



**Sunday 29 March 2026**  
**Palm Sunday**  
**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.

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: for further further information, 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!

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

<b>Team Rector</b>	Revd Dr Ian Bird	Tel 01929 422916 (normal day off Friday)
<b>Team Vicar</b>	Revd Jo Levasier	Tel 01929 208217 (normal day off Friday)
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Karon Quirey	<a href="mailto:swanage.team@btconnect.com">swanage.team@btconnect.com</a>
<b>Parish Office</b>	Tues & Weds 9am-5pm / Friday 9am – 4pm Tel: 01929 421117	

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

**SWANAGE & STUDLAND TEAM MINISTRY**  
**St. Mary's – St. Mark's – All Saints' – St. Nicholas'**  
**29 March 2026 - Palm Sunday**

**Reading for this Sunday is: Psalm 118, 1- 2**

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 21, 1 - 11**

<sup>21</sup> When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup> saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me.' <sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately. <sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

<sup>5</sup> 'Tell the daughter of Zion,  
Look, your king is coming to you,  
humble, and mounted on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'

<sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup> they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup> A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest heaven!

<sup>10</sup> When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' <sup>11</sup> The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

**Collect**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
who in your tender love towards the human  
race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus  
Christ to take upon him our flesh and to  
suffer death upon the cross:  
grant that we may follow the example of his  
patience and humility, and also be made  
partakers of his resurrection;  
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 Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you humbled yourself in taking the form of a  
servant,  
and in obedience died on the cross for our  
salvation:  
give us the mind to follow you  
and to proclaim you as Lord and King,  
to the glory of God the Father.

# REFLECTION

## **Psalm 118    Philippians 2:5-11    Matthew 26:14-27:66**

A cinematographer of this dense Passion might choose long, slow, close-ups of the confrontations between Jesus and Judas over the cup and in the garden. It started when a mother and son (an ass and her foal ass - Zechariah 14.4) entered Jerusalem: God's presence with humanity is being restored.

It is the fulfilment of God's warning (Genesis 3.15) that there will be enmity between Satan and the Woman/Eve, and his children and hers. Satan will 'bruise the heel' of the Woman's child, but the child will 'bruise his head'. The same life-and-death confrontation between the dragon and the woman (Revelation 12) glimmers through this Gospel, from Herod's murderous search for the 'mother and her child' to the chief priests at the foot of the cross.

At the Passion it all comes into open. Jesus can be hailed as 'the Son of David'. His disciples, children of the Spirit, wave palm branches or garments, symbols of the Spirit's true teaching, as they welcome Spirit and Son on their passage to the temple. Psalm 118 reads as a liturgical Temple celebration of some sort, which, for Christians, foreshadows Jesus and the eucharist – though Satan has finally got his prey – the one rival he will accept for the ransom of humankind. The eucharist recalls and celebrates the Trinity's self-giving love that pays off Satan so dearly.

Meanwhile, Judas twice addresses Jesus as 'Rabbi', defying Jesus's instruction: 'Call no one "rabbi" for you have only one teacher, and you are all her children' (Matthew 23.8). The final act of betrayal is when Judas calls Jesus 'rabbi' a second time and kisses him (or does Matthew suggest that Judas is actually kissing 'affectionately' the 'rabbi', the Spirit, within Jesus?)

Jesus responds with 'Comrade' – the same word spoken by the master of the wedding feast to the man with no Wisdom garment before ejecting him. And just as Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, so 'Satan's brood' of the chief priests and their slaves taunt Jesus on the cross. Evil will be decisively defeated, but only by the Son's loving obedience to the very end, which means relinquishing even the comfort of the Spirit in order to die. That final, total emptying, described in Philippians 2.5-11, gives Satan no further claim over his family.

*Revd Terence Handley MacMath*

# TEAM NOTES

## **Holy Week and Easter Services**

Please see our Easter card for details of the services here at St Nicholas and at other churches in the team.

## **Studland Men's Breakfast – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April**

The next Men's Breakfast will be held on **Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> April** in the Church Hall. It runs on a café style – so come any time between 8,30am – 10am for a great breakfast – and great conversation. You will be welcomed by Chef, Tony Edmonds, and Sous Chef, Peter Hawksworth, who will be cooking up a gastronomic treat of bacon rolls, sausages and black pudding, together with toast and marmalade (or honey) - and unlimited tea and coffee. They cater for vegetarians and vegans too – and, of course, offer gluten free options. There is no charge for the breakfast, but we are grateful if you can make a donation. The important thing is that you join us! Email [Stnicksbreakfast@yahoo.com](mailto:Stnicksbreakfast@yahoo.com).

**Community Coffee Morning in the Church Hall on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April from 10 to 11.30 am.** During the summer months, we move down to the Manor Farm Teams Rooms, so we are making this last session in the Hall really special. Last week, we had 20 coffee (and tea) drinkers --- let's break records this week!

**St Nicholas Girls' Night Out** Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30pm for a 7pm start. Studland Village Hall is having a fund raiser on 10<sup>th</sup> April, with a Fashion Show and a pop-up shop. We have already bought tickets to support the cause - and we would like to have a St Nic's table. It would be great if any ladies (or girls!) could join us: we already have the tickets so there will be no entrance fee. Tickets and a sign-up form are on the coffee table in the Church Hall.