

# SWANAGE & STUDLAND TEAM MINISTRY

## St. Mary's Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025 Advent 3



A very warm welcome to St. Mary's

**8.00am HOLY COMMUNION (said)**

*Revd Ian Bird*

**10.30am CHORAL EUCHARIST**

*Revd Ian Bird*

(followed by Sunday School for children in St Mary's Rooms)

**6.30pm CHORAL EVENSONG**

*Revd Natalie Davies*

### **10.30am – Choral Eucharist**

Processional: 484  
Gradual: 440  
Offertory: 457  
Communion: 270  
Post Communion: 142 (omit\*)  
Psalm: 146  
  
Setting: *Darke* in F / *Aston*  
  
Motet: How Beautiful Upon the  
Mountains *Stainer*

### **6.30pm Choral Evensong**

Jesus Christ, The Apple Tree  
*Poston*  
  
Responses: *Ebdon*  
Psalm: 12  
Office Hymn: 24  
Canticles: Collegium Regale  
*Howells*  
  
Anthem: A Maiden Most Gentle  
*Carter*  
  
Hymns: 244, 27

### **Readings for 8am & 10.30am**

Isaiah 35:1-10  
James 5:7-10  
Matthew 11:2-11

### **Readings for 6.30pm**

Isaiah 5:8-end  
Acts 13:13-41

### **Churchwarden**

Avril Harris  
Ray Davis

### **Director of Music**

Simon Lole

*(please contact via the Parish Office)*

*Visit our Team website [www.swanageteam.com](http://www.swanageteam.com)*

## Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
who at your first coming sent your  
messenger to prepare your way before  
you: grant that the ministers and stewards  
of your mysteries may likewise so prepare  
and make ready your way by turning the  
hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of  
the just, that at your second coming to  
judge the world we may be found an  
acceptable people in your sight;  
for you are alive and reign with the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God now and for ever.

## Post Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these  
heavenly gifts;  
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit  
that when your Christ comes again  
we may shine as lights before his face;  
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

## Coming to the 10.30am Sunday service at St Mary's ....

If you come with children, we have activity packs for them if required - please talk to a Welcomer. Also please don't hesitate to make use of our children's area.

If you find the chancel steps difficult, please ask a Welcomer to arrange communion at your seat. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please let a Welcomer know. Everyone is welcome for refreshments after the service.

**Donations** – All donations by whatever payment method are gratefully received. We have a contactless 'donation station' near the West (main) Door with the facility for Gift Aid or you can use the QR Code.



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## ST MARY'S DIARY FOR THE WEEK

Daily (Mon– Sat)	8.00am	Morning Prayer – All Welcome
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Swanage Primary School rehearsal
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Swanage Primary School Christmas Concert
	2.30pm	All Things Bright & Beautiful service
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	T-Pot in the Rectory Classroom
	11.00am	Holy Communion in the chapel
	1.45pm	Swanage Primary School Christingle
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>	5.45/6.30pm	Choir practice
	6.30pm	Friday Fun Club in the Rectory Classroom

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## SERVICES FOR NEXT SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> December – Advent 4

8.00am	<b>HOLY COMMUNION (said)</b>	<i>Revd Dave Richards</i>
10.30am	<b>CHORAL EUCHARIST</b>	<i>Canon Jeremy Oakes</i>
6.30pm	<b>SWANAGE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION</b>	<i>Revds Ian Bird &amp; Jo Levasier</i>

# WELCOME TO ST MARK'S CHURCH

Bell Street, Swanage, BH19 2SA



## THIS SUNDAY: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025 – Advent 3

**10am Holy Communion** Rev John Cooper & Rev Dave Richards

*Bible Theme: Isaiah 35:1-10 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11*

***Followed by Coffee & Cake in the Church Room***

*Gluten/wheat-free:* Please talk to the Welcomer if you'd like a gluten-free Communion Wafer. We also have gluten/wheat-free refreshments

**4pm Lights of Love Remembrance Service** at Emmanuel Baptist Church following the Christmas Tree Festival

**Church Alive!** Please see the back page for details of all the Swanage & Studland Team Christmas Events & Services, and see p29 for information about the lunch for people on their own on Christmas Day.

