

# **Church Alive!**

**Swanage Parish Magazine**

**April 2026**



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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Leading Article	4
St Mary's	7
All Saints	11
Alpha Courses	15
Quiz Night at All Saints	16
St Marks	17
St Nicholas	21
Letter from the Bishop of Salisbury	23
Any Questions and World Day of Prayer	24
Spring Concert	25
In Meroriam	29
Support for Church Alive!	30
Hebrew Word of the Month	31
Jerusalem, CityAlight	35
Letter from the Editor	35

## **Rev Natalie Davies writes:**

As we have moved through the season of Lent and approach the joy of Easter, the rhythm of the Church year has invited us to slow down, reflect, and look again at the heart of our faith. Lent is often spoken of as a journey—forty days of prayer, repentance, and preparation. It can sometimes feel solemn or demanding, yet it leads us toward one of the most hopeful moments in all of Scripture: the morning of the resurrection.

In John's Gospel (John 20:1-18), we are taken to that first Easter morning through the eyes of Mary Magdalene. While it was still dark, she went to the tomb where Jesus had been laid. The darkness described in that passage is not only the darkness of early morning; it also reflects the confusion and grief that Mary and the other disciples were experiencing. They had seen their teacher, their friend, and their Lord crucified. The world they knew had been turned upside down.

Mary arrives at the tomb expecting death, silence, and finality. Instead, she finds the stone rolled away. At first, this only deepens her distress. She runs to get the disciples, believing that someone has taken the body of Jesus. Even after Peter and the beloved disciple visit the tomb and leave, Mary remains there after them, weeping.

There is something deeply moving about that moment as Mary stays and lingers in her grief and confusion, refusing to walk away from the place where she last knew Jesus to be. And it is precisely there, in that place of sorrow and uncertainty, that the risen Christ meets her.

At first she does not recognize him. She mistakes him for the gardener and asks where the body has been taken. Then Jesus speaks just one word: her name. “Mary.” In that moment everything changes. Recognition dawns, grief turns to joy, and despair becomes hope.

This simple yet profound encounter reminds us of something essential about the resurrection. Easter is not merely a distant historical event or a theological concept. It is a personal encounter with the living Christ. Just as Jesus called Mary by name, he calls each of us. In our doubts, our sorrows, and our searching, Christ meets us where we are.

This sense of shared calling is something we are reminded of in the life of our own churches as well. This month we will be holding our APCM on 21st April, where members of our congregations will gather to reflect on the past year and to elect or re-elect those who serve in a variety of roles across our churches. I want to express my sincere thanks to everyone who has stepped forward to serve—whether as churchwardens, PCC members, or in the many other ways that help sustain the life of our parish. These roles may not always be visible, but they are vital to the ministry and mission of the church.

Just as Mary was called by name and sent to share the good news, the life of the church depends on people responding to God’s call in practical ways. Each act of service, however small it may seem, helps us to proclaim the hope of the resurrection in our community.

As we move through April and beyond the celebration of Easter, we will be looking for more volunteers to support the life of our churches. There are many opportunities to help—welcoming

people to services, assisting with children’s work, helping with the refreshments, supporting practical tasks around our buildings, or offering gifts of music, hospitality, or prayer. If you have been wondering how you might become more involved, this could be the perfect time to explore where God might be calling you to serve.

The Easter story reminds us that new life often begins in unexpected places. In a quiet garden, on a morning that began in darkness, the risen Christ called Mary by name and entrusted her with good news for the world. As we continue our Lenten journey and celebrate Easter together, may we be open to hearing Christ call our own names. And like Mary, may we be ready to respond—with joy, with hope, and with a willingness to serve in the life of his Church.

