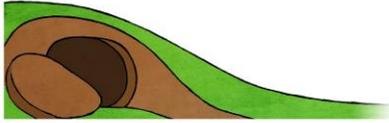


Studland Parish News



April
2026

Hosanna!
Crucify him!
Finished!
He is risen!
Alleluia!



St Nicholas Church Studland

See the Parish News in full colour – www.studlandchurch.com

May deadline is: 10am on WEDNESDAY APRIL 22ND

sharonwestman@gmail.com / 01929 450358

Late contributions cannot be guaranteed.

Note from the editor...

Not only is there a definite sense of spring in the air as I write this, but you will find the wonder of spring in many of the pages of this month's edition; there is a feeling of hope and joy, activity and energy throughout.

There are also moments within of reflection and contemplation. Moments for remembering and reminiscing. Reflection is often prompted by situations of change and upheaval. However, reflection in daily life, thinking about and considering our experiences; listening—to oneself, others, and to God, can provide us insights and opportunities to learn, to heal and to grow.

I wish you all a spring that allows you to enjoy village life, to whatever degree you choose. There is so much on offer, an array of events and interactions that enrich and nourish our remarkable community.

Happy Easter

Sharon Westman, Editor

Swanage and Studland Team Ministry

Team Rector: Rev Dr Ian Bird

Team Office: T: 01929 421117 / E: swanage.team@btconnect.com

St Nicholas Church, Studland

Associate Minister: Revd Dr Tony Edmonds

T: 07837 009147 / E: revtonyedmonds@outlook.com

Church Warden: Barbara Matthews

T: 01929 450218 / E: barmat18@btinternet.com

Hon. Treasurer: Mr Eric Stobart

T: 01929 450222 / E: eric@thestobarts.co.uk

Hon. Secretary: VACANT



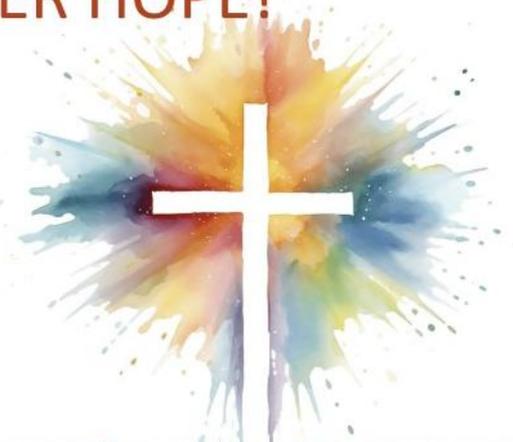
World Day of Prayer 2026 & Christian Aid 2026



Thank you to all those who attended or supported and baked for both events.

- £307.50 was raised on March 6th for World Day of Prayer benefitting the women of Nigeria
- £50.00 was raised at The Ash Wednesday Service on Feb 18th for the benefit of Christian Aid

EASTER HOPE!



CELEBRATE EASTER AT A CHURCH NEAR YOU

St Mary's Church, Kings Road, Swanage BH19 1HU
St Mark's Church, Bell Street, Herston BH19 2SA

All Saints Church, Ulwell Road, New Swanage BH19 1LL
St Nicholas' Church, Church Road, Studland BH19 3AT

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.

GOOD FRIDAY 3 APRIL

St Mark's

10am Around the Cross (45min)

All Saints

10.30am Pause at the Cross: Worship for everyone: (30min)

11am **Churches Together walk of witness** starting at 3 locations

- Emmanuel Baptist Church
- All Saint's Church
- United Reform Church

Meeting at the Bandstand

11:30am Service around the Cross (15mins)

St Mary's

12-3pm Three hours at the Cross: readings, prayers, reflections, silence and music—do come and go in the hymns every 20 mins.

St Nicholas'

6:30pm Music & Meditation

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

Other regular services will continue during this period—please call 01929 421117 or refer to church notices sheets

**St Nicholas Church, Studland.
Rota of Readers and Sides Persons.
April 2026.**

Date	Service	Sides Person	Readers	Readings
Good Friday 3 rd April at 6.30pm	Music and Meditation Good Friday <i>Rev. Tony Edmonds</i>	Eric Stobart	To be advised	To be advised
Easter Sunday 5 th April at 10.00am	Holy Communion Easter Day <i>Rev. Tony Edmonds</i>	Ginny Stobart	Diana Edmonds Sara-Jayne Smith	Acts 10, v34 to 43 Matthew 28, v1 to 10
Sunday 12 th April at 10.00am	Holy Communion Easter 2 <i>Rev. Tony Edmonds and Jane Hawksworth</i>	Sally Hogsflesh	Polly Warner Keith Tillyard	1 Peter 1, v3 to 9 John 20, v19 to end
Sunday 19 th April at 10.00am	Morning Prayer Easter 3 <i>Jane Hawksworth</i>	Carol Wadley	Margaret Chinchen Cindy Yeandle	Acts 2, v14a and 36-41 Luke 24, v13 to 35
Sunday 26 th April at 10.00am	Holy Communion Easter 4 <i>Rev. Tony Higgins</i>	Sally Hogsflesh	David Hogsflesh Barbara Matthews	Acts 2, v42 to end John 10, v1 to10

Please contact Eric Stobart by email: eric@thestobarts.co.uk if any matters arise.

