

TEAM NOTICES

The **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** for our three churches in Swanage Parish is tomorrow, Monday, 22nd April at 7.30pm at All Saints'. Refreshments available from 7pm. Please do attend if you can!

'**Come & Sing**' **Choral Evensong** today, Sunday, 21st April at 6.30pm in St Mary's Church. Our guest this month is Claudia Grinnell, Winchester Cathedral. *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!

All Things Bright and Beautiful – a short service which takes place in St Mary's Church each Tuesday from 2.30pm – 3.30pm. It 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.

T-Pot is held every Wednesday from 10am to 12.30pm in the Rectory Classroom. Come along for a cuppa and a chat. Everyone welcome!



Parking at St Mary's - Please take care not to drive on, or across, the central lawn area. The ground is soft and the turf gets churned up by cars, which can also damage the Purbeck stone edging. Parking is extremely limited in the churchyard so please park elsewhere if you are able.

Studland Community Coffee Morning - Thursday 25th April from 10am to 11.30am - The next Community Coffee Morning will take place in St Nicholas Church Hall, Studland on 25th April starting at 10am. This is the last session in the Church Hall – from 2nd May, the Coffee Morning goes on its summer holidays to the Manor Farm tea rooms. Do join us: you'll have a very warm welcome.

The Mayday Singers concert, 'Springtime Folk', is going to take place on Sunday 28th April in St George's Church, Langton Matravers. Come and enjoy an hour of music, starting at 3.30pm, followed by tea and cake. Tickets £8 on the door and there will be a retiring collection for PURBECK BESOM. We look forward to welcoming you!

A session of the Swanage non-denominational Christian discussion group, "**Any Questions**", will be held on **Tuesday, 30th April at 7pm in the Methodist Church**. The speaker is the Revd Canon Richard Bartlett, Vicar of West Purbeck, previously a missionary in Brazil with USPG. His topic is "Christian mission in 21st century Britain: has it had its day?" Refreshments from 6.30pm, presentation 7pm, followed by Q & A. All welcome!

Funerals in our churches this week:

Patricia (Pat) Pearce	Weds 24 th April	1.00pm	St Nicholas, Studland
Michael Walker	Weds 1 st May	3.00pm	Poole Crematorium

REFLECTION

“NO QUESTIONS ASKED...?”

On this *Good Shepherd Sunday*, it would be all too easy for us to leave church...hoodwinked. The Gospel for this 4th Sunday of Easter uses the parable told by Jesus of the shepherd who cares beyond obvious reason for the flock in his charge. Using that image, Jesus even speaks of his own willingness to lay down his life...*'for the sheep'*. It is a picture of benign all-embracing care for creatures who seem to bear little responsibility but to take it all for granted. It is *comforting*...and it is *cosy*. It is just far too...*cosy*!

I must confess that I have often been complicit in encouraging this somewhat simplistic impression in sermons on this liturgical day. Too often I have used one of my (now adult!) children's woolly lambs in the pulpit...supposedly as a visual aid to push the message of such blinkered assurance being available to us all as Christians...*no questions asked*. '*Lamby*' (as my visual aid was imaginatively called) was precious to one of my children in particular...and it helped her to sleep at night.

In my bath on a Sunday morning (an image I wouldn't encourage you to dwell upon) I often listen to *Sunday Worship* on Radio 4. Being our nation's public service broadcaster, the BBC tries to be 'all things to all men' by varying the styles of worship it broadcasts each week at 8.00 am. Two Sundays ago, it was different...in a *different* way.

It was marking the 30th anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide, and the worship that day was in the context of stories that came from that appalling time in their country's history. In many instances, it was also an account of what some Christians did to other Christians. It did not help me sleep that night; but it did remind me of the great responsibility that accompanies us when we make the Easter proclamation in good faith:

**Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

'*Rwanda Stories*' can still be heard on BBC Sounds:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001y21p>

Canon Jeremy Oakes

Team Contact details

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Parish Office

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Visit our Team website swanageteam.com