**Revd Natalie Davies**

**EASTER HOPE!**



**CELEBRATE EASTER AT A CHURCH NEAR YOU**

**St Mary's Church, Kings Road, Swanage BH19 1HU**

**All Saints Church, Ulwell Road, New Swanage BH19 1LL**

**St Mark's Church, Bell Street, Herston BH19 2SA**

**St Nicholas' Church, Church Road, Studland BH19 3AT**

# St Mary's

## April Services

### Sunday Services

8.00am Holy Communion  
10.30am Choral Eucharist  
6.30pm Choral Evensong



### Weekly Services/Events:

Tues	2.30pm	All Things Bright & Beautiful <i>(particularly suitable for those living with dementia or any kind of special need)</i>
Weds	10am-12.30pm	T-Pot in the Rectory Classroom
	11.00am	Holy Communion <i>(every 4<sup>th</sup> Weds with Healing)</i>
Fri	5.45pm	Junior Choir practice
	6.30pm	Adult choir practice
	6-30pm	Friday Fun Club in the Rectory Classroom <i>(term time only)</i>

Sunday School *(in St Mary's Rooms)* follows the 10.30am service on 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month

We now have a convenient QR code available for anyone who would like to make a donation to any of our three parishes. Simply scan the code shown here to give securely and support our parish.



## Other dates for your diary

- Thurs 2nd 7.30pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist with foot washing
- Fri 3rd 12-3pm Good Friday 3 Hour Meditation
- Sat 4th 8.30pm Easter Eve Vigil
- Sun 5th 6.30am Churches Together Sunrise Praise on Swanage beach  
8.00am Easter Communion  
10.30am Choral Eucharist for Easter Day  
6.30pm Festal Evensong
- Mon 13th 5-7pm Lacock Choral Course
- Tues 14th 9.30am-7pm Lacock Choral Course
- Weds 15th 5-7pm Lacock Choral Course
- Thurs 16th 9.30am-7pm Lacock Choral Course
- Fri 17th 9.30am-1pm Lacock Choral Course
- Sat 18th 9.30am-7pm Lacock Choral Course
- Tues 21st 7.30pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
at All Saints Church

### The Library in Saint Mary's Church

The library has continued to grow and has several new books. It would be lovely if we could establish a section of modern books dedicated to our growing number of children and young adults. If you would like to support them, a donation would be much appreciated and will have an immediate impact. For information on how to make a gift contact me or the Parish Office.

**Paul Baird (Librarian)** *Pauldbaird@aol.com*

## St Mary's Notes

Spring has arrived in the churchyard! Not only have we had a very large patch of violets this year but also the much less common white violets have appeared as well.

On Mothering Sunday – mid-Lent Sunday – mothering and other nurturing was celebrated with posies which this year were prepared by the young people at the Friday Fun Club. Sunday, 29th March sees the change to British Summer Time and “spring forward” an hour. It’s also Palm Sunday when we commemorate Our Lord’s entry into Jerusalem as we “spring forward” into Holy Week.

Christmas tends to be seen as the busiest time at church but we have more services in Holy Week and Easter. There are services every day during Holy Week and you’ll find a list of them with this magazine. At St Mary’s, there is Sung Compline on Holy Tuesday at 7.30pm (25 minutes). As usual, there’s a Eucharist on Maundy Thursday evening at 7.30pm, with washing of feet. At the end of the service the altar is stripped and ornaments removed from other places in the church, followed by a Vigil until 10pm.

On Good Friday there will be the traditional “The Hours”. This is said to have originated in the 17th century and become more widespread in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The three hours represent Christ’s agony on the cross and the service generally takes the form of themed preaching interspersed with hymns and music, with the opportunity to arrive or leave at half-hourly intervals.

The Easter Vigil service on Easter Eve has the late start of 8.30pm so that it is dark enough to light the Easter Candle by the church door and walk into the body of the church by candlelight. The Easter Vigil at St Mary's includes scripture readings, psalms, hymns, and renewal of baptismal vows, and, of course, music from our excellent choir. Next is Easter Day!

St Mary's AGM took place on the 8th March. Most nominations for the various roles were secured, but we are still seeking a second churchwarden and more Welcomers – we can't have too many! – and the expectation to help on one Sunday a month. Do think also about whether you could go on the rota for Sunday refreshments.

We wish everyone a Happy and Joyful Easter.