St Nicholas Parish News

Dear Friends,

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. 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 rascals like my friend Patrick 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

From the Registers

The Funeral of John Pounder, Tuesday 24th Feb aged 92 years
The Interment of the ashes of Mary Wolger, Thursday 26th Feb aged 101 years
The Funeral of Geoff Willcocks Friday 13th March aged 77 years
The Baptism of Wilfred Henry John Crosby Sunday 1st March

Rev Tony Edmonds

Church Alive 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 recognise 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. Recently we held our APCM, where members of our congregations gathered 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.

Rev. Natalie Davies



STUDLAND WI – Wednesday 11th March 2026

The Secretary welcomed all members who attended the meeting. Thank you, Cindy, for standing in for the President who gave her apologies. Apologies were also given for those who also were unable to attend.

Our WI have purchased a handsfree microphone and receiver to connect to the village hall speaker system. This made a significant improvement for us all and will enable us to use at our meetings and for all our speakers.

Reminders were given to members that our subs are due between the 1st and 30th April. All members are also required to complete a new membership form this has been requested by NFWI and is in line with new legislation given on the Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy which all members have been emailed a copy to read with their last minutes.

Next month's meeting is our AGM. All members of the existing committee are willing to stand again next year. If any of our members wish to join committee, in any capacity please talk to the committee about it or, if you would like to nominate another member, please make sure you have their agreement. We will have some forms out at the April meeting for nominations.

Our speaker for our March meeting was Christian Orner talking about being a private chef & Chocolatier. An entertaining evening with Christian who introduced us to his company, Salt Co, some of his products (very tasty!) and his wife Laura & son Theo. Christian has been a chef for 20 years working in restaurants (including Michelin star ones) and on private yachts. Salt Co is based in Upton & they provide cooking classes, private dining, talks, fish, steak & vege nights & private chef services in people's houses. His talk was given in two parts, firstly explaining the history of chocolate and then the two methods for tempering chocolate. Christian's tales of his private chef experiences were very entertaining and included pictures, such as the worst kitchen, through to the amazing super yachts. Our members had many questions, and Christian was happy to share his experiences and expertise and samples! All thoroughly enjoyed by the ladies at the meeting.

Our next meeting is Wednesday 8th April at Studland Village Hall at 7.30pm. As this will be our AGM, we look forward to seeing as many members as possible.

WI is here for all ladies of all ages, and we would love to welcome you to join us, so why not come along and join our friendly group. Fun, friendship and plenty of laughter.

Lynn Elliott, President



STUDLAND GARDENING ASSOCIATION

Spring has definitely sprung, our Spring Show is behind us, the village is full of daffodils, blossom and bird song; with warming soil and blue skies I remember why I love being in my garden!

It's a great time to start planting directly outdoors, root crops, leafy greens, peas and beans and all your onion family. Tender crops such as courgettes, cucumbers and tomatoes can be sown under cover, on a windowsill or greenhouse. And don't forget "*Ne'er cast a clout till May is out*" protect your tender plants if a frost is forecast.

We are thrilled to announce a new committee member. Cindy Yeandle was unanimously voted on to the committee having offered to take on the role of secretary.

We have set up an arrangement with seed sellers Thompson & Morgan. We get a 50% discount on seeds and 20% on live plants, potatoes, garlic etc. All you have to do when you place an order by post, on the phone or online is to give the code **TM_GT552P**. This arrangement will last for at least a year, and will continue into 2027, if between us we spend at least £100 in 2026.

Finally, thanks to the forty-five members who have renewed their membership, which was due at the AGM for the forthcoming year. Payment of £5

Last year we had 72 members, if your subs are outstanding, payment can be made online to Studland Gardening Association: sort code 30-99-50/ Acc:52727768. (with your name as reference).

Happy Gardening!

Studland History Group

The next meeting is on Wednesday 15th April at 2.30pm in the Village Hall. There will be a presentation on The Purbeck Heath National Nature Reserve by Michelle Brown. All welcome. Visitors £4 to include tea/coffee and biscuits.



Annual Subscription of £20 is due this month and covers all meetings for the year.

On May 20th we have “On the Parish. Life in the Victorian Workhouse” with Luke Moulard, and on June 16th there will be a visit to Studland Bay House and Gardens.

Joyce Meates, Secretary. 07816 988890



Updates from the National Trust:

Dam impressive!

One year after we released beavers into the wild at Little Sea, their activity has dramatically reshaped part of the nearby landscape – turning a previously dense area of woodland into a thriving wetland habitat.

One of the two pairs of beavers we introduced in March 2025 have built an impressive 35-metre-long dam, which has slowed the flow of a small stream, creating a deep and extensive pond. Their coppicing of trees has opened up the canopy, allowing light to flood in and creating ideal habitat for plants, insects, amphibians, birds and bats. The trail cameras have already picked up an otter fishing in the pond, as well as a barn owl hunting there.



Gen Crisford, Wetlands Project Officer, said: *“The effect on the eco-system is astonishing. From dense tangled woodland, the beavers have created a light and airy wetland teeming with life above and below the water. We can’t wait to see what wildlife appears this spring – from dragonflies, diving beetles and butterflies to frogs and newts – and of course, all the animals that feed off them. It’s important to remember that the trees the beavers fell don’t die – they quickly sprout new shoots. Not only have the beavers breathed new life into the landscape, but there are also indications that by slowing the flow of the stream, they are helping prevent a section of Ferry Road from flooding in heavy rain.”*

(Photo: Beaver dam, Cathy Lewis)



Perilous time for puffins

At the time of writing, we're anxiously awaiting the return of the puffins to Dancing Ledge. There is concern for the colony following recent reports of thousands of dead puffins washing up on Europe's beaches during this winter's storms.

