

SWANAGE & STUDLAND TEAM MINISTRY

St. Mary's

Sunday 28th December 2025

Christmas 1



A very warm welcome to St. Mary's

8.00am	HOLY COMMUNION (said)	Revd Dave Richards
10.30am	CHORAL EUCHARIST	Canon Jeremy Oakes
6.30pm	NO EVENING SERVICE	

10.30am – Choral Eucharist

Processional: 43
Gradual: 38
Offertory: 42
Communion: 274
Post Communion: 35

Psalm: 124

Setting: *Rawsthorne*

Motet: Carols

6.30pm No Evening Service

Readings for 8am & 10.30am

Jeremiah 31:15-17
1 Corinthians 1:26-29
Matthew 2:13-18

Churchwarden

Avril Harris

Director of Music

Simon Lole

(please contact via the Parish Office)

Collect

Heavenly Father,
whose children suffered at the hands of Herod
though they had done no wrong;
by the suffering of your Son
and by the innocence of our lives
frustrate all evil designs
and establish your reign of justice and peace;
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

Lord Jesus Christ,
in your humility you have stooped to share
our human life with the most defenceless
of your children: may we who have received
these gifts of your passion rejoice in
celebrating the witness of the Holy
Innocents to the purity of your sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross;
for you are alive and reign,
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.



ST MARY'S DIARY FOR THE WEEK

There will be no Morning Prayer at St Mary's this week.
Morning Prayer will resume on Monday 5th January 2026

SERVICES FOR NEXT SUNDAY 4th January 2026 - Epiphany

8.00am	HOLY COMMUNION (said)	Revd Ian Bird
10.30am	FAMILY EUCHARIST	Revd Natalie Davies
6.30pm	TEAM EPIPHANY SERVICE AT ST MARK'S	

WELCOME TO ST MARK'S CHURCH

Bell Street, Swanage, BH19 2SA



THIS SUNDAY: 28th December – 1st Sunday of Christmas

10am Christmas Celebration with St Mark's Band

The Word and the World (John 1:1-14) Rev Dave Richards

Followed by Coffee and Cake in the Church Room

NEXT SUNDAY: 4th January 2026 – Epiphany

10am Holy Communion

Rev Dave Richards

Bible Theme: *Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12*

Followed by Coffee and Cake in the Church Room

6:30pm Team Epiphany Service at St Mark's

Followed by light refreshments served in Church

**Thanks to everyone who has worked so hard to make our
Christmas Services, events and activities go so well**

SOME ADVANCE DATES IN JANUARY 2026

Monday 5th Jan – St Mark's Choir Practice restarts 6:15pm - 7pm
Tuesday 6th Jan – Fortnightly Bible Study 7pm (refreshments 6:45pm)
Wednesday 7th Jan – Prayer & Share restarts at 10am - 10:45am
Thursday 8th Jan – St Mark's Church Committee Meeting 7:30pm
Tuesday 13th Jan – Junior Singing Club restarts 3:30pm - 4:25pm
Sunday 18th Jan – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Joint Service at Emmanuel Baptist Church at 10:30am.
No Service at St Mark's Church on this Sunday
Tuesday 20th Jan – Fortnightly Bible Study 7pm
Thursday 22nd Jan – PCC Meeting 7pm at All Saints' Hall
Sunday 25th Jan – Celebration Service with St Mark's Band 10am

COLLECT (SPECIAL PRAYER) FOR 1st SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Donations for the work of St Mark's are always welcome:

There's a plate for cash donations on top of the font and a QR code on a poster on the wall near the font. If you've got the QR App on your mobile phone, you can click on the code and it goes straight to the donations page. Thank you to everyone for your donations, however they're given.

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



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

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

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



**Sunday 28th December 2025
Holy Communion 10.00am
Revd 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.

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: Barbara Matthews 01929 450218
Eric Stobart 01929 450222

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eric@thestobarts.co.uk

**SWANAGE & STUDLAND TEAM MINISTRY
St. Mary's – St. Mark's – All Saints' – St. Nicholas
28 December 2025 – Holy Innocents**

Reading for this Sunday is: Corinthians 1, 26 - 29

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2, 13 -18

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

Collect:

Heavenly Father,
whose children suffered at the hands of Herod
though they had done no wrong;
by the suffering of your Son
and by the innocence of our lives
frustrate all evil designs
and establish your reign of justice and peace;
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:

Lord Jesus Christ,
in your humility you have stooped to share our human life with the most defenceless
of your children: may we who have received these gifts of your passion rejoice in celebrating
the witness of the Holy Innocents to the purity of your sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross;
for you are alive and reign,
now and for ever.

TEAM NOTICES



Epiphany Team Service – Readings & Carols for Epiphany –Sunday (4th January), 6.30pm at St Mark's Church, Herston. Please do try and come if you can. The Team church choirs join together, readings and carols are heard as we smell the sweet scent of the incense that the wise men brought. There will be refreshments after the service.

T-Pot is held every Wednesday from 10.00am to 12.30pm in the Rectory Classroom. So if you are on your own on a Wednesday or new to the area and would like to meet others, come along for a cuppa and a chat.



Friday Fun Club – meets on Friday evenings 6.30-8pm in the Rectory Classroom for 10-13 yr olds to enjoy food, games and chat. We are taking a break over Christmas but will restart on Friday 9th January. All are 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 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, we return on Tuesday 6th January.

Candle Wax for Ukraine - Ukraine still needs our support. Candle wax is being collected from local churches and communities to create cooking candles ("trench candles") and candles for villages without electricity. Please donate candle ends, candle wax, and unwanted candles in the box in St Mary's Church porch, from where it will be taken to a Ukraine support group.

*The Parish office
re-opens on
Tues 6th Jan 2025*



REFLECTION

Jeremiah 31:15-17 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 Matthew 2:13-18

The Sunday after Christmas is often rather an anti-climax; the splendour of the Carol Services and Christmas Day are over, and it's not quite Epiphany. This year we are brought down to earth abruptly as we remember the Slaughter of the Innocents.

King Herod was worried when the Wise Men came asking about the King of the Jews. He was the King of the Jews! He had no worries about killing all the local male children under 2 years old, who were possible contenders for this title; he had already murdered 3 of his own sons to ensure that there were no rivals!

Horrible though it is, we need to remember the Holy Innocents. They are a powerful reminder that some things never change. Dictators everywhere have no scruples about killing any number of people to keep themselves in power; human beings are expendable if they get in the way, and all over the world mothers are weeping for their children.

Happily, there is hope. Jeremiah, not the most cheerful of characters, sees that there is hope for the future. Jesus, the Prince of Peace, the one who will judge with Righteousness (Isaiah 9 and 11), the author of the new Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31) embodies that hope. From birth, to death, to resurrection, Jesus shows us a different form of Kingship. In him we see humility, justice, righteousness and a desire for the salvation of others. This is a stark contrast to the brutal self-interest of Herod, and the dictators of today.

As we look forward to a New Year, let us pray for the mothers who weep today, and pledge ourselves to let the Holy Spirit lead us to work for justice, righteousness and truth, in the way of Jesus.

Rev. David Richards

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 Friday)

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