

Church Alive!

Swanage Parish Magazine

June 2025



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Leading Article	4
St Mary's	6
All Saints	11
St Marks	15
St Nicholas	18
Prayer and Praise on the South Coast Path	20
Teapot - A Surprise Encounter	21
The East Window at St Mary's	22
Swanage MPP Group	23
The Gesualdo Group	24
Swanage Town Band	25
Dorset County Orchestra Summer Concert	26
June Crossword	30
Children's Page	31
Churches Together and May Crossword Answer	32
Children's Page	33
Hebrew Word of the Month	33
Letter from the Bishop	34
Letter from the Editor	3

Rev Dave Richards writes:

It's that time of year again – Pentecost

– the celebration of the coming of God's Holy Spirit! I am always sad that, for many Christians, the whole idea of the Holy Spirit is a mystery. If you ask the average churchgoer about God the Father, or Jesus his Son, you get a reasonable answer. All too often when

we ask about the Holy Spirit the response is a resounding Ummmmmmmm..... The sadness is even greater because it's the Holy Spirit who lives in us, and, potentially, enables us to serve Jesus effectively.

The theology is quite simple. When Jesus was born into the world, God became present with us in Jesus. He was present in a physical form, with inevitable physical limitations. Jesus died on the cross to give us a new beginning, (make us born-again), and was resurrected to show that God had defeated sin and death and was offering us a new relationship with him. When the first disciples saw the risen Christ (John 20:19-23), they worshipped him, and believed in him. Jesus then breathed on them and gave them the Holy Spirit, (as he had promised). 40 days later Jesus ascended to heaven, but left the Holy Spirit behind, so that he would be present and alive in every single Christian.

At Pentecost, we saw that Spirit at work, the Good News of Jesus was proclaimed, 3,000 people were baptised in one day, and the Church was born! Yes, Pentecost is the birthday of the Church – because it's the day the Holy Spirit gave power to God's people to get on with the job - proclaiming the Good news of Jesus.



The Holy Spirit is part of the package for every Christian. He can do great things, transforming our lives with “...the fruit of the Spirit love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” (Galatians 5:22-23), and giving us His gifts for ministry and mission. (See 1 Corinthians, 12:7-11, or Ephesians 4:11-12 more detail). The problem is that the Holy Spirit is sometimes like the bit in a kit which seems to be spare, the bit that we can’t quite fit in, that gets left out.

So why do we know so little about the Holy Spirit? Maybe we preachers have not taught enough about the Holy Spirit; maybe the fact that Pentecost does not, any longer, come with a Bank Holiday has had the effect of downgrading the Holy Spirit in our understanding? Or maybe it’s part of the devil’s plan – make sure that these Christians don’t get to know about the Holy Spirit, otherwise they may begin to be a much more effective witness to the world?

Whatever the reason for past failings, let’s make this Pentecost different. When we hear the words from John’s Gospel: “I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. (John 14:16-17), let’s pray that this Spirit will work in each one of us, set us on fire for Jesus, and empower us in His service.

As we celebrate the Church’s birthday at Pentecost, let’s pray for the Spirit’s unity amongst Christians, for God’s Spirit to be free in each of us, for God to give us the right things to say, and do, in the right place, at the right time, by the power of His Spirit.

Rev. David Richards

St Mary's



Sunday Services:

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

Weekday Services

Daily	8am	Morning Prayer
Tue	2.30pm.	All Things Bright & Beautiful <i>(particularly suitable for those living with dementia or any kind of special need)</i>
Wed	10am- 12.30pm.	T-Pot in the Rectory Classroom
	11am	Holy Communion <i>Every 4th Weds with Healing</i>
Fri	5.30pm	Junior Choir Practice
	6.30pm	Adult Choir Practice
	6-8pm	Friday Fun Club in the Rectory Classroom

Sun 8th	6.30pm	Come & Sing Evensong with David Flood, formerly Canterbury Cathedral
Thurs 19th	5/5.30pm	Wedding Rehearsal
Fri 20th	12 noon	Wedding: Gavin Coles & Aislinn O'Neill
Sat 21st	1.00pm	Set-up and rehearsal for evening concert
	7.30pm	Concert by the Dorset County Orchestra

St Mary's Notes

At the Annual Meeting of Parishioners (AMP) on 1st April, a full complement of six Churchwardens was elected, two for each of our parish churches - All Saints', St Mark's, and St Mary's. The AMP's sole business is election of churchwardens. It seems to me to be a somewhat archaic way to select churchwardens though the current mode of election is ruled by the relatively recent 2001 Churchwardens Measure. Anyone on the parish's Electoral Roll, or on the local government Electoral Register covering the parish, can vote at the AMP.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) is purely for those on the church Electoral Roll and deals with church business - election of PCC (parochial church council) members for example. Appointment of Sidesmen/women (our Assistant Churchwardens) is by the PCC.

