

Studland Parish News

2026

January
2026



St Nicholas Church Studland

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

February deadline is **Friday JANUARY 23rd 10am**

sharonwestman@gmail.com / 01929 450358

Late contributions cannot be guaranteed.

Note from the editor...

Welcome to another year of your Studland Parish News. As ever, I like to try and bring in new items each year, and along with including a variety of different pieces you will find three new regular features for 2026:

Discover & Questions - Curious about faith and Christianity, or wanting to dig deeper? Explore Christianity have given permission for me to share a selection of their resources to explore some of the basics and discover what Christianity is about and to get a Christian view on some of those 'big questions' that we all ask.

Linda's story – A delightful account of the life, as a daughter of a farm worker raised in Studland in the mid 1920's/30's. This is a heartwarming personal piece that I feel privileged to have been asked to share with the community.

Monthly Awareness - highlighting health, social, environmental, and cultural causes from which you may be inspired to plan campaigns, raise awareness, or get involved with.

You can of course expect to see all the customary submissions from the local area and beyond, keeping you updated and informed. A big thank you to all our contributors for your continued support and content.

Happy New Year to you all.

Any questions, feel free to get in touch.

Sharon Westman, Editor

Swanage and Studland Team Ministry

Team Rector:

Rev Dr Ian Bird

Team Office:

Tel. 01929 421117 / Email: swanage.team@btconnect.com

St Nicholas Church, Studland

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Hon. Treasurer:

Mr Eric Stobart - Tel: 01929 450222 / Email: eric@thestobarts.co.uk

Hon. Secretary:

VACANT

St Nicholas Church, Studland
Rota of Readers and Sides Persons
January 2026

Date	Service	Sides Person	Readers	Readings
Sunday 4 th January at 10.00am	Family Communion. The Epiphany. <i>Rev. Tony Edmonds</i>	Carol Wadley.	Jane Hawksworth. Cindy Yeandle.	Ephesians 3, 1-12. Matthew 2, 1-12.
Sunday 11 th January at 10.00am	Holy Communion. The Baptism of Christ. <i>Rev. Tony Edmonds.</i>	Ginny Stobart.	Diana Edmonds. David Hogsflesh.	Acts 10, 34-43. Matthew 3, 13-end.
Sunday 18 th January at 10.00am	Morning Prayer. 2 nd Sunday of Epiphany. <i>Jane Hawksworth</i>	Sally Hogsflesh.	June Fletcher. Sara-Jayne Smith.	1 Corinthians 1 1-9. John 1, 29-42.
Sunday 25 th January at 10.00am	Holy Communion. The Conversion of St Paul. <i>Rev. John Cooper.</i>	June Fletcher.	Keith Tillyard. Peter Jennings.	Acts 9 1-22. Matthew 19, 27-end.

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

St Nicholas Parish News

Dear Friends,

I suspect that for many people, Christmas celebrations finish not long after Boxing Day. By that stage, frankly, we're probably all a bit "Christmassed out". In the church however, even after all the excitement of the season, the vibrant Carol Services, the Midnight Mass, and Christmas day celebration, we continue to focus on the Christmas story. Indeed, this year, we keep going right up to February 1st the feast of Candlemas. This is the day when we recall the infant Christ being brought to the Jerusalem Temple where he is celebrated by Simeon and Anna, both of whom, shall we say, are well beyond retirement age. I find it rather neat that the Christmas story starts and finishes with older people; Elizabeth and Zechariah, the parents of John the Baptist and then Simeon and Anna.

It seems fitting to me that as the New Year starts, the Church, continues to concentrate on Jesus and how this "babe lying in a manger" is gradually revealed as the Son of God, God's audacious rescue plan to bring hope, love, redemption, and kindness to a hurting world. As we enter 2026, with all its wonderful possibilities, but also, let's be honest, all its problems and all its uncertainties "fixing our eyes on Jesus" might be a great strategy for finding strength and hope.

On Christmas Day 1939, King George the Sixth made the by then traditional radio speech to Britain and the Commonwealth. Britain was at war and something inspiring was called for. He did not disappoint. The King opened with: *"A new year is at hand. We cannot tell what it will bring. If it brings peace, how thankful we shall all be. If it brings us continued struggle, we shall remain undaunted."* It was a good start, but it was toward the end of the speech that the most-remembered lines occurred. He quoted a verse from a poem by Minnie Louise Haskins, a former student and then teacher at the London School of Economics. The poem had been given to him by his daughter, Elizabeth, who of course went on to be Queen Elizabeth the Second.

