

# **Church Alive!**

**Swanage Parish Magazine**

**October 2025**





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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Leading Article                           | 4  |
| St Mary's                                 | 6  |
| All Saints                                | 10 |
| St Marks                                  | 14 |
| St Nicholas                               | 15 |
| Any Questions                             | 19 |
| Olive Branch                              | 20 |
| Purbeck Christmas Tree Festival           | 21 |
| Tools with a Mission                      | 22 |
| Patient Participation Group               | 23 |
| Children's Page                           | 27 |
| October Crossword                         | 28 |
| Family News and Churches Together         | 29 |
| Cover Page and September Crossword Answer | 30 |
| Bible Society Article on William Tyndale  | 31 |
| Hebrew Word of the Month                  | 34 |
| Poem "Furnace" by Gerard Kelly            | 36 |
| Surprised by Jesus                        | 37 |
| Letter from the Bishop of Salisbury       | 38 |
| Letter from the Editor                    | 39 |

**Rev Ian Bird writes:**

## **The Body of Christ – a witness to the world:**

Over the last couple of months in the Swanage and Studland Team, we have had two important services that mark exciting times and new beginnings. In mid-August Bishop Karen came to St Nicholas Church, Studland to welcome The Revd Tony Edmonds as Associate Minister. Tony is now leading worship, pastoral care and mission at St Nicholas and we pray that God will bless his ministry there.

At the very end of September, Bishop Karon will once again be in the area, this time to lead a Licensing Service at St Mark's Church, Herston. She will license the Revd Dave Richards as a Non Stipendiary Minister (NSM) and re-licence two people, Carol Richards and Jane Hawksworth as Licenced Lay Ministers (LLMs; they used to be known as Readers). Carol will continue to minister with husband Dave at St Mark's. Jane, who already worships at St Nicholas, will be ministering there, alongside Tony. It is important to stress that both of our 'new' LLMs occasionally will be leading or taking part in Team wide worship and activities too. It is great to have these developments happening in our Team and we all need to support Tony, Dave, Carol and Jane going forward.

There are a lot of different metaphors in the Bible that help us understand who we are as a people of God. One of the most famous is that of the body of Christ. St Paul uses this rich metaphor in chapter 12 of his first letter to the Corinthians. One thing he is keen to stress is that we all have a part to play in the body: *'many members, yet one body.'* (1Cor. 12. 20). All of us, whether our parts are big or less big, can effectively work together as the body of Christ. All are important and the body only works effectively if we are all playing our part, using our

gifts, skills and experiences together. Obviously there are times and seasons when what we can contribute is lessened by circumstances such as illness or frailty. If that's you at the moment, please particularly pray for our Team and its worship and mission that we would see more people coming to faith in Jesus Christ and more of God's kingdom come among us. Let's all be encouraged by what God is doing among us and seek to play our part.

We are living through very challenging times, with a moribund economy and serious national financial challenges which directly impact our lives. Our society is fractured, and the quality of public debate is poor, often suffused with anger, intolerance leading to further division. Yet we can model together something else, another way of life. As the body of Christ we can show a better way of living that is full of love and hope that is found in Jesus Christ and in him alone.

**Every Blessing**  
**Ian, Rector**



**Sunday 5th October 2025**

Gabby North, Community Partnerships Manager, South Central England, will be with us at St Mary's for our 10.30am Choral Eucharist and Harvest Thanksgiving Service.

Gabby will be speaking about the work that is being done to help people suffering from this curable and debilitating disease.

You are very welcome to join us.

**Rosemary Carpenter**  
**Hon Sec Swanage Parish TLM**

# St Mary's

## October Services

### Sunday Services

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



### Weekly Services/Events:

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

Sun 5th 10.30am Harvest Festival Service with Gabby  
North from Leprosy Mission

Sat 11th 9.30-10.15 Visiting bellringers

Sun 12th 6.30pm 'Come & Sing' Choral Evensong  
with Dr Elizabeth Stratford

Mon 20th 7.30pm Purbeck Film Festival: 'A Real Pain'

**Autumn seems truly with us now** with changes in the weather – and welcome during September for parched fields and gardens. September has been busy with two special services. On 7th September we hosted the annual Folk Festival Service which returned to us last year. The choir was back in good voice from their summer break and our Junior Choristers sang too. The rain held off for a Morris Dancing display in the churchyard after the service. More visitors were welcomed on 14th September when St Mary’s hosted the service to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Lifeboat Station.

**At the beginning of October** at St Mary’s we will have our Harvest Thanksgiving at the Family Eucharist Service on Sunday, 5th October at 10.30am. It’s the first Sunday in the month and so it’s a Family Eucharist with our Junior Choir members singing. Gifts of food (canned or dried, please) will be given to the Food Bank. Also at that service, Gaby North, from Leprosy Missions, will be speaking.

**On “housekeeping” matters**, a closer inspection of the ceiling in the North Transept is being arranged and a further estimate is being sought for removal of asbestos guttering and downpipes on the Rectory classroom, which is going to be costly.

We’re keen to make both visitors and our regular congregation feel welcome at St Mary’s and we have some excellent volunteers who greet people as they arrive for services. But we do need more! If you can offer to help even one a month, please just add your name to the list on the table at the back of the church. Judith Bird’s organisation of Sunday coffee is greatly appreciated but more helpers are needed to “spread the load”, so please do sign up to help if you can.

**I was gently chided** by our Editor, Anthony, for what I wrote about the Gaza issue and associated matters which was partly prompted by the advert in this magazine about a talk on this contentious area. I take to heart what Anthony said and I will endeavour not to comment on these issues in future.

**Avril Harris, Churchwarden**

**PS** Did you see the article in Swanage News Online about “*Come and Sing*”? Simon Lole, our Director of Music at St Mary’s, is featured – see: <https://www.swanage.news/come-and-sing-in-swanage-with-cream-of-english-cathedral-music>

## **Saint Mary’s library**

You will notice that Saint Mary’s library has moved and been reorganised. Not only do we have new shelves, we have several exciting new books!