We are delighted to welcome Ray Davis as a new churchwarden for St Mary's. After serious illness and very major surgery at the end of last year, which brought forward his retirement as Verger at St Mary's, Ray has only recently been able to attend church and resume his place in the choir. I can already report that he has already dealt with a matter needing attention – the replacement of disintegrating paving outside the West (main) Door and making good crumbling cement surfaces on the wheel-friendly slope to the South Door and around drain covers.

Another recent repair has been replacement of the heating elements in the Rectory Classroom kitchenette cooker – very necessary for the popular pizzas at the Friday Fun Club!

Ascension Day this year is on Thursday, 29th May. In 2016, Archbishop Justin Welby introduced thy Kingdom Come, nine days of prayer and anticipation lasting from Ascension Day until Pentecost, when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. "Pentecost" comes from the Greek for fifty, denoting the 50 days since Easter Day. Pentecost is often regarded as the church's birthday. It's also called Whitsun, derived from the Old English term for "white Sunday" and the ancient tradition of baptisms on that day associated with white clothing symbolising purity and new life received through baptism.

On Ascension Day, as usual at St Mary's, there will be a Choral Eucharist at 7.30pm. For those who attend, a glass of something and nibbles will be available afterwards!

Avril Harris, Churchwarden

Revd Natalie's ordination

Our Curate, Revd Natalie Davies will be ordained priest in Salisbury Cathedral at 4.30pm on Saturday 28th June and will celebrate her first Eucharist on Sunday 29th June at St Mary's at 10.30am. All are very welcome to attend to support Natalie as she takes this important next step in her vocation.



St Mary's Clock

Timekeeping, especially in convents and monasteries has always been an important part of Christian devotion. Timekeepers resembling large egg timers, or carefully crafted candles and of course sundials were used before mechanical clocks were developed. There is evidence of mechanical clocks in Europe from the late 13th century, though these were without dials and used for sounding bells for prayer (the name derives from the Latin clocca, meaning bell).

St. Mary's, Swanage became a parish church in 1487, having previously been merely a chapel of ease for the parish of Worth Matravers (with Priests Way being the route between the two). As a chapel of ease, it is unlikely to have had its own clock, and it is unknown whether one preceded that installed in the tower of St. Mary's, in 1725. It was made by Isaac Cloud of Beaminster, whose family were for several generations well known Dorset clock makers. This clock had a single diamond shaped face, on the south side of the tower, as shown in a print displayed in the West end of the church. It had only one hand, which would have significantly simplified the clock mechanism. By the middle of the following century, it was deemed past its best. Perhaps being single handed, it was considered rather tired?

The current clock was made by Frederick Dent & Co, of the Strand, London. This prestigious family firm also made the clock that chimes Big Ben, which is probably the best known clock in the World.

Another was installed for the Crystal Palace Great Exhibition of 1851 (and subsequently at King's Cross Station). Our clock was made in July 1860, costing the princely sum £156, (the equivalent today of around £25,000). This time it had two hands and two faces, on the South and East sides of the tower. By 1889, trees on the East of the church were obstructing the view of the clock, so the clock face was re-sited onto the West side of the tower. Ironically, reverting to the original arrangement would probably give better visibility today.

St Mary's Tower has several floor levels. At the first floor there is a room, formerly used by the youth group. Above that is the ringing chamber, where the bell ropes are arranged in a large circle for the ringers to pull. The clock chamber is at the third floor, in the centre of which is a large wooden cabinet containing the clock itself, with horizontal shafts leading to the two clock faces on the outside walls.

The bells are on the 4th floor (top) level, so the bell ropes drop down in wooden ducting through the clock chamber around the clock itself.

