

Church Alive!

Swanage Parish Magazine

August 2025



Team Rector - Revd Dr Ian Bird

The Rectory, 12 Church Hill
Swanage BH19 1HU
01929 422916 ian@swanageteam.com

**Team Vicar - Revd Jo Levasier**

The Vicarage, 5 Redcliffe Road,
Swanage BH19 1LZ
01929 208217 email.jo@swanageteam.com

Resident Priest - Revd David Richards

(Responsible for St Mark's Church Herston)
Tel: 01929 424271 / 07779079844
Email: rev.dave456@gmail.com
1 Marsh Way, Swanage, BH19 2TE

Associate Minister to St Nicholas, Studland - Rev Tony Edmonds

Varhn, Agglestone Road, Studland, BH19 3BZ
Tel: 07837 009147
Email: revtonyedmonds@outlook.com

Assistant Curate - Revd Natalie Davies

Email: natalie@swanageteam.com
Tel: 07516 786944

Director of Music (St Mary's) - Simon Lole

Email: simon@simonlole.com Mobile: 07888 653529

Parish Secretary – Mrs. Karon Quirey

Parish Office, St. Mary's Rooms (421117)
email: swanage.team@btconnect.com
Tuesdays and Wednesdays: 9.00 am - 5.00 pm
Fridays: 9.00 am - 4.00 pm; Lunch: 1.00 pm - 2.00 pm

'Church Alive!' Parish Magazine Editor – Anthony Malpas

swanagechurchalive@gmail.com

'Church Alive!' Distribution Manager – Mrs. Karon Quirey

Parish Office, St. Mary's Rooms (421117)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Leading Article	4
St Mary's	6
All Saints	10
St Marks	13
St Nicholas	16
Patient Participation Group	18
Purbeck Arts Choir, Messiah	20
Churches Together Carnival	21
Swanage Town Band	22
Children's Page	26
August Crossword	27
July Crossword Answer	28
Olive Branch Event	29
Hebrew Word of the Month	30
Devotional	33
Letter from the Editor	35

Rev Natalie Davies writes:

The First Days of Priesthood

Firstly, I want to thank everyone who came to celebrate my Ordination at Priest and first Eucharist at the end of June. It was a joy to have so many from the team supporting me in these key events in my vocational journey. Thank you for all those who contributed in so many ways to the services and celebrations afterwards and for your prayers.

However, a common question that has popped up is, do I now have to leave? The answer is, very happily, no! Curacies in the Salisbury Diocese are 3-4 years so Joseph and I are pleased to have at least 2 years left in Swanage.

So what happens now? Well alongside my day-to-day work around the parish, you may or may not know that I have also been attending regular training days with other Deacons and Priests in the Diocese. In the coming year we will have sessions including forming creative partnerships in local mission, missional leadership in children and young people and resourcing the internal life of Christian leaders.

There will also be some more theological reflections for me to submit and more reports for Ian to write (sorry Ian!) but most importantly the coming year I will be focusing on growing into my role as a Priest in the Church of England. This will be in practical ways such as becoming comfortable in presiding at the Eucharist and officiating at weddings but also seeing how this all shapes my internal formation and journey of faith. This is a key part of curacies (and why I am not leaving for another two years!) as the spiritual formation and impact continues well after the ordination service.

I will also be starting to think about where God might be calling me next and to what role. A part of this will be to do some short placements elsewhere. I will also be continuing in study as I begin work on a Masters degree come September. I will be continuing the research I began in training which will be sure to further nurture my role as Priest and aid my discernment of my next steps.

I want to end with some more thanks! In particular by extending my deepest thanks to Ian for his great investment of time and energy in my training this past year. It has been a wonderful year for both Joseph and I are really grateful to the Swanage and Studland community for making us feel so welcome and supported!

**With every blessing,
Natalie**



St Mary's

August 2025



Sunday Services

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

Weekday Services

Tue 2.30pm. All Things Bright & Beautiful
(particularly suitable for those living with dementia or any kind of special need)

Wed 10am-
12.30pm. T-Pot in the Rectory Classroom
11am Holy Communion
Every 4th Weds with Healing

Junior/Adult choir practice and Friday Fun Club will restart in September

Tues 5th		Visiting bellringers
Sun 17th	10.30am	Patronal Service with the Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Revd Stephen Lake
	5.30pm	Lifeboat Service on Swanage Pier
	NO 6.30pm	EVENSONG
Sat 30th	1.00pm	Baptism: Tilly Parker

St Mary's Notes

Planning for the new internal porch continues but it's a slow process – and expensive too. Thinking of finance, I'm surprised by the number of church members who give regularly but do not use the Parish Giving Scheme, the tried and tested way of donating which we have been using for several years. The benefit of PGS over other methods is that the parish does not have to do Gift Aid or other paperwork – our Treasurer just reads the statement that come from PGS each month. PGS forms are in the church!