One is, “Three Mile an Hour God” by Kosuke Koyama - a truly stimulating book. The title is based on the average steady walking pace of normal people, and the concept that God walks alongside us. If we are constantly rushing, of course, we will miss God!

By coincidence, two friends in Bethlehem published their latest books in August and both are now on the shelves: one is an international anthology of theological articles about the Gaza situation, the other is a delightful spiritual/pastoral book, “The Sacred Awakening” by Sami Awad.

Another book you might enjoy is, “First in Line” by Judith Rose – it details her journey towards ordination. Fascinating and thought provoking. Do browse and borrow – and don’t forget to leave a comment in the folder when you return the book to let other people know how you found it.

**Pauldbaird@aol.co**

## **Purbeck Purbeck Film Festival 2025 at St Mary’s**

**7.30pm, Monday, 20th October**

The film for this year is “A Real Pain”, a comedy-drama, and the showing is at 7.30pm on Monday, 20th October. Distant cousins Benji and David are brought together after their grandmother dies and leaves them money which they decide to use on a Jewish heritage tour. Compared to their family’s history, the two cousins’ problems seem small but they have still known real

pain of their own. Maybe it's heavy stuff for a comedy drama but there's warmth and wit in every scene. For those who haven't seen a film at St Mary's, the film is shown in the North Aisle and the screen nearly fills the width of it. For those who came last year - "A Real Pain" is an American production so there will be no problem with subtitles!

## **Canon of Windsor**

"The King has approved the nomination of The Reverend Canon Dr Nicholas Brown, Precentor and Sub-Dean of Lincoln Cathedral, to the College of St George, Windsor."

Many at St Mary's and in the wider Team will know Nick Brown, the elder son of Liz Brown and the late Bill Brown. Bill was Director of Music at St Mary's for 30 years, retiring in 2010 but continued to serve when needed at churches around the area. Nick followed his father's musical talents and was a youthful assistant organist at St Mary's, alongside his father.

Nick attended Royal Holloway University of London and the University of Durham, obtaining a B.Mus., an M.A. and a Ph.D. He trained for ministry at Ripon College, Cuddesdon and was ordained in 2009. He served his title as Assistant Curate at Warminster St. Denys and St. Mary Upton Scudamore in the Salisbury Diocese and then became Rector of Louth, Lincolnshire. From 2019 he served additionally as Acting Archdeacon of Lincoln. In 2020, he became Precentor of Lincoln Cathedral, and in 2021 became Sub-Dean and, more recently, interim Dean. The Bishop of Lincoln, the Right Reverend Stephen Conway, said: "Nick Brown is a priest with a fine record as parish priest and canon, bearing with care and steadfastness the needs of the cathedral through testing times. He has calmly borne multiple responsibilities beyond that for which he was recruited with grace and humour, rooted in and guaranteeing the daily prayer of the cathedral. He will be a loss to us but a considerable gain for Windsor." Nick will be installed as a Canon of Windsor on Thursday, 2nd October.



**OCTOBER 2025**

**Weekly Sunday Services at All Saints**

8am Holy Communion

10.30am Family Worship (with Junior Church meets week 1, 3, 4.  
Communion is shared on 1st Sunday. Café Church – all age  
informal worship - on 2nd Sunday)

**Weekly Church Calendar at All Saints**

All Saints Toddler Group Mondays 9:15-11am

Church Prayer meeting Thursdays 9:30 – 10am

Coffee Pot Thursdays 10:30am -1pm

Art workshop Fridays 10am

(booking essential, [suzanne.artworkshop@outlook.com](mailto:suzanne.artworkshop@outlook.com))

**Special events this month**

Sun 28th Sept Lunch after Church 12noon @All Saints Hall

Sat 4th Oct 8.15am Swanage Christian Men's Group Breakfast  
@MacAllisters

Sun 5th Oct Open Worship, 6-7pm @EBC

Sat 11th Oct Fabulous Free Family Funday 2-5pm @All Saints,

Sun 12th Oct Harvest Celebration at all Services & Harvest  
Lunch, 12noon @All Saints

(book your place with [heather.ascw@gmail.com](mailto:heather.ascw@gmail.com))

Sun 26th Oct Lunch after Church 12noon @All Saints Hall

## News from All Saints

**How is your running?** A bit breathless? Mine too!! But this month we have been so proud of one of our youngest members, Adeline Mutter. Over the summer eight-year-old Adeline was challenged by her dad to do a charity run and they set a distance of 2.5k with Adeline deciding to raise money for Southampton Children's Hospital after a school friend had needed their help. When we invited her up front to talk about it one August Sunday morning, she said that she hoped to raise £60. Two weeks later, on 31st August, we prayed for her at the end of the 10:30am service as she and father, Andy set off – on the now 5k - run.



**We were delighted** that she not only completed the run in style with a smile but also raised £635 in sponsorship. A huge Well Done to Adeline, but also to the All Saints congregation for getting behind her so well and supporting her efforts.

**On that same day** All Saints enjoyed an informal BYO picnic at church after the service, with about 40 people from across our two services staying to enjoy lunch and fellowship together. As the autumn months take hold, we have decided to make this a regular feature at All Saints, with “Lunch after church” set for the 4th Sundays of September, October and November. People

are invited to bring a picnic, with a little extra to share so that others can spontaneously join.

**We are conscious** that people come to a church for many and varied reasons, but often it is personal connections and growing friendships with individuals that actually make the difference in them deciding to stay. Faith in the New Testament is always corporate – we simply don't read of lone believers apart from the fellowship of the local people of God. We are called into a new relationship with God and also with other believers – we are indeed the new family of God and we long that our church fellowships would reflect that better.