**Avril Harris and Ray Davis**  
**Churchwardens**

*Nothing tends more to cement the hearts of Christians than praying together. Never do they love one another so well as when they witness the outpouring of each other's hearts in prayer.*

*Charles Finney*



## **Regular Sunday Services April**

8am Holy Communion

10.30am Family Worship with children's groups,  
except on 2nd Sunday All-Age Café Church.

1st Sundays Communion

## **Weekly Calendar at All Saints**

All Saints Toddler Group Mondays 9:15am

Coffee Pot Thursdays 10:30am

Art Workshop Fridays 10am

Opportunity to Pray together at All Saints  
Weekly Thursdays 9:30 – 10am

## Other dates for your diary

**Thu 2 April 6.30pm** Reflective Maundy Thursday Meal: with readings, music and time to reflect on the events of Holy Week. Please email [jo@swanageteam.com](mailto:jo@swanageteam.com) to book

**Fri 3 April 10.30am** Pause for Good Friday: an all age opportunity to remember the events of Good Friday followed by a walk of witness to join with others at the Bandstand for 11.30am Service around the cross

**Sat 4 April: 8.15am** Swanage Christian Men's Group Breakfast @MacAllisters

**Sun 5 April** Celebrating Easter at both our morning services!

**Sun 12 April** Worship@6 Our bi-monthly opportunity for praise and worship at Emmanuel Baptist Church.

**Sun 19 April 6pm** Youth Alpha starts in All Saints Hall – for young people school years 9-13 contact Jackie on [ycprojects@swanageteam.com](mailto:ycprojects@swanageteam.com) for more information

**Wed 22 April 6:30pm** Alpha Course for Adults starts. This is a joint course run with Emmanuel Baptist church at EBC. Contact [jo@swanageteam.com](mailto:jo@swanageteam.com) for more information.

**Sat 25 April 9:30am** Where are we going? An opportunity to join the All Saints committee as we reflect on our future direction. contact [jo@swanageteam.com](mailto:jo@swanageteam.com) if you'd like to be part of this.

**Sun 26 April 12noon** Bring Your Own Lunch after church @All Saints

## All Saints News

The last month has been a real mixture of events and activities. On the one hand we have been engaged with the annual process of preparing for the following year with proposing churchwardens and electing a new All Saints Committee, and on the other, reflecting on what has occurred during the past year. We are blessed by those who volunteer for roles within the All Saints community – some more obvious and upfront, and others quietly serving in the background. To all we owe a great debt of thanks, as they ensure that all the tasks needed to ensure the smooth running of the church are carried out. Tasks ranging from gardening to coffee making, moving furniture to painting faces.... The list is endless.

The Annual Meeting of All Saints was a grand affair following the Café Church service on 8th March. The highlight of which was the presentation of All Saints Committee Awards to various members of the church family for their contribution to the life of the church family. Worthy of special mention was the final “Philippians” award to the whole church family for providing so much joy!

The day before the Annual Meeting saw the third in our series of fabulous free family Fun Days (yes we like “F”s). Once again, the church was cleared and a giant inflatable slide filled the back of the church. It was a great blessing to see so many families come and enjoy the event with us, including a lovely couple, John & Pat celebrating their 62nd wedding anniversary!



A whole variety of activities were on offer from face painting to craft activities to the provision of an amazing quantity of cake, in all forms and sizes. One addition this time was story-telling time; sharing Jesus' story of the lost sheep with Babara the sheep (okay, a sheep puppet). It was great to see all generations gathered in the hall for a feast of story-telling!

Our Sunday morning services have seen us continuing to explore themes in the Letter to the Hebrews. This series of sermons has provided great food for thought as we struggle to make sense of the confused and angry world we live in. One key thought, our verse for the year, is "*fixing our eyes on Jesus...*", that one constant point in the world in which we live.