*"I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year,
'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'
He replied, 'Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the Hand of God.
That shall be better than light, and safer than a known way.'"*

King George finished with *"May that Almighty Hand guide and uphold us all."*
I say, Amen to that. I wish you every blessing for the coming year.

From The Registers:

Funeral of: Anne Mary Spurgeon Saturday, aged 96 years, 18th December 2025

Rev Tony Edmonds

Studland WI

December has certainly been a busy month; Carol services, Christmas lunches and much more, keeping all of us very busy in the lead up to the main event.

Our first meeting of 2026 will be held on Wednesday 14th January at 7.30pm in Studland Village Hall.

Our speaker for the evening will be Ben Cooke who will be talking about “Why Seahorses and Seagrass matter to Studland.”

We have a packed programme of meetings and events for the year ahead and we look forward to seeing all our members come along and join in.

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.

Wishing you all the very best for the year ahead.

Lynn Elliott

STUDLAND GARDENING ASSOCIATION



Here we are in 2026, all ready for another year of flood or drought, another year of gardening successes and failures. Fiona and I are giving in to the inevitable and changing our front plot to a gravel garden in the hope that it survives climate change.

Your lovely committee decided that this year's talks programme should be more “how to do it” and have a local theme, so we kick off in January with me in compost corner. Come along on Monday 20th January at 7:30 in the Village Hall to learn everything you wanted to know about compost but were afraid to ask.

Geoff.studland@gmail.com

01929 450342 / 07813521386

Studland History Group

We begin 2026 with a talk by Carlton Hobbs on Wednesday 14th January at 2.30pm in the Village Hall. Entitled “Petticoat Tale – The story of Ann Hibbs and her many husbands!” On the tenth anniversary of his first “Tales of the Vestry” talk, he returns to one of the five central characters – Ann Curtis (nee Hibbs), who was uniquely granted a new “peticote” by the committee. Information about poorer people in the early 19th century is hard to come by – especially the woman – but he manages to trace her origins, her many children and, a little more accessible, the varying fortunes of her three husbands. One not to miss!



All welcome. Visitors £3.50. To include tea/coffee and biscuits.

On the 18th February we have Malcolm Angel with “In Search of Isaac Gulliver of Worth Matravers”.

The AGM is being held on 11th March followed by a talk by Joyce Meates, “Growing Up In Studland in the 1950’s, 60’s and 70’s.

Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Joyce Meates. Secretary
07816 988890



Updates from the National Trust:

Cleaning the dragons’ teeth!

If you go down to Middle Beach, you can’t miss the WW2 dragons’ teeth, standing proud after a clean-up by the Trust’s new Youth Volunteering Group. As their first active conservation task with us, the youngsters cleared the thick bramble and bracken that was covering the anti-tank defences.

The group is made up of environmentally conscious 12- to 17-year-olds from Purbeck, Swanage and Lytchett Matravers schools. Working outside of school hours, they will gain practical experience in countryside management, enabling them to explore conservation as a potential career path.

This first task was carried out under the supervision of Alex King, our Outdoor Facilities Manager, and Jill Bailey, Volunteering and Community Officer. The next task is gorse clearing on 11th January. If you know any youngsters who might like to join the group, please email purbeck@nationaltrust.org.uk.

(Photo: Jill Bailey)



Berry bonanza

Have you noticed the heathland plants are bursting with berries this year? It’s been recorded that 2025 was a ‘mast year’, when trees and shrubs produce an unusual abundance of fruits, nuts, and seeds, known as mast.

This usually happens about every five years. But why do trees do this? The answer seems to be that it takes a lot of energy for a tree to produce such an abundance, so they can’t do it every year. Instead, they build up their resources until they are ready to produce a bumper crop. When this happens, there’s too much for birds and mammals to eat – allowing some seeds to escape and grow into saplings. Clever tactics, eh!