**Over the summer**, All Saints has had to say goodbye to too many beloved members, Jane Viney, John Burke and Brenda Enticknap, hosting wonderful funerals and memorials for each of these precious individuals. As I had the privilege of leading and speaking at each of these faithful saints' services, I was struck by the impact for good that each of them had. The ripples of love, care and goodness that radiate from their lives will continue for years to come. Each of these amazing people were deeply motivated by their faith and love for God and knew that their calling was to share the love they had received with others in practical ways. What an inspiration and challenge they hold before us!

**I am reminded of the words of Hebrews 12:1-3**

*“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy that was set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”*

Back to running again! May we too be inspired by one another to run that race before us, giving it all we've got!  
With every blessing

**Rev Jo Levasier**



**Art & Craft @ All Saints** is back in the swing again! We meet Friday mornings during term-time in All Saints Hall.

We are an inclusive group offering simple art and craft skills in a friendly environment and welcome people of all artistic skills or none. People experiencing challenges in their lives are especially welcome, as are carers. We keep our charges low (currently £7 per session with reductions for people on Benefits). During October we are Pebble Painting and after half term will be trying some clay work. If you think you might like to join us, leave a message on 01929 475883 or email Suzanne on [suzanne.artworkshop@outlook.com](mailto:suzanne.artworkshop@outlook.com). We shall be delighted to welcome you!

## **Swanage Depression Support**



We have been back in action for nearly six months now. We are a small, friendly, relaxed group for anyone experiencing persistent low mood or stress, anxiety or depression, whether diagnosed or not. We aim to share the ups and downs of our experience and offer encouragement to each other in a confidential environment. We meet twice a month on Wednesday evenings, sometimes just to share, sometimes using a simple craft activity. To find out more, you can follow us on our Facebook page ([swanagedepressionsupport](https://www.facebook.com/swanagedepressionsupport)) or you can contact Alan on [swanagedepression@outlook.com](mailto:swanagedepression@outlook.com) or 07871 799479. We can have an informal chat over coffee in town to help you decide.

## DIARY DATES OCTOBER 2025



|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Tuesday 30 Sept | 7pm Licensing Service with Bishop Karen   |
| Sunday 5th      | 10am Holy Communion   |
| Tuesday 7th     | 7pm Bible Study   |
| Wednesday 8th   | 7pm Celebrate Churches Together (AGM)<br>at EBC   |
| Saturday 11th   | 10am -1pm Many Hands at St Mark's   |
| Sunday 12th     | 10am Holy Communion<br>3pm Farmer Teddy's Harvest Picnic  |
| Tuesday 14th    | 7pm Any Questions at the URC Church   |
| Sunday 19th     | 11am Harvest Holy Communion<br>with Rev Ian Bird<br>Followed by a Bring-and-Share Lunch                       |
| Tuesday 21st    | 7pm Bible Study   |
| Wednesday 22nd  | 1:45pm School Harvest Service   |
| Sunday 26th     | 10am Celebration! Service<br>Followed by refreshments and cakes in<br>aid of 'Wear It Pink' for Breast Cancer |

### St Marks Notes

**We celebrated a very special occasion on 24th August, when Luna and Arwen Powell were Baptised.** This was the first baptism at St Mark's for 4 years. Luna and Arwen were formally welcomed to St Mark's at the Celebration! Service on 31st August. This service is more relaxed, and particularly suitable for families.

**On Saturday 13th September a group of us took part in the Annual Ride and Stride,**

walking from St Mark's to Corfe, via Langton, (where a group from St Aldhelm's parish joined us), Worth and Kingston – a distance of 8 miles. We stopped at all the Churches, (and some people also stopped at the Square and Compass). £310 + GIFTAID was raised, and will be shared between Dorset Historic Churches Trust and the Swanage Team. Thanks to Carol Richards and Anne Roper for organising the walk.



**Re-tyred, not retired.** On Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September Bishop Karen will License me as Associate Priest, and will welcome Carol Richards and Jane Hawksworth, from St Nicholas Studland, as Licensed Lay Ministers. Why license after working at St Mark's for 3 years? The simple answer is that a Licence, rather than an PTO, reflects the work I do within St Mark's and the Team. Carol's ministry has been limited, because she did not transfer her LLM licence from Chelmsford Diocese to Salisbury Diocese when we moved, partly because our future plans were uncertain. Now, it seems, Swanage is our permanent home, so rather than retire gracefully, we are re-tyred for the journey ahead.

**Following up our spring Teddy Bear's Picnic,** Bella, the St Mark's Teddy Bear, invites children aged 2-6 (and their teddy bears) to Farmer Teddy's Harvest Picnic at 3pm on October 12<sup>th</sup>. There will be games, songs, craft activities and a picnic with a Harvest theme. Children also need to bring at least 1 grown-up. Please spread the word.

**St Mark's Harvest Celebration** will be on Sunday 19th October. We will start the service at 11am and follow with a Bring-and-Share Lunch. This late date allows us to co-ordinate with St Mark's School Harvest, so the children can enjoy the amazing Harvest decorations in the church. All gifts from the church and school will be donated to Swanage Food Bank.

**On Sunday 26th October we mark 'Wear It Pink' for Breast Cancer Awareness.** Pop on your Pink jumper, t-shirt, shirt, tie, or even a complete ensemble, anything Pink! Then after the service we will enjoy some lovely refreshments and plenty of cakes! No charge but donations welcome for this charity.

**There are some changes at St Mark's School.** We welcome Mrs. Astle as the new Head, Miss Howe as the new Deputy (both shared with St George's Langton), and congratulate Ms. Le Roux on her promotion to Assistant Head. We also welcome Cheryl Sutton, from St Mary's, and Bridget Leary, from St Mark's, as new foundation Governors. Please pray for staff, pupils and governors at the school, that the new arrangements will work well.

**We thank God for the life of Mike Chinchen,** and send our deepest sympathy to Margaret, on his passing. Mike looked after the St Mark's garden for many years, in addition to helping with maintenance work on the church building. He was a great support to Margaret during her time as Church Warden, particularly in opening and locking the church building. May he rest in peace, and rise in glory.