## DIARY FOR THIS WEEK:

- **St. Mark's Church & Garden Open** 10am - 4pm, Mon – Sat
- Mon 15<sup>th</sup>: **Community Café** 10am - 12noon at Herston Village Hall
- Mon 15<sup>th</sup>: **St Mark's Christmas Meal** 6:30pm for 7pm at The Village Inn, Ulwell, Swanage BH19 3DG. (*Booking has closed for this event*)
- Tue 16<sup>th</sup>: **Fortnightly Bible Study & Christmas "Social"** 7pm - 8:30pm in the Church Room
- Tue 16<sup>th</sup>: **Celebrate Christmas with the Salamanda Swing Band:** The Studio, Mowlem Theatre, at 7:30pm. Tickets £10 in advance from Sue's Cards or online (see poster) or £12 on the door.
- Wed 17<sup>th</sup>: **Prayer & Share:** 10am - 10:45am Church Room
- Fri 19<sup>th</sup>: **Funeral of Mary Tyrer:** 2pm at St Mark's Church
- Sat 20<sup>th</sup>: **Carols by the Beach:** 11am - 12noon. This is a new venture for the Swanage Churches. Everyone is welcome as we sing Carols by the Beach Huts on Shore Road.

**St Mark's Church, Herston, is part of the Swanage & Studland  
Team of Churches [www.swanageteam.com](http://www.swanageteam.com)**

Associate Priest – Rev Dave Richards Tel: 07779 079844

## **NEXT SUNDAY: 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025 – Advent 4**

**10am Holy Communion** *Rev Dr Ian Bird & Rev Dave Richards*  
*Bible Theme: Isaiah 7:10-16 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25*

***Followed by ST. MARK'S CHRISTMAS PARTY Church Room***  
***Christmas Jumpers welcome (or maybe just a Christmas scarf or tie?) It will be wonderful if a few people are able to bring along some party food and drink.***

**6:30pm Town Carol Service at St Mary's Church**

**One Christmas Card to Friends at Church:** People are welcome to give one Christmas Card to all Church members and pin it on the board in the side chapel, and give a donation to Routes to Roots.

**Delivering Christmas Cards to Herston Residents:** Thank you to all the people who've taken a pack of cards to deliver to Herston residents. There are just a few packs left on the table in the Church Room. The deadline is 22<sup>nd</sup> December. If you can help, please take a pack.

### **FUTURE DIARY DATES at ST. MARK'S:**

- ▶ **Christmas Eve** – Carols by Candlelight 4:30pm
- ▶ **Christmas Day** – Christmas Family Communion at 10am, followed by celebratory refreshments!
- ▶ **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Celebration Service with St Mark's Band at 10am, followed by seasonal refreshments
- ▶ **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026** – Swanage & Studland Team Epiphany Carol Service at 6:30pm, followed by mulled wine and mince pies

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**COLLECT (Special Prayer) for Advent 3:** O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER:** We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.



For the latest St Mark's News check out our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/StMarksHerston](https://www.facebook.com/StMarksHerston)



**Sunday 14 December 2025**  
**Holy Communion 10.00am**  
**Rev'd Tony Edmonds**

**A very warm welcome to our  
service this morning in  
St Nicholas Church, Studland**

... and a special welcome if you are a visitor to our Church! This is a Holy Communion service, and you are most welcome to take Communion with us. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please ask. Or if you would prefer to have a blessing, just bring this Notice Sheet with you to the communion rail, to give an indication to the priest. And, if you would prefer to receive communion in your seat, just mention this to the sidesperson (the person who welcomed you when you came into church).

Children are most welcome in our church. Do not worry if they are noisy or make a break for freedom: we are just delighted to have the children in Church with us. There are toys in the two green boxes at the back of the Church - and everyone is welcome to use them.

We do not pass around a collection plate at St Nicholas' Church, but we are most appreciative of donations to help maintain both the Church and its ministry. We have a traditional plate for cash donations with Gift Aid envelopes available as well as a contactless card payments station at the exit to the Church. If you would like to make regular donations, please consider setting up a Standing Order with your bank: if this is of interest, please contact the Treasurer, Eric Stobart at [eric@thestobarts.co.uk](mailto:eric@thestobarts.co.uk).

After the service, we serve coffee, tea and other refreshments in the Church Hall. Please do join us - and get to know us all a little better.

For regular updates on Church activities throughout the week, please find us on [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com) You can also follow us on Facebook. (St Nicholas Church Studland) – do give us a like or two!

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For additional information about St Nicholas Church and its services, please contact:  
Associate Minister: Rev'd Dr Tony Edmonds 01929 450097 [revtonyedmonds@outlook.com](mailto:revtonyedmonds@outlook.com)

Church Wardens: Barbara Matthews 01929 450218  
Eric Stobart 01929 450222

[barmat18@btinternet.com](mailto:barmat18@btinternet.com)  
[eric@thestobarts.co.uk](mailto:eric@thestobarts.co.uk)

**SWANAGE & STUDLAND TEAM MINISTRY**  
**St. Mary's – St. Mark's – All Saints' – St. Nicholas**  
**14 December 2025 – 3rd Sunday of Advent**

**Reading for this Sunday is:** James 5: 7 - 10

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 11 2 - 11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

**Collect:**

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the  
ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way  
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming  
to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;  
for you are alive and reign with the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God now and for ever.

