



**Sunday 30 November 2025
Holy Communion 10.00am
Revd Natalie Davies**

**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: if this is of interest, 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, please contact:
Associate Minister: Revd Dr Tony Edmonds 01929 450097 revtonyedmonds@outlook.com

Church Wardens: Barbara Matthews 01929 450218 barmat18@btinternet.com
Eric Stobart 01929 450222 eric@thestobarts.co.uk

SWANAGE & STUDLAND TEAM MINISTRY
St. Mary's – St. Mark's – All Saints' – St. Nicholas'
30 November 2025 – 1st Sunday of Advent

Reading for this Sunday is: Matthew 1:18-25

Gospel Reading: Psalm 68:4-6.

Sing to God, sing praises to his name;
lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds^[a]—
his name is the Lord—
be exultant before him.
⁵ Father of orphans and protector of widows
is God in his holy habitation.
⁶ God gives the desolate a home to live in;
he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,
but the rebellious live in a parched land.

Collect:

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion

O Lord our God
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may find us not sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

REFLECTION

ADVENT SUNDAY

***“...give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light...”***

They're on their way...the Wise Men that is! They did come from “*afar*” after all...and though we do not know quite where that was, it was...*afar*!

Advent reminds us that we too need to make a journey to the manger: one that of necessity will need to cross the rough terrain and inhospitable deserts that lie between us and our Lord. As the rigour of Lent seeks to prepare pilgrims for the glories of Easter, so the coming weeks of Advent remind us that - if we are to meet our Incarnate Lord in his manger - we too will need to move on from where we are.

Our Advent candles (progressively lit on the Sundays of the coming month) remind us of the landmarks along the way of our Biblical predecessors. They remind us of **patriarchs** and **prophets** who led the way...in order that people like **John the Baptist** - and even **Mary** herself – might follow. They all trod difficult paths on their faithful journeyings...and encountered many hurdles; but lest we think that such is ‘job done’ for us too, Advent reminds us that (if we needed any prompting) we too need to step out in faith.

The Christian message flourishes in the hearts of those who allow time and space for the Lord to speak to them. In each generation, there is always much to crowd out such encounters; but I am reminded of the prophet Elijah who only heard the Lord on the Holy Mountain in the moments of respite from the elements...in the relative silence. Such oases of calm might seem elusive at this time of year, but the Advent Candles remind us of the necessity to seek them out nevertheless.

Canon Jeremy Oakes

TEAM NOTES

Advent Christingle Service and tea party at All Saints Church, Ulwell TODAY at 4pm.

Come & Join Us at St Mary's TODAY, 30th November at 6.30pm for our Advent Carols Service: *Music & Readings for Advent Sunday*. With candles & light it's a wonderful way to start Advent.

Studland Men's Breakfast – Saturday 6th December at 8.30am. The next Men's Breakfast will be held on **Saturday, 6th December** 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 Hawsworth, 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! Any queries, just email Stnicksbreakfast@yahoo.com

Our Special Christmas Events & Services cards are available at the back of each church listing all events and services that are happening in our 4 churches over the Christmas period. Please take one. You are most welcome to join us at whichever event you can make.

Community Coffee Studland's Community Coffee Morning has moved back to the Church Hall for the winter season. Please join us on Thursday mornings from 10am to 11am – for coffee, cake and conversation. We'd love to see you there.

Volunteers needed! We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of people who have offered their time to help at the Community Coffee Mornings on Thursday mornings – thank you! There are still spaces to fill – so please check the rota on the notice board if you would like to help. And we still have slots to fill to serve coffee on Sundays after the service, so please sign up on the notice board – or speak with Sally, Diana or Jane.

Monthly Parish Magazines – you can access both the Church Alive! magazine and Studland Parish News on our new website swanageteam.com/team-magazine.

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