**As we move towards autumn,** we give thanks for a great summer, and look forward to God's continued blessing.

**Rev. David Richards**

## St Nicholas Studland News



**At last the rain has come.** The hills and the meadows of Studland are turning green. Bushes, trees and flowers that were looking quite sorry for themselves have perked up and are fresh again. Once more the cattle and sheep can graze the fields, finding something to eat. In our garden the lawn is beginning to look like a lawn and not a desert. The Japanese anemones and viburnums have straightened up and the roses and hydrangeas have started to flower again. What a difference the rain has made!

**Of course, rain is not always welcome.** It can come far too quickly and roads and buildings and fields become flooded and life can be endangered. It can put pay to our plans for barbecues and picnics. It can cause a lot of worry to a couple hoping for the sun to shine on their wedding. It can ruin a cricket match (a subject dear to me heart) It can remind us all too easily of human frailty. Sometime ago Diana and I were caught in a torrential tropical rainstorm. We were drenched in seconds, but worse was yet to come. When we reached the shelter of our hotel the air conditioning was going full blast and we were frozen. Yes, in that moment we felt very frail.

**Rain, relief at its coming,** thankfulness for it bringing life back to the land, fear when caught in its power, helplessness and terror in the sweep of a flood: these are all our experiences and they were the experience too of the nations, people and writers of the Bible. So many of their songs and sayings, writings and prophecies pick up on the theme of rain. In the psalms it is celebrated as God's gift. In the book of Deuteronomy, God's

teaching through his servant Moses is pictured as being like “*showers on new grass*”. Isaiah pictures God’s loving purposes for His world as the rain that brings growth and harvest, seed and bread. And as for Noah and the ark, need I say more?

**In the Church Year** we are in the season of “Creationtide”. At St Nicholas we have given thanks for our pets in our annual Pet Service and we have celebrated the goodness of the earth in our Harvest Festival. But for now, for all of us, the rain might be a good opportunity for to just stop and reflect a little. Maybe we could give thanks to God for the world and its delicate balance of climate and seasons, perhaps questioning how we can better stewards of creation.

**Maybe we could see the rain** as a picture of God’s words coming to refresh us or as God’s love and care bringing growth and fruitfulness. The rain reminds us that we are very much part of and dependent on God’s good creation. “Rain is grace; rain is the sky descending to the earth; without rain, there would be no life.” John Updike

**Rev. Tony Edmonds**

**Can you help?  
St Nicholas are seeking a PCC Secretary:**

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](mailto:barmat18@btinternet.com)



## Any Questions?



### ***'Faith and Ethics in a Secular World'***

We are pleased to welcome our speaker for this event  
**Canon Professor Vernon White**  
Visiting Professor in Theology at King's College, London.

Previously Canon Theologian at Westminster Abbey, Vernon has had a varied career in theological education, university chaplaincy, and cathedral and parish ministry, and has lectured and published extensively.

Vernon will focus on what Christian faith can offer to debates on ethical issues in today's social and cultural environment.

**Tuesday 14th October 2025**

The United Reformed Church, 112 High Street, Swanage,  
BH19 2NY

This promises to be an interesting and thought-provoking evening. Do put the date in your diaries – we look forward to seeing you there.

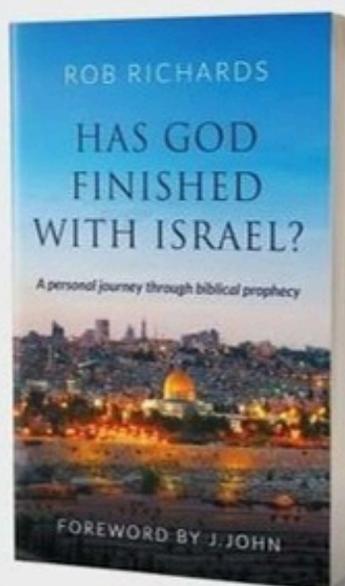
*Doors open at 6.30 pm coffee/tea presentation from 7.00 pm*

*Do come – everyone welcome!*

Further information from David Williams  
d.stephen.w1@gmail.com

# Has God Finished with Israel?

Guest speaker Rev. Rob Richards will share something of his heart and journey with the church in relation to the land and nation of Israel, following the writing of “Has God Finished with Israel?” This will be followed by open discussion and questions.



In this book Rob Richards seeks to discover some of the answers to probing questions such as:

- Are Jewish people still the 'chosen people'?
- Why are some Christians so excited about Israel?
- What does the Bible have to say about the covenants and the promised Messiah?
- What does it mean to be 'joint heirs' with Israel?
- How do events in Israel today fit in with biblical prophecy?

**7:00PM Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 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](mailto:olivebranch.iop@gmail.com)



## **Purbeck Christmas Tree Festival - Save the Date - December 11th - 13th 2025**

*Would you like to participate in this year's Purbeck Christmas Tree Festival?* It is being held at Emmanuel Baptist Church Swanage for three days from Thursday 11th December to Saturday 13th December between 10am and 6pm. On Sunday 14th there is a special remembrance service at 4pm called '*Lights of Love*'.

### **How to sponsor a tree?**

We invite you to sponsor a tree and decorate it to highlight your church group or business/charity in the local area. We source the trees locally for you to sponsor at £24 for a 4'6" or £28 for a 6' Norway Spruce. We ask you to come and set up your tree between 9am and 4pm on Wednesday 10th December when you will need to bring with you a stand to put your tree in, decorations on the theme and a sign or emblem to advertise your sponsorship. LED lights will be provided so please do not bring your own. This year's theme is Christmas Around the World. After the Festival, the tree is yours to take away either after 6pm on Saturday 13th or Monday 15th between 9am and 12noon. This is a non-profit making event, and any donations received will go to two nominated charities which this year are Julia's House and towards funding a new Air Ambulance.

**If you would like to sponsor a tree**, please request a booking form by contacting Janet at Emmanuel Baptist Church by emailing - administrator@emmanuelbc.org.uk or you can ring 01929 427706 and leave a message.