Historically home to more than 80 puffins, the colony at Dancing Ledge has dwindled to just three pairs. Although these birds

have shown signs of nest building, they haven't successfully raised any fledglings in recent years. The suspicion has long been that predators such as rats or crows are taking the eggs or chicks.

We have again commissioned high ropes experts to install remote, motion-sensor cameras on the narrow fissure where the seabirds breed. The previous exercise captured fascinating insights into the behaviours of puffins and other seabirds but didn't reveal any culprits.

Learning from last time, we have placed robust, high spec cameras in specific locations to film deep into the ledge. There was some concern from locals that the cameras themselves might disturb the puffins, but this wasn't the case – in fact, we have many shots of puffins and other seabirds sitting right beside them! There has also been speculation locally about whether human activity, such as coasteering, rock climbing or boating is adversely affecting the puffin colony, but the monitoring team believes this to be unlikely. The cameras revealed that the puffins are most active overnight, when human activity is minimal.

(Photo: Puffins, Pete Christie)



Nature's symphony

Now's the time to get out and enjoy nature's symphony. The dawn chorus is performed by birds looking for love, and to defend their patch. It starts at sunrise, and the loudest singers are the males. Thrushes, blackbirds and robins are among the first to rise, then others gradually join in – wrens, chiffchaffs, blackcaps and willow warblers. You might also be lucky enough to hear a

yellowhammer, linnnet or stonechat. If you're not an early riser, remember there's the dusk chorus too. It might not be quite so loud, but it's guaranteed to soothe your soul!

(Photo: Yellowhammer, Pete Christie)

If you have any queries, email us on purbeck@nationaltrust.org.uk

Cathy Lewis, National Trust

Swanage Medical Practice Patient Participation Group

SystemConnect: The PPG last met on 10th March 2026. One of the issues we discussed was SystemConnect, the new way to contact the Practice online. The Practice started using SystemConnect last October, instead of eConsult, and they would like to encourage all patients to use SystemConnect, where appropriate.

SystemConnect allows you to make admin requests, such as requesting a Fit note or cancelling an appointment, as well as to request medical advice about new or existing health problems and to submit medication queries.

You can access SystemConnect via the Practice website on your smartphone, tablet or desktop computer.

Urgent dental support: We also discussed what to do if you develop an urgent dental issue. If you develop an urgent dental issue, telephone 111. You will then be triaged by an appropriately qualified clinician so that they can understand the urgency of the treatment needed.

Our next PPG meeting: The PPG will next be meeting at the Surgery on Tuesday 12th May 2026 at 6:00pm.

You can find out more about the PPG, including Minutes of our meetings and our current Priorities, at: www.swanagemedical.org.uk/pages/Patient-Participation-Group.

If you are interested in joining the PPG, please contact Natasha Ritchie, the Practice Manager, or email the PPG directly at ppgswanage@gmail.com.

Dr Margaret Guy (Mrs Broadhurst)
Chair, Swanage Medical Practice PPG

Community Speed Watch

CSW conference was held at Winfrith Police Headquarters on 7th March. It was very well attended by many volunteers from Dorset Villages.

Most Villages try to have between 3 and 4 CSW sessions per month. Dorset Roadsafes has 80 teams around the region.

Most other Villages now have a 20mph speed limit, mostly due to the data the Speedwatch teams produce. We can also achieve this in Studland.

The presence of the team reduces death and injury on the road, improves quality of life for the local communities, reduces the speed of vehicles to the speed limit, increases public awareness of inappropriate speed.

With an increased Speedwatch Team we can have more sessions and hopefully get the speed limit in Studland reduced to 20mph sooner than it might have done.

Therefore, I need a few more volunteers. This will lessen the workload of the wonderful volunteers I already have. Please can you spare 1 hour a month to join us and help reduce the speed through our beautiful Village.

Please contact Lyn Hool 07720981404 if you could volunteer.

Thank you

Isle of Purbeck Golf Club



Spring is almost here! The daffodils are out, the golfers are returning and everyone's spirits are up!

Looking ahead, we're excited to celebrate **Easter** on Sunday 5th April with a special Easter Menu. Bunnies and eggs are springing up all over and we'll be offering two sittings, the first from 12:00-12:30pm and the second sitting from 3:00-3:30pm. Reservations are essential, so be sure to secure your table early—we're looking forward to making your Easter something special.

We are also excited to tell you about our **April Jazz Evening** with Oliver Darley and Chad Lelong featuring the songs of **David Bowie** as you've never heard them before. Darley and Lelong have somehow managed to cover completely uncharted musical terrain with these songs, so they're reassuringly familiar and yet utterly unlike anything fans would ever expect.

Golf Season is Finally Here!

At long last, longer days and improving conditions mean it's time to get back out on the course. The greens are coming into great shape, and we can't wait to welcome you back. Here are our **April rates** for the **Purbeck Course (18 Holes)**. Take advantage of these early-season rates before full pricing comes into effect in May.