**Post Communion:**

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;  
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit  
that when your Christ comes again  
we may shine as lights before his face;  
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

# TEAM NOTICES

**Swanage Community Christmas Celebration** is to be held at St Mary's on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 6.30pm. Come and share the joy at our candlelit community celebration, with mulled wine and mince pies after!

**Our Special Christmas Services & events cards** are at the back of each church listing all events and services in our 4 churches over the Christmas period. Please take one plus some for friends and neighbours. You are most welcome to join us at any event or service.

**Cleaning at St Mary's** - the existing volunteers are taking on more of the cleaning of the church buildings. If you can help, occasionally or regularly, join us at church on Saturday mornings at 9.30.

**Welcomers for St Mary's Christmas services**- please sign up at the back of church if you can be a Welcomer for our Christmas services.

**Sunday School** (every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays in the month). All children in school years 4-9 are welcome to join us for our Sunday School following the service this morning in St Mary's Rooms, finishing at 12.30pm. Come for snacks and fun activities!



**All Things Bright and Beautiful** takes place in St Mary's Church each Tuesday from 2.30pm – 3.30pm. A short service, which includes well known hymns, is followed by tea and cake. All Things Bright and Beautiful is particularly suitable for carers and those for whom they care and is dementia friendly. Is there someone who you could bring along or encourage to come? All are welcome.

**Advance Notice** – there will NO All Things Bright & Beautiful service on December 23<sup>rd</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup>.

**T-Pot Christmas Special.** T-pot will be meeting on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December for a Christmas themed morning. There will be festive treats and carol singing led by members of the St. Mary's Choir. All are welcome to join us from 10am - 12noon in the Rectory Classroom. This will be the last T-pot of 2025, we will open again on the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

**Friday Fun Club** – meets on Friday evenings 6.30-8pm in the Rectory Classroom, during term time, for years 4-9 to enjoy food, games and chat. All are welcome.

**Community Coffee** Studland's Community Coffee Morning has moved back to the Church Hall for the winter season. Please join us on Thursday mornings from 10am to 11am – for coffee, cake and conversation. We'd love to see you there.

**Monthly Parish Magazines** – you can access both the Church Alive! magazine and Studland Parish News on our new website [swanageteam.com/team-magazine](http://swanageteam.com/team-magazine).

## Team Contact details

**Team Rector**

Revd Dr Ian Bird Tel: 01929 422916 (normal day off Friday)

**Team Vicar**

Revd Jo Levasier Tel 01929 208217 (normal day off Monday)

**Parish Administrator**

Karon Quirey [swanage.team@btconnect.com](mailto:swanage.team@btconnect.com)

# REFLECTION

## Isaiah 35: 1-10; James 5: 7-10 and Matthew 11: 2-11

Advent seems to be hurtling along and Christmas is now less than two weeks away. Today, the third Sunday of Advent, is sometimes called *Gaudete* Sunday. Named from the Latin for "Rejoice!" this Sunday marks a shift in the Advent season from penitential introspection to looking towards the imminent celebration of Christmas. The anticipation is building as we draw closer to celebrating Jesus' birth and the hope and joy that this brings. To mark this Sunday, we light the distinctive rose candle on our Advent wreath.

In last week's Gospel reading, John the Baptist and his ministry was introduced: 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me' (Matthew 3: 11). John the Baptist's proclamation is clear, bold and filled with hope. Today's Gospel builds on last week's reading. Jesus publicly affirms John's ministry as 'a prophet... yet more than a prophet' (Matthew 11: 9). He praises John as the forerunner, who heralds the Messiah's coming and John's unique role in God's salvation plan. Jesus' words must have been a great source of comfort, even joy, for John, languishing in Herod's prison, knowing that he had fulfilled his mission.

Our reading from the prophet Isaiah presents a beautiful picture of the final kingdom in which God will establish his justice and destroy all evil. Life will be peaceful and all will be well. God will bring great joy, healing and salvation. In his epistle, James urges his readers, and us, to have patience, to be ready for the day when the Lord will come. We can rejoice look forward with hope and joy to that time when darkness will pass away and God's kingdom and his reign will be fully established!

Every blessing  
Ian  
Rector