



**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026**  
**Family Communion 10.00am**  
**Revd Tony Edmonds and**  
**Revd Natalie Davies**

**A very warm welcome to our**  
**Family Communion and Baptisms**  
**Service**  
**in St Nicholas Church, Studland**

This is a Family Communion Service, and 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 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 join us - and get to know us all a little better. For regular updates on Church activities, check [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com) You can also follow us on Facebook. (St Nicholas Church Studland).

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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**  
**3rd May 2026 Easter 5**

**Reading for this Sunday:** Acts 7, v55 to end

**Gospel Reading:** John 14, v1 to 14

<sup>14</sup> 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to the place where I am going. <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.' <sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? <sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

**Collect**

Almighty God,  
who through your only begotten Son Jesus  
Christ have overcome death and opened to  
us the gate of everlasting life:  
grant that, as by your grace going before  
us you put into our minds good desires,  
so by your continual help  
we may bring them to good effect;  
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Post Communion Prayer**

Eternal God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the  
truth and the life:  
grant us to walk in his way,  
to rejoice in his truth,  
and to share his risen life;  
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

# REFLECTION

## John 14:1-14

**Who is Jesus**, and why is he so special? We find the answer in John 14:6, when Jesus tells us that he is: *“The Way, the Truth and the Life”*. It’s a great soundbite, but Jesus intended this to be more than self-promotion.

**The context of John 14 is complicated.** It is part of Jesus’ last discourse. He knows that his disciples are about to face a devastating loss; he wants to offer them comfort. He also wants to prepare them for the task of witnessing to his death and resurrection, so his words are a mixture of teaching and reassurance. He begins with words of assurance: *“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me .....*” He speaks of going away and *“preparing a place for them”*. We are indebted to Thomas – questioning, doubting Thomas - for speaking up and saying: *‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’* This prompts the wonderful response: *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”*.

**These words sum up so much about Jesus.**

- He doesn’t just show us the Way – he is **the Way**. Through him we meet God.
- He doesn’t just tell us the truth – he embodies **the Truth**. Truth is a major theme in John’s Gospel; at the very beginning of the Gospel we hear that: *“the Word became flesh and dwelt among us..... full of grace and truth”*. Jesus lives out God’s truth in his earthly life, and lets us see God in himself.
- Jesus tops all this off by saying he is **the Life**. Life is another key theme of this Gospel – also mentioned the opening words of the Gospel and expanded in John 10:10, where Jesus promises his followers *“Life in all its fullness”*.

These words are more than a soundbite; they are a commission to share Jesus, his way, his truth and his new life, in all its fullness, with the world.

*Rev'd Dave Richards*

## 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!

**Ascension Day Service 14th May 6.30am.** On Thursday May 14th. we will be celebrating Ascension Day with a simple Holy Communion service at 6:30am at St Nicholas Church in Studland. The Service will be followed by a light breakfast in the Church Hall.

**From Soil to Sky, a Celtic Service of Worship 17th May at 6.30pm, St Nicholas Church, Studland.** Everyone is welcome! There will also be a service for Ascension Day at 7.30pm at St Mary's Church, Swanage.

**'Come & Sing' Choral Evensong** next Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm in St Mary's Church. Our guest this month is Prof Stephen Darlington, formerly of Christ Church, Oxford. *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!

**Christian Aid Week 10th - 16th May.** There will be a coffee morning and cake sale (in the Rectory Classroom) on 16th May between 10 - 12 noon. This is supported by churches in Swanage so we do hope you will find time to come and meet people. On 10th May at 10:30 there will be a service at the Methodist Church highlighting the work of Christian Aid.

**Message from Rev Dr Ian Bird:** Our Curate, Natalie, will be leaving Swanage in August to be licensed as Succentor at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, and Chaplain at St George's School there. She will also be completing her curacy at St George's. The Succentor is a priest who leads and sings worship, supports liturgical planning and administration, and contributes to the pastoral and teaching life of St George's. Natalie is extremely sad to leave Swanage and Studland and the Diocese of Salisbury. She has met and worked with some wonderful people who have become dear friends. She is grateful to be here for one more Summer, and excited to see what God has in store for this next chapter of her ministry. Please do hold Natalie and Joseph in your prayers, along with the people of Swanage, Studland, Windsor and the College of St George.

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