- Saturday: £75
- Friday & Sunday: £70
- Monday–Thursday: £65
- Twilight Rates (after 2 PM): £45 (Mon–Thurs), £50 (Fri & Sun), £55 (Sat)

The Dene Course (9 Holes) remains a fantastic deal at just £14, or £18 for two rounds. Juniors can play for £10 (9 Holes) or £14 (18 Holes)—a great opportunity to get out on the course and get back your stamina after all these rainy months with no golf.

Membership is still available, so if you're considering joining, we'd be happy to hear from you at proshop@purbeckgolf.co.uk.

Our most exciting news this month is that in early April we'll be opening our **Strike Zone Golf Studio** - a professional grade indoor golf venue powered by the latest technology, enabling all year access for those wanting to play, practice and improve their golf. This studio will be available to hire at hourly intervals.

For more details or to book your spot, visit our website, call, or email us. We look forward to seeing you soon!

01929 450361 • www.purbeckgolf.co.uk • iop@purbeckgolf.co.uk

BRIDGE CLUB Meets every Monday from 6-8PM in Old Harry's Bar. Experienced players and beginners welcome.

Virginia Lynch 01929 450177



Old Harry Bar

Let us put a Spring in your Step this April!
Serving a range of beers, ciders, cocktails,
soft drinks and tasty pizzas, you will find us
opposite Studland Stores, next to the
village hall. A warm welcome awaits you
from our team.

“Strangers may be friends you haven’t met yet at Old Harry Bar!”

April Events:

The Grand National – Live on our Big Screen!

Saturday 11th April – Open from 3pm - Race is at 4pm

Join us for a sweepstake and nibbles (Sweepstake £2 – Cash Only)

Live Music:

Easter Saturday 4th April - 7pm – “Feverstreet”, (Jazz, Blues, Gospel and Soul)

Please note: We will be Open EVERY DAY in The Easter Holidays!

(27th March until 12th April)

USUAL OPENING HOURS

MONDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY: 5pm – 10.30pm

SUNDAY: 3pm – 8pm

MONDAY – Bridge Club – Beginners Welcome - 6pm

THURSDAY – Craft Club – Bring your own crafty projects to work on from 5.30pm

FRIDAY NIGHT - MEAT RAFFLE – weekly at 9pm

SATURDAY NIGHT - MEMBERS DRAW – weekly at 9pm

(You must be a member and be there **in person** for a chance to win!)

Tasty Italian Stone Baked Pizza - Available to eat in or take away

Order on 01929 450561

12" Margherita - £12 - (Tomato sauce and mozzarella cheese)

With a wide selection of extra toppings to choose from at 50p each

We also have a pool table, so why not challenge your friends to a game?

See: Facebook, Instagram, our member’s newsletter or visit:

www.oldharrybar.co.uk

We would like to pay a heartfelt tribute to Geoff Willcox who sadly passed away recently. Geoff served on the Old Harry Bar committee as treasurer for many years and was a hugely valued member of our community. We donated £100 from the meat raffle held at Geoff’s wake to Forest Holme Hospice in his memory. Geoff was a great man who will be much missed.



Studland Village Hall - Notice of AGM

The Trustees have recently updated the safeguarding policy for the hall. This can be viewed on our website at <https://www.studlandvillagehall.co.uk/documents/>



studlandparishcouncil.org

Update from Studland Parish Council March 2026

Studland Parish Council met on March 16th. All Councillors were present, as was Emma Wright of the National Trust (NT). Cllr Ben Wilson was unable to attend.

The Minutes of our meeting of 16th February were confirmed.

Emma Wright had submitted a report on behalf of the NT:

*The NT has acquired an aqua chair and rigid and flexible matting to enable wheelchair access to the sea at Knoll Beach. The NT wants Knoll Beach and Dorset more widely to be the “inclusive blue space capital of the UK”. An inflation station for SUPs will be installed by Easter.

*Up until May 22nd car parks will open at 9am and shut at 6pm. From 23rd May car parks will be open from 8.30am to 8pm.

*Following installation of ANPR at Knoll Beach, the NT is applying for planning permission to introduce ANPR to its other car parks in Studland.

*Knoll Beach toilets closure for a week from March 23rd; Portaloo’s in place.

*Various runs and children’s trails will take place over Easter.

Cllr Ben Wilson had submitted a reported, which largely dealt with wider Dorset Council issues. He did also provide a Dorset Council (DC) paper on “Working with Communities”: this addresses how DC will work with Parish and Town Councils. We deferred discussion on this until our next meeting.

Two planning submissions had been received from:

*The owners of “Handfast House” for the trimming or felling of some leylandii and holly trees; SPC had no objection to these but did object to the felling of an elm tree: no rationale was given, and no statement on how it would be replaced.

*The NT for the felling of 2 sycamore trees overlooking Middle Beach: whilst it’s a pity that these have to be cut down, the rapid erosion at Middle Beach caused by the NT’s removal of the gabions mean that these will fall anyway.

On Highways, it was noted there are road works on Ferry Road – to repair a sewage pipe near Knoll House, and by Wessex Water at the top of Beach Road.