Fabulous flocks



It might seem bleak outside, but January is a fabulous time for birdwatching. The farmland and hedgerows are bursting with flocks of goldfinch, linnet, and yellowhammer. Also look out for the so-called ‘Viking birds’, winter-visiting thrushes from Scandinavia. They feast on berries in scrub and worms in the fields. Redwings, with their striking white eye stripe and rusty-red underwings,

often gather in large flocks. Fieldfares are bigger, grey and chestnut-coloured with a yellowy-toned breast. They aggressively defend their food, chasing away any other birds that get too close.

Of course, the harbour is awash with overwintering birds. Have you seen the large flocks of dark-bellied brent geese on the shoreline? Visitors from Siberia, they spend the winter feeding on seagrass, algae and saltmarsh plants.

(Photo: Brent geese, Mark Singleton)

Clues to Middle Beach’s history

As predicted, change is happening fast to the shoreline at Middle Beach now that the sea defences have been removed. What has surprised us is the amount of building materials and debris coming out of the cliffs – and the fascinating stories they tell. Our volunteer historian, Pam White, is on the case, monitoring finds and researching how and why they got there. We’ll update you on her findings soon.

Our staff are checking the beach daily and removing plastic and harmful debris, but for safety, the beach will remain closed to the public during this period of rapid change.

(Photo: Hannah Newton)



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

Cathy Lewis, the National Trust

Corfe Castle Surgery/The Patient Participation Group News

A New Year message from Kerry, Practice Manager, and me.

First, we would like to send every best wish for 2026 to all Staff, patients and all volunteers connected with our Surgery and thank everyone for their continued support.

As a PPG we recognize how lucky we are to have Corfe Surgery, which is envied by many, and we are keen to involve a greater cross section of our practice community in the work of the Patient Participation Group.

Like me you may be surprised to know that the greatest proportion of our practice population is in the 0-65 age group (1032 men and 1087 women) and so we would like to attract support from this group and if possible, include male members of the surgery population recognising of course that many in this age group will be working.

Early in the new year we will be asking patients to complete a questionnaire when visiting the surgery to let us know if the surgery offers the flexibility of appointment times that suit modern working and our younger population and to see if anyone would be willing to support our PPG work.

Whilst the PPG committee meets 3 times a year for about 1.5 hours in the surgery building around lunchtime we would welcome input from those willing to receive an agenda and minutes and send in any thoughts to inform the meeting or indeed we could consider changing our meeting time!

The Surgery website includes lots of information for younger patients and Purbeck is fortunate to have a YOUTH PPG which runs out of Wareham surgery but covers the whole area and can be accessed through the website.

If you are wondering what a PPG actually does - we are a group of people who are patients of the surgery who want to help it work as well as it can for patients, doctors, and staff. The NHS requires every practice to have a PPG.

Our experiences matter and we can all bring ideas to the surgery to help the surgery team to look after us - so important in this ever-changing NHS.

The PPG can be contacted through the surgery or email corfecastleppg@gmail.com

Please do get in touch with us and help if you can.

Maggie Hardy PPG Chair
Kerry Norman Practice Manager

Swanage Medical Practice Patient Participation Group

Purbeck Integrated Neighbourhood Team Update

29th January 2026, 2:00-4:00pm, at Corfe Castle Village Hall

Everyone is invited to this event when the Purbeck Integrated Neighbourhood Team will be giving updates on all the work they have been doing over the last year - including the work they have been doing to develop a community approach to living well in Purbeck.

They will also be sharing the results of the survey about the health and wellbeing needs of people living in Purbeck, which was launched at the Health and Wellbeing Event held at The Mowlem in October.

The Purbeck Integrated Neighbourhood Team brings together all the providers of health and care services in Purbeck - including primary care, community care, adult social care, children and young people services and the voluntary sector - so they can work together more closely to help people stay well for longer and provide streamlined, personalised support when people need it.

The PPGs of all the GP Practices in Purbeck are also working with the Purbeck Integrated Neighbourhood Team to ensure people living in Purbeck are involved in improving and shaping local services.

PPG Meetings

Our next meeting will be held at the Surgery on Tuesday 13th January 2026 at 12:30pm.

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



Isle of Purbeck Golf Club

Hello 2026! Let's Make It a Cracking Year at Purbeck Golf Club

A fresh year is rolling in, and we're ready to kick it off with good food, good fun, and plenty to look forward to. Whether you're chasing new goals or just chasing a warm seat and a good breakfast, we've got you covered.