The clock is driven by 2 massive weights that run in a boxed enclosure down the inside of the tower from third floor to ground level . One weight powers the 'going train' (the pendulum system providing the timekeeping) and the other is for the 'striking train', that operates a pair of hammers striking the No. 5 bell to chime the hour. (On a smaller clock it is usual to have just one hammer striking the hour. Alternating a pair of hammers permits a reasonably brisk strike in spite of their inertia). Until 2006, winding the clock was a weekly task, though not for the weak, since it involved large crank handles for each train, and more than 50 turns of each to haul the weights back to the top. The door of the clock cabinet has its inside face covered with details of who and when various people took responsibility for repairing and rewinding the clock. Nowadays the clock is wound automatically by a pair of electric motors. Care was taken to ensure that this modernisation is reversible, so that originality is not impaired.

Last year, the clock started behaving erratically, gaining and losing unpredictably and it was also noticed that the hands on the South face showed a different time from that on the West face. It was also observed that the South face would suddenly gain about 3 minutes on the hour, and lose the same at the half hour. The hands were loose and

threatening to fall off, posing a threat to anyone passing below. An inspection determined that no quick fix was possible, so the hands were removed, a repair plan was prepared, and costs estimated. Grant funding is currently being sought to meet these costs. Until then, we must put up with the clock having a sad empty face.



The Clock Works

The Going Train (upper left) has a large pendulum hanging down
Striking Train on upper right
Electric motors for rewinding are mounted on a subframe below

The Clock Chamber

Around the cabinet containing the clock mechanism can be seen the wooden ducting for the bell ropes

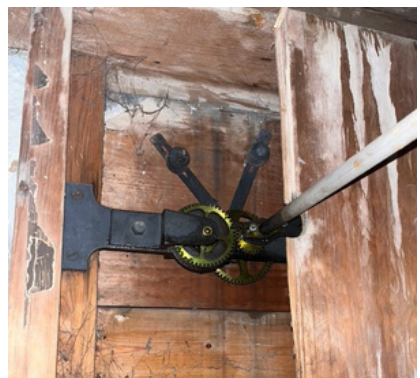


Clock Cabinet Door

The inside face shows names and dates of those responsible for clock maintenance and winding

The inside of the clock face

The (light coloured) shaft from the clock mechanism drives the minute hand and also a gear train to operate the hour hand. The arrangement is repeated for the other clock face





Regular Sunday Services

8am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Family Worship with children's groups 1st Sunday Communion 2nd Sunday All-Age Café Church
6pm	Open Worship - 1st June at Emmanuel Baptist

Weekly Church Calendar

Coffee Pot	Thursdays 10:30am
Art Workshop	Fridays 10am

Opportunities to pray together

Weekly	Thursdays 9:30 – 10am
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News from All Saints

Looking back over the last month, as you might expect, our Easter celebrations have been the focal point. As mentioned in a previous magazine, we hosted a 3 day prayer room focused on Jesus' journey through Holy Week. It was a powerful preparation for our corporate events towards the end of the week. Fifty of us gathered on Maundy Thursday around long tables in the church to share a meal as Jesus would have done with his disciples. We paused at various points in the evening to read gospel passages from the evening, sing and ended in silence sharing bread and wine around the tables.

After the seriousness of our gathering on Good Friday and walking down to the Bandstand in silence behind the cross, Easter Sunday at All Saints was a hugely joyful burst of praise. Those of us who made it down to the beach for 6am were blessed with sunshine as well as a great cooked breakfast thanks to the faithful saints at the United Reform Church.

A small group from All Saints attended Spring Harvest in Minehead: for those who haven't come across Spring Harvest, it is a long-running Christian holiday / festival / conference held at Butlins over the Easter holiday– and has been the source of huge encouragement, spiritual growth and fun in previous years. The theme this year was “No Greater Story” and we as a whole congregation were greatly blessed by those who went sharing their stories in a Sunday service, of how the time away had impacted them and how they felt they had engaged with God.

It was particularly moving to hear one participant share “We all have a story to tell, it's not the story we necessarily wanted or dreamed about, but it's OUR story, and God is a part of it. He's with us through it all, we just need to open our hearts to receive Him, welcome Him into our lives and walk with Him.”

Speaker Dr Richmond Wandera, from Compassion UK particularly spoke to another All Saints member; his story struck her deeply as she'd volunteered out to Uganda only last year, where Richmond himself had been an orphan, taken from the streets by Compassion. A church leader and powerful advocate for justice, Richmond also leads an organisation seeking to train church leaders in East Africa and speaks powerfully of the impact for God's kingdom that each individual can have: “Each one of us is called to play our part of God's great story.”