As the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, we celebrate our patronal festival on 17th August. These days, we seem reluctant to attend church other than on a Sunday and so we transfer this celebration from its date of 15th August in the Anglican calendar.

Mary has a unique place as the mother of Jesus and thus has been greatly revered over the centuries. To my mind, she has annoyingly few mentions in scripture, but we read about the Annunciation (celebrated on March 25th, a neat nine months before Christmas), Jesus's birth, the escape to Egypt, the Wedding at Cana ("do as he says"), and the crucifixion.

The last mention of Mary in the scriptures is in Acts 1:14 which tells us she was with the apostles, "certain women", and Jesus's brothers, "devoting themselves to prayer" in the days between Ascension and Pentecost. Many descriptive titles are given to Mary, such as Our Lady and the Greek theotokos – "Godbearer". It's the most popular church dedication in the C of E with over 2,000 churches dedicated to Mary, not to mention "Lady Chapels" in numerous churches and cathedrals. Not far away in Wareham, their parish church is known as Lady St Mary.

Depictions we see of Mary, in paintings and statues, often show her as rather pale and wan – soppy, perhaps? Yet she must have been remarkably tough, strong, and resilient to serve God as she did.

The depiction I like best is the dynamic portrayal Walking Madonna by Elizabeth Frink, situated in the close at Salisbury Cathedral which it shows Mary striding purposefully away from the cathedral, symbolizing her moving into the wider community.

Sunday, 17th of August will be doubly special at St Mary's as we will have Bishop Stephen with us at our 10.30am Eucharist. I hope to see lots of people there!

Avril Harris, Churchwarden

Some people think truth pertains to things they can see with their physical eye, but you can't see the things of the spirit. Spiritual things are not natural and they are not material. Everything we need is provided for us in the spiritual realm by God's Word. *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS in heavenly places in Christ. Ephesians 1:3 3”*

This scripture means that everything we need has been provided for us in Christ Jesus. You can't see those things, but they are there because God's Word says they are there.

Kenneth E. Hagin



AUGUST 2025

Weekly Sunday Services at All Saints

8am Holy Communion

10.30am Summer Family Worship (children stay in during August, with a craft activity table. Communion is shared on 1st Sunday, Café Church – all age informal worship - on 2nd Sunday)

Weekly Church Calendar at All Saints

(Church Prayer meetings take a pause in August)

Coffee Pot Thursdays 10:30am -1pm

(Art workshop takes a pause in August)

Wednesday 30th July

All Saints host Hants & Dorset Christian Youth Camp for a day of community action. Car washes available in support of the Carnival – come and get your car washed for a good cause.

Other one-off events may be going on – watch the socials for more info!

August News from All Saints

All Saints Fun Afternoon

Saturday 14th June saw a flurry of activity at All Saints as we prepared for an afternoon of fun and an opportunity to meet our neighbours. An early decision to move the inflatable bouncy castle and an adult-friendly vertical drop slide from an outside pitch to an inside one proved most successful. Further preparations for the event included setting up gazebos for face painting and nerf gun shooting.



The afternoon was bright and breezy and we were pleased to welcome both church members and local families to the event. Throughout the event there was much laughter, consuming of endless cake and drinking of tea.

All had the opportunity to use the vertical slide which entertained both adults and children alike. Rona Smallwood and Jo Levasier, in particular, enjoyed the challenge of the slide. In addition, there was an



opportunity to engage with magnetic fishing, outdoor bowls and naming the teddy! It was great to see so many families coming to All Saints and joining in the fun.

It is rare in this day and age to simply say to people come and enjoy; and people did. If people wished to make a donation they were able to support the work of Studland Camps. Watch out for notices about another event in the autumn!

Life after Easter: The Holy Spirit in Action

Since Easter we have been following a sermon series based on the Holy Spirit. Following the last report we have gone on to listen to and reflect on Pentecost itself, that great outpouring of the Holy Spirit where the disciples' hearts were 'set alight' by the Holy Spirit. We have considered the gifts of the Spirit which are wide and varied- we often focus on the 'glamorous' gifts yet often ignore gifts such as hospitality, administration, endless chair moving or washing up! Margaret Williams reminded us that the greatest gift of all is love as described in 1 Corinthians – a love that is selfless and unassuming; yet is the hallmark of all we are as followers of Christ.

Studland Camps

One of our mission partners is Studland Camps. At the end of June, Sharon Prior updated us with regard to the establishment of a new charity, as Studland Camps came into existence following Urban Saints withdrawal from annual summer camps. It was a privilege to hear how God has been at work in enabling the setting up of a new charity and associated financial accounts in record time.