**Early booking is essential** for this popular event and the deadline for tree bookings is Monday 10th November.

**The St Aldhelm Christmas Tree Festival** will once again be held at St George's Church, Langton Matravers from 6 – 8 December, and will be supporting RNLI (Swanage) and Purbeck Youth Music. For further information please contact Sandy phone 01929 424431 staldhelmxmastreefest@gmail.com, <https://staldhelmxmastreefestival.wordpress.com>.

**In September**, the first ever container of tools to Burundi arrived safely, which will now begin to transform many lives of people in previously harsh situations. Thank you to those who have donated items in recent months, by the end of this year over 25 container loads will have left the UK and been transported to 5 African countries, each delivering machines and trade kits to equip the new trainees, therefore bringing a really empowering change to over 7,200 lives.

**TWAM has just launched its Autumn Toolkit Appeal**, specifically raising funds to provide more specialist trade kits – such as carpentry, mechanical, electrical, horticultural, plumbing, IT, construction tools and haberdashery. As Christmas approaches, why not solve the problem of ‘What can I give the person who has everything ?’ by offering them a TWAM Alternative Gift to provide a new start for someone who has nothing?

### **Ideas for alternative Christmas gifts in your family**

Have a look at the website ( [twam.uk](http://twam.uk) ) to see the brilliant ways a trade kit can help people breakout of poverty. Here are some ideas:-

**£20** can send an agricultural kit to empower a farmer and his community **£25** could send a sewing machine or electricians kit

**£35** could provide a computing kit or knitting machine kit **£45** can support a builder or carpenter by providing them with training and a toolkit

**£100** could go towards an entire garage workshop with tools

**£250** could set up a workshop for a carpentry training centre

**On the website** there are many personal testimonies of difficult lives changed by a training course, provision of equipment and guidance in setting up. God really has brought some amazing changes about, also, when giving – you yourself also feel blessed. As it says in the Bible *‘God loves a cheerful giver.’*

**There is a full list of useful tools required** on their website. None of this huge project would happen without the generosity of people donating good quality tools, working together with the huge national team of about 700 volunteers, many of whom take time to carefully refurbish items. Please do contact us if you have any items to donate or would like further information on gifts, though this can easily be done on-line. Please remember to tick gift aid if you can, to enhance the donation. That’s all for now! Happy Christmas shopping , deciding which kit is most appropriate for whom! **Richard and Judy Forgan**  
*Contact [richardf@twam.uk](mailto:richardf@twam.uk) or 07590 903922 for collection of tools*



The results of the Patient Survey carried out by the PPG on behalf of the Practice, June 2025, have now been published in the News section on the Practice's website, together with the Practice's response to the PPG's recommendations for further action - please see: <https://www.swanagemedical.org.uk/News>.

Our thanks again to the 400 people who took part in our Survey. 86% described their overall experience of the Practice as good and 89% described their experience of making their appointment as good. 77% found it easy to contact the Practice by phone, 78% found it easy to contact the Practice via the website and 79% found it easy to contact the Practice using the NHS App. The results of the Survey are set out in full in the Report, together with all the comments provided by those who took part.

Although most patients rated their experience of using the Practice positively, getting an appointment at the Practice was clearly an issue for many of those who participated in our Survey. The PPG has therefore made recommendations to address these concerns - the PPG will be supporting the Practice to take forward these recommendations, which are also set out in the Report.

**Health and Wellbeing Event at The Mowlem** on Thursday 2 October: 11:00am - 3:00pm

Don't forget to come to the free Health and Wellbeing Fair being held in The Showbar between 11:00am and 3:00pm. The PPG will be hosting a stand at this event - do drop by and say "Hello". If you would also like to watch the film about Health Services in Purbeck, the first screening of which will be taking place in the Mowlem Theatre at 12:30pm, please book your free seat to watch the film by visiting The Mowlem's website at: <https://themowlem.com/event/health-and-wellbeing-event/>. There's no need to book if you are just attending the Health and Wellbeing Fair.

### **PPG Meeting**

Our next PPG meeting will be held at the Surgery on Tuesday 11 November 2025 at 12:30pm.

[www.swanagemedical.org.uk/pages/Patient-Participation-Group](https://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 [ppgswanage@gmail.com](mailto:ppgswanage@gmail.com).

**Dr Margaret Guy Chair Swanage Medical Practice PPG**

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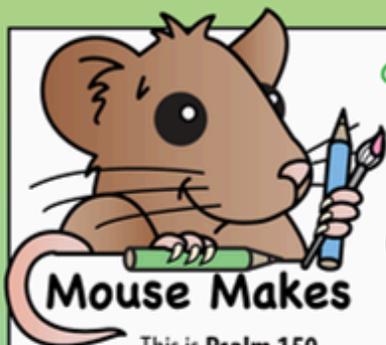
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## Mouse Makes

This is Psalm 150,  
a song of praise to God,  
it tells us why and how  
to worship God.

*How do you praise and  
worship God?*

**Praise God in His Temple,  
Praise Him in His mighty heavens.  
Praise Him for His acts of power,  
Praise Him for his surpassing greatness.**

**Praise Him**  
with the sounding trumpet,  
**Praise Him**  
with the harp and lyre,  
**Praise Him**  
with tambourine and dancing,  
**Praise Him**  
with the clash of cymbals,  
**Praise Him**  
with the resounding cymbals.  
Let everything that has breath  
**PRAISE THE LORD!**

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## Across

1 He was replaced as king of Judah by his uncle Mattaniah (2 Kings 24:17) (10)

7 'Let us fix our eyes on Jesus... who for the joy set before him – the cross' (Hebrews 12:2) (7)

8 Relieved (5)

10 Impetuous (Acts 19:36) (4)

11 Surprised and alarmed (Luke 24:37) (8)

13 'It is – for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God' (Mark 10:25) (6)

15 Directions for the conduct of a church service (6)

17 One of the acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19) (8)

18 and 20 Down 'She began to wet his – with her tears. Then she wiped them with her – ' (Luke 7:38) (4,4)