Another was encouraged by the recent report from the Bible Society entitled “the quiet revival” which indicates that church attendance is growing across the board– especially amongst Gen Z. So watch out Swanage – who knows what God might have in store for us!

It was so encouraging to hear the feedback from those who went, and we have already booked 3 chalets for next year! If you'd like more information about Spring Harvest or might like to come with the All Saints group, do contact Tim Silk, allsaintsswanage@gmail.com.

One of my personal takeaways from Easter this year, has been from a deeper reflection on the Emmaus Road story in Luke 24. I have read the story so many times and yet this time, something completely new struck me. It is Resurrection Day itself – most of the 11 Apostles have not yet met the Risen Christ, and where do we find Jesus – on a road leading away from the action, spending several hours with 2 disillusioned disciples that we have never heard of before. We might have expected the newly risen Christ to have focused on the faithful 11, or even perhaps his inner circle of 3! But no – the risen Jesus invests time in 2 hitherto unknown disciples who have given up. How extraordinary! Our God really is the God who looks for those on the edges, the outsiders, the ones we might least expect. A powerful reminder for us as churches, to ensure that we orientate ourselves likewise.

Looking forward at All Saints, we will be seeking to look outwards with a Free Family Funday on 2-5pm Saturday 14th June. We will be running craft activities, games, having a giant inflatable slide, all washed down with friendly conversation and lashings of tea and cake; with the aim of welcoming faces old and new. We are particularly hoping to engage with those who wouldn't normally come to an event at church and be a blessing to the local community. If you'd like any more information, please contact Gill Kaiser gill.kaiser@aol.com.

With every blessing, Rev Jo Levasier

All Saints Church
invites you to a

FABULOUS FREE FAMILY FUN DAY

2-5pm Saturday 14th June

Come and enjoy an afternoon of activities for all ages – with plenty of tea 'n cake (optional donations in aid of Studland Youth camps)



Craft
activities



Inflatables



Games

All Saints Church, Ulwell Road, Swanage
www.allsaints-swanage.org

All
Saints
Swanage

loving
learning
serving
together

St Mark's Notes for June



Diary

Sunday 1st June	10am Holy Communion
Tuesday 3rd June	7pm Bible Study Group
Thursday 5th June	7:30pm St Mark's Church Committee
Sunday 8th June	PENTECOST! 10am Holy Communion
Sunday 15th June	Trinity Sunday 10am Holy Communion John Cooper
Tuesday 17th June	7pm Bible Study Group
Sunday 22nd June	10am Holy Communion
Sunday 29th June	10am Celebration! Service with St Mark's Band 3:30pm St Mark's Afternoon Concert

Choir Rehearsal - Mondays 6:15 - 7pm

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

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

June has arrived, with all its glorious colours and sounds. We have been enjoying some wonderful weather in recent weeks and the coastline, countryside and our gardens have all responded with the wonderful array of beautiful colours and such tuneful bird song, both morning and evening time.

So much has been happening recently, since our Celebration Service on Easter morning that the weeks have really flown by! I will start by reflecting on some of our past events and then look to the future ones.

Keep your Diaries free so you can join in with all the fun!

After the service on Sunday 11th May, to mark the start of Christian Aid Week, we enjoyed a wonderful selection of cakes with refreshments, with donations all going to Christian Aid.

On Friday 23rd May, there was a Memorial Service for the life of Barbara Rose, a dearly beloved member of our church family. Barbara's family held an afternoon tea in the meeting room, after the service, with several members of the congregation sharing their memories of Barbara.

Looking ahead in June:-

We are already planning for our Pentecost Celebration, on Sunday June 8th with another BIG cake, a glass of something bubbly and other refreshments, to celebrate the birth of the Church in true St Marks style.

We celebrated St Marks Day, on 27th April, in traditional style with a lovely BIG Cake, and a glass or two, plus tea and coffee. Then, in the afternoon

'If you go down to St Marks today, you're sure of a big surprise'.... We held a Teddy Bear's Picnic for children ages 2 – 6 years (with accompanying adults) at 3pm in the garden and church room.

