

SWANAGE & STUDLAND TEAM MINISTRY

St. Mary's Sunday 26th April 2026 Easter 4



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 Dave Richards*

10.30am – Choral Eucharist

Processional: 148 (omit*)
Psalm: 23
Gradual: 176
Offertory: 81 (omit*)
Communion: 134
Post Communion: 111

Setting: *Rawsthorne/Sumsion*

Motet: We Meet You, O Christ
Lole

Eucharistic Prayer: B pg

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Now the Green Blade Riseth
arr. Lindley

Responses: *Radcliffe*

Psalm: 29 v.1-10

Office Hymn: 122

Canticles: *Murrill in E*

Anthem: My Soul, There is a
Country *Parry*

Hymns: 162, 247

Readings for 8am & 10.30am

Acts 2:42-end
1 Peter 2:19-end
John 10:1-10

Churchwardens

Avril Harris
Ray Davis

Readings for 6.30pm

Ezra 3:1-13
Ephesians 2:11-end

Director of Music

Simon Lole

(please contact via the Parish Office)

Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection
and the life:
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of
righteousness,
that we may seek those things which are
above,
where he reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the
good shepherd,
and in his love for us to lay down his life and
rise again:
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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
Tues 28 th	2.30pm	All Things Bright & Beautiful service
Weds 29 th	10.00am 11.00am	T-Pot in the Rectory Classroom Holy Communion in the chapel
Fri 1 st May	5.30/6.30pm	Children/Adults Choir practice

SERVICES FOR NEXT SUNDAY 3rd May – ~Easter 5

8.00am	HOLY COMMUNION (said)
10.30am	FAMILY EUCHARIST
6.30pm	CHORAL EVENSONG

WELCOME TO ST MARK'S CHURCH

Bell Street, Swanage, BH19 2SA



THIS SUNDAY: 26th April 2026 – St. Mark's Day

10am Celebration Service with St Mark's Band

Bible Theme: St Mark's Message (Mark 1:14-20)

Followed by Drinks & Cake in the Church Room

(Gluten-free refreshments available)

This is a special celebration for both St Mark's Church and St Mark's School. Everyone is welcome (especially past and present pupils of St Mark's School)

DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

- **CHURCH AND GARDEN OPEN** 10am - 4pm, Monday - Saturday
- Mon 27th: **Community Café** 10am - 12noon at Herston Village Hall with Citizens' Advice, Digital Dorset and the Community Pantry
- Mon 27th: **St Mark's Choir Rehearsal** 6:15pm - 7pm Church Room
- Mon 27th: **Church Committee Meeting** 7:30pm Church Room.
- Tue 28th: **Junior Singing Club** 3:30pm - 4:20pm in the Church, for children in School Years 3 and over
- Tue 28th: **Fortnightly Bible Study** 7pm Church Room (refreshments from 6:45pm)
- Wed 29th: **Prayer & Share** 10am - 10:45am in the Church Room
- Sat 2nd May: **Action Morning in St Mark's Church & Garden:** 10am - 1pm. Feel free to bring your own gloves. Cleaning items and gardening tools supplied, as well as coffee & cake mid-morning.

NEXT SUNDAY: 3rd May 2026 – 5th Sunday of Easter

10am Holy Communion *Rev Dave Richards*

Bible Theme: Genesis 8:1-19 Acts 7:55-60 John 14:1-14

Followed by Drinks & Cake in the Church Room

Please take a copy of the May “Church Alive!” Magazine – St Mark’s dates for May are included in the St Mark’s article.

Herston Prayer Cycle (2nd Edition): Please take a copy and pray for our local community each day of the month.

The 2026 Herston Community Picnic is on Bank Holiday Monday 4th May, from 11am - 3pm at the Herston Community Field and Village Hall. This free, family-friendly event, brings the community together for activities including a nature trail, face painting, and arts and crafts. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own picnic.

The next Celebration Service with St Mark’s Band is on Sunday 24th May at 10am. Everyone is welcome. This is the 4th Sunday rather than the 5th – a change from the original schedule.

COLLECT (Special Prayer) for St Mark’s Day: Almighty God, who enlightened your holy Church through the inspired witness of your evangelist Saint Mark: grant that we, being firmly grounded in the truth of the gospel, may be faithful to its teaching both in word and deed; 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.

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

St Mark’s Church, Herston, is part of the Swanage & Studland Team
www.swanageteam.com

St Mark’s Website: www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Mark-Herston



For the latest St Mark’s News check out our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/StMarksHerston

Donations for the work of St Mark’s Church are always welcome: There is a plate for cash donations on top of the font, and a QR code on a poster on the wall near the door if you prefer to give online. Thank you to everyone for your donations, however they are given.

