

- - TEAM NOTES - -

Any Questions? - Faith and Politics - Should they mix?

A discussion is to be led by the Revd Prebendary Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Chaplain to the House of Commons on Tuesday 29th May at 7.30 p.m. at Swanage Methodist Church (Refreshments from 7.00 p.m.)

“**All things Bright and Beautiful**” continues each Tuesday at 2.30pm, a new service in St Mary’s with accompanying activities and fellowship suitable for people living with dementia, memory loss or other special needs, their families and carers.

Confirmation 2018 - Bishop Karen is to hold a confirmation service on the morning of 8th July in St Mary’s for the Purbeck area. Classes are underway now and this week will be held on Wednesday 30th May from 7.00pm to 8.15pm in *The Rectory*.

Date for your Diary – This year’s **Swanage Parish Fete** is on Saturday, 21st July from 12 noon until 4pm in St Mary’s Church and grounds.

The Oberammergau Passion Play 17th – 24th June 2020. It seems a long way off, but if you are interested in seeing the Oberammergau Passion Play in 2020, then you will need to think about it fairly soon. I do hope to take a party from Swanage, but will need to see if it is going to be viable within the next couple of months. I have 25 tickets reserved and a number of people have expressed interest. Please do say to me if you are thinking of coming. There are brochures in all 4 churches with plenty of information in them. *John Mann*

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. Term 2 starts on 5th June.

Parish Giving Scheme - another chance to have an introduction by the Team Rector to this valuable new scheme - and a time of questions as well! When and Where? :- St Mary’s Church at coffee time after the 10.30am service on Sunday 3rd June.

SWANAGE & STUDLAND TEAM MINISTRY

**St. Mary’s – St. Mark’s – All Saints’ – St. Nicholas’
27th May 2018 ~ Trinity Sunday**

Isaiah 6: 1-8; John 3: 1-17

There is mystery in the readings today; an other-worldliness that is hard to pin down; a sense that we cannot determine what we are before God, we are responding to a call and movement of the Spirit, and listening to what Christ is saying to us. How this ties in with the Church’s understanding of the nature of God as Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is something for us to ponder on this Trinity Sunday.

God, dwelling in unapproachable glory; transcendent and almighty is a thought that we express in our hymns and worship today, and see revealed in the prophecy of Isaiah, from which we read a familiar lesson this morning, but at the same time there is an intimacy expressed in Jesus’ encounter with Nicodemus that is just as revealing; combining, as it does, mystery and the clarity of sight that allowed our Lord to remove the scales from the eyes of this devout Pharisee and searcher after God.

In the First Letter of Peter the entering into the kingdom of heaven is described as “being born again to a living hope” (1 Peter 1:3). That indicates to me just how positive and affirming is the thread that draws us in to the life and shared love within the persons of the Trinity that we respond to today. The Spirit is moving through us and around us, whilst the Father may be thought of in light so bright that we cannot behold him, and the Son is leading us and guiding us through the power of the Spirit, but with the intimacy of a brother and friend.

This is an entering in and offering of ourselves day; a day for awe and wonder; a day to be lost in the ocean of God’s love; a day to know that - no matter what - we are held where mercy and forgiveness and healing are found. *There* we can release our failings and inadequacies, and know that we can still stand and say, “Here am I, send me.”

John Mann