21 'We will all be changed, in a flash, in the twinkling of an – , – the last trumpet' (1 Corinthians 15:51-52) (3,2)

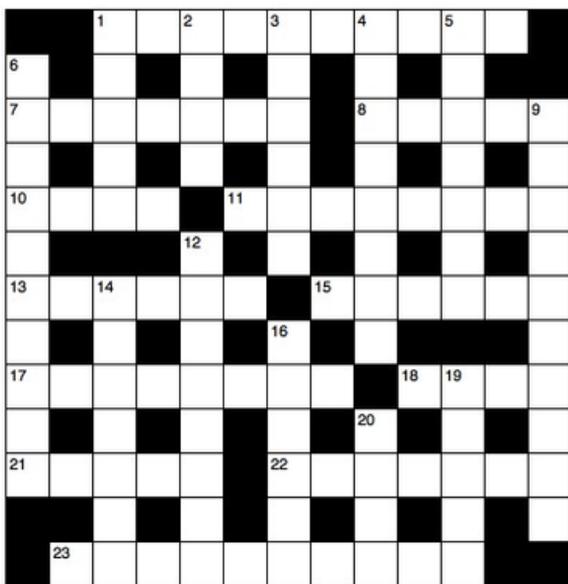
22 'But he replied, "Lord, I am – – go with you to prison and to death"' (Luke 22:33) (5,2)

23 Third person of the Trinity (2 Corinthians 13:14) (4,6)

## Down

1 He betrayed Jesus (Matthew 27:3) (5)

2 Paul's assurance to the Philippian jailer: 'Don't – yourself! We are all here!' (Acts 16:28) (4)



3 'Fear God and keep his commandments, for this – the whole – of man' (Ecclesiastes 12:13) (2,4)

4 The sort of giver God loves (2 Corinthians 9:7) (8)

5 Sun rail (anag.) (7)

6 Naboth, the ill-fated vineyard owner, was one (1 Kings 21:1) (10)

9 Paul said of young widows, 'When their sensual desires overcome their – to Christ, they want to marry' (1 Timothy 5:11) (10)

12 This was how Joseph of Arimathea practised his discipleship 'because he feared the Jews' (John 19:38) (8)

14 Mop ruse (anag.) (7)

16 Foment (Philippians 1:17) (4,2)

19 Where Joseph and Mary escaped to

20 See 18 Across

## **Family News**

### **Baptisms**

24th August at St Mark's:

Luna Blue Powell Arwen Rose Alba Powell

30th August at St Mary's: Tilly Parker

### **Wedding**

At St Nicholas Studland:

Alexander Hawkes and Susanne Blakeway

### **Funerals**

Mrs Hilda 'Barbara' James (92), 4<sup>th</sup> August

Mrs Doreen Lockwood (85), 7<sup>th</sup> August

Mr John Burke (87), 9<sup>th</sup> August

Mrs Valerie Scott (96), 3<sup>rd</sup> September

Mrs Brenda Enticknap (92), 12<sup>th</sup> September

Mrs Margaret Joan Davis (89), 22<sup>nd</sup> September

Mrs Pat Russ (82), 26<sup>th</sup> September

## **Celebrate Churches Together**

On Wednesday 8th October at 7pm at Emmanuel Baptist Church is the opportunity to come and 'Celebrate Churches Together' as we meet to worship together and to hear about the past year's events and vote in officers for the Reps Forum. Also, Rev Jo Levasier will share her role in local schools.

Everyone is warmly invited.

## **Beetle Drive**

If you passed St. Mary's church on Friday evening of the Bank Holiday weekend you would have heard the sound of joyful laughter and the occasional despondent groans, accompanied by a background of rattling dice! It was a "fun" evening attended by some 40 people, from primary school age to those of mature years for a Beetle Drive, ploughman's supper, liquid refreshments and a challenging quiz, testing our memories of the lines of hymns. We are immensely grateful to Alison and Jeremy Oakes for organising this enjoyable evening which raised £420 for the work of Christian Aid.

# Cover Page

## The Fig Tree

In the Scriptures there are 44 verses that mention the fig tree. Some believe it was the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil from which Eve picked the forbidden fruit. It certainly is rich in symbolism and Jesus referred to the fig tree several times in his public life. Even today Israel is full of these trees, and many believe their blossoming to be a Messianic sign.

### Magazine Distribution

We would like to extend the distribution of Church Alive! as much as possible. If you are able to give it to even a few others this will have a huge effect. Thank you!

### September Crossword answers

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**What's the connection between Mike Smith, a cyclist in 2025 & William Tyndale in the 1500s?**

## **SPOTLIGHT ON William Tyndale: The man who made it possible for you to read the Bible TODAY!**

2025 marks the 500th anniversary of the FIRST ever English translation of the New Testament from Greek...thanks to William Tyndale! An incredible man filled with faith & understanding, focused on getting the Word of God to all people. He's famously quoted saying to a senior clergyman that 'If God spare my life, ere many years I will cause a boy who drives a plough to know more of the scriptures than you do.'

His friends were imprisoned and burnt at the stake but he continued. He really lived out his faith and his commitment to believing the Bible was the word of God and that everyone, no matter their birth or status, needed to hear it. In the end, he lived and died for it.

Mike Smith, a cyclist and someone passionate about the Bible, decided to commemorate the anniversary this year by cycling from Hertford College Oxford to Antwerp where there's a conference to mark the 500th anniversary.

Hertford College Oxford is where you can see a stained glass window of William Tyndale. It was at the time Tyndale was studying there that he read the Greek New Testament that had been brought to England by Erasmus.

People started to see that there were major discrepancies

between the translations from Latin and Greek, and there began Tyndale's journey to producing the first English translation of the Bible. So that is where Mike too began his journey.

**Mike is a supporter of the Bible Society**, the organization that for over 200 years has worked to make the Word of God accessible to people all over the world!

