

- - TEAM NOTES - -

Provision of Services during the current national lockdown, is as follows:

A simple Sunday service continues to be prepared for the team website every week, for those unable to get to Church physically, including hymns and a short homily www.swanageteam.com. This service, being one to be read at home, is also being posted out to those who would like to receive it in printed form. We are trying to post it to people on a Wednesday, with the hope that it will arrive in homes by the Friday. Please let Karon know if you would like to be sent a copy: ring 421117 and leave a message if there is no answer.

On Line Services are as follows:

All Saints' 10.30am Sunday service is recorded for broadcast each week. Simply go the All Saints website at www.allsaints-swanage.org and follow the links, at 10.30am any Sunday, and at any time after.

St Mark's provides a YouTube service, available at 10.00 a.m. each Sunday and available thereafter via the team website. Go to the home page, scroll down to St Mark's and click on it. You will find the link to the service on that page.

St Nicholas' Studland holds a service which any individual can join via Zoom at 10.00am and at 6.30pm every week. To join the zoom services please email Tony to request the link for each Sunday: revtonyhiggins@btinternet.com.

We hope that this range of options for worship each Sunday provides something for everyone.

Lent Lunch Alternatives - The Lent lunches have been a popular way for our churches to raise funds for Christian Aid. As this will not be possible this year, one of the alternatives is to have a quiz which will be available online or as a paper copy from Ash Wednesday, 17th February. If you would like a paper copy delivered to your home, please email (joannabaird52@gmail.com) or telephone (01929 3942 or 07710 714294) giving your name and the address to which the quiz is to be delivered. It should be completed by 20th March 2021. Answers will be published in the April magazine. A suggested donation of £2 to Christian Aid will be much appreciated. For more information about another alternative to Lent lunches see the March magazine!

Swanage Churches Lent Course 2021 - Caring for Creation. This course will run twice a week for five weeks. Session 1 can be joined via Zoom on Tuesday 23 February at 11am or Wednesday 24 February at 7pm. Nick Viney and James Mercer will be the course leaders. The Zoom links can be found on the Benefice of St Aldhelm website homepage: <https://purbeckhillsbenefice.wordpress.com> and the Swanage Churches Together website: <https://www.swanagechurches.org>. The course booklet, which is highly recommended, can be ordered or downloaded from: <https://www.yorkcourses.co.uk>.

Do let Nick (nickviney@hotmail.com) or James (jamesjmercer@mac.com) know if you are intending to join us - or just check in unannounced, you'll be most welcome!

SWANAGE & STUDLAND TEAM MINISTRY

**St. Mary's – St. Mark's – All Saints' – St. Nicholas'
21st February 2021 –First Sunday of Lent**

Mark 1: 9-15

The temptations of Christ in the wilderness are not often thought about except at this time of the year and particularly on this Sunday. At first sight that may not seem to be especially surprising when we have the season of Lent based upon the 40 days and nights that our Lord spent in the desert. This is the designated time to think about this part of Jesus' life.

The temptations appear to be vital to Jesus finding his direction. This is a very positive approach to temptation and one that surely we can learn from. Though we are taught to pray "lead us not into temptation", and as we remember that our Lord did not go to the place of his temptation through his own initiative, but was led there, we can see that the overcoming of temptation is a matter which strengthens resolve and helps to find the way forward.

Our Lord used the words of Scripture to combat the temptations that assailed him and he spoke to the devil with authority. But how does this basis of the Church's season of Lent affect our keeping of this penitential season? Firstly, there is an acknowledgement that temptation is real, and whilst we pray that we may be kept from temptation we know that some testing is inevitable and that it is part of the process of spiritual maturing. Secondly, we note that temptation attacks us at our weak point: We will not be tempted to turn stones into bread, but we may be tempted to jealousy when someone else appears to be able to succeed, where we do not. Thirdly, we note that Jesus used the Scriptures in his defeat of temptation, he did not place himself above them.

Lent, remains the season for personal and corporate penitence; a penitence that sees the inevitability of testing, the reality of our weakness and the strength that comes from defeating temptation through the Word of God, written in the Scriptures and personified in the person of Jesus Christ our Lord. May Lent be for you a time of sober reflection, spiritual awareness and growth through prayer towards a more mature and deeper faith in he whose time in the desert gave these forty days their structure and whose death and resurrection mark its end, Jesus Christ our Lord.

John Mann

Do access the Swanage and Studland Team website regularly:
www.swanageteam.com