

# SWANAGE & STUDLAND TEAM MINISTRY

St. Mary's

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Conversion of Paul - Epiphany 3



A very warm welcome to St. Mary's

8.00am	HOLY COMMUNION (said)	Revd Ian Bird
10.30am	CHORAL EUCHARIST (followed by Sunday School for children in St Mary's Rooms)	Canon Jeremy Oakes
6.30pm	CHORAL EVENSONG	Revd Dave Richards

## 10.30am – Choral Eucharist

Processional:	313
Gradual:	220
Offertory:	199
Communion:	246(i)
Post Communion:	133
Psalm:	67

Setting: *Darke/Archer*

Motet: *Rejoice and be Merry*  
*Traditional*

Voluntary: *Prelude in G* *J S Bach*

## 6.30pm Choral Evensong

Quem Pastores	Rutter
Responses:	<i>Reading</i>
Psalm:	119:41-48
Office Hymn:	118
Canticles:	<i>Fawcett</i> in G
Anthem:	<i>A Song of the Light</i> <i>Lole</i>

Hymns: 95, 247

## Readings for 8am & 10.30am

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Acts 9:1-22

Matthew 19:27-end

## Readings for 6.30pm

Isaiah 56:1-8

Colossians 1:24-2:7

## Churchwardens

Avril Harris

Ray Davis

(please contact via the Parish Office)

## Director of Music

Simon Lole

## Collect

Almighty God,  
who caused the light of the gospel  
to shine throughout the world  
through preaching of your servant St Paul:  
grant that we who celebrate his wonderful  
conversion  
may follow him in bearing witness to your  
truth;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## Post Communion Prayer

Almighty Father  
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the  
light of the world:  
may your people, illuminated by your word  
and sacraments,  
shine with the radiance of his glory,  
that he may be known, worshipped, and  
obeyed to the ends of the earth;  
for he is alive and reigns,  
now and for ever.

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

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.

**St Mary's Pastoral Team** We have a small team of pastoral visitors at St Mary's. If you or someone you know would like a visit, please contact Rector Ian on 01929 422916.

**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.



## ST MARY'S DIARY FOR THE WEEK

Daily (Mon– Sat)	8.00am	Morning Prayer – All Welcome
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm	All Things Bright & Beautiful service
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	T-Pot in the Rectory Classroom
	11.00am	Holy Communion with Healing in the chapel
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup>	5.30/6.30pm	Children/Adults Choir practice
	6.30pm	Friday Fun Club in the Rectory Classroom

## SERVICES FOR NEXT SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup> February - Candlemas

8.00am	HOLY COMMUNION (said)	Revd John Cooper
10.30am	FAMILY EUCHARIST	Revd Ian Bird
6.30pm	CHORAL EVENSONG	Revd Ian Bird

# WELCOME TO ST MARK'S CHURCH

Bell Street, Swanage, BH19 2SA



**THIS SUNDAY: 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany**

**10am Celebration Service with St Mark's Band,  
with a shortened Communion Service afterwards as there  
was no Communion on 18<sup>th</sup> Jan Rev Dave Richards  
Bible Theme: God's Call – St Paul (Acts 9:1-19)**

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

## DIARY FOR THIS WEEK:

- **THE CHURCH IS OPEN** from 10am - 4pm Monday - Saturday
- **Mon 26<sup>th</sup>: Community Café** 10am - 12noon at Herston Village Hall with Citizens' Advice, Digital Dorset and the Community Pantry
- **Mon 26<sup>th</sup>: St Mark's Choir Rehearsal** 6:15pm - 7pm
- **Tue 27<sup>th</sup>: St Mark's Junior Singing Club** 3:30pm - 4:20pm
- **Wed 28<sup>th</sup>: Prayer & Share** 10am - 10:45am Church Room
- **Sat 31<sup>st</sup>: Invitation to EBC Men's Breakfast**: 8:30am at Isle of Purbeck Golf Club. Please let Clive know if you'd like to go on 07540187089. Full/Mini/Vegetarian/Baps all on menu.

**NEXT SUNDAY: 1<sup>st</sup> February – Presentation of Christ**

**10am Holy Communion** Rev Dave Richards  
Bible Theme: *Malachi 3.1-5 Hebrews 2.14-18 Luke 2.22-40*

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

**Invitation to “Worship @ 6” at Emmanuel Baptist Church**

**The Big Quiz Night:** Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February, 7pm for 7:30pm start, at All Saints Church, raising money for Tearfund. Maximum of 8 people per team. £5 per person. See poster for further details.

**Team Teddy Planning Meeting:** Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February 11:15am

**Lent Course at St Mark's:** The weekly sessions start on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm in the Church Room

**“Many Hands at St Mark’s”:** Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 10am – 1pm.

Spring Cleaning in the Church and lots of work in the Church Garden. Everyone welcome.

**Team Teddy Easter Event:** Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 3:30pm at St Mark's, for children aged 3 – 8. Craft activities, stories, songs and a picnic.

**St Mark's Afternoon Concert:** Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 3:30pm

**Pimm's & Hymns:** Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July at 3:30pm

**ALTAR FLOWERS IN CHURCH:** If you are able to arrange the main display of flowers at the front of Church one Sunday, perhaps for a special date, please sign the list in the porch (this is different from the separate lists for displays on windowsills for festivals).

---

### **COLLECT (SPECIAL PRAYER) FOR 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY**

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER:** Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

---

**PLEASE let Dave (07779079844) know of anyone who is unwell, in hospital or housebound who would like a visit.**

*This week, Dave will take Holy Communion to people on his list*



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

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

St Mark's Website: [www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Mark-Herston](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Mark-Herston)



**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
Holy Communion 10.00am  
Revd John Cooper**

**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 sides person (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!

