

- - TEAM NOTES - -

Living in Love & Faith courses begin this week:

The St Mark's group is to meet in the Church on Monday evenings at 7.00 p.m. on 17th, 24th, 31st January and 7th February (with the potential for a 5th evening on 21st February).

The All Saints' group is to meet in the Church on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm on 19th, 26th January and 2nd and 9th February (with the potential for a 5th evening on 23rd February).

“Come and Sing” Choral Evensong - Sunday 16th January 2022.

The first opportunity in 2022 to ‘come and sing’ with St Mary’s choir is with guest conductor Piers Maxim. A boy chorister in the choir of St. Paul’s Cathedral, London, an organist since his teens, Piers was Organ Scholar at his school, Christ’s Hospital (1981-1987). He continued to play during his time at Wells Cathedral and as a Choral Scholar at Clare College, Cambridge. Piers was appointed Director of Music of the Elgar Chorale in January 2015. The works to be part of choral evensong include those by William Smith, Herbert Brewer, Grayson Ives and Piers Maxim himself. The “Come and Sing” event is open to all singers. **Arrival at St Mary’s is for a 4.00 p.m. rehearsal start.** A cup of tea is provided between the rehearsal and the service which begins at 6.30 p.m. All Welcome. Music is provided. Just come and sing!

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity runs from 18th to 25th January each year, and Swanage Churches Together hold a united service normally during these days. Unfortunately the service that was to be held in the URC at 10.30am on Sunday 23rd January has had to be cancelled. There is however to be a day of prayer on **Saturday 22nd January at the United Reformed Church** led by Katrina and Jonathan Greetham of the Swanage Salvation Army. Two sessions: 10.30 am to 12.00 noon (arrival from 10.00 a.m.) and 1.30 to 3.30 pm. Lunch is provided between the sessions. To book email Lex at prayer@swanage-urc.co.uk or text your name to 07990015489.

On Line Services:

All Saints’ 10.30am Sunday service is live-streamed. Simply go the All Saints website at www.allsaints-swanage.org and follow the links.

St Nicholas’ Studland has a Zoom service at 6.30pm on the first and third Sunday of every month. To join this service email Tony:

Funerals in our churches:

Lewis Hedley	Fri 21st Jan	1.00pm	St Mary’s
Janet West	Mon 24 th Jan	11.30am	St Mark’s

SWANAGE & STUDLAND TEAM MINISTRY

St. Mary’s – St. Mark’s – All Saints’ – St. Nicholas’
16th January 2022 – Epiphany 2

Isaiah 62: 1-5; 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11; John 2: 1-11

The readings that we have before us today take us on little channels of thought that broaden out, wider and wider, to consider the working of God with us, and the outcome of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Isaiah is never going to let us rest on our laurels; he inspires us to run and let the wind blow through us exhilaratingly, energisingly, as God performs great things in our lives and the lives of those around us. So when he speaks reassurance to the people of another land, but God’s chosen ones, two and a half millennia ago, the words reach to our hearts too, of things that are good and beautiful; right and true.

1 Corinthians chapter 12 speaks of the varieties of gifts that God bestows, but underlining is the constant of one Spirit, and the harmony that is the Godhead. There is a unity of love in the God that we serve and Christ Jesus that we follow, and these verses from this letter of Paul open out more and more to show us the generosity of God, and the wonder of his saving purpose for humanity. Let us not forget that the final words of this twelfth chapter are, “and I will show you a still more excellent way”, which lead us into the familiar and oft-read discourse on love which is chapter thirteen. It is heard at many weddings.

John 2: 1-11 carries us to Cana for that very occasion, and the marriage feast at which Jesus performed his first miracle: turning water into wine. In John’s Gospel we know that the author is writing what he does to indicate how it shows forth a sign of what Christ being with us means. So we may read of the questioning and instruction that comes with this story, and consider the relationship between Jesus and his mother and why he did what he did, but then let these things trickle down to the bedrock which is: Christ’s very presence transforms our lives; bringing joy, making a difference; releasing us to a new freedom. This is generosity; grace - a space for us to grow in faith and love.

John Mann

Do access the Swanage and Studland Team website regularly:

www.swanageteam.com