As I write this, we are currently installing a new sound mixing console; its predecessor has given 17 years valiant service but is now proving to be too unreliable. In most church buildings some form of sound reinforcement is vital to enable all to hear clearly, and loop systems can be a huge blessing. Yet it also causes one to reflect on the amount of sound/noise in our world. We often find silence difficult and awkward, a space that somehow needs to be filled rather than enjoyed. Our world is full of speaking and sadly, not much listening. In our journey through Lent and on into the joy of the Easter season, may we be ever aware of that Still, Small Voice, as God seeks to capture our attention.

### **John Payne, Churchwarden**

*Circle me, Lord, keep evil out and goodness within.*

*Circle me Lord; keep anxious thoughts out and peace within.*

*Circle me Lord; keep bitterness and rage out and love and mercy within. Amen*

### **Amy Boucher Pye**

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**Time** 6:30-8:30pm evening meal provided

**Place** Emmanuel Baptist Church

**Dates** starts Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April  
(29 April, 6, 13, 20 May, 3, 10, 17, 24 June  
+ special away morning Sat 6 June)

**Sign up** Contact Jo Levasier  
jo@swanageteam.com  
07725 343768  
Or Janet Norley  
administrator@emmanuelbc.org.uk  
07740 715320

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# Quiz Night

Friday 17th April 2026

7 pm

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Bring your own wine, if you wish

Raffle (please bring cash)

Tickets from Suzanne or Alan Dominy

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e-mail: [manager.artworkshop@outlook.com](mailto:manager.artworkshop@outlook.com)

Come in a team of 4, or join one on the night

## DIARY DATES APRIL 2026



**Monday 30th March** - 6pm Holy Week Meditation & Compline (1)

**Tuesday 31st March** - 6pm Holy Week Meditation & Compline (2)

**Wednesday 1st April** - 6pm Holy Week Meditation & Compline (3)

**Friday 3rd April** - 10am Good Friday Around the Cross

11am Follow the Cross from EBC to the Bandstand

for a short service at 11:30am

**Sunday 6th April** - 6:30am Sunrise service on Swanage beach

10am Easter Holy Communion

**Sunday 12th April** - 10am Holy Communion

6pm Worship at 6 - EBC

**Tuesday 14th April** - 7pm Bible Study

**Sunday 19th April** - 10am Holy Communion with Rev John Cooper

**Tuesday 21st April** - 7pm Parish Annual Meeting at All Saints Church

**Sunday 26th April** - 10am St Marks Day Celebration! Service

**Monday 27th April** - 7:30pm St Marks Church Committee Meeting

**Tuesday 28th April** - 7pm Bible Study

Choir Rehearsal - Mondays 6:15 - 7pm

Junior Singing Club - Tuesdays 3:30pm – 4:25pm (during term-time)

Prayer and Share - Wednesdays 10am - 10:45am

## St Mark's Notes

As I write our news for April, I am looking out of the window on this cold and windy day mid March and wondering when the rain will stop and the sun will shine, heralding the start of Spring!!! The beautiful yellow daffodils have been trying their best, in the wind and rain, to brighten the gloomy days and the buds are starting to form on the trees, hedges and shrubs, so fingers crossed Spring is on its way. Oh! for some warming sunshine!! We have had an eventful March, and here are some highlights. With Holy Week and Easter, in April, we have much to look forward to.

We celebrated St David's Day, on 1st March, and after the service several of us enjoyed a lovely Sunday roast lunch, at the Globe, and even surprised Dave with his very own St David's Day Hat and daffodil! (See photo)



At the World Day of Prayer, on 6th March, held at EBC, St Marks church was well represented by Suzanne Hudson and Carol Richards who wore beautifully coloured Nigerian costumes, especially for the occasion, as Nigerian Christian women had prepared the special service.

The Lent Course, at St Marks, continues to be well attended, with people from all the churches in Swanage coming together to listen, reflect and discuss the Lenten course.

Our Lent Lunch for Christian Aid, on Friday 13th March was a great success and the 'A Team' of helpers were there to make sure everyone was fed and well looked after. The money donated has yet to be counted, at this time, but will be announced in the pew sheet soon.

