

- - TEAM NOTES - -

'Come & Sing' Choral Evensong at St Mary's – this evening, Sunday 20th November, with Simon Lole. *Come and Sing* event is open to all singers. Arrival at St Mary's is for a 4.00pm rehearsal start. Cups of tea are provided between the rehearsal end and the service start at 6.30pm. All Welcome. Music provided. Just come and sing!

Any Questions?: Do come and hear Professor Ian Kimber OBE. *'Ending animal experimentation - a realistic goal?'* Tuesday 22nd November at Swanage United Reformed Church, 112 High Street. Doors open at 6.30pm (coffee/tea) presentation from 7pm

Concert at St Mary's performed by Purbeck Arts Choir – Saturday 26th November, 6.30pm. 'A Sure Refuge'. Celebrating the 150th anniversary of Ralph Vaughan Williams and a new Cantata by David Fawcett.

Nearly- New Books for Advent Reading - Thank you John. Grateful thanks to John Staples for gifts of more than one hundred nearly-new books for St Mary's Church Lending Library earlier this year. You will need to stop for a few minutes to browse. The Library is just behind the 'Donation Station'. Do borrow a book for Advent and Christmas Reading. Make a note of it in the loose-leaf Log Book and return it whenever you choose. As a result of these additions some of the New Testament commentaries especially those by Tom Wright and William Barclay, have been moved to the shelves to the left of the West(Main) Door.

Christmas cards will be on sale at St Mary's after the 10.30am and 6.30pm Sunday services for the next few weeks, £2 for a pack of five. Profits will be donated to Swanage Parish funds.

Swanage Parish Gift Day - 27th November 2022. On Advent Sunday we will be holding a Gift Day. A letter from Ian the Rector has been prepared for all who are on our Electoral Roll. The letters will be left at the back of your church for collection on Sunday. Please contact Ian or John Way, our Treasurer, if you have any questions.

Churches Together Carols at the Christmas Market - Saturday 3rd December, 3.00-3.30pm.

Give As You Live is an online shopping channel which is highly recommended and is already bringing money into church funds. Paul has written a short article in the December magazine and is happy for you to contact him for more details (Pauldbaird@aol.com). He can also supply a code which will automatically generate a £5 donation once you register, whether you go on to shop regularly through the channel or not. This doesn't cost you anything, you shop online is your normal way, and it is safe.

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

SWANAGE & STUDLAND TEAM MINISTRY

**St. Mary's – St. Mark's – All Saints' – St. Nicholas'
20th November 2022 –Christ the King**

Christ the King (Revised Common Lectionary) or Stir-up Sunday (BCP)

Puddings or politics? Pope Pius XI, in 1925, in response to a tide of post-war secularism and Communism, decided to create a new feast, defiantly called "Christ the King". It became the climax of the Catholic liturgical year and was adopted by other Churches sharing the Revised Common Lectionary.

'Kingship' is a contentious concept because it's political: it's about power. Jesus himself would surely have repudiated Pius XI's triumphalism. Jesus refused to oppose the 'kingdoms of the world' by their own methods, or escape their powers, even when tempted by the devil or Herod or the physical realities of scourging and crucifixion. Yet in the Gospels, explicitly and in coded references, Jesus was understood precisely to be the promised 'son of David' and the fulfilment of ancient prophecies that an anointed one — $\eta\psi\chi\alpha$ or $\mu\epsilon\sigma\sigma\iota\alpha\varsigma$, the $\chi\rho\iota\sigma\tau\acute{o}\varsigma$ or *christos* in Greek — "born of David's line", would be sent to save his people, above all from the bad kings whose disastrous collusion with other nations' ways resulted in national destruction. In that sense, Jesus certainly claimed kingship, and those who acclaimed him as king, whether prophetically or ironically, were spot on.

Those who use the BCP for Morning Prayer will recite Luke's *Benedictus* daily, traditionally in Lent and Advent — the very political response of Zachariah to the births of John the Baptist and Jesus: "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, for he hath visited and redeemed his people, and raised up a mighty salvation for us, in the house of his servant David. . . to give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death." Paul, writing to Colossian disciples, uses the metaphor of a "kingdom" of light opposing "realms of darkness". Moments before Jesus's death, Luke gives us an exchange between three crucified men, one of whom is spread-eagled, naked, beneath a scrawled notice: "King of the Jews". One man berates this so-called king for not intervening to save them, and dies in bitter anger. Another acknowledges Jesus's kingship and hears the words, "Today you will be with me in paradise."

At the darkest point of the year, the gospels invite us as disciples of Jesus - light, love, life and wisdom - to claim the same absurdly defenceless, joyful, unconquerable power over evil, hatred, darkness and death.

Revd Terence Handley MacMath