January Special!

We're open every day with steaming breakfasts, cosy drinks, and lunches that hit the spot. And to brighten up January, we're giving you **15% off all Breakfast and Bar Food Monday to Friday** (offer doesn't include drinks). Consider it our way of helping you glide through winter with a smile.

Quiz Night Returns – Saturday, 17th January 2026

Sharpen those pencils and gather your cleverest companions—quiz night is back! We start at 7:30PM, entry is £1 per person, and the winners walk away with the pot. Food will be served from 6:00 PM. Give us a ring or pop your team name on the board in reception to secure your spot.

Celebrate Valentine's Weekend with us!!

It's the perfect excuse for a day or night out. We will be offering our special Valentines Menu for Friday Lunch and Dinner, and Saturday Lunch.

But if you want something even more special, Saturday Night we will be offering our **3rd annual Valentines Jazz Evening** featuring the fabulous *Dylan Ross* and *Julia Inbach*, bringing a whole evening of swoon-worthy music. Choose a two- or three-course dinner and enjoy the show from your table, or slide over to the bar for an even closer view for an extra £5. Just after the music? Music-Only-Tickets are available at swanagejazzclub.com. Full details are on our website.

Winter Warmers – Golf, Grub & Good Times Through March

Our Winter Warmers package is back to keep spirits high until the end of March. Enjoy a round of golf plus a bacon bap and coffee for **£40 Monday–Friday** or **£50 at the weekend**. Feeling extra hungry? You can upgrade to a Full English for just £5—but this upgrade must be booked in advance when you reserve your Winter Warmers package so we can have everything ready for you. Please book online or at the Pro Shop at least 24 hours ahead.

Ready to make this winter a great one? We certainly are!

See our website for more details. If you have any questions or wish to book, email or give us a call.

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



Studland Village Hall

The **new doors** will be installed on two separate days in January - Monday the 12th and Friday the 16th. Thanks to November's Wonderful Studland Ladies tabletop sale a further £1,750 was added to the doors' fund which now stands at over £22,300!

Some dates for your diary:

- ArtsReach Event - Saturday 24th January at 7:30pm – Singer/songwriter and musician Sarah McQuaid.
- Ladies' Fashion Show – Friday 10th April 2026 – details to follow.



Banish any January Blues at your cheerful local bar!

We serve beers, ciders, wines, spirits & soft drinks to Studland locals and we particularly welcome visitors in our family and dog friendly bar.

You will find us opposite the shop, tucked just behind the village hall.

We have a full-sized pool table; board games and we also serve tasty stone baked pizzas!

OPENING HOURS

We are open 5 days a week for the Winter Season

MON, THURS, FRI & SAT Open: 5pm – 10.30pm

SUNDAYS Open: 3pm – 8pm

(Closed on Tuesday and Wednesday)

What's Happening at Old Harry Bar?

- LIVE MUSIC on Burns Night with Jim Etherington
Sunday 25th January from 5pm - 7pm
(Dust off your tartan and join us for a wee dram!)
- MONDAY – Bridge Club – Beginners Welcome - 6pm
- THURSDAY – Crochet Club – Yap and Yarn – Brand new group for
Autumn - 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!)

Italian Stone baked Pizzas

(Available to eat in or take away - Order on 01929 450561)

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

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

We also have deals for 2 pizzas and 2 drinks

And our brand-new deal just for Kids of Pizza, soft drink, and Ice Cream!

See our 5 Star Reviews on TRIPADVISOR

See: Facebook, Instagram, our members newsletter or visit:

www.oldharrybar.co.uk



studlandparishcouncil.org

Update from Studland Parish Council December 2025

The December meeting of SPC will be held on December 15th – after the printing of this Parish News, so an update from that meeting will be given in the next Parish News.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee of SPC did however meet on December 8th: the main purpose of this was to prepare a draft budget for SPC for next year (2026/27), and to review possible changes to the precept. This was done, with recommendations for a draft budget going to the SPC meeting on December 15th. The final budgets and precept will be agreed at the January SPC meeting.

In the meantime, our best wishes to all residents for an enjoyable Christmas and a happy New Year.