Mothering Sunday on 15th March was celebrated with everyone receiving a lovely posy of daffodils to take home.

Our AGM will take place on Sunday 22nd March, when we elect our church members to serve for St Marks Committee, PCC, Deanery Synod, and as officers on the various voluntary groups within the Parish. With grateful 'Thanks' in advance, to those who will be elected. The results will be notified in the coming weeks and Church Alive.

On Sunday 29th March, Palm Sunday, we are looking forward to giving a true St Marks welcome to Revd Natalie Davies, at our Celebration Service, with cakes and refreshments, as usual!

Later that same afternoon at 3pm, we are holding a special Easter Teddy Bear's Picnic, for children aged 3 – 8 (accompanied by at least one grown-up.) There will be a FREE Picnic food & drink for children as well as tea, coffee & cake for grown-ups. Don't forget to bring your teddy bear!!!

John and I, on behalf of everyone at St Marks, would like to give a special mention and 'Thank You' to David Hudson, who has beautifully repaired and expertly crafted our new Church Staffs, which were vandalised, a couple of years ago, and were awaiting repair. We will be immensely proud to show these off, to Bishop Karen, next time she comes to visit!! (See photo)



In April; we will continue our Lenten journey, from Palm Sunday celebration, through Holy Week, to Gethsemane, the Garden of Tears, and finally to Golgotha, 'Place of the Skull,' and the Cross.....

The Easter Services, in all the churches, will be advertised very soon, which I hope will give us all a chance to come to reflect and worship and especially on Easter Sunday, to come together to Celebrate and Rejoice, Christs' Resurrection and triumph.

On Sunday 26th April; the celebrations will continue when we will come together to Celebrate St Marks Day, at the 'Party Church' - Hope to see you there!

A prayer to close.....

On the first day of Creation,  
God said, 'Let there be light!'  
On the first day of Resurrection,  
The Father said, 'Let there be Jesus!'  
Rejoice therefore that the darkness is passing,  
As the dayspring from on high dawns upon us.  
Halleluiah!

May God Bless and Keep You.

Anne Roper  
Church Warden

## St Nicholas Studland



It was the summer of 1957 and I was walking with my parents, sister Susan and brother Michael along the promenade at Bognor Regis. It was the second week of our summer holiday and our friends who'd been with us for the first week had just left to go back home. I liked those friends. I liked them mainly because their son Patrick was a complete reprobate and in contrast, for once in my life, I appeared as a paragon of virtue. As we walked towards the pier, we passed by a poster advertising the arrival of a circus. My Mum said, *'Do you remember last year Patrick saw that poster for that magic show, his eyes were glued to it.'*

My sister and I stopped in our tracks. We knew that Patrick could be a bit wild and could do silly things sometimes, but how on earth could he have got his eyes glued to a poster? How had the glue got there? Wasn't it painful? How did they get him off the poster? We were baffled and horrified. We poured out our questions to Mum and Dad, who fell around laughing, as they told us what *'having your eyes glued to something'* meant. Sue and I thought it was bit much laughing at us like that, they could at least have tried to understand what we felt as children. I said to Sue that they could have *'tried to put themselves in our shoes'*. Incidentally, I'd had trouble with that one too: why would you want to put yourself in someone else's shoes? Suppose they were too small or too big or too smelly? Suppose they were still wearing them? Oh well, such are the trials of being a child I suppose.

So, here we are nearly seventy years later, its Easter tide and I'm still thinking hard about what things mean. What does it mean that Jesus was raised from the dead, what does it mean that he died for us, what does it mean to follow Jesus? After all, if we're going to celebrate Easter we should know what it means! For me, there's no escaping the fact that the words, *'Jesus was raised from the dead.'* mean exactly that. It's not a picture or a metaphor or a simile or a myth. It's not a saying and it's not a euphemism. It means what it says.