It was also a joy to hear how God has been at work in the lives of young people and families through the work of Studland Camps. A real blessing on our doorstep! (If you'd like to come and help "strike" camp at the end of the season, Wednesday 27th August 10am-4pm, come for as long or short a time as you like. Contact Andrew Fleming for more information)

Work Experience

Martha Harwood, who plays and sings in our worship bands, recently completed a week's work experience with us up at All Saints. Much of her week was spent shadowing Jo in a variety of activities ranging from school assemblies where we asked her to write the script for Baa-rbara the puppet sheep to visiting Cliff Top care home. She also visited a range of church and non-church-based activities. Her report back to church on the Sunday at the end of the week made clear that she greatly enjoyed her time with us. (Jo edit- I did ask if she could stay, but sadly she had to go back to school the following week!)

The Quiet Revival

At Easter the Bible Society published a report on church growth which contained some exciting developments. There are now over 2 million more people attending church than there were six years ago. The report 'The Quiet Revival' shows that the most dramatic church growth is among young adults, particularly young men. It makes for an interesting and encouraging read and can be found on the Bible Society's website. Watch out Swanage!

John Payne, All Saints Church Warden

We must begin to believe that God, in the mystery of prayer, has entrusted us with a force that can move the Heavenly world, and can bring it's power down to earth.

Andrew Murray

St Mark's Notes for August



Diary

Sunday 3rd	11am Holy Communion Followed by a BBQ lunch. Please note change of time
Wednesday 6th	10am Prayer Walk around part of Herston
Sunday 10th	10am Holy Communion
Wednesday 13th.	10am Prayer Walk around part of Herston
Sunday 17th	10am Holy Communion with Rev. John Cooper
Wednesday 20th	10am Prayer Walk around part of Herston
Sunday 24th	10am Holy Communion with Rev. Natalie Davies
Sunday 31st	10am Celebration! Service

Choir Rehearsal – Mondays 6:15 - 7pm

As I write (mid-July) we look back on a very successful concert on 29th June. The amazing talents within St Mark's brought us some Rodgers and Hammerstein and some Abba from the Junior singing Club, some virtuoso sax playing from Amanda, some Rock'n'Roll from the Bell Street Blues, a lively rendition of "Me and My Gal" from Pearl and Tony (who knew our percussionist could sing?), a popular singalong "Sweet Caroline" from the Band, Glenn Miller's "Don't Sit under the Appletree" from Dave and Pearl, and some John Rutter from the Choir.

Most of this was accompanied by the amazing Colin Burgess, who also played an organ piece, a piano duet with Joanna, and played tuba with the Band. Some light refreshments rounded off the afternoon and £500 was raised for the Dementia Friendly Purbeck Admiral Nurse Appeal.

Many thanks to Colin, who, again, organised us all. We are now looking forward to our popular Pimms and Hymns on July 20th. More events are planned for the Autumn.

St Mark's School Puffins (Reception) class recently visited the Church as part of their topic on Special Places. They rang the bell, spoke from the pulpit, heard a demo of the organ and sang a song, joined in a Bible story, lit a candle and said a prayer, and even practised baptising Dave.

The Penguins class also visited and explored the themes of "Peace" and "Forgiveness". They focused on the Church as a place for quiet and for reflective prayer. Each child wrote a prayer and a selection of children read their prayers, so all could join in.

Rebecca Martin, the Headteacher of St Mark's School moved on at the end of term. It has been a joy to work with her. We look forward to welcoming Katy Astle as Head, Amy Howe as Deputy, (both shared with St George's Langton), and Abby Le Roux as Head of School in September. Please pray for the school and for all the changes.

The service will begin at 11am on Sunday 3rd August. This will allow us to have a BBQ lunch together after the service. Guests are very welcome, but we need some idea of numbers in advance. Please let Dave (rev.dave456@gmail.com) know if you are planning to come along.

We look forward to welcoming Rev. Natalie to celebrate Holy Communion and preach at our service on 24th August. There will be the usual St Mark's celebration of her new ministry as a Priest after the service

We are also looking forward to the amazing Swanage Carnival, with lots of Churches Together involvement. It is so good to join in with this great community event.

As part of our commitment to the wider community, St Mark's aims to pray for Herston. During August our Prayer and Share Group will be going walkabout, with a series of Prayer Walks to cover the whole of Herston. Please see the weekly pewsheets, or the St Mark's Facebook posts, for exact details of times and meeting places.

Our improvements to the church building continue with new doors for the Meeting Room, making access from the porch easier and safer. With use of this room increasing, we are working hard to make it a more welcoming and more comfortable space.

Have a blessed August.

Rev. David Richards

Prevailing prayer is that which secures an answer. Saying prayers is not offering prevailing prayer. The prevalence of prayer does not depend so much on quantity as on quality.