'For every bear that ever there was, will gather there, for certain because, today's the day the Teddy Bear's have their picnic!' (see the photo of Bella, the St Mark's Teddy Bear') The event was a great success with families from around the Herston Community welcomed into St Marks fellowship. Eighteen children, and their Teddy Bears, plus adults, all enjoyed the games, several craft activities, and of course some lovely picnic food to eat. We look forward to welcoming them to St Marks in the future.

Many thanks to Carol, Marion, and Ann Higgins for organising and helping at this wonderful event.

On Saturday 3rd May, a group of us from St Marks, attended the retirement party for Reverend Tony and Felicity Higgins, at Studland Village Hall. A wonderful celebration and appreciation of their ministry and work in St Nicholas and the village communities over several years. We wish them both a happy retirement and look forward to seeing them enjoying this new chapter in their lives.

Members of the St Marks band and singers joined the Herston Community Picnic, on Monday 5th May, to entertain the local community enjoying their picnic and events that sunny day, which was a great success.

John and I are attending the Archdeacons Visitation, on 10th June, to be sworn in as your Church Wardens, for another year, following our election at the St Marks' Annual Meeting. We know you will all continue to support us with your prayers and fellowship. Thank You all.

On Sunday 29th June, we are holding our Celebration! Service at 10am in the morning and then, in the afternoon..... we will be having our greatly anticipated 'St. Marks Concert' at 3:30pm.

This will be a wonderful, varied programme of light music and entertainment from St Marks musicians, singers, and friends. Refreshments will, of course, be included.

St Marks Church garden is looking wonderful, thanks to the hard work of Dave Hudson and Tony Nash, with all the lovely spring flowers and hanging baskets, in bloom. The Bluebells are almost over now but their colour throughout the garden was stunning. (photo included).



May God Bless and Keep You
Anne Roper
Church Warden

St Nicholas are seeking a PCC Secretary:



Can you help?

To attend 6 PCC meetings each year, plus 1 annual meeting.
These meetings can be recorded for ease of transcribing later.

The primary responsibility of the PCC Secretary is to support the PCC Chair in the preparation and organisation of the meetings and to handle all correspondence. Please contact Barbara Matthews (Churchwarden) for more information or for an informal chat

Tel: 01929 450218

Email: barmat18@btinternet.com

St Nicholas Studland

Parish News



It was a very memorable Easter Sunday at St Nicholas. The church was overflowing with people as Rev Tony Higgins led the Easter Communion service, his last service before retiring as Resident Priest in Studland. And last month, at the beginning of May, we gathered in large numbers in Studland Village Hall for Tony and Feli Higgins' retirement party. And what a party it was! We all had a great time and it was a fitting tribute to a wonderful couple. Presentations were made: a picture of St Nicholas Church by Ben Spurling; a floral picture by Virginia Morris; cake and photo album arranged by Louise Grey (Tony and Feli's daughter); flowers for Feli and a large cheque for the couple. Sue Stares had knitted uncanningly realistic figures of Tony (complete with a Bible) and Feli (with a beautiful basket of flowers.) Ian Pillow, previously Director of Music at St Nicholas, wrote a very funny song, celebrating Tony's wonderful sermons and his unique approach to playing the tambourine, which was sung by the St Nicholas Church Choir, accompanied by the present Director of Music, Angus Murray-Brown. Tony was lost for words! A good time truly was had by all. It was great that so many could gather to celebrate Tony and Feli and honour all that they have given to both the church and village over the years. Afterwards I spoke to Tony who said 'it was absolutely fantastic...a mind blowing experience.' We wish them every blessing in retirement.

I want to thank Barbara Matthews who was the Organiser-in-Chief of the celebrations. Thanks also to the Women's Institute

whose members provided a delicious tea for all plus floral arrangements and coped so well with the larger than anticipated crowd to feed. A thank you too to the Village Hall Committee who beautifully decorated the Hall with bunting.

Last month we marked VE Day and at St Nicholas there was a short evening service of thanksgiving and commemoration for the end of war in Europe eighty years ago. Some service attendees then went up to Old Harry for the Beacon Lighting and those there, holding fire torches, formed up to spell out VE 80. I hope you have seen the drone photos – they are amazing.

We have just celebrated Ascension Day with an early morning service and breakfast at St Nicholas. This month we invite everyone to a Village Breakfast on Saturday 7th June at St Nicholas Church Hall with first breakfast being served at 8.30am. Then on Sunday 8th June we will be celebrating Pentecost, the coming of God's Holy Spirit upon the disciples and the birth of the church – truly a day of great celebration!