Nick Boulter, Chairman



ARTSREACH AT STUDLAND VILLAGE HALL

Saturday 24th January 2026 at 7.30pm

Our next Artsreach show at the Village Hall features singer songwriter, Sarah McQuaid Live in Concert. Sarah McQuaid's

stunning and distinctive vocals combine with her engaging personality, *"subtle mastery onstage"* (Huffington Post) and *"brilliant musicianship"* (fRoots) on acoustic and electric guitars, piano and floor tom drum to create a truly immersive experience. Born in Spain, raised in Chicago, holding dual Irish and American citizenship and now settled



in rural Cornwall, Sarah's performances are full of warmth, wit, and intimacy, and have earned her loyal followings on both sides of the Atlantic. Bringing the eclecticism of her multi-national background to her *"captivating, unorthodox songwriting"* (PopMatters) and choice of material, Sarah's work spans genres and defies categorisation. From contemplative ballads to playful blues and atmospheric instrumentals, expect a varied, eclectic programme of original and folk songs, plus a few familiar covers, performed on a range of instruments.

"Stunning vocals... engaging narrative with the audience – an all round musical treat." Beaford Arts Rural Touring

Touring Dorset with Artsreach, the county's rural arts charity. More info at sarahmcquaid.com and www.artsreach.org.uk. As usual, there will be refreshments available and the Old Harry Bar will be open. Tickets Adults £12.50, under 18s £6, family (2 adults 2 children) £35, available online from www.artsreach.co.uk and in person from Studland Stores. Telephone bookings

and enquiries 01929 450587. Tickets will also be available on the door unless we have sold out by then.



A tireless leading light of three charities in Wareham has been honoured by the High Sheriff of Dorset.

Retired marketing executive Harold Forbes is co-founder, chairman and treasurer of Wareham Area Men's Shed; the organiser of the town's litter pickers, known as the Wareham Wombles, and a trustee and treasurer of the Wareham District Development Trust.

He was presented with a High Sheriff's Award "in recognition of great and valuable services to the community" by Dorset's ceremonial dignitary Callum Bremner at a ceremony in the Shed's workshop at Lenctenbury Farm, outside Wareham.

Mr Bremner paid tribute to Harold's "commitment, generosity of spirit and unwavering enthusiasm, which exemplifies voluntary endeavour and civic spirit". The Sheriff also praised his "inspiring personal resilience" given he has continued his voluntary work while also supporting his wife Karin through long and arduous treatment for a serious illness.

Harold said he was "extremely honoured" to receive the award.

Asked what drives him to be so involved in the community, he replied: "I guess when you retire you lose a sense of purpose – you don't have the same structure or pressure on you. I find life is better with structure and a bit of purpose. And what's nice is that, as opposed to working, the things I do are hobbies which no one is forcing me to do.

"They keep me active, keep my brain sharp and challenge my creativity."

Members of the Men's Shed said Harold was known for his keen wit and ready smile.

Retired doctor Philip Dawson, who nominated Harold for the award, added: "We all need leaders at every stage of life, even in retirement. And Harold, with his remarkable ability to combine fine organisation with good humour, is a tremendous example."

Philip Daubeny, chair of the Wareham District Development Trust – which tends parts of the town including Priory Meadow – said: "Harold has been very busy on behalf of Wareham and Purbeck for many years. He is a tremendous asset and thoroughly deserves this award."

(Above Picture: Harold Forbes is presented with the award by Dorset's High Sheriff Callum Bremner)

Come and Sing!

Stretch out those legs and vocal chords and step Into the Woods with the Belvedere Singers this January. The musical medley is just one of the pieces we will be performing at our next concert in May. We love to welcome new singers to our rehearsals, which restart on Tuesday 6th January.

You really do not need to have a lot of musical experience to sing with us. We are a choir for the four voice parts (alto, soprano, tenor and bass), and so it helps to be able to follow music, but it is far from essential. There are many resources online now to help singers learn their parts and we provide new members with information to signpost them to the most helpful ones. At rehearsals, we do our best to provide a supportive environment and seat new singers beside more experienced choir members. Our fantastic Music Director Clive Watkiss begins each rehearsal with vocal exercises and advice on singing techniques to help everyone get the most out of their voice.