There was a lengthy discussion about the Ferry Company’s plans to install ANPR cameras on Ferry Road and for toll charging to go fully electronic. The plans for this are not yet clear: for example, will the Ferry Company need planning permission for the installation of ANPR cameras in an area of outstanding natural beauty? what is the timing of the installation? what are the implication for passengers using paper tickets? and of course what are the implications for the employment of staff on the toll booths at the ferry? SPC is to ask one of the Directors of the Ferry Company to attend our next meeting to provide details.

Residents should be aware that increased ferry tolls take place from April 1st.

On Crime: no incidents of crime have been reported. However: concern was raised about cars / vans illegally entering Heath Green Road through the “no entry” sign on Swanage Road. Residents who spot this can report incidents to Dorset Police using the SNAP app.

Reports / updates were received from Council Officers:

*Chrissie Neville (Environment and Tree Officer) reported the Volunteer Tree Officers had undertaken two lengthy walks around Studland in the last month to identify trees that can be classified as notable/veteran/ancient. They are dating these trees. This work is partly to help in tree conservation, but also in addressing planning applications that affect trees. Trees are an important part of Studland’s “environment” and the VTOs want to preserve and enhance these. The VTOs are also looking at the maintenance / upkeep of orchards in Studland.

*David Battle (Marine and Coastal Officer) reported the Eco buoys are being replaced now, and there is a “debate” about the speed limit boundary in our bays; this mainly concerns Swanage. In Studland, the 5mph speed limits apply from Old Harry across to the Training Bank, and everything within that.

*Stephen Yeoman (Planning and Transport Officer) reported the PTAG (Purbeck Transport Action Group) was preparing a draft plan; he will report back on this.

*Steve Smith (Playing Field and Studland Care Officer) said that work on cutting grass and hedges was ongoing, as well as maintenance of the Playing Field.

*Tim Yeandle (Rights of Way Officer) said finger posts will be installed down from the obelisk to denote the footpath; also, he reported the bridge over the stream at the bottom of Wadmore Lane was rickety: the NT repaired this quickly.

*Mark Elliott (Resilience Officer) is consulting with neighbouring Parish Councils on their resilience plans.

*Lyn Hool (Community Speed Watch) reported the CSW team had only managed one session, due to the wet roads; more will be organized now the roads are dryer. Lyn would like more residents to come forward as CSW volunteers. Lyn had attended a conference held by Dorset Police on CSW in Dorset - there is an increase in drivers using “ghost” plates to avoid detection; Dorset Police now see “drug driving” as being more serious/common than “drunk driving”.

All invoices were approved for payment.

SPC had received grant applications from the Purbeck Film Festival, we donated £250; and from “Cultural Purbeck” (which is about Swanage and Purbeck more widely being a Town of Culture in 2028), we donated £500.

SPC discussed the foot/cycle tunnel that had been proposed: however, there is no funding for this, and it will not go ahead.

SPC also discussed a suggestion from within the PTAG for a cycle path from Swanage to Studland; Councillors thought this could be useful, but that it should not be along the Ulwell Road, which is too narrow.

Cllr Peter Hammond is liaising with the NT on plans for the maintenance and enhancement of the pond. He is also looking at ways to recognise the service of

Alan Churchill as a past SPC Chairman: it is likely that this will be by way of a bench near the Green opposite the Village Hall.

Representatives of the group looking at enhancing facilities in the Playing Field said they are consulting with residents to understand their views/concerns.

SPC have received a request from Worth Matravers Parish Council to support an initiative to give the Isle of Purbeck a Dark Skies designation; SPC supports this.

Our next meeting will be on April 20th. Items for the agenda will include update on the Ferry Company's proposals to go electronic; the Playing Field; and planning for the Annual Parish Meeting in the late Spring.

As usual, fuller information on our meetings is available on our website: www.studlandparishcouncil.org

Nick Boulter, Chairman

Geoffrey Willcocks [15th March 1948 to 9th February 2026] in his Daughter Fran's words

On the 13th of March, the village gathered to remember and say goodbye to Geoff Willcocks. At the funeral, his daughter Fran gave a moving remembrance of her father. At the request of many, we have decided to publish (with permission) a lightly edited version of Fran's eulogy for those who would have liked to be there to honour Geoff's memory and support the family but couldn't.

My Dad would be able to do this, to stand in front of you all and speak intelligently, eloquently, with humour, informative and emotive. Dad didn't want a pretty speech. He wanted drama, the occasion, the wailing, the love, the deep heartbreak his death would leave behind. He wanted sobbing!! So, please bear with me as I follow his last request.

Dr Geoffrey Wynford Willcocks, BA Hons, MBA, PhD, MSI, CIPFA, FHEA, SIITT, Member of the Institute of Learning and Technology. Geoff held a number of significant leadership roles at Bournemouth University, including, Senior Academic Head of Programmes and Business Development, Director of Quality and Accreditation and Deputy Dean. Through his teaching and leadership, he shaped generations of students and contributed to the culture and reputation of Bournemouth University.

He brought his love of numbers into all areas of his life for example, lighting a fire, 6,6,14. When having to do the stairs at home, when the pain and his mobility were really bad, he would count out loud the stairs up and down: 13. He took comfort in numbers and their order. He thought maths was fun and was overjoyed when there was finally a member of the family who enjoyed them too, his grandson, Heath, and they would sit together happily doing maths puzzles. I personally avoid maths and would not listen to his teaching and instead was given a tutor to help me pass my GCSE.