People attending Studland's Community Coffee Morning (Thursdays 10am-11am) are enjoying the summer location at wonderful Manor Farm Tea Rooms and the coffee, scones and conversation. Do come along and join us.

As many of you will now know, Rev Tony Edmonds will be succeeding Tony at St Nicholas Church. Please pray for him as he prepares to start at the beginning of August. God is good and has blessed St Nicholas Church in so many ways. Often I think on those words from the book of Lamentations about the faithfulness of God "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. His mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness. Many of us can testify to the love and faithfulness of God in our lives. As St Nicholas prepares for a new chapter, I know that God is faithful and will lead us forward.

Every Blessing Ian, Team Rector, Swanage and Studland



WHAT IF ONE PRAYER EVENT COULD SHAKE THE SPIRITUAL FOUNDATIONS OF AN ENTIRE REGION?

Gather with us on Saturday 12th July at 10:30am in powerful prayer for our region
Hey Judy!

Thousands Standing, One Kingdom Advancing

On Saturday 12th July at 10:30am, thousands of Christians from every denomination will line the 630-mile South West Coast Path in a bold act of united prayer. From clifftops to coves, from Cornwall to Dorset, believers will take their place to lift the name of Jesus over towns, beaches, and borders.

This isn't just a gathering.

It's a kingdom declaration.

A prophetic act of faith.

A moment for the Church to rise together in unity, believing for transformation across the South West.

💬 “If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray...” — let’s answer that call.

📍 Choose a section of the path.

👥 Bring your church, your friends, your family.

🙏 Come ready to pray, worship, and declare His promises.

Sign up today and invite your friends:

Teapot...A Surprise Encounter!

Teapot on Wednesdays always offers an “open invitation” to anyone who is looking for and likes a warm welcome and a comfortable place to be!! Rich and meaningful conversation is easily at hand....or if you just want be listened to, there’s always some one there!

A good laugh or light and engaging exchanges are on the ‘menu’ as well as cakes, tea and coffee!

A few smiles you will receive for sure!!!

And who knows, you may even come across a face you have not seen for ages!

This happened recently when one of our team members invited a neighbour to come along. This dear gentleman found himself alone as a few months previously his precious wife of many years passed away. For months he was home alone and hardly seeing anyone.

He willingly came to Teapot at this invitation and VOILA!.....He had a surprise encounter!! Lo and behold....he met a friend he had not seen for many years!

The joy!!! The two gentlemen met up at TEAPOT after a huge gap of time...and reminisced about the bygone days when they played bowls together for many years during the summer months! Oh it was a joy to behold! Faces lit with pleasure, chit chat as they caught up - filling in the missing years with many happy memories and enjoying that season of life which sounded full of happy times!

Teapot awaits you any Wednesday you would like to join us!!!!

Come along! We’d love to welcome you!! And any friends you care to bring!

“A joyful heart is good like a medicine.....”
Proverbs:17:22

The Teapot Team



The East Window at St. Mary's

My memory was sparked by Anthony Malpas's letter from the editor (Church Alive May 2025) describing the East Window at St. Mary's. As a child, in the early 1950s, I remember the rector, the Rev. Norman Miller, describing the newly installed window to the children of the Sunday School.

The original window had been badly damaged by a bomb falling nearby during World War 2. We were enthralled by its beauty and the vision it gave of Jesus and His Resurrection. We were also aware that money was being raised to pay for this work of art so my friend, Hilary Shearstone, rallied a group of us to put on a "show" for family and friends.

Hilary wrote a short play, other members recited poetry, danced, sang, played the piano and gave a short talk. We were aged between 7 and 9 years! Hilary's father painted scenery and we performed in one of the laundry rooms (of which her father was the manager), the audience sitting on laundry baskets! The rector was so moved by our efforts that he asked us to repeat the performance to a larger audience in the Church Hall, which stood by the stream in King's Road where flats are now located.

Our efforts raised a modest sum, but I often wonder which piece of glass we funded! The window continues to draw my gaze: at confirmation, marriages, family funerals and as we declare our faith. Thank you, Anthony for bringing back childhood memories.