Charles G. Finney

St Nicholas Studland

August Parish News



Dear Friends,

This is my first letter to you as Associate Minister to St Nicholas Studland. Officially it all kicks off on Sunday 10th August at 15:00 when Bishop Karen formally welcomes me into the role, but in reality I'm already beginning to take on some of the tasks. I was born "across the water" in Poole, before coming to Blandford Forum via Dorchester and Spettisbury. I was schooled in Blandford and have many fond memories of my time there. Our family have had links with Studland since 1966 (a year engraved on any English Soccer Fan's heart) when my mother acquired a beach hut on Middle beach. We still have the hut, although it has been moved a couple of times. Diana and I have lived in Studland for thirteen years and feel very much at home in the vibrant and caring community. I truly look forward to serving the Parish and community. If you see me out and about, do stop and chat.

This month, St Nicholas church has quite a selection of unusual services. On the August the 3rd at 10:00 we shall celebrate Lammas, a very old tradition to welcome and give thanks for the first loaf made from the wheat of the new harvest. The word "Lammas" comes from "Loaf-Mass". On August the 10th at 15:00 we have the service to launch my ministry. There will be Hymns (lots of them), the Welcome itself and Refreshments (a glass of Pimms or a soft drink afterwards).

On August 31st at 10:00 we have a Pet Service. Bring your pets to church for a blessing. For those wishing to mark the 80th anniversary of VJ day, on the 15th August we shall put on a brief service in the church and hopefully an exhibition to reflect on the end of the conflict in the Pacific. Why not pop these dates into your diary and keep an eye on our notice boards and Facebook page for more details.

Whenever the apostle Paul wrote to a church, he commented on the three foundation stones of a healthy church life, Faith, Hope and Love. Paul's first letter to the Christians in the Greek city of Corinth, contains some well-known words on these three.

J B Phillips (a Swanage man) translated them this way "In this life we have three great lasting qualities—faith, hope and love. But the greatest of them is love". I'm conscious of the uncertainties that are the backdrop to many lives in Studland and Swanage. At home there is significant pressure on finances. In the UK we seem less sure of ourselves, more fragmented and perhaps less welcoming than we were. Internationally powerful individuals appear to be behaving in careless and precipitous ways.

We are already experiencing the issues arising from climate change. It is good at these times to have a firm foundation for life. I can think of no better that to have faith, hope and love. May God Bless you

Revd Tony Edmonds

You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.

C. S. Lewis



Swanage Medical Practice Patient Participation Group (PPG) last met on 8 July 2025, when we welcomed another new PPG member. We were also joined by Natalie Bartlett, Purbeck Primary Care Network's Digital and Care Coordinator, who talked to us about BP@Home, a service which helps people to have their blood pressure monitored at home. Patients registered with Swanage Medical Practice who have high blood pressure are now being invited to join the scheme. Patients are then able to measure their blood pressure in the comfort of their own home and to share these readings directly with the Clinical Team through an App on their phone. The readings are reviewed by one of the Clinical Care Coordinators at Purbeck Primary Care Network, who can then quickly identify if the blood pressure is raised and optimise the patient's treatment accordingly. The readings are also uploaded directly into the patient's medical record. Blood pressure readings taken at home give a much better reflection of people's actual blood pressure - and using the App also reduces the need for regular visits to the Surgery.

During our meeting, we also discussed the results of the Patient Survey carried out by PPG members in the Surgery on behalf of the Practice during the first week of June, which was also PPG Awareness Week. The GPs at the Practice and the Practice Manager have since also discussed the results of the Survey.

The PPG is now in the process of finalising its recommendations for further action and we will be sharing the results of the Survey and our recommendations with everyone soon. The Practice's formal response will be published alongside the PPG's report.

In the meantime, the results of the national 2025 GP Patient Survey have been published – on 10 July - and it was good to see that 92% of people who responded to this Survey described their overall experience of the Practice as good, compared to 80% for Dorset as a whole and 75% nationally. 91% described their experience of contacting the Practice to make their appointment as good, compared to 76% for Dorset as a whole and 70% nationally – and 96% felt their needs were met during their last appointment compared to 92% for Dorset as a whole and 90% nationally.

The PPG works with the Practice Manager and the GPs at Swanage Medical Practice to help improve and shape local services. The PPG is made up of patients registered with the Practice who have volunteered to get involved. We meet every two months – and we are always looking for new members! Our next meeting will be held at the Surgery on Tuesday 9 September 2025 at 6:00pm.

You can find more information 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.

Mrs Margaret Broadhurst (Dr Margaret Guy)

Chair

Swanage Medical Practice PPG

14 July 2025



HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Do you love to sing?

**Join the Purbeck Arts Choir in September
as we begin rehearsals for our next concert
Handel's Messiah on Saturday 29th November
in St Mary's Church, Swanage.**

All welcome.

