



Sunday 4th October 2026
Family Communion 10.00am
Revd Tony Edmonds

**A very warm welcome to our
Family Communion 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 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 donate 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 Studland)

For additional information about St Nicholas Church and its services, please contact:
Associate Minister: Revd Dr Tony Edmonds 01929 450097 revtonyedmonds@outlook.com
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SWANAGE & STUDLAND TEAM MINISTRY
St. Mary's – St. Mark's – All Saints' – St. Nicholas
4th October 2026 - Trinity 18

Reading for this Sunday: Matthew 21 v33 to the end

³³ 'Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance." ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' ⁴¹ They said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.'

⁴² Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

"The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;^[a]

this was the Lord's doing,

and it is amazing in our eyes"?

⁴³ Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom.^[a] ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.'^[b]

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
increase in us your gift of faith
that, forsaking what lies behind
and reaching out to that which is before,
we may run the way of your
commandments
and win the crown of everlasting joy;
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

We praise and thank you, O Christ, for this
sacred feast:
for here we receive you,
here the memory of your passion is
renewed,
here our minds are filled with grace,
and here a pledge of future glory is given,
when we shall feast at that table where you
reign
with all your saints for ever.

REFLECTION

2 Corinthians 9.6-15 Luke 12.16-30

St Mary's and St Mark's are both celebrating Harvest Festival this week. Our celebrations come at the very end of the Church's **Season of Creation**, a time to reflect on God's wonderful world, and how we relate to it.

Harvest is a time to give thanks for God's provision. In past times, when more people lived closer to the land, it was all about the produce of the land; (when I was a Curate in industrial Wales, in the early 80s, our church Harvest displays included a bag of coal and a gallon of oil – both produced in our local community). Our readings today encourage us to think about more than just food, to recognise God's total provision for us, and our complete dependency on Him.

Our Gospel reading reminds us that we should not be too obsessed with material things. *"For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing"*. There are far more important things in life than our possessions, and of course, we must one day leave them all behind. It's interesting that Matthew tells us that the possessions are temporary, (moth and rust etc.), while Luke reminds us that **we** are temporary. Both emphasise the need for an eternal, rather than a temporal, perspective.

St Paul talks about *"a harvest of righteousness"*, and uses the image of sowing and reaping to encourage generosity. This is, of course, an important part of Harvest. We bring token offerings to decorate the Church, and, hopefully, more substantial offerings to stock up the Foodbank. We are reminded that while we have enough, and sometimes more than enough, others live in poverty. The Old Testament Harvest Celebrations, as described in Deuteronomy, always carry a warning not to forget "the widow, the orphan and the alien" – those most likely to be destitute.

The Harvest message is clear. God has blessed us; we must thank Him for these blessings, which are to be shared, not hoarded. **We thank God for the Creation, but worship the Creator!**

Rev'd Dave Richards

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

Team Rector	Rev'd Dr Ian Bird Tel: 01929 422916 (normal day off Friday)
Team Vicar	Rev'd Jo Levasier Tel 07725 343768 (normal day off Monday)
Parish Administrator	Karon Quirey swanage.team@btconnect.com
Parish Office	Tues & Weds 9am-5pm / Friday 9am – 4pm Tel: 01929 421117

Visit our Team website swanageteam.com

TEAM NOTES

Community Coffee is back in the Church Hall, every Thursday morning from 10am. Everyone is welcome – do join us for cafetiere coffee, brilliant biscuits and cheerful conversation.

Your Church needs you! We do a lot at St Nicholas Church – and we need your help to keep doing it – and doing it better. We need:

Volunteers for the Flower Rota. Absolutely no experience necessary! Just an interest in helping to decorate the beautiful church a few times a year on a rota basis. Anyone and everyone welcome, help and guidance given!!

Volunteers to help with coffee on Sunday mornings after the service: Again, support and guidance will be provided. All you need is the ability to make coffee and put out the biscuits. It's a great way to meet people – and make them happy.

Volunteers to go on the rota for the Community Coffee Morning. Community Coffee comes back to the Church Hall at the beginning of October. We work in 2s, so you are never on your own. We make coffee, provide cake and biscuits – and talk a lot, to a very nice group of people.

If you are interested, put your name and phone number on one of the clipboards in the Church Hall. And if you want to chat more about it, please ask Diana Edmonds or Jane Hawksworth.

Church Harvest Festival Services: . **St Mary's** will celebrate today Sunday 4th October at 10.30am and **St Mark's** also today, at the later time of 11am. St Mark's service will be followed by a Bring-and-Share Lunch. Drinks provided. Everyone is most welcome to join us at any of our Harvest Services.

'Come & Sing' Choral Evensong next Sunday, 11th October at 6.30pm in St Mary's Church. Our guest this month is Dr Philip Moore, formerly York Minster. *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!

Reading Scripture Together – 8 stand-alone sessions exploring the ancient and rich spiritual practice of *lectio divina*. To be held in St Mary's Rooms on Thursday evenings from 1st October – 19th November at 5pm for 5.15pm – 6.30pm. *Please see leaflets in church for more details or speak to Revd Terence Handley MacMath.* There is a sign-up sheet and further details at the back of St Mary's church for anyone interested in attending.

"That Doesn't Happen Here" : Thursday 8th October starting at 10:30am in the Rectory Classroom. The first of our topical discussion meetings using themes from the 2026 Mothers' Union action plan. You will also have the chance to enjoy coffee, cake, and general chat plus a little Origami! Quite an experience, and we look forward to sharing the time with you. Further details from Paul Baird (pauldbaird@aol.com)