---

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

Church Wardens: Barbara Matthews 01929 450218 [barmat18@btinternet.com](mailto:barmat18@btinternet.com)  
Eric Stobart 01929 450222 [eric@thestobarts.co.uk](mailto:eric@thestobarts.co.uk)

**SWANAGE & STUDLAND TEAM MINISTRY  
St. Mary's – St. Mark's – All Saints' – St. Nicholas  
25 January 2026 – The Conversion of Paul**

**Reading for this Sunday is:** Acts 9, 1-22

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 19, 27 – the end

<sup>27</sup> Then Peter said in reply, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?' <sup>28</sup> Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>29</sup> And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold,<sup>[d]</sup> and will inherit eternal life. <sup>30</sup> But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.'

**Collect:**

Almighty God,  
who caused the light of the gospel  
to shine throughout the world  
through preaching of your servant Saint Paul:  
grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion  
may follow him in bearing witness to your truth;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Post Communion:**

Almighty Father  
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world:  
may your people,  
illuminated by your word and sacraments,  
shine with the radiance of his glory,  
that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth;  
for he is alive and reigns,  
now and for ever.

# TEAM NOTICES

## World Leprosy Day

**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!

**321** – a 4 week course to discover life according to Jesus. Starts Tues 27<sup>th</sup> Jan, 6.30pm in All Saints Hall, 26 Ulwell Rd, Swanage. Each week starts with an informal supper, followed by input from films, thought-provoking questions and discussion. All Welcome. For more info contact Revd Jo Levasier at [jo@swanageteam.com](mailto:jo@swanageteam.com) or on 07725 343768.

**Lent Groups:** In conjunction with other churches in Swanage we will be running a Lent Course, entitled '*The Prayer Course*'. Based on the Lord's Prayer, this excellent 6 week course will enable us to grow and deepen our prayer lives. Courses will be run in churches across Swanage and Studland. The ones being run in the Team are:

St Mary's (St Mary's Rooms)	Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	2.00pm
St Mark's Meeting Room	Tues 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	7.00pm
St Nicholas Church Hall	Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	11.30am
All Saints	Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	4.00pm

We will let people know what groups are being run in other Swanage churches soon. We hope you can join us!

**Big Quiz Night** - Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2026, 7pm for 7.30pm start at All Saints Church. Max 8 people per team – make your own team or we will introduce you to others on the night. £5.00 per person to include nibbles. Soft drinks will be available – donation bar of wine / lager or bring your own wine/ beer /lager. All funds raised will go to help the work of Tearfund. Please contact Gill Kaiser ([Gill.kaiser@aol.com](mailto:Gill.kaiser@aol.com)) or Roger Arnett ([poshandrog@btinternet.com](mailto:poshandrog@btinternet.com))

To all who made donations last Sunday at the United Service, **The Bible Society Swanage Action group says a huge "Thank you"!** Everyone who donated cakes and/or cash donations for raising funds for Bibles played a vital part in raising over £600 at the fundraiser which is even more than last year! This money will go towards providing Bibles, The Word of God, to many through the Bible Society UK! A sincere "thank you" to you all!!!

**T-Pot** is held every Wednesday from 10am to 12.30pm in the Rectory Classroom. Come along for a cuppa and a chat. Everyone welcome!



**All Things Bright and Beautiful** takes place in St Mary's Church each Tuesday from 2.30pm – 3.30pm. The service is particularly suitable for carers and those for whom they care and is dementia friendly.

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

# REFLECTION

## **Jeremiah 1: 4-10; Acts 9: 1-22; Matthew 19: 27-30**

As we continue our journey through the season of Epiphany, we remember today the conversion of Paul, the apostle to the gentiles. He was arguably the most influential figure in our faith after Jesus. Through his ministry and travels the Good News of Jesus Christ spread beyond Judea and Samaria and deep into the Roman Empire. As a key missionary he established churches across the Roman Empire. His theologically profound letters shaped Christian doctrine. The Bible doesn't record St Paul's death, but tradition holds he was beheaded in Rome as a martyr under Emperor Nero, likely around 67 AD.

Paul's conversion from zealous persecutor of Christians, (then known as followers of the Way), to a disciple of Jesus Christ is very dramatic, as recorded in today's reading from the Book of Acts. God took all his very being – his desire to serve God and all his knowledge and training as a Pharisee - and redirected them to serve his purposes in spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. He became fuelled by God's spirit and agenda, rather than his own. After his conversion Paul's priorities aligned with God's priorities.

Paul's life was not easy or straightforward or comfortable or without pain. Like the prophet Jeremiah, his ministry was hard but, in common with Jeremiah, he was able to continue without wavering because he had experienced God's call. In today's Gospel Jesus bluntly explains the cost of discipleship and the rewards too. Paul fully experienced both. His ministry gave him great heartache, but also a great deal of blessing. The churches he founded and the loving deep relationships he had with people were blessings to him.

As we reflect upon St Paul's conversion and his subsequent ministry, let's thank God for his calling to us to follow him. Success as Christians is faithfulness to our calling. We are unlikely to live a life like St Paul, but to that's not the point. God has a unique calling for each of us and living that out is success indeed.

Revd Ian Bird

---

### **Team Contact details**

<b>Team Rector</b>	Revd Dr Ian Bird Tel: 01929 422916 (normal day off Friday)
<b>Team Vicar</b>	Revd Jo Levasier Tel 01929 208217 (normal day off Friday)
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Karon Quirey <a href="mailto:swanage.team@btconnect.com">swanage.team@btconnect.com</a>
<b>Parish Office</b>	Tues & Weds 9am-5pm / Friday 9am – 4pm Tel: 01929 421117

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