**Rehearsals will start on Thursday 4 September
in Swanage.**

**please contact Lavinia King (Chair)
purbeckchoir@gmail.com
or 07974795978**

Two free taster sessions offered before commitment to sing and pay!



Swanage Carnival

July 26th to August 2nd 2025

Carnival Praise 10:30am Sunday 27th July
In main Carnival marquee Sandpit field.

Entry in the Carnival Procession
Sunday 27th July



Churches Together Tent
Sat 26th July—Sat 2nd August
In Sandpit field.

More details administrator@emmanuelbc.org.uk

SWANAGE TOWN BAND

PLAYING IN THE BANDSTAND THIS SUMMER

WEATHER PERMITTING

Wednesday 30th July 7.00pm*

Wednesday 20th August 7.00pm*

Saturday 13th September 2.30 pm

The Town Band will also be playing on the bandstand on Saturday 13th September at 2.30pm. If wet, we will play in the Methodist Church at 3.00pm. This concert will be in aid of Weldmar Hospicecare.

We are also delighted to be playing on Saturday 9th August at 2.00pm at St George's Church, Langton Matravers fete.

*** In Methodist Church at 7.30pm if wet**

hklaw

We make the complicated simple

> Divorce & Family Law > Tax & Trusts > Conveyancing
> Wills & LPAs > Litigation > Personal Injury

hklaw.uk

Swanage

T 01929 423301 E swanage@hklaw.uk

JAMES SMITH

FUNERAL DIRECTORS



TRUST

**It's our privilege
to have your trust**

01929 422 445 • OFFICE@JAMESSMITHFUNERALS.CO.UK

JAMESSMITHFUNERALS.CO.UK

Swanage's Oldest Established Estate Agents



Free Marketing Advice for Sales and Lettings.

property@milesandson.co.uk 01929 423333 www.milesandson.co.uk

Railway House, 2 Rempstone Road, Swanage, BH19 1DW

The leading independent Estate Agents
in the Isle of Purbeck

- ◆ **SURVEYORS**
- ◆ **VALUERS**
- ◆ **AUCTIONEERS**

For free marketing advice without obligation,
please get in touch

01929 422284

corbens.co.uk



**BINDON ABBEY
SCAFFOLDING**

WOOL—WAREHAM

Reliable service and competitive pricing

Tel: 07501 465192

bindonabbeyscaffolding@outlook.com

Nixonshomehardware
Swanage

*A family business pursuing the finest
traditions of the trade'*

26 Station Rd, Swanage

Tel: 01929 426377

Members of the British Hardware Federation

BURROW

Wastewater Treatment Plant Installations

Septic tank owner?

New laws affect you.

Call us for a no-nonsense chat so we can assess if you need a system upgrade to stay legal and avoid pollution.



www.burrow-environmental.com 01935 507 508

Georgian Gems

28 High Street, Swanage, BH19 2NU
Tel: 07502 302286

Please call for opening hours

Beautiful jewellery for every occasion

Items for verbal valuation, proceeds to
RNLI or The Fishermen's Mission
£2 per item



Charity No. 209603



Charity No. 232822



Wedding flowers
And funeral tributes

'Flowers made with sincerity and from home'

07966 462974

c.f.m.finch@btinternet.com

budsofmave.com



WF SNOOK AND SON LTD

Installers of

PVC-U and ALUMINIUM
WINDOWS – DOORS – PATIO
DOORS – BIFOLDING DOORS
CONSERVATORIES
GARAGE DOORS – GUTTERING
'KESTREL' PVC-U FASCIA
SOFFIT MOULDINGS etc

Tel/fax 01929 481581

enquiries@wfsnookandsonltd.co.uk

10 YEAR INSURANCE BACKED GUARANTEE

FENSA 13202

West Dorset Mobile Foot Clinic



Unable to reach or cut your own Nails?
Foot Pain when you walk?

Then why not have Professional treatment within the comfort of your own home!

- Nail Cutting, including Diabetic Feet
- Corns & Calluses
- Cracked Heels
- Fungal Nails
- Hard Skin Removal
- Ingrowing Nails
- Thickened Nails
- Nail Reconstruction
- Medical Pedicures



Book your home appointment TODAY!

07903 722542

Roy Fox

SAC Dip Nails, SAC Dip Nails Master

07712 525058

Christine Fox

SAC Dip Nails, SAC Dip Nails Master

roy@westdorsetmobilefootclinic.com

www.westdorsetmobilefootclinic.com



"Just as a **body**, though **one**, has **many** parts, but all its many **parts** form one body, so it is with **Christ**. For we were all baptised by one **Spirit** so as to form one body... Even so, the body is not made up of one part but of many...