Speaking of his passion for the Bible, Mike says:

The Bible is an awesome book of an awesome God. And, to quote from the New Testament book of Hebrews:

*'For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.'* Hebrews 4:12

Can you think back to a world without photocopiers, computers, digital technology & AI!!!! That's the world where Tyndale felt moved to go live in Antwerp - then the world centre of the printing press where he could produce copies of the Bible away from the watchful eye of senior clergy in England at the time.

**More about William Tyndale:**

Gloucestershire is where Tyndale was originally from. There was a lot of wool production going on there and trade with Antwerp! Wool parcels were a great means of smuggling Bibles back to England.

William Tyndale put all this work, the Pentateuch, (a 16th-century English translation of the first five books of the Old Testament), on a ship that sailed up the Rhine. The ship sank, so he lost years of work in a day! He never gave up, he just started again.

**Mike says** *"We're so privileged to have the history we have and to live our lives with these freedoms, won for us by people like Tyndale. But we take it for granted and so many of us forget the gift of being able to open a Bible and read it whenever we want."*

William Tyndale continued his translation efforts in secret, often moving to avoid capture. In 1536, he was betrayed, arrested in

Belgium, and executed for heresy. His final words were a prayer: *“Lord, open the King of England’s eyes.”*

**Within a few years**, that prayer was answered. English Bibles began to circulate more freely, and Tyndale’s work became the backbone of English Scripture for generations.

We hope you will be encouraged to spend time reading the Bible often, even daily. There are words of encouragement, guidance and godly wisdom that we all need for life. Reading the Word draws us closer to our Lord, through it we get to know Him better....and His heart is for us to know Him. It says in the Gospel of Matthew:

*“Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God’”.*

Thanks to William Tyndale and many others, we can!

**Article provided by Bible Society**

**Swanage Action Group**

**For more info about William Tyndale’s life kindly follow the link below:**

*<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/bible-articles/who-was-william-tyndale>*

### **A brief timeline of the life of William Tyndale**

#### **Year Event**

c. 1494 Born in Gloucestershire, England

1515–1521 Studied at Oxford and Cambridge; became fluent in Greek and Hebrew

1524 Left England to translate the Bible in safety

1526 Published the first English New Testament translated from Greek

1535 Arrested in Antwerp, betrayed by Henry Phillips

1536 Executed by strangling and burning at the stake

1611 King James Bible published, drawing heavily on Tyndale’s translation

## Hebrew Word of the Month

**The Hebrew word Shamar** (שָׁמַר, shah-MAHR) is a word full of tenderness. It means to keep, to guard, to watch over, to treasure. From this root also comes the word Shomer (שׁוֹמֵר), which means keeper, guardian. Together they give us a beautiful picture of God: not only is He strong enough to protect us, but He treasures us so much that He chooses to.

**Think of a parent watching over their sleeping child.** They don't sit nearby out of duty, but out of love. Their eyes are fixed on the child with affection, ready to protect, comfort, and keep them safe. That is the picture of Shamar. God doesn't guard us at a distance – He watches over us closely, with love in His heart and our names on His lips.

**This is what the priestly blessing speaks of** when it says, *“The Lord bless you and keep you” (Numbers 6:24)*. It's not only a promise of protection, but a reminder that His love surrounds us every moment. David prayed, *“Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me under the shadow of Your wings” (Psalm 17:8)*, because he knew God's keeping was like being held in the arms of a loving parent. And *Psalm 121* assures us, *“The Lord will keep you from all harm – He will watch over your life.”* His keeping is not just for today or tomorrow; it stretches into forever.

**Maybe you've had seasons where you felt vulnerable** – carrying worries about your family, your future, or simply trying to make it through the day. Shamar reminds you that you are never left alone. The Shomer Yisrael – the Keeper of Israel – never slumbers, never looks away, never forgets you. His eyes are always on you, not to judge, but to guide, to protect, and to cover you in His love.

And just as He keeps you, He invites you to keep His Word. To treasure it in your heart, to hold it close, and to let it shape your life. Shamar is not only His promise to you – it's also your response to Him, guarding what is most precious: your relationship with Him.

**In Yeshua, Jesus, this word takes on its fullest meaning.** He is the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for His sheep. He promised, *“No one will snatch them out of My hand” (John 10:28)*. That is the ultimate Shamar – His love strong enough to keep you not just for a lifetime, but for eternity.

**So let this word sink deep into your spirit today.** Wherever you go, whatever you face, you are being watched over, guarded, and treasured. *“The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.” (Psalm 121:8)*. Rest in the truth that you are being kept, always, in His loving arms.

**Prayer:**

Shomer Yisrael, my Keeper, thank You for watching over me with eyes of love. When I feel small or afraid, remind me that I am safe in Your care. Help me to treasure Your Word, to keep my heart close to You, and to rest in the promise that nothing can take me from Your hand.

**Love and blessings,  
Pastor Israel Pochtar**

## **Evangelism and Worship in Swanage**

You are welcome to join in a new monthly open air meeting in Swanage to worship and proclaim the Scriptures, meeting at the Square, Swanage, undercover at the Mowlem if raining, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 12 noon to 1 pm.

For more information contact Joy through [swanagechurchalive@gmail.com](mailto:swanagechurchalive@gmail.com)

*There is no evil to be faced that Christ does not face with us.  
There is no enemy that Christ has not already conquered.  
There is no cross to bear that Christ has not already borne for us, and does not now bear with us.*

***Pope John Paul II***

## **‘Furnace,’ sent in by Marian Booth**

May God in whose furnace faith is forged  
In whose being beauty  
breathes From whose dawning darkness flees  
Shine on you

May the Father whose love for you Beats with a rhythm time  
itself can't stop Whose presence in your exile Is the promise of  
home Whose certainties are deeper Than the cellars of your city  
Whose breath is life  
Breathe on you

May the son whose story Is a mirror of your own Who has  
journeyed into darkness To find a key to your prison Who has  
dived the deepest oceans To find pearls for your wisdom Who  
has looked into your heart And found a beauty worth the battle  
Who has written your name On a white stone carved in secret  
Hold you

May the Spirit Who has waited millennia to fill you Who shaped  
the word that moved the wind Of the morning that conceived  
you Who holds the earth on which you stand As a midwife holds  
a newborn Who fully knows you  
Wholly own you

So may God  
The faithful Father  
God the scarred Son  
God the sculpting Spirit

Journey with you

*Gerard Kelly, ‘Furnace’ in I See a New City: Poems of Place and  
Possibility (Chamine Press, 2020) pp. 50-51.*

## Surprised by Jesus

**The ministry of Jesus** was full of surprises. Jesus is constantly calling you to go deeper in your life with him. He wants to surprise you in new ways.