Geoff also loved a list, and when I started trying to write this, I found it incredibly hard, and so I wrote list, a list of my Dad. Here it is:

Dad, Grandpa, Grandad, Husband, Geoff, Dr., vegetable grower extraordinaire, illegible handwriting, itineraries, a fear of needles, the grand gesture, Scotland, family trees, jam donuts, a full head of hair, sailing, windsurfing, birthdays at big houses, a love of Scotland, travel (nothing left on his bucket list), Sunday phone calls, short shorts, playing the guitar, welcoming committee (but only on arrival, you were always asked when you were leaving), table manners, whisky, especially Ardbeg, no daytime television, good food, Burns night, the Calcutta Cup, cardigans, land grabs for his veg plot, crosswords, handmade birthday cards, his weekly mince dinner, meals straight from the garden, the sweetcorn/squirrel battle, jigsaw puzzles (but only at Christmas and you were only allowed to help until it was almost finished and then he would roll it away to finish on his own later)....an only child!

The village; he had a huge love for Studland and for you who live here, the gossip, the drama, the history, the wildfires in the dunes that set off the WW2 bullets, parties bringing celebrities (he wrote to Tom Cruise asking him to present the prizes for the Garden Association); the Post Office, walking up each day with Nick or Arno to collect the paper and a packet of cigarettes; the Social Club, the country fairs, the Gardening Association and most definitely the village vegetable show. I think his whole year was organised around winning as many prizes as he could at that show.

He loved his Family, and what a wonderful family he created: my Mum, myself and Duncan my brother and then Fi who brought Katy and Victoria who have been the best sisters ever. We've then all added partners and grandchildren, all of whom have been equally loved by Dad. Our enormous family, so big that on birthdays a big house would be rented and we would all arrive and celebrate with so much love.

He was unique, my dad. He could be a bloody nightmare especially when waiting for food in a restaurant, or if you dared to be bored or too nice!! Near the end whilst we were all mothering him, probably way too much, from his chair he just announced, *"Would everyone stop being so f#####ng nice to each other!"* We all said, *"no"*, because we all wanted him well, wanted him to stay with us for longer, wanted him to live and be part of our lives, because he was an absolute joy and I and all of us will love him and miss him forever.

So, to finish with his words, *"No sitting, no snivelling Fran, smile and be stoic and sanguine"*.

Thank you

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped both me and the family throughout both Geoff's short illness and his passing. We cannot imagine how we would have coped without the love, support and practical help we have received from so many people and which we are continuing to receive.

We are truly grateful that we live in such an amazing community. Thank you

Fiona

QUESTION 2. WILL ANYTHING HAPPEN IF I PRAY?

Christians believe that if you pray - in other words, communicate with God - he will always hear you. Your prayer might be complicated or a very simple 'Help!'; it may be whispered or shouted or be a silent cry from deep inside but if it is genuine, God will be listening. The Bible teaches that God loves each one of us and wants us to know him and talk to him. He wants us to pray in all kinds of situations. Prayer feels good because we are connecting with God and sharing our hearts with someone who loves us. Prayer can be exciting too - when we engage with God, we open ourselves to him directing our lives and changing us. It could be that God's answer to your prayer is a change in your own attitude or actions. Saying a prayer is not like making a wish. Praying is a focused way of seeking God's help. Jesus Christ taught his followers how to pray and to believe God would answer them.

Answered prayer: There are many times when we can see prayers being answered. It might even seem that God has intervened miraculously, perhaps to heal someone from illness. And when we come to God to ask his forgiveness for the things we have said and done wrong, we can be certain this prayer will be answered.

However, God does not always give us what we want. Sometimes the answer to our prayers might be a 'no,' as if we reached a red traffic light. We might not understand why, and the negative answer might be very difficult to take, but God sees the bigger picture. We can be sure God is not turning away from us.

In the Bible, the book of Psalms is a collection of prayers and songs to God. Some are expressions of joy, praise and thanks, but others are anguished cries where the writer has experienced difficulties and is calling out to God for help. Being a Christian and loving God does not make anyone immune from pain, but they do have a deep reassurance that God is with them whatever they are going through.

'The Lord is near to all who call on him...'

Psalm 145 verse 18

On other occasions, the answer to a prayer might be 'wait' – like reaching an amber traffic light. This can be hard too. Our busy culture doesn't like hanging around, but prayer is not about instant gratification. God does not work to human timescales. And while we wait, it is fine to keep praying and seeking an answer. Prayer, like talking to anyone, is about developing a closer relationship. Time talking to God is never wasted.

If you would like to buy a longer booklet exploring this question, please go to <https://www.cpo.org.uk/explore-project>

(Shared with permission. Further resources from: <https://explorechristianity.info/>.)

Acknowledgments: Allchurches Trust [now Benefact Trust], Jerusalem Trust, Kirby Laing Foundation, The Diocese of London)



Linda's Story

Linda Jackson wrote this charming account of her life, as a daughter of a farm worker raised in Studland in the mid 1920's/30's for her granddaughter. As editor, I have been asked to share her memories here for readers.

Continuation...

My first job was in domestic service in Studland Bay House. I started at eight o'clock and finished at five o'clock. I had different types of work to do, and the housekeeper told me when I made up the beds, first the toe and then the head - that's the way to make a bed. In the lounge there was a white marble fireplace with a figure at each side. It was my job to clean the fireplace with a wet toothbrush and a dry cloth that took me ages!