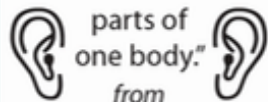
...Now you are the body of Christ, and **each** one of you is part of it."

from 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

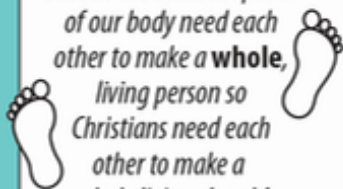


"Though we are many, we are one body in **union** with Christ, and we are **joined** to each other as **different** parts of one body."

from Romans 12:1-7



Just as the different parts of our body need each other to make a **whole**, living person so Christians need each other to make a whole living church!



K N E E S
J O W H O L E
T E E T H H Q J V
E A F H E A D O E
Y C F M A N Y I R
H E B O D Y N Y
C E Y E S D E F
H T K C P M D I
R U Q U I O I N
I N F T R U F G
S I M O I T F E
T O G E T H E R
O N O S E A R S
N G D B Q I E N
G I W O U A N F
V U F A P A R T S M
K E T L R L M V Y D
B W S L E G S Q E B

Look in the Bible verses for the words written in **bold** then look for these words too!

GOD • TOGETHER • EQUAL • ALL • EVERY
HEAD • EYES • EARS • MOUTH • TONGUE
TEETH • NOSE • ARMS • HANDS • FINGERS
LEGS • KNEES • FEET • TOES • GIFTS



Across

1 'The people were — at his teaching' (Mark 1:22) (6)

4 'He saved —; let him save himself' (Luke 23:35) (6)

8 He addressed the crowd in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:14) (5)

9 Father of James and John (Matthew 4:21) (7)

10 One who charges another with an offence (Job 31:35) (7)

11 ' — thy ministers with righteousness' (Book of Common Prayer) (5)

12 and 15 Down 'All — is God-breathed and is — for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness' (2 Timothy 3:16) (9,6)

17 'No — of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up' (Genesis 2:5) (5)

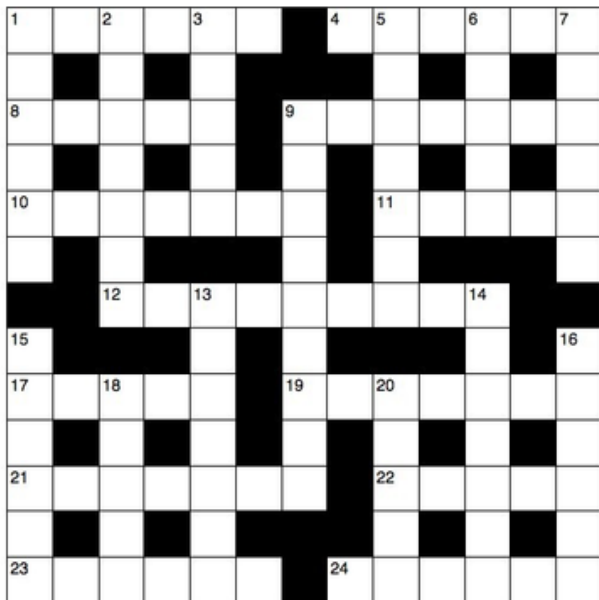
19 Made to feel embarrassed (Isaiah 24:23) (7)

21 This man built his house on sand (Matthew 7:26) (7)

22 David's hypocritical message to Joab on the death in battle of Uriah: 'Don't let this — you' (2 Samuel 11:25) (5)

23 Detest (Job 10:1) (6)

24 'God made two great lights, the greater light to govern the day and the — light to govern the night' (Genesis 1:16) (6)



Down

1 To make a serious request (1 Corinthians 1:10) (6)

2 Launches an assault against (Genesis 32:8) (7)

3 'The wicked man — deceptive wages' (Proverbs 11:18) (5)

5 Tuba ale (anag.) (7)

6 'The day thou gavest, Lord, is — ' (5)

7 Old Testament measure of weight, equivalent to about 12 grammes (Exodus 30:13) (6)

9 Where Elijah restored life to the son of a widow with whom he lodged (1 Kings 17:10) (9)

13 Paul said of whatever was to his profit, 'I consider them — , that I may gain Christ and be found in him' (Philippians 3:8) (7)

14 City visited by Paul, described by the city clerk as 'the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis' (Acts 19:35) (7)

15 See 12 Across

16 Rioted (anag.) (6)

18 She had a surprise when she answered the door and found 8 Across outside (Acts 12:13) (5)

20 Maltreat (1 Chronicles 10:4) (5)

Cover Page

The picture on the Front Cover is the awesome amphitheatre in Ephesus. Paul the Apostle visited Ephesus more than once and stayed there for over two years, teaching and developing the church in the midst of a society steeped in the occult and Satan worship. Not only did he write an amazing letter to the Ephesians but also the Apostle John, in a cave in Patmos, received a message from the risen Christ for the church in Ephesus, that is important for us in these days.