We offer two free rehearsals to anyone who would like to try us out and there is no obligation to join us after the trial period. After that, each rehearsal works out at about £5.00 per night. We supply members with all the music they need as well as a warm and welcoming rehearsal space at the Emmanuel Baptist Church on Victoria Avenue in Swanage. There is ample car parking and access for those who are less mobile.

Rehearsals run from 7.30pm-9.30pm with a fifteen-minute tea break half-way through. Although we begin again on 6th January, we welcome new members at any point in our singing year.

Come and give us a try. We really want to hear from you. If you can't come along yourself, please spread the word about us, especially to the men in your lives. We are very short of male voices but need new singers for all voice parts.

Find us on Facebook (The Belvedere Singers) or at www.belvederesingers.org.uk

Message to Studland Residents

Hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and I wish everyone well for the coming year.

Mandy Best

PURBECK INTEGRATED NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM UPDATE

This event will be to update you on the work of Purbeck Integrated Neighbourhood Team over the last year and to also present the results of the public survey

on the

29th January 2-4pm at Corfe Castle Village Hall

What's on?

The Purbeck Integrated Neighbourhood Team (INT) have been working on a community approach to living well in Purbeck

Join us for an informative local event to:

- ✓ Hear updates on the work of the Purbeck INT
- ✓ Present the findings from the recent public survey
- ✓ Understand how patient feedback is helping to shape local services

Everyone is welcome – your voice matters!

Purbeck Integrated Neighbourhood Team

Transforming neighbourhood health and care together

DISCOVER 1. Exploring Christianity

Christianity is one of the world's main religious faiths. It is estimated that more than two billion people around the world describe themselves as Christians. Christians are followers of Jesus Christ who would say that discovering him, his teaching, and his love for them has transformed their lives.

'Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and, if true, of infinite importance. The one thing it cannot be is moderately important.' CS Lewis

Who is Jesus Christ? Jesus Christ was born into a Jewish family who lived in Nazareth in the Middle East about 2,000 years ago. From the age of about 30, Jesus travelled around teaching people and offering them forgiveness, healing, and a way for everyone to get to know God for themselves. His life and teachings are documented in the Bible. His teaching about life, love, forgiveness, relationships, and many other topics drew huge crowds. But he provoked controversy too. Many religious leaders of the time considered his statements about himself and his actions to be blasphemy – an insult to God.

After three years Jesus was arrested, put on trial, and executed by crucifixion. Christianity teaches that he rose from the dead three days later. This miraculous resurrection is a central belief of the Christian faith. Jesus then spent more time with his followers before returning to heaven.

The first Christians: Thousands of people came to hear Jesus speak but he had a core of 12 followers known as disciples. They, and those who later joined them, were the first people to be called Christians. They left Jerusalem, as Jesus had instructed, and went out telling people about his life, death, and resurrection and passing on his teaching. Over the following centuries, Christianity spread across Africa, Europe, Asia and beyond. It has had a major impact on many societies, influencing areas such as education, politics, health care, the legal system and culture.

Who is God? It is impossible to explain God fully, but we can learn about him. Christianity teaches that God made the universe and sustains it minute-by-minute. He is perfect, good, just and loving. But there are aspects of God that are beyond human understanding, for example, he exists outside space and time. And yet Christianity teaches that every person can know God intimately and that this is what he desires too. He created people to have a close relationship with him. Christianity teaches that God exists in three distinct elements: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, known as the Trinity. The Son is Jesus Christ, God in human form. The role of the Holy Spirit includes working in the lives of people. The best way to find out what God is like is to find out about Jesus Christ.

'There is a widespread impression in the public that science and God don't mix. That's curious because if you think of the rise of science, all its pioneers believed in God. In fact, they were Christians.' John Lennox

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...

"I was born on February 18th, 1924. In a thatched cottage at the bottom of Watery Lane. My name is Linda Battrick.

My father was born in Woodhouse in Studland. His name was Charles Battrick. My mother was born in Leamington Spa and her name was Elsie Mary Sutton-Clark.

I had two sisters older than me called Phyllis and Joyce. The farmer my father worked for had two houses built called Leaze Cottages. And when I was five years old, we moved to No.1 Leaze Cottage, which was much better as mum had a black range to cook on. And in the kitchen, a copper with which to heat water for wash day and our baths. Mum had to light a fire underneath the copper to heat the water. Having a bath once a week meant bringing in the tin bath and putting it in front of the fire and it was really warm sitting there. We still had to go outside to the lavatory, which was outdoors in a wooden hut.