I left Studland Bay House and went to work for Missus Anderson who taught me how to cook. One day, she said, '*we will have sausages for lunch and pheasant for dinner. And don't forget to put the tail feathers in the bird.*' I could not find the sausages anywhere and thought I would look in the dustbin; and there they were, still wrapped in the white paper and newspaper. I prepared the bird and put the feathers in, but had to bend them slightly to get them in. Presently I smelled burning and of course it was the feathers. What I should have been told was to put the feathers in just before the Butler took them into the dining room.

My next job was cooking for a lady called Mrs. Murraytosh, and she taught me how to make beetroot soup. By this time, of course, war had broken out and Mrs. Murraytosh went back to her home in Guildford, and I went to work at the Studland Stores with my sister Phyllis. This was quite interesting as one had to learn how to cut cheese with the cheese cutting wire, slice bacon on a machine put different kinds of sugar in coloured bags, as well as putting raisins, sultanas and currants in different coloured bags too. Farm workers were allowed 3/4 of a pound of cheese, much more than the ration per person. By this time war had been declared and I had to leave the store and go and work in a munitions factory in Southampton. By this time, we had moved to the dairy house and had electricity but still no bathroom. We had four bedrooms, a sitting room and a dining room. I lodged in Sway with Mr. and Mrs. Edrich, who once lived in Studland. I did not like the factory, and even more going into the air raid shelters. Whilst working in the factory I was always ill with a sore throat and loss of voice. Mrs. Edridge could no longer have me in her house, so I had to come home.

To be continued...

Studland Cricket Club

Fixtures 2026



It must be spring! The new cricket season is just around the corner and we are pleased to share Studland Cricket Club's fixtures for the upcoming summer.

Following on from last year's very active and highly successful efforts we have 27 games confirmed so far for this year including our first tour which will be to sunny and exotic Bristol...

We continue to be lucky enough to have Studland Cricket Ground as our home venue courtesy of the Ferguson family. During the winter we have had the astro-turf pitch re-laid and look forward to our first home game of the season on 21 April against Swanage Royal British Legion. Midweek games start at 18.00 hrs and all are welcome to come down to watch. We are also always on the lookout for new players who share our philosophy of 'take it seriously to have fun', contact Pat Ward on 07816 664633 if you would like to know more!

12 April	Sunday	Milborne St Andrew CC	Away	
21 April	Tuesday	Swanage RB Legion	Home	
5 May	Tuesday	Bere Regis CC	Home	
8 May	Friday	Cumulus	Home	
14 May	Thursday	Purbeck Cider	Home	
21 May	Thursday	Ferndown Strollers	Away	
26 May	Tuesday	Cumulus	Home	Purbeck Evening League
2 June	Tuesday	Swanage RB Legion	Away	Purbeck Evening League
7 June	Sunday	Bristol Friendly CC	Away	Tour (Failand CC)
9 June	Tuesday	Swanage CC	Away	Purbeck Evening League
17 June	Wednesday	Fossils	Home	
21 June	Sunday	Hazelbury Bryan CC	Home	(2.00 start)
25 June	Thursday	Cumulus	Away	Purbeck Evening League
30 June	Tuesday	Swanage RB Legion	Home	Purbeck Evening League
5 July	Sunday	Corfe Castle FC	Home	(30 overs)
7 July	Tuesday	Swanage CC	Home	Purbeck Evening League
12 July	Sunday	Charlton Down CC	Away	(1.30 start)
14 July	Tuesday	Bere Regis CC	Home	
19 July	Sunday	Swanage CC	Away	
23 July	Thursday	Ferndown Strollers	Home	
2 August	Sunday	Bere Regis CC	Away	
7 August	Friday	Cumulus	Home	
13 August	Thursday	Hazelbury Bryan CC	Away	
18 August	Tuesday	Purbeck Cider	Home	
23 August	Sunday	Witchampton CC	Away	(1.30 start - 35 overs)
25 August	Tuesday	Swanage Legion	Home	
30 August	Sunday	Horsepath CC	Home	

PURBECK

EVENING LEAGUE



Summer 2026 will see the inaugural season of the Purbeck Evening League, a limited overs format, round-robin cricket competition involving social teams based in the area.

Teams representing Cumulus Outdoors - the school residential activity specialists based in Swanage, the Swanage Royal British Legion, and players from Swanage and Studland Cricket Clubs will play each other home and away for the honour of being the best evening cricket team in the Purbecks!

All are welcome to come down and watch what should be highly competitive games played in a friendly atmosphere. Two venues will host the games - Swanage Cricket Club will act as hosts for themselves and The Royal British Legion and Studland Cricket Club will also host for Cumulus. All matches start 18.00

Date				Venue
May 26	Studland	v	Cumulus	Studland CC
June 2	Swanage RBL	v	Studland	Swanage CC
	Cumulus	v	Swanage	Studland CC
June 9	Swanage	v	Studland	Swanage CC
	Cumulus	v	Swanage RBL	Studland CC
June 16	Swanage	v	Swanage RBL	Swanage CC
June 22	Swanage RBL	v	Swanage	Swanage CC
June 25	Cumulus	v	Studland	Studland CC
June 30	Swanage	v	Cumulus	Swanage CC
	Studland	v	Swanage RBL	Studland CC
July 7	Swanage RBL	v	Cumulus	Swanage CC
	Studland	v	Swanage	Studland CC
July 14	Reserve day			
July 21	Presentation evening at Swanage Royal British Legion			

For more information contact Pat Ward: 07816 664633



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Monthly Awareness: Earth Month

Earth Month is celebrated annually throughout the entire month of April, culminating in Earth Day on April 22nd. This extended period provides individuals, organizations, and governments with a focused opportunity to raise awareness about environmental issues, promote sustainable practices, and take action to protect our planet.