**Some might be surprised** that not only were Jesus and his disciples invited to parties (like the wedding at Cana of Galilee, *John 2.1-25*) they actually accepted and went along. At that time, wedding feasts lasted about a week. They were times of great revelry and rejoicing – where people put on their best clothes, rejoiced, sang, danced, joked, laughed and had fun. Perhaps what is even more surprising is that rather than condemning those drinking wine, Jesus transformed over 120 gallons of bath water into the very best wine. Jesus does things abundantly. He wants to give you more and more life and joy.

**Simply letting Jesus know what the problem was** (*‘They have no more wine’, v.3*) and then following his instructions (*‘do whatever he tells you’, v.5*) led to this surprising miracle. Jesus not only answered the need, but he answered it beyond anything they could have expected or even imagined. The master of the banquet was surprised when he *‘tasted the water that had been turned into wine’ (v.9)*.

**This is also true in our own lives;** Jesus turns the water of life without him into the wine of life with him. I thought that following Jesus would mean a life that was ‘watered down’. In fact, it is the very opposite. Jesus constantly surprises us by how he enriches our lives. In particular, we see how he enriches weddings and, indeed, marriages. He can turn the water of an ordinary marriage into the wine of an enriched one.

**Jesus transforms drudgery and dreariness into fullness of joy.** Through this miracle Jesus *‘revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him’ (v.11)*. For many this must have been a very surprising revelation.

**From “The Bible with Nicky and Pippa Gumbel”**



## Letter from the Bishop

### Mind the gap

During the wistful first week of September, just before our youngest departed for university, we took a week's holiday in North Cornwall, to revisit a seaside haunt much enjoyed in their childhood. The high-baked summer heat finally giving way to that more familiar British blend of showery spells and sunny intervals, we eschewed the beaches in favour of the ruined splendour of Tintagel Castle, situated on an almost-island along the headland from our cottage.

Since 2019, the legendary birthplace of King Arthur has been connected to the coast by an elegant suspension bridge, the crossing of which offers giddily magnificent views. Perhaps helpfully, pedestrians can't see the rocks beneath them but for a 40mm gap, halfway across. The bridge is constructed in two sections, each drilled into its own side of the yawning chasm. The inch or two between them is, I learned, both structural and symbolic - representing the space between past and present, myth and reality. A lovely touch, I thought.

As we cross the threshold into autumn, with its liturgical mood of gratitude and remembrance, let us rejoice that God bridges the ages in Jesus Christ: connecting us not only to the past events of our salvation but also the future hope of his heavenly kingdom. Whatever changes lie before us, he remains the way, the truth and the life.

**Bishop Andrew**

## Letter from the Editor

If you were asked to write down one verse in the Bible to describe what it really means to be a Christian, I wonder which one it would be? I would love to have your response, [swanagechurchalive@gmail.com](mailto:swanagechurchalive@gmail.com). There are probably many but one that I like is *1 John 3.23*:

*“And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.”*

This verse describes both salvation through Jesus Christ, *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved,” Acts 16.31* and the foundation of Christian living that Jesus gave to His disciples: *“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”*

Jesus is uncompromising, *“you **must** love one another.”* This is not an option for those who believe in Him and follow Him. It is especially important when we have areas of disagreement such as over Israel, Gaza and the Middle East conflict. Some believe that Israel is starving the population of Gaza and committing genocide. Others say, with just as much conviction, that this is not true, and the news is based on the lies perpetrated by Hamas, which is demonstrably an evil organisation.

There are so many areas that we agree on as Christians, and as members of the churches in Swanage, and we rightly focus on these, and this magazine aims to share these activities with as many as we can. However, we cannot avoid such an important subject as the relationship of the Church with Israel, which is why I thanked Avril for raising the subject last month. It was not my intention to “chide” Avril, thank you for your kind words. I did not mean to suppress discussion, in love, on the subject. It is however not possible to address it fully in Church Alive!, which is why I welcome the opportunity that the Olive Branch provides, to go aside and spend time together going into this and other subjects in more depth. On page 17 you will find details of an address by Rev Rob Richards, a respected Anglican, on this vital topic. I highly recommend that meeting.

God is faithful to His word  
Even when there seems no way  
Though time may pass  
His memory will not fade  
His promises will never fail

Faithful He has been, faithful He will be  
Time and time again His Word returns complete  
To His truth I cling when the night is deep  
Faithful He has been, faithful He will be

God is gracious when I doubt  
He draws near though I retreat  
Though I may wander  
through the wilderness  
He goes with me and gives me peace

Beautiful song "He will be" by  
Australian worship band, City Alive  
Listen on YouTube

Gracious He has been, gracious He will be  
What I don't deserve the Father gives to me  
Where He leads my feet I shall not want or need  
Gracious He has been, gracious He will be

God is worthy of my song  
Countless are His awesome deeds  
His mighty hand has parted raging seas  
For those He loves, He has redeemed

Worthy He has been, Worthy He will be  
Crowned in endless praise all earth and heaven sing  
Holy is the Lord who reigns in majesty  
Worthy He has been, worthy He will be

He is my provider, covenant protector  
All my hope is in the Lord my God  
He is my sustainer, merciful redeemer  
All my hope is in the Lord my God