Joanna (Hill Brown) Baird

"The life of the Christian without the indwelling power of the Spirit in the heart is a weariness to the flesh. It is an obedience to commandments and an endeavor to walk according to a pattern which you have not power to follow." **John G Lake**

Swanage Medical Practice Patient Participation Group

Swanage Medical Practice Patient Participation Group (PPG) last met on 13 May 2025, when we welcomed another new PPG member. We were also joined by Dr Mark Law, one of the GP Partners at the Practice, and were delighted to hear that a new GP Partner has joined the Practice – he will be taking over Dr Heard’s patients when she retires in June.

During the meeting, we agreed our top priorities for the year ahead, which will be to:

- Promote awareness of the PPG and recruit new PPG members
- Undertake another Patient Survey in the June 2025
- Support the Practice to keep people informed of changes in the way services are delivered at the Practice
- Work with the Practice to encourage people to make use of services they can refer themselves to directly, without needing a GP appointment
- Promote the uptake of the NHS App and other online NHS/GP services
- Work with the Practice to review the Practice Website to ensure it complies with the National Guidance published in January 2025.

We agreed that we will also:

- Promote awareness of Wellbeing Swanage and other services provided at The Focus Centre in Swanage and at Herston Village Hall - as well as other health and care services provided in Purbeck and other local self-help and support groups
- Work with the PPGs of the other Practices within the Purbeck Primary Care Network (PCN) – and the Purbeck Youth PPG – to support the PCN to deliver its priorities, including the development and implementation of the Purbeck Integrated Neighbourhood Team (INT)
- Support the Practice to deliver initiatives that promote health and wellbeing, prevent ill health and support self-care
- Promote awareness of the Purbeck Youth PPG (YPPG) and its remit, and support efforts to recruit new YPPG members
- Contribute to the work of Action for Health and Care in Purbeck, the Purbeck-wide group set up in 2023.

PPG members will also be hosting a stand in the Reception area at the Surgery during PPG Awareness Week, which will be taking place during the first week of June (2-6 June). Do drop in and say “Hello”.

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

All patients registered with the Practice aged 16 and over are actively encouraged to join the Patient Email Group – please ask at Reception if you would like to join.

**Mrs Margaret Broadhurst (Dr Margaret Guy) Chair
Swanage Medical Practice PPG 13 May 2025**

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St Mary's Church, Swanage
Thursday 3rd July at 6.30pm

SWANAGE TOWN BAND

PLAYING IN THE BANDSTAND THIS SUMMER

WEATHER PERMITTING

Saturday 7th June 2.30pm

Wednesday 18th June 7.00pm *

Saturday 5th July 2.30pm

Wednesday 16th July 7.00pm *

Wednesday 30th July 7.00pm

Wednesday 20th August 7.00pm

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

Dorset County
Orchestra

Summer Concert

Saturday 21st June 2025
7.30pm at St Mary's Church
Swanage

Richard Wagner - The Flying Dutchman
Max Bruch - Kol Nidrei
Brahms - Variations on a Theme by Haydn
Dvorak - Symphony no.8
Arturo Serna - conductor
Bärbel Glaser - leader
Hugo Svedberg - soloist

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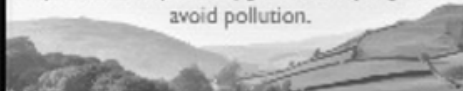
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 EGYPT • LIBYA • CYRENE
 ROME • CRETANS
 ARABIANS • GOD



READ
 Acts
 2:1-41

It was fifty days since **Passover**, and Jews from many countries had come to **Jerusalem** to celebrate Passover. As the **Apostles** were gathered together the **Holy Spirit** came upon them and they began to speak in other **languages** as the Spirit enabled them.

The crowd that were listening were amazed as they heard about God in their own language.

How many people heard, believed and were baptised that day?

DID YOU KNOW?

The Bible or parts of the Bible have now been translated into over 3,000 different languages since it was first written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SWANAGE

Our next planned event will be the Carnival Praise Service at 11am on Sunday 27th July in the main Marquee at Sandpit Field. We hope to participate in the procession again this year, there will also be a Churches Together Tent/Gazebo on the carnival field throughout the week.

Every Tuesday we meet to pray together at Emmanuel Baptist Church at 9 am. You are very welcome to join us.

Janet Norley and Judy Forgan on behalf of Churches Together in Swanage



Matthew 3:16-17 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

May Crossword answers

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B	E	T	H	E	S	D	A		S	T	A	Y

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Hebrew Word of the Month

Ruach: The Breath of Life

Ruach (רוּחַ) is a powerful and multifaceted Hebrew word that is often translated as "spirit" or "wind." In the Bible, it speaks of more than just the natural elements—it symbolizes God's life-giving presence and His active power in the world.

