

- - TEAM NOTES - -

Passion Sunday TODAY (18th March)

Service replacing Choral Evensong in St Mary's - 6.30 p.m. As Lent moves on into Passiontide so the day is marked by a deepening sense of the proximity of Holy Week and the Cross. The evening service in St Mary's brings readings, prayers, hymns and other choral music to observe this transition and encourage us to prepare to ponder deeply once again on the sacrifice of Christ for the sins of the world.



Lent Lunches - Please support our church Lent Lunches and raise vital money for our global neighbours:

23rd March – St Nicholas Church Hall, Studland (donations to Christian Aid)

Confirmation 2018 - Bishop Karen is to hold a confirmation service on the morning of 8th July in St Mary's for the Purbeck area. This is an opportunity not to be missed, and we already have some people starting to prepare for this important event in their lives. Classes have just started and this week will be held on Wednesday 14th March from 7.00 p.m. to 8.15 p.m. in *The Rectory Classroom*. Please do just come along, if you would like to, or have a word first with John Staples or myself - or, indeed, any of the team clergy. *John Mann*

“All things Bright and Beautiful” - a proposed new service with accompanying activities and fellowship to be held every week, probably in St Mary's, for people living with dementia; their families and carers. Initial meeting to discuss this is to be held in St Mary's Church on Thursday 22nd March at 2.00 p.m. Please contact Bridget Coffin or the Team Rector for more details.

Palm Sunday 25th March:

The dramatic reading of the Passion Gospel is read in its entirety from one of the accounts each year at the 10.30 a.m. service in St Mary's and 10.00 a.m. in St Mark's. It takes quite a number of people to manage this. Volunteers please!!

When Faith Gets Shaken - on Sunday 25 March at 6.00pm there is a special presentation of the 'When Faith Gets Shaken' Tour at All Saints. A couple of years ago Patrick Regan and his family were hit by a perfect storm of catastrophes which shook his faith to the core.. On 25 March Patrick, Jess and musician Andy Flannagan will be presenting the 'When Faith Gets Shaken' tour at All Saints. It starts at 6.00pm and includes a glass of wine and nibbles. There is no charge though there will be an offering to cover expenses. Do come along and invite your friends. There are flyers at the back of church. And if you'd like to see a short video about the event just go to [youtube/-I5-74FqxEU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5-74FqxEU).

Aldhelm Course - Any questions? Want to go deeper? Would you like to explore your Christian faith? Then take a look at the flier for the Aldhelm course. This local course runs for 20 weeks over three terms and gives a great opportunity for really digging deeper and travelling further in your Christian faith. If no flier is available drop an email to Revd Tony Edmonds on t.e.edmonds@btconnect.com or give him a ring on 01929 450097.

SWANAGE & STUDLAND

TEAM MINISTRY

St. Mary's – St. Mark's – All Saints' – St. Nicholas'
18th March 2018 ~ Lent 5 ~ Passiontide

John 12: 20-33

Today's Gospel reading is full of energy, full of teaching, full of interest; in fact, *packed full* of challenge for the Christian who has, like most of us, had a fairly pedestrian Lent up to this point. Nothing wrong with that we may think. However, forty days of listening and reading and testing suddenly encounters John 12: 20-33! Launching these verses is a strange little meeting-and-greeting of a number of Greeks who approach Philip, and then he, who wasn't sure what to do with strangers - but wanted to do something - decided, together with Andrew, that they should go to Jesus.

Our Lord's response to Andrew, Philip and the Greeks who were desiring to see him, was to indicate that *the moment has come*. This is a vital moment. We have heard before the words of Jesus, "My hour has not yet come". He spoke in this way (earlier in St John's Gospel) to his mother at the marriage feast at Cana. But now it has. One feels the onset of Passiontide, as Jesus, apparently turning in on himself, articulates the question: "And what shall I say? 'Father save me from this hour?'"

Jesus answers his own question within himself, but others hear the answer from the Father himself; a voice given for their benefit, not his own. The account hurries on to the climax of our Lord's prediction of what must happen to him, as "Son of Man", "Christ" and "The Light" are all used to deepen the theological significance of what is to come. From their Lord and Master, who has walked and talked with them, the disciples are meeting anew someone who has been anointed to serve the Father in a way that brings glory and light. But, the darkness is approaching; the Cross is near. All will not be lost; keep firm in the light until the end, so, "While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light."

Today we move in the Christian calendar from the desert to the way of the Cross. We are still in Lent, but have reached the point of Passion Sunday. From today until Good Friday the way deepens and darkens, and we in heart and mind enter the way, holding the light of Christ whilst contemplating his suffering for the sin of the world.

John Mann