There were three bedrooms in Leaze cottage. My sister Phyllis had the small bedroom and my sister Joyce and I shared another bedroom. We washed in our bedroom and cleaned our teeth, but instead of toothpaste, which was expensive, we used salt.

Every morning when the milk was delivered and I heard the clang of the churn, I jumped out of bed and ran downstairs to kiss the milkman, Mr. Lockyer, who was a really nice man.

We had very good food when I was a child. My father grew all our vegetables and salads in the summer. We had a plum tree and an apple tree and currant bushes, rhubarb and gooseberry bushes.

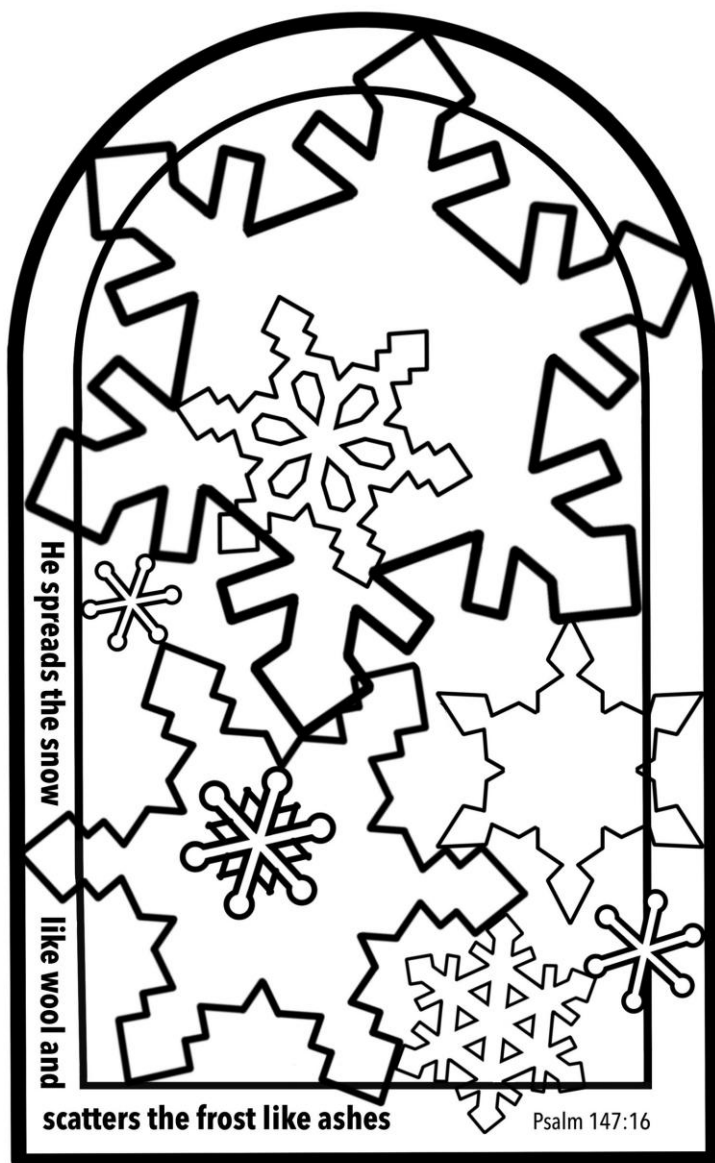
We also had fresh fish, crab and lobster as my father went fishing and we had fresh milk every day and my mum kept chickens so we always had fresh eggs. I like to think of food was organic as my father only put horse manure on his garden."

To be continued...

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

Colouring benefit No.1 - Stress & Anxiety Reduction:

Calms the nervous system, lowers heart rate, and provides a meditative escape from worries.



Monthly Awareness: Dry January

Dry January is an annual health campaign that encourages people to abstain from alcohol for the entire month of January. It's a voluntary challenge that has gained popularity worldwide as individuals commit to starting the new year with a fresh, alcohol-free perspective. Dry January is not only about giving your liver a break but also about promoting overall well-being, mental clarity, and healthier lifestyle choices.