Prize for an observant reader

There is a box of chocolates for the first person to email Church Alive! with the “not so deliberate” mistake in the July edition!

swanagechurchalive@gmail.com

WPM Residential Lettings

A Personal Service to Landlord and Tenant

Do you have a **property to let** or are you looking for a **property to rent**, in Swanage and The Isle of Purbeck?

Tel: 01929 426200

15c Commercial Road, Swanage, Dorset BH19 1DF

www.wpmlettings.co.uk / wpmlettings@gmail.com



Andy Lowe Tech Support

No Job too small. Give me a call

Over 30 years experience

01929 422597

07593044274

AndyLoweTechSupport0rt@gmail.com

July Crossword answers

R	I	C	H	E	S		A	B	N	E	R	S
E		O			A		R		O		O	
S	O	U	L			D	A	M	A	S	C	U
T		R				H		H		E		N
	S	T	A	T	U	T	E	S			A	D
E		Y		U		I		E		S		I
C	R	A	F	T	S	M	A	N	S	H	I	P
H		R		O		I		S		B		S
O	L	D			R	E	D	E	E	M	E	R
	H		F		X		R			L		M
W	A	L	L	S	A	R	E			W	I	S
S		O		C		C				T		D
T	A	R	G	E	T			T	H	I	E	V

To advertise in

CHURCH ALIVE!

*please contact
the Parish Secretary*

Mrs. Karon Quirey

Parish Office, St. Mary's Rooms
(421117)

email: swanage.team@btconnect.com

Are the Jews still the covenant people of God?

Guest speaker Anthony Malpas will lead a time of Biblical exploration and discussion on the critical question of whether Israel is still God's chosen people, and the significance of their contemporary return to the land of Israel

Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me.



**7:00PM Fri 8th August, Harmans Cross Village Hall
Haycrafts Lane, BH19 3EB**

No reservation needed. Refreshments provided

For more info contact John & Sal & Joy via

olivebranch.iop@gmail.com



Olive Branch – exploring The Way less travelled

Hebrew Word of the Month

There's a name in Scripture that stands above all others.

A name so sacred, so powerful, that it was often spoken with deep reverence—or not spoken aloud at all. That name is YHWH (יהוה)—pronounced as Yahweh.

It is not just a title like “God” or “Lord.” Yahweh is the personal name of the God of Israel—the One who revealed Himself to Moses from the burning bush and said:

“I AM WHO I AM... This is My name forever, the name you shall call Me from generation to generation.” — Exodus 3:14–15

What Yahweh Really Means

The name Yahweh (יהוה) is rooted in the Hebrew verb “to be”—a name that speaks of God’s eternal, self-existent nature. He has no beginning and no end. He depends on nothing and no one.

Yahweh simply is.

He is always present, always faithful, always who He says He is. In every season, in every generation, in every circumstance—He remains the same.

“I, Yahweh, do not change.” — Malachi 3:6

That means He is just as powerful today as He was at the Red Sea. Just as compassionate as He was with the widow and the orphan. Just as near as He was to David in the wilderness or Elijah on the mountain.

A Name of Covenant

Yahweh is the name God uses when He makes covenant with His people. It is the name tied to relationship, to promise, to faithfulness.

When you see the name Yahweh (יהוה) in Scripture—often translated as “LORD” in all capital letters—it’s a reminder that the One who created the universe is not distant. He is personal. He is involved. He is faithful to every word He has spoken.

“Know that Yahweh your God is God; He is the faithful God, keeping His covenant of love to a thousand generations...” — Deuteronomy 7:9

Speaking His Name with Awe

Throughout the ages, Jewish tradition treated the name Yahweh with profound awe. Not out of superstition—but out of reverence for its holiness. His name is not casual. It is sacred.

And yet, Yahweh invites us to call on Him.

“Everyone who calls on the name of Yahweh will be saved.” — Joel 2:32

We are not only allowed to know His name—we are welcomed into relationship with Him. He is not a far-off deity. He is Yahweh—the covenant God who draws near.

What Does This Mean for You?

It means you are never alone.

It means every promise He made—He will keep.

It means when you pray, you are calling on the same Name that split the sea, shut the mouths of lions, and raised the dead to life.

Yahweh is not only God of the heavens—He is God in your story.

He sees your needs. He hears your prayers. He holds your future. And He is faithful—because He cannot be anything else.

A Simple Prayer:

Yahweh, my God,
Thank You for revealing Your holy name.
Thank You for being the same yesterday, today, and forever.
I stand in awe of who You are.
You are eternal, unchanging, and near.
Help me to trust You more deeply, to honor Your name in all I do,
And to walk in the beauty of Your covenant love.
No matter what you face this week, may you remember:
Yahweh (יהוה) is not just a name in a book.
He is your God, present and powerful.
Call on Him. Trust Him.
He is faithful—forever.

