



Sunday 23 August 2026
Holy Communion 10.00am
Revd Tony Edmonds

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

... and a special welcome to visitors and newcomers to our service. This is a Holy Communion service, and you are all most welcome to take Communion with us. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please ask. And, if you would prefer to have a blessing, just bring this Notice Sheet with you to the communion rail.

We love having children in our church. Please do not worry if they are noisy - or make a break for freedom: 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 do join us - and get to know us all a little better.

For regular updates on Church activities throughout the week, you can 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:
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SWANAGE & STUDLAND TEAM MINISTRY
St. Mary's – St. Mark's – All Saints' – St. Nicholas'
23rd August, Trinity 12

Reading for this Sunday is: Romans 12, v 1 to v 8

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16 v 13 – v 20

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' ¹⁴ And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' ¹⁵ He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Collect:

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve:
pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid
and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask
but through the merits and mediation
of 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:

God of all mercy,
in this Eucharist you have set aside our sins
and given us your healing:
grant that we who are made whole in Christ
may bring that healing to this broken world,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

REFLECTION

Isaiah 43: 8-13, Acts 5:12-16, Luke 22: 24-30

Today we celebrate the Feast Day of St Bartholomew the Apostle which is actually tomorrow.

So I thought my reflection might extend to what we know about Bartholomew. My first problem occurred in the first line of my chosen study book which said, “also known as Nathanael” Mmm, I reflected, so why Bartholomew and not Nathanael? Is this just a C of E whim?

Looking at the list of Apostles in Matthew, Mark and Luke we find Bartholomew listed, but in John no Bart, only Nathanael. In some there is an aside, “sometimes called Nathanael.” I came across several assertions that scholars “generally” agree that Bartholomew and Nathanael are one and the same person. Who am I, a poor old retired parson, to disagree with them? Never the less I did spend a bit of time reflecting, and I invite you to do the same.

Bartholomew is named in the apostle lists in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and the Book of Acts, but no individual stories or teachings are explicitly attributed to the name Bartholomew in canonical scripture.

Nathanael plays a minor role in the gospels, yet his brief appearance in the Gospel of John is significant. When Jesus met him, he said, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.” Jesus commended Nathanael's honest character and his genuine hope for the Messiah. Nathanael was astonished that Jesus had noticed him under the fig tree.

So there you have it, let's presume that Bartholomew and Nathanael are one and the same person. This person had an astounding record of post resurrection missionary work. He traveled to regions like India, Mesopotamia, and Armenia to spread the Gospel and was credited with helping bring Christianity to Armenia. Tradition states he was martyred in a particularly barbaric way.

Saint Bartholomew is revered in the Anglican lectionary as one of the Twelve Apostles, a foundational witness to Christ's earthly ministry, resurrection, and ascension, and a representative of early missionary expansion to the ends of the earth. His feast is traditionally celebrated on the 24th August. A record worth reflecting on?

With blessings, John Cooper

TEAM NOTES

TONIGHT 23rd August at 6.30pm at St Nicholas in Studland. Hymns and Pimm's. . The hymns we are singing have been requested by members of the congregation – and represent a happy memory – or maybe just have a nice tune! And the clue is in the name --- Pimm's and soft drinks will be served after the service. So, if you fancy a drive out on Sunday evening, do come. **Everyone will be made welcome.**

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!

Purbeck International Chamber Music Festival – Concert at St Nicholas at 11.00am on Friday 4th September. As part of the festival, which has a theme of the Sea, there will be a concert at St Nicholas Church at 11.00am on Friday 4th September entitled 'Still Waters'. Full details of the concerts and a booking link can be found at info@picmf.org.

Studland's Church Hall has had a spruce up. The exterior was repainted earlier this month, new heating was installed and we finally have fire retardant curtains in a tasteful shade of green (as selected by the ladies of the Community Coffee morning.) Thanks to everyone involved!

Studland Church Wild Garden The wild garden has been looking rather sorry for itself recently, as the drought has affected the trees which were planted with such love and care. And so, we have introduced a co-watering project. We now have a sent of brightly coloured watering cans next to the outdoor tap – and are encouraging our congregation and visiting tourists to take some much-needed water to thirsty trees. Thank you to those who have already participated – it is proving fun as well as helpful!

St Nicholas Church in Studland is part of the Swanage and Studland Team Ministry
www.swanageteam.com

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