What is Dry January 2026?

Dry January 2026 marks the latest installment of this month-long challenge, inviting individuals to take a break from alcohol and embrace a sober start to the year. It's an opportunity to reset your relationship with alcohol, reflect on your drinking habits, and experience the physical and mental benefits of sobriety.

When is Dry January 2026?

Dry January begins on January 1st and continues throughout the entire month, concluding on January 31st. It's a great way to kick off the new year with a healthy and alcohol-free start.

How to Participate in Dry January 2026?

Participating in Dry January is a personal commitment that can have lasting positive effects on your health and well-being. Here's how you can get involved:

- **Make a Pledge:** Declare your intention to participate in Dry January and set a goal to abstain from alcohol for the entire month.
- **Seek Support:** Share your commitment with friends and family, and encourage them to join you on this alcohol-free journey.
- **Plan Alcohol-Free Activities:** Explore alternative ways to socialize and have fun without alcohol, such as trying new hobbies, attending fitness classes, or enjoying outdoor activities.
- **Stay Hydrated:** Drink plenty of water and non-alcoholic beverages to stay hydrated and support your overall health.
- **Track Your Progress:** Keep a journal to record your experiences, emotions, and any positive changes you notice during the month.
- **Connect with Others:** Join online communities and use dedicated hashtags to connect with fellow participants and share your journey.
- **Learn and Reflect:** Educate yourself about the effects of alcohol on your body and mind, and take this time to reflect on your relationship with alcohol.

History of Dry January:

Dry January originated in the United Kingdom in 2013 as a campaign by the charity Alcohol Change UK.

Quotes To Start 2026

Observations on Christian life and faith

'Life is too short for us to do everything we want to do; but it is long enough for us to do everything God wants us to do.' Anon

'The future belongs to those who belong to God. This is hope.' W T Purkiser

'I find the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving.' OW Holmes

'It is not so much of our time and so much of our attention that God demands; it is not even all of our time and all our attention; it is our selves.' C S Lewis

'We are not always doing the most business for God when we are the busiest.' John Henry Jowett

'If we are taken up with our own personal needs, or if we are looking for position and status in the church, we shall be of little use to God.' David Watson

'An atheist is someone who believes that what you see is all you get.' Anon

'Philosophy and religion may reform, but only the Bible can transform.' B Edwards

Observations on daily life for 2026

'Think like a man of action and act like a man of thought.' Henri Bergson

'Unless a man has to do more than he can do, he will not do all that he can do.' Gordon Cooper

'It takes a great person to give sound advice tactfully, but a greater to accept it graciously.' J C MacAulay

'Anger is temporary insanity.' C H Spurgeon

'A gentleman is one who never hurts another's feelings unintentionally.' O Herford

'Fanaticism is redoubling your effort when you have forgotten your aim.' G Santayana

'Politics is the career of plundering and blundering.' Disraeli

'A professor is one who talks in someone else's sleep.' W H Auden

'A reunion is when you meet people your own age who all look a lot older than you.' Anon

'Silence: what would follow if the average politician spoke his mind.' Anon

'Traffic light: a green light that changes to red as your car approaches.' Anon

'War: a continuation of politics by other means.' Clausewitz

'Winter: the time of year when it gets later earlier.' Anon

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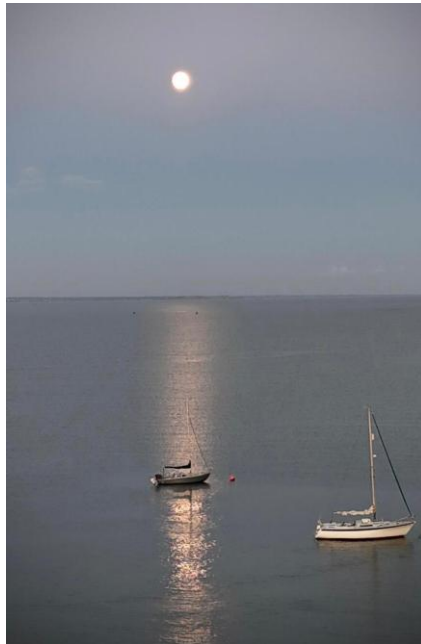
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(Captured by a Studland Resident)



(Taken by Ian Grenfell)

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