



Sunday 2nd August 2026
Family Communion and Baptism
St Nicholas, Studland
Revd Tony Edmonds &
Revd Natalie Davies

We are delighted to welcome Harry, who is being baptised today. Welcome, too, to Harry's family and godparents.

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 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 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).

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
2nd August 2026 Trinity 9

Gospel Reading: Matthew 14, v13 – v 21

¹³ Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' ¹⁷ They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' ¹⁸ And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Collect:

Almighty God,
who sent your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of your Church:
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love and joy 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:

Holy Father,
who gathered us here around the table of your Son
to share this meal with the whole household of God:
in that new world
where you reveal the fullness of your peace,
gather people of every race and language
to share in the eternal banquet
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

REFLECTION

Genesis 32:22-31, Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

It's not about the loaves! (or the fishes...) A careful reading of Matthew's gospel reveals that the 'feeding' of the 5,000 with 5 loaves is yet another way for Matthew to teach that God had not abandoned Israel. After the shocking betrayal and death of John the Baptist by Herod – the murder of Israel's prophet and priest-by-lineage their own king - Jesus went to the wilderness where John had drawn crowds of people hungry for God.

Jesus had compassion on them, healed them, and taught them. His teaching was entrusted to the disciples, passing on what they had received themselves, just as they gave out the loaves and fishes. That teaching was a continuation of the teaching of Moses from Sinai, but – and here's the thing – it either deepens the Torah which was the defining and redeeming gift to Israel, or it replaces it. How do you read it?

['5000' is the give-away – 5 represents the 5 books of the written Torah which constitutes and defines Israel, and the 12 baskets remaining suggests the overflowing indwelling and redeeming Wisdom given to the twelve tribes of Israel. The later feeding of the 4000, which follows Jesus's encounter with 'a woman' in Gentile territory who begs Jesus to heal her daughter, represents the gift being extended to the whole world - all 4 corners of it - by 7 loaves , seven being the Hebrew number of completion.]

Paul's letter to the Romans, written long before Matthew's gospel, expresses his transformative experience of the crucified Jesus and the Holy Spirit now indwelling people's hearts. To him, it fulfilled every saving promise made to Israel through his prophets, but this continuity and fulfilment wasn't the experience of all Jewish people. He wrestles with what he felt would be the consequences for his own people and a seeming reneging by God of those promises.

The wrestling of Jacob with 'a man' who (re)names Jacob while withholding his own names still resonates with Jews and Christians. 'Israel' is usually translated as 'the one who wrestles with God', or 'God wrestles' – though it *could* also be 'the man who saw God'. Wrestling is to be expected. Don't be surprised, then, or offended, if scripture truthfully reflects our realities. It is 'a light to our path and a lantern to our feet' both in our certainties and our perplexities.

Revd Terence Handley MacMath

TEAM NOTES

Studland's Community Coffee Morning - Down on the Farm. Thursdays at 10am, the Manor Farm Tea Rooms. The Community Coffee group has moved to Manor Farm for the summer season. Same fun. Same great conversation. Lovely coffee and excellent scones! See you there!

A Studland Summer Date for your Diary. Hymns and Pimms at St Nicholas, Studland 23rd August at 6.30pm.

Swanage Lifeboat Service: Sunday 16th August on the Pier at 5:30pm. ~There will no 6.30pm Evensong at St Mary's.

Goodbye to Revd Natalie - Revd Natalie's last Sunday before she leaves for her new role as Succentor, St George's Chapel Windsor Castle and Chaplain, St George's School, will be 9th August. Hers and Joseph's final service with us will be Choral Evensong at St Mary's at 6.30pm followed by refreshments. She will also be presiding at 8am and 10.30am. Natalie final services St Mark's and All Saints have already taken place and her final service at St Nicholas' Studland will be at 10am on 2nd August.

Natalie's installation in St George's Chapel will take place at Evensong at 5.15pm on 1st September. All are welcome. Parking is available in the town centre car parks. Please arrive to King Henry VIII gate by 5pm, the police officers on duty will let you know when the Chapel doors have opened (seating in the Quire is limited so early arrival is recommended to give the best chance of a view- (the screen between Quire and Nave is annoyingly solid!)

Candle Wax for Ukraine - The support group in Bournemouth is no longer collecting candles and wax. Many thanks to all those who have donated towards the large collection of candles, candle ends, and wax.

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