

Sunday 15 November 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 is 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, contact:

Associate Minister: Revd Dr Tony Edmonds 01929 450097
revtonyedmonds@outlook.com

Church Wardens: Keith Tillyard 01929-450200 ktillyard@btinternet.com
Eric Stobart 07774 431269 eric@thestobarts.co.uk

SWANAGE & STUDLAND TEAM MINISTRY
St. Mary's – St. Mark's – All Saints' – St. Nicholas'
Safeguarding Sunday

1st Reading for this Sunday: Isaiah 61 v1 – v3

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18 v1 – v11

Psalm 121

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
2 My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
3 He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
4 He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
5 The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
6 The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
7 The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
8 The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and for evermore.

Collect:

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed
to destroy the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and great glory
we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

REFLECTION

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-end 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30

It's sometimes said that a good preacher's job is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. The prophets managed this at a stroke in their visions of 'the day of the Lord', and Zephaniah (whose comforting last few words are what we usually read) certainly doesn't pull any punches with the comfortable. It's a tradition of teaching that Jesus follows in his round condemnation of the corrupt leaders of Israel. 'The day of the Lord' is essentially about the great reversal: the hungry will be filled with good things and the rich sent empty away.

Whether you relish this reversal, dread it, or simply ignore it, anyone who hungers and thirsts for righteousness will want to see an end to all suffering – certainly their own – by the overthrow of powerful oppressors. It's a near-universal human longing (exploited gleefully by many in the media) to see the mighty put down from their seats, even if the elevation of the humble and meek doesn't make such good clickbait.

The mighty are usually efficient at preventing their own downfall, and often stand together when found out. Justice may catch up with a few, but sadly, it's in the nature of the merciless to maintain a tight grip on their power. The 'day of the Lord' seems only to be slowly, painfully realised – at least for now - not by a greater power violently annihilating a smaller one, but by Jesus's own methods, learned from his Father: patience and long-suffering, love, mercy, truth, obedience-unto-death. *Revelation* draws on the same prophetic tradition: it depicts the hidden but nonetheless fundamental reversal of power realised in and by the crucified and risen Christ. You just need eyes to see it.

Matthew's parable of the talents which immediately follows the parable of the wise and foolish virgins teaches the disciples themselves something more. The 5/2 and the forecast punishment clarify *who* will be called to account on this day of reckoning : it's for Christ's teachers to pass on the teaching they're given with confidence, joy and energy. The Kingdom of Heaven is about service, responsibility – it's *busy.* Shepherds have freedom of choice about if and how they serve, and they're given different opportunities – but they will be called to account for how they've passed on what they have received.

Revd Terence Handley MacMath

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

www.swanageteam.com

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

TEAM NOTES

Studland Church says Thank you to our volunteers! We are delighted that so many of you have offered to serve coffee after the service and help at Community Coffee mornings. Many thanks! We would **still** welcome more helpers … so please don't be shy - just add your name to the rotas. And we really need more helpers for the **Flower Rota**, so please consider whether you could contribute to making our church look even more beautiful.

Community Coffee in Studland Church Hall on Thursdays from 10am. Everyone is welcome, so please join us for cafetiere coffee, brilliant biscuits and cheerful conversation. Every second week, the Citizen's Advice Bureau Bus parks up opposite the Church Hall – so you can have coffee and advice! The next CAB session will be on the 19th of November.

Tabletop Sale in Studland Village Hall Saturday 28th November 10am to 2pm. St Nicholas has 2 tables and will be selling books and toys. If you have any books, toys or other saleable items, please could you bring them to the St Nicholas Church Hall on the afternoon of Friday 27th November – or contact Jane Hawksworth to make alternative arrangements. Or contact Jane if you would like to help on the day of the Sale.

Diary Date Studland Men's Breakfast 5th December. Santa and his elves (actually Tony and Pete) will be preparing Christmas gifts (actually bacon rolls) in their grotto (actually the Church Halll kitchen). Unmissable …….

TODAY - 'Come & Sing' Choral Evensong, 15th November at 6.30pm in St Mary's Church. Our guest this month was to be Professor Stephen Darlington, formerly Christ Church, Oxford, but due to ill health he has unfortunately had to withdraw. The upside is Simon Lole, Director of Music at St Mary's, will be taking the lead in his place. *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!

An Evening with Antimo Magnotta – 17th November, 7.30-9.00pm at Newton Manor Hall. Doors open at 7pm and tickets are £12.50 which can be purchased from Alan May 07827 892893, through Eventbrite https://TheArtofListeningwithAntimoMagnotta.evenbrite.com or via BACS if you have the bank details. More info on our website under News & Events.

A Seasonal Crafting Workshop on a current theme from The Mothers' Union. Thursday December 3rd at 10:30 am in St Mary's Rectory Classroom. Tea, coffee, cake and biscuits, good fellowship, topical discussion, and crafting! What more could you want?
Bring along your favourite scissors and any old Christmas Cards you might like to recycle; everything else will be provided. More details from Paul Baird (pauldbaird@aol.com)

Christmas Toys – churches together are raising money to buy Christmas presents for some local children in our schools. If you wish to contribute, donations can be left in the church office or given to the wardens. Alternatively, online donations can be made to: Churches Together in Swanage and District, Sort Code 30-99-12, Acct No. 01619035. Please use the reference 'TOYS'. Thank you.