Nearly 2000 years ago a bunch of exhausted, demoralised and grieving friends became dynamic preachers, teachers and evangelists because someone that they loved and revered who had been executed by the Romans was alive: very much alive. They began to understand who he was. They realised that he was no less than the Son of God. But that was not all, they saw what he had done, that he had *'put himself in their shoes'*, that he, both God and man had experienced all that they experienced as human beings. So, when Jesus died on the cross and was raised to new life, all that it meant to be human was gathered into him and brought to new life as well. It was new hope for everyone!

You didn't need to hang around with rascallions like my friend Patrick in order to look good. God made you good through his Son. The message these early Christians preached was simple, *'Take hold of this new life and new hope by following Jesus'*, or to put it another way, *'keep your eyes glued on Jesus.'* After all, he is *'the way, the truth and the life.'*

I wish all a happy and hopeful Easter

**Revd. Tony Edmonds**



## Letter from Bishop Andrew of Ramsbury

### **An eternal address**

Living in two places at once, which most of us need to do at some point in our lives, can be a confusing business. Where should our post go? Where do we belong? To make dual residency of any kind work requires imagination as well as practical effort.

Christians are called to do this in a spiritual sense, for we believe Christ makes us at the same time citizens of earth and of heaven. At no season of the year is this most clearly evident than at Easter, when we celebrate God's new creation in the midst of the old. We are people who inhabit the spring, seeing in it signs of this new birth, but whose true hope is in resurrection.

The poet John Donne, musing upon life and death, wrote how Jesus makes *'one parish'* of earth and heaven, which is a lovely image. He adds that *'Christ was not out of his diocese when he was upon the earth'*! Nor (we might add), when he ascended to heaven.

The church, then, is a rehearsal space for the kingdom of heaven – and as such must allow for all the trial, error and excitement this involves. For Christ is risen, we have an eternal address and another country beckons.

**+ Ramsbury**

Church Alive! congratulates Bishop Andrew on his appointment as Bishop of St Albans



## **Any Questions?**

### **A Date for Your Diary**

We next meet on Thursday 21st May when speaker and subject will be:

Professor Andrew Halestrap

“Science and God – friends or foes?”

Andrew is Emeritus Professor of Biochemistry at Bristol University, a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences and recipient of the Keilin Medal of The Biological Society.

He is passionate about helping people to see how Science is a friend and not an enemy of the Christian faith.

Venue: All Saints’ Church, Redcliffe Road, Swanage.  
Doors open at 6.30 pm coffee/tea. Presentation 7.00 pm.

All welcome!

## **World Day of Prayer- A Big Thank you**

Thank you to all who joined in the global wave of prayer which covered planet Earth at the beginning of March. It was a very informed time of prayer and we were able to hear about many aspects of life in Nigeria. Thank you also for the generous donations, we were able send £216 to the various Christian projects.

Please keep the many persecuted and displaced people of this country in your prayers.

Judy Forgan

# Mayday Singers

Musical Director: John Watkins

## Spring Concert

Guest soloist: Rosie Kent (Violin)

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026, 4pm

St George's Church,

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# **In Memoriam**

## **Baptisms**

Karlito and Santino Hartnell 22nd February at St Mary's

## **Funerals**

Mr Barrie Dennis Green (83), Holmes Road 27th February  
Mr David Anthony 'Dave' Barrow (70), Kings Road West 3rd March

Mr David Peter 'Dave' Macrow (62), Rabling Road 9th March

Mr Geoffrey 'Geoff' Wynford Willcocks (77), Marine Terrace, Studland 13th  
March

Mrs Marian Sally Booth, All Saints 19<sup>th</sup> March

Mrs Elsie Grace Elizabeth Clark (92), Columbia Road, Bournemouth 20th  
March

Mr Philip Claude 'Phil' Woolston (97), Cecil Road 25th March

## **Please Help: Request from Jocelyne**

If anyone has got spare knitting wool, I knit scarves for homeless people. Not furry wool, just double knitting wool, bright colours please. My contact details are: Mrs Jocelyne Pfrangley, email [lynnechurchserver@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lynnechurchserver@hotmail.co.uk)

I attend St Mark's Church, Herston. Please leave in the church on the back pew with my name on it and your email address. Thank You!