“Blessed be Yahweh, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting.” — Psalm 41:13

**Blessings,
Pastor Israel Pochtar**

Devotional by Pastor Joseph Prince

What Are You Hearing About Jesus?

She had heard about Jesus, so she came up behind him through the crowd and touched his robe. For she thought to herself, *“If I can just touch his robe, I will be healed.”* Immediately the bleeding stopped, and she could feel in her body that she had been healed of her terrible condition.

Mark 5:27-29 NLT

Perhaps like the woman with the issue of blood in the Gospels (*Mark 5:25-34*), you are facing an impossibly hopeless situation in your life. It could be a debilitating sickness, a marital situation, a financial crisis, or a prolonged challenge.

In the natural, the future looks dismal and there appears to be no reason to hope. If that is you, I encourage you to believe that you too can experience the kind of breakthrough this woman experienced.

Imagine: for twelve long years, she had watched helplessly as her condition went from bad to worse no matter what she tried. Most of us would have given up. How did she find hope in the midst of her hopelessness? What gave her the courage to hope again?

I believe that the secret to her faith can be found in these five words: *“She had heard about Jesus.”*

What do you think she heard about Jesus? This is an important question because whatever she had heard imparted an audacious sense of Bible hope and confidence in her. And this imbued her with a boldness and tenacity to risk everything just

to touch the hem of His garment.

She knew well the religious laws concerning unclean persons such as herself meant that she could be subjected to public humiliation and, very possibly, violence if she was recognised. Clearly she must have had no doubt in her heart that she would be completely healed the moment she touched the hem of His garment or she would not have risked it.

The Bible does not tell us exactly what she heard about Jesus, but I submit to you that she must have heard story after story of how Jesus healed the sick everywhere He went, how good and gracious He was even to the unclean lepers or the down-and-out who came to Him.

What she heard about Jesus produced in her a positive, confident expectation of good, which we can see in what she declared: *“If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well.”* This hope then resulted in a faith that was effortless.

Faith as defined in God’s Word is *“the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen”* (Heb. 11:1 NLT). In other words, the hope that she had in the goodness of Jesus became faith, and this faith gave her the boldness to press through the crowd and receive her healing from Jesus.

What are you hearing about Jesus? The more you hear about His goodness and grace, the more faith will unconsciously arise in you to receive your miracle.

This devotional is from 100 Days of Right Believing.

Letter from the Editor

We are very blessed in Swanage to have a number of home groups, bible studies and activities, such as “Open the Book” bible readings in schools.

I recently attended a Bible Study that Rev Dave Richards holds every other Tuesday at St Mark’s Church, Swanage. A feature of these studies is that they are attended by people from different churches in Swanage and beyond. We are currently studying Paul’s letter to the Ephesians, which is why we have a picture of the amazing amphitheatre in Ephesus on the front cover.

Last Tuesday, John Way, Churchwarden, was leading the study on the first half of *Ephesians 4*, which starts by encouraging us to live lives worthy of our calling by Jesus Christ: *“Be completely humble and gentle, be patient, bearing with one another in love.”* This prompted some lively discussion. As we continued to verse 4, speaking of *“one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith and one baptism,”* John asked the question *“does unity mean uniformity?”* Any objective look at the Church today will conclude that there is definitely not uniformity in the Church. We came to the conclusion that this is why it is so important for followers of Jesus to *“be patient, bearing with one another in love.”*

Jesus Himself said *“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”* John 13.34.

In his first epistle, the Apostle John emphasises this: *“And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.”* 1 John 3.23

There are many subjects we may not be in complete agreement about as Christians, but first and foremost, Jesus wants us to simply love one another. There is no greater way to demonstrate the reality of our faith in Him. It was a great bible study, thank you John!

There is no “Letter from the Bishop” in August. The next one will be from the Bishop of Salisbury, in September.

Glorious God

by Nathaniel Bassey

Glorious God wonderful God
Miracle worker king of kings
Omnipotent one I worship you
Your majesty is forevermore

Glorious God wonderful God
Miracle miracle worker you are the king of kings
Omnipotent one ooh I worship you
Your majesty is forevermore

Glorious Glorious God wonderful wonderful God ooh
Miracle worker you are the king of kings
Omnipotent one omnipotent we worship you
we bow before your throne your majesty is forevermore
Omnipotent omnipotent one we worship we worship you
Your majesty is forevermore

You are my omnipotent omnipotent one
We worship you we worship you we worship you
For your majesty yeah yeah your majesty is forevermore

Nathaniel Bassey gave up a glittering career as a professional trumpet player to become a worship leader, dedicating his life to serving God through music. This moving worship song can be heard on YouTube