Earth Month celebrates the Earth and all its ecosystems, while also highlighting the urgent need to address environmental issues.

Earth Day is a global observance dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of protecting our planet and promoting environmental sustainability. This day emphasizes the interconnectedness of all living beings and the Earth, recognizing the need for collective action to address environmental challenges such as climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. It is a time to reflect on our impact on the planet and to advocate for a healthier, more sustainable future.

There are many ways to participate in Earth Month and Day:

- **Engage in Environmental Activities:** Participate in local clean-up events or tree planting. These activities help improve your community's environment and raise awareness about the importance of conservation.
- **Support Sustainable Practices:** Make a commitment to reduce your carbon footprint by adopting more sustainable habits, such as using public transportation, conserving water, or reducing single-use plastics.
- **Advocate for Environmental Protection:** Use social media, petitions, or community forums to advocate for stronger environmental policies and practices. Share information about the importance of protecting Mother Earth and encourage others to take action.
- **Learn and Educate:** Take time to learn more about environmental issues and share your knowledge with others. You can watch documentaries, read books, or attend webinars focused on sustainability and environmental protection.
- **Celebrate Nature:** Spend time outdoors appreciating the natural world, whether by hiking, gardening, or simply enjoying a park. Use this time to connect with nature and reflect on the importance of preserving it.

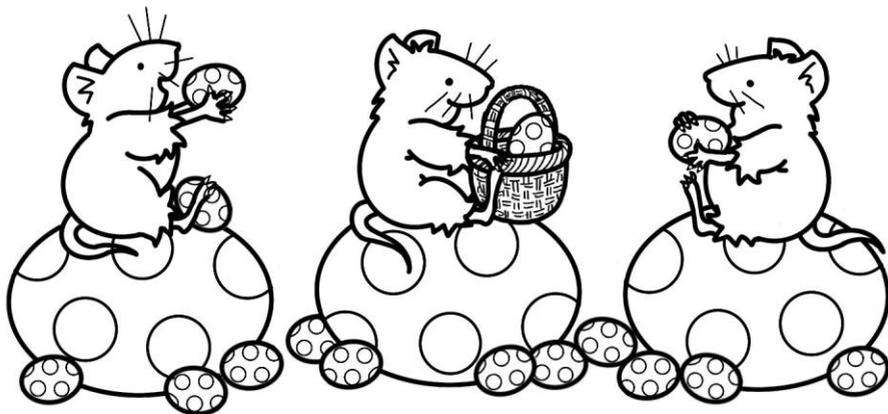
History of the Event – Earth Month was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2009 to recognize Earth and its ecosystems as our shared home. The day was created to broaden the scope of environmental awareness and to emphasise the need for a more holistic approach to sustainability. It complements Earth Day, which began in 1970 as a grassroots movement in the United States and has since grown into a global environmental event.

Together, these observances underscore the importance of protecting the planet for future generations.

Colouring in – for the children and the adults...

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Quotes for April

Observations on Good Friday and Easter....

'There is no tribunal so magnificent, no throne so stately, no show of triumph so distinguished, no chariot so elevated, as is the gibbet on which Christ hath subjected death and the devil.' - John Calvin.

'The precious Lamb of God gave up His precious fleece for us.' - Christopher Nesse

'When Jesus bowed His head, and dying took our place, the veil was rent, a way was found to that pure home of grace.' - John Elias

'Christ is now creation's sceptre-bearer, as He was once creation's burden-bearer.' - A J Gordon

'Christ is either both Saviour and Lord, or He is neither Saviour nor Lord.' - John R De Witt

'Tomorrow's history has already been written... at the name of Jesus every knee must bow.' - Paul E Kauffman

Observations on our Christian walk....

'Most people want to serve God, but only in an advisory position.' – Anon

'Suffering from truth decay? Brush up on your Bible.' – Anon

'Exercise daily – walk with the Lord.' – Anon

'Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil – it has no point.' – Anon

'Prayer is more than meditation. In meditation the source of strength is oneself. When one prays, he goes to a source of strength greater than his own.' – Anon

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Studland Picture Gallery...



Top left: Old Harry at low tide - **Nick C**

Top right: Male GREAT BUSTARD in flight in a field on Manor Farm (less than 100 in the UK, only 3 sightings in Purbeck in last 17 years. Heaviest flying bird in the world (males up to 18kg), can run up to 30mph and fly at 50mph.) **Mike Cheeseman**

Bottom left: GLOSSY IBIS (not so rare but quite scarce in the UK - a group of 10 were at Wareham Common. **Mike Cheeseman**

Bottom right: The welcome signs of Spring appearing. **Mike Cheeseman**

Please share your photos - email sharonwestman@gmail.com