## Support for Church Alive!

In this month's Church Alive! you will find an envelope for making a donation towards the cost of producing the magazine. We are so grateful to you our readers for your generous gifts each year, and hope you find Church Alive! interesting, informative and that the articles encourage you as together we face the joys and the challenges of our lives in Swanage and the beautiful countryside around us.

We are always pleased to hear from you if you have any thoughts or views that you would like to share with us. Please email: [swanagechurchalive@gmail.com](mailto:swanagechurchalive@gmail.com)

## Distribution

Are you able to help with distribution of Church Alive!? There are normally several left in the parish churches. If you can even just take an extra one, and give it to someone, we pray that it will bless them. Thank you!



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*please contact*  
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### Mrs Karon Quirey

Parish Office, St Mary's Rooms  
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email: [swanage.team@btconnect.com](mailto:swanage.team@btconnect.com)

# Hebrew Word of the Month

## Go'el

In Hebrew, the word גֹּאֵל, go'el (pronounced gō'el ) means redeemer. It refers to someone who rescues, defends, and restores what has been lost. It's not just a title—it's a mission. A go'el steps in when everything seems broken, when hope runs dry, and says, *"I will make it right."*

That's who Jesus is. He is your Go'el. Not only the one who saves you from sin, but the one who steps into every broken part of your life to redeem it—your past, your pain, your future.

### A Redeemer Who Steps In

After Boaz marries Ruth (Naomi's daughter-in-law) and they have a son, the women of the town come to Naomi and say:

*"Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a redeemer (go'el). May he become famous throughout Israel!"*  
*Ruth 4:14*

These words were spoken to a woman who had suffered deep loss. Her husband and both her sons were gone. Her future looked empty and without hope. But God had not forgotten her. He raised up Boaz as a go'el (a redeemer) to step in, restore her family line, and secure her inheritance. And through Boaz and Ruth's child, Obed, Naomi's story was redeemed. Her family was given a future.

It's a powerful picture—not just of Boaz, but of Jesus, our ultimate Go'el, who steps into our brokenness and restores what was lost.

### **What Go'el Really Means**

In ancient Israel, a go'el was more than just a relative. He was a rescuer. If someone lost their land, the go'el could buy it back. If a family member was enslaved, the go'el could set them free. If injustice was done, the go'el would stand up and fight for them.

Jesus does all that—and more.

*He redeems your life from the pit – Psalm 103:4*

*He sets the captives free – Luke 4:18*

*He gives beauty for ashes – Isaiah 61:3*

*He restores what was lost – Joel 2:25*

He doesn't just forgive your past—He redeems it. He weaves it into something beautiful.

### **Jesus, Our Living Redeemer**

Job said, *“I know that my Go'el lives.”*

*Job 19:25*

Even in his suffering, Job held on to this truth: I have a Redeemer. He is alive. He will stand for me. That same hope belongs to you today. Jesus is not distant. He's not waiting for you to clean yourself up. He came because we couldn't fix it ourselves. That's what a go'el does—he enters the mess and makes it whole.

## **What Needs Redeeming in Your Life?**

Maybe you've lost something this season—time, peace, a relationship, your sense of purpose. Maybe you carry shame from the past or feel stuck in a place you never expected to be. Your Go'el sees it all. You're not forgotten nor too far gone. He's not just standing by; He's already moving to restore. He's in the business of turning ruins into redemption stories.

### **A Simple Prayer:**

Jesus, my Go'el,  
Thank You for seeing me, rescuing me, and restoring what's broken.  
I bring You the pieces of my life—redeem them.  
Where there's shame, bring healing.  
Where there's loss, bring restoration.  
You are my Redeemer, and I trust You.  
Make something beautiful out of what I give You.  
May you remember today: You have a Go'el. A Redeemer who gave everything to make you His. A Redeemer who restores what the enemy tried to steal. A Redeemer who is alive and active in your life right now.

*“He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners... to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes.”*

*Isaiah 61:1-3*

You are not alone. Your Go'el is with you.

