
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:  
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,  
that we may be faithful to our calling  
as your adopted children;  
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:**

Lord of all time and eternity,  
you opened the heavens  
and revealed yourself as Father  
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:  
by the power of your Spirit  
complete the heavenly work of our rebirth  
through the waters of the new creation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## REFLECTION

# PLOUGH SUNDAY...and MONDAY?

Apart from being the *1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany*, today is also known by some as ***Plough Sunday***: maybe not such a portentous '**Red Letter Day**' as such (and especially so to 'townies' like me) but a traditional celebration nevertheless of the beginning of the agricultural year...set to be observed (since medieval times) on the day *before* the first Monday after the *12 Days of Christmas* have been completed...when prayers would be offered...and farmers would return to their ploughs...and the preparations for seedtime and harvest would begin the following day on ***Plough Monday***.

The good old “CofE” has published an updated prayer for *Plough Sunday*...and – with only a little bit of transposition and imagination – I think it is rather appropriate for us all coming out of Christmas...and into a New Year of possibility...when we too might want to think about sewing a few seeds: ***The Blessing of the Plough.***

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:  
for in your abundant care  
    you have given us fertile land,  
    rich soil, the seasons in their courses.  
You provide seed for sowing, water, light and warmth  
    to bring forth the miracle of growth.  
You give us skill to work the land,  
    to prepare and nourish it, that it may be fruitful.  
By your blessing,  
let this plough be a sign of all that you promise to us.  
Prosper the work of our hands,  
and provide abundant crops for your people to share.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God for ever. Amen.**

Canon Jeremy Oakes

**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](mailto:swanage.team@btconnect.com)

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

Visit our Team website [www.swanageteam.com](http://www.swanageteam.com)

## TEAM NOTES

**Christmas Flowers – thank you!** St Nicholas looked beautiful over the Christmas period – and we should all like to say thank you to Wendy and her team of Flower Arrangers for their hard work and creativity. The church has received so many visitors over the holidays – and we have had so many compliments about the lovely tree and the flowers around the Church. Thank you again,

**‘Come & Sing’ Choral Evensong** TODAY, Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> January at 6.30pm in St Mary’s Church. Our guest this month is Dr Barry Rose OBE, formerly Guildford, St Paul’s and St Albans Cathedrals. *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!

### **Studland Community Coffee Morning Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January**

The village coffee morning is back in the Church Hall from 10am to 11ish. Do join us for great coffee (or tea) and cake – and for great conversations with friends old and new!

### **New Year Studland Men’s Breakfast – Now 2 years old!**

The first Men’s Breakfast of 2026 (and its 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday) was held on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January in Studland Church Hall. We had 20 hungry customers, getting stuck into bacon rolls – and the rest! Put the date in your diary for next month – 7<sup>th</sup> February at 8.30 am to 10am.

**Candle Wax for Ukraine** - Ukraine still needs our support. Candle wax is being collected from local churches and communities to create cooking candles (“trench candles”) and candles for villages without electricity. Please donate candle ends, candle wax, and unwanted candles in the box in St Mary’s Church porch, from where it will be taken to a Ukraine support group.

**The Bible.** The Most Important Book in the world! And we can help get it into the hands of people here and abroad with Bake or Bring a Cake for Bibles at United Service at EBC Sunday 18th January at 10:30am. This is the annual Bible Society Fundraiser which will help provide Bibles to many who need hope, faith and love through the Word of God. Kindly bring any donations/cakes along to the service that morning. For any more information please contact Liz Fielder at St. Mary’s at 07384741716. Thank you.

**Advance notice Lent Groups:** Lent 2026 begins on 18th February and in conjunction with churches across Swanage, we will be running Lent Groups looking at Prayer. More information and sign up sheets available soon.

---

*Funerals in our churches this week:*

Roy Church

Fri 16 Jan

12.00 noon

All Saints