Biblical Context:

“The Spirit (Ruach) of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life.” – Job 33:4

Hebrew Meaning:

The word ruach carries the idea of breath, wind, and spirit. In Genesis, God breathes His ruach into man, making him a living being (Genesis 2:7). It's not just the wind in the trees or a force that moves through the air; it's the very essence of life. Ruach represents God's creative power, His life-giving force that sustains all things.

Application:

When we experience the ruach of God, it's more than a fleeting sensation—it is the life and power of God moving in us. It's the Spirit that brings new life to dry bones, breathes into hopeless situations, and empowers us to live out God's purposes. In our daily lives, we can call upon the ruach for strength, guidance, and renewal. It's God's presence that moves through us, equipping us to walk in His ways.

A Prayer for You:

May the ruach of God breathe fresh life into you today. May His Spirit empower you to face every challenge and fill you with the strength to live according to His will. May you feel His presence in every moment, guiding and renewing you with His breath of life.

Blessings, Pastor Israel Pochtar



Letter from the Bishop of Sherborne

Jack Spratt's scrap heap clock

To St Andrew's, Wootton Rivers, and an invitation to place the first signature in their new visitor's book, after the sixty-year service of its predecessor.

These volumes are found in most village churches and remain a quiet record of the thousands who call into our places of worship, usually unseen, and leave their appreciation with a word or two and, often as not, a coin in the box or a tap on the e-reader!

In Wootton Rivers, they will find in the porch a beautiful board telling the story of local character Jack Spratt, who achieved fame by constructing a church clock entirely from local scrap to commemorate the coronation of George V in 1911. As a new installation was too costly, handyman Jack invited villagers to leave him their spare bits and bobs and proceeded to make a clock that ran (and still runs) with pin-point accuracy. Instead of numerals on its face, the tower clock reads 'Glory be to God'. This eccentric and appealing project bears witness to the steady Anglican faith and resourcefulness vital for our churches to thrive and survive. Also, to the creator God whose spirit can work within us to make something wonderful from the scraps and times of our lives. To him be the glory.

**God bless,
Allana**

Letter from the Editor

During May there were two events at the Swanage Bandstand that were inextricably linked. The first was a celebration of VE Day, which followed the Armed Forces Signing at Swanage Railway. Marion Booth kindly sends this report:

"Thank you Karen Grant for leading us in a happy sing song at the Bandstand on the morning of VE Day, 8 May. The sun shone, flags waved, and many wore Union flag  items of headgear or clothing in those colours. It was a fitting tribute, ending with part of Sir Winston Churchill's speech, the last post from Eddie Chinchon on trumpet and midday two minute silence. Well done Swanage."

The second event, on 15 May, was to remember Swanage war time hero, Trevor Chadwick, who, with Nicholas Winton and Florence Nankivel and others, gave their lives to bring more than six hundred Jewish children to the safety of Britain from the horror and hatred of the Nazi regime. Their organisation is known as the "Kindertransport."

Mr John Corben, Chair of the Trevor Chadwick Committee, spoke about the beautiful statue of Trevor Chadwick, a crew member of the Swanage RNLI lifeboat. Trevor looks out over Swanage bay, a child in his arms and one beside him. One of the speakers was Paul Walder, whose father was brought to Swanage by Trevor Chadwick.

Both events remind us of the evil and hatred that still exists in our world, that will only end when the Lord Jesus returns, and *"the Earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God as the waters cover the sea."* Habakkuk 2.14. At our Holy Communion services we say:

Christ has died

Christ is risen

Christ will come again

"The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!" Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life."

Revelation 22.17



**You have been our dwelling place
Oh, everlasting God
Before You formed the mountain tops
You were before it all
And soon our lives turn back to dust**

***When the sun comes up satisfy us
Before the day has passed us by
Before our hearts forget all Your goodness
Satisfy us with Your love***

**The wrath of God poured out for sin
On Jesus crucified
Consider Him our hiding place
Our shelter is alive
Because He lived and died for us**

**Teach us, Lord, to number our days on earth
And give us more wisdom in the secret heart
As You display amazing grace
In Jesus Christ for us**

**Beautiful Shane and Shane song on YouTube
Based on Psalm 90**