**Blessings,  
Pastor Israel Pochtar**

# Jerusalem by CityAlight

## Verse 1

See Him in Jerusalem  
Walking where the crowds are  
Once these streets had sung to Him  
Now they cry for murder  
Such a frail and lonely Man  
Holding up the heavy cross  
See Him walking in Jerusalem  
On the road to save us

## Verse 2

See Him there upon the hill  
Hear the scorn and laughter  
Silent as a lamb He waits  
Praying to the Father  
See the King who made the sun  
And the moon and shining stars  
Let the soldiers hold and nail Him  
down  
So that He could save them

**CityAlight on YouTube**

## Verse 3

See Him there upon the cross  
Now no longer breathing  
Dust that formed the watching crowds  
Takes the blood of Jesus  
Feel the earth is shaking now  
See the veil is split in two  
And He stood before the wrath of God  
Shielding sinners with His blood

## Verse 4

See the empty tomb today  
Death could not contain Him  
Once the Servant of the world  
Now in victory reigning  
Lift your voices to the One  
Who is seated on the throne  
See Him in the New Jerusalem  
Praise the One who saved us

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## Letter from the Editor

It was with that poignant sense of joy and sorrow, known to us all when attending a service to remember the life of a much loved friend or family member, that I entered All Saints Church on a beautiful sunny afternoon, the 19 March, to give thanks and praise to God for the life of Marian Booth. The church was full of light, spring flowers, people and music, as the musicians and choir of St Marks filled the atmosphere with hymns and songs that Marian loved so much.

I only knew Marian for less than a year, but in that time, as for so many of us, she became a dear friend, whose bright character, warmth, thoughtfulness and love for Jesus was a constant inspiration. As Rev Dave Richards said in his talk, “I miss her terribly.” I visited her in Swanage hospital shortly before she died, and in her inimitable way, she told me that she was planning her funeral. The beautiful service on that sunny afternoon, faithfully reflected the depth of her character. Our love and prayers go out to her husband John, her daughter Mary and all those close to her.

Marian was more than anyone, responsible for me becoming editor of Church Alive!, and was a constant source of encouragement and support.

It is at times like these that our faith in Jesus becomes so real and meaningful. John the Baptist said “whoever believes in the Son has eternal life.” That is awesome. Marian had a real, living faith in Jesus, the Son of God, and now she has entered into the fullness of eternal life with Jesus.

This is why the Alpha Course, see page 15, is so important. It is an introduction to what it really means to be a Christian, in a friendly, relaxed and interesting way, that has had an effect on the lives of hundreds of thousands of people.

It deserves our full support in prayer, attendance and inviting friends to join it, and our thanks to those who are organising and running it.

# SPECIAL EASTER & HOLY WEEK EVENTS & SERVICES



## MON 30 MARCH

### **St Mark's:**

6pm Compline with Meditation (45min)

## TUE 31 MARCH

### **St Mark's:**

6pm Compline with Meditation (45min)

### **St Mary's**

7:30pm Sung Compline (25min)

## WED 1 APRIL

### **St Mark's**

6pm Compline with Meditation (45min)

## MAUNDY THURSDAY 2 APRIL

### **All Saints**

6.30pm Reflective Supper, with music, readings & informal communion.  
(Booking needed)

### **St Mary's**

7.30-8.30pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist with stripping of the altars. Followed by prayer watch until 10pm.

## SATURDAY 4 APRIL

### **St Mary's**

8:30pm Easter Eve Vigil with lighting of the Paschal candle

## EASTER SUNDAY 5 APRIL

### **On the Beach**

6.30am Churches Together Sunrise Praise

### **St Mary's**

8am Easter Communion

10.30am Easter Choral Eucharist

Mozart Mass setting

6:30pm Festal Evensong

### **St Mark's**

10am Easter Family Communion

### **St Nicholas'**

10am Easter Family Communion

### **All Saints**

8am Communion

10:30am Easter All Age Communion

with Easter Egg Hunt