Disciples of Christ, sharing the compassionate and caring love of God with the School and Community of which we are a part.



Sunday 26 April 2026
Holy Communion 10.00am
Revd Tony Higgins

**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.

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: for further further information, contact the Treasurer, Eric Stobart at 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 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
Church Wardens: Keith Tillyard 07720 734055 ktillyard@btinternet.com
Eric Stobart 01929 450222 eric@thestobarts.co.uk

SWANAGE & STUDLAND TEAM MINISTRY
St. Mary's – St. Mark's – All Saints' – St. Nicholas'
26 April 2026 Easter 4

Reading for this Sunday is: Acts 2 v42 to end

Gospel Reading: John 10, 1 – 10

¹⁰ 'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,
that we may seek those things which are above,
where he reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion:

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,
and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

TEAM NOTICES

Message from Rev Dr Ian Bird: Our Curate, Natalie, will be leaving Swanage in August to be licensed as Succentor at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, and Chaplain at St George's School there. She will also be completing her curacy at St George's. The Succentor is a priest who leads and sings worship, supports liturgical planning and administration, and contributes to the pastoral and teaching life of St George's. Natalie is extremely sad to leave Swanage and Studland and the Diocese of Salisbury. She has met and worked with some wonderful people who have become dear friends. She is grateful to be here for one more Summer, and excited to see what God has in store for this next chapter of her ministry. Please do hold Natalie and Joseph in your prayers, along with the people of Swanage, Studland, Windsor and the College of St George.

We are creating a fresh section in **St Mary's Library** dedicated to our children and young adults. Some new books have arrived, many thanks to a generous sponsor. If you would like to contribute towards other books in this section, please either contact me directly or the Parish Office (and remember that, by using the envelopes, you can Gift Aid your donation making it worth 25% more without additional cost to you)
Paul Baird (Paulbaird@aol.com)

Studland's Community Coffee Morning - Down on the Farm. Thursdays at 10am, the Manor Farm Tea Rooms. The Community Coffee group has moved to Manor Farm for the summer season. Same fun. Same great conversation. Lovely coffee and excellent scones! See you there!

Date for your diary 17th May at 6.30pm, St Nicholas Church, Studland. A special service From Soil to Sky, a Celtic Service of Worship. Everyone is welcome!



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 are welcome..

T-Pot is held every Wednesday from 10.00am to 12.30pm in the Rectory Classroom. Come along for a cuppa and a chat.



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. If you would like to join or need more information please contact Trish Clark at jandtclark@hotmail.com or Tel: 01929 425427.

Sunday School (every 2nd and 4th 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!

REFLECTION

John 10; 1-10, The Parable of the Shepherd

I speak as a town boy, I grew up in a city and have no knowledge of livestock, save our cat Herbie and his predecessors. So anything I know about sheep would be from the wonderful TV programme 'One man and his dog' of yesteryear. Nevertheless it made such an impression on me. First the relationship between shepherd and dog, both as friend and partner. Then the sensitivity of the dog, its intelligence and obedience on the one hand, and its authority on the other.

In the middle east of Jesus' time this relationship was essential for existence. The shepherd lay at the entrance to the pen, both protecting and defending his sheep. He names them all and they recognise him. When he leads them to new pasture he walks ahead and they follow, a subtle difference from our own culture.

In writing this parable what does John mean? We need to move back a chapter to help us. The question that dominated was "is Jesus from God or not? Is he a prophet or not? Is he the messiah or not? At this time the image of the shepherd and his sheep was frequently used to refer to a King and his people.

Today we often see leadership in a different way. Someone isolated from the people, a corporate figure, sometimes a frightening figure, someone that we may never see face to face. Then think of the shepherd boy David who became the King after God's own heart. This is the kind of leader Jesus seeks to be.

Jesus is posing the question "how will you tell God's appointed king when he comes"? Well we know that many did set themselves up with false promises, it is only when the followers hear the voice, and feel a response from their heart, that they recognise the real King and feel called to put their love and trust in him and follow him.

When we consider our world and its leaders, our business entrepreneurs, and indeed our religious leaders, can we apply the same criteria, do they know us by name, do we trust them to lead us to the kind of world God offers?

With every blessing
Revd John Cooper

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

Parish Office

Tues & Weds 9am-5pm / Friday 9am – 4pm Tel: 01929 421117

Visit our Team website swanageteam.com