

# TEAM NOTICES

**Ash Wednesday.** There will be an evening service to mark The Beginning of Lent at St Mary's on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm, and also an afternoon service at 2.30pm at St Nicholas Church, Studland followed by afternoon tea with donations for Christian Aid.

**Lent Course 2024** - This year across the Team we will be running the Difference Course, exploring what it means to follow Jesus Christ in a complex and divided world. This 5 session course will help equip us to cross divides, navigate disagreement and pursue a just and flourishing world. For those wanting to join a group for the course please sign up as soon as possible on the sign-up sheet at the back of St Mary's.

**Christian Aid Lent Lunches 2024.** The first two Lent Lunches will be held at All Saints on **Thursday** 22nd February from 12:30 and at St. Mark's on **Friday** 1st. March from 12:30 following the World Day of Prayer.

**'Come & Sing' Choral Evensong** , next Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> February at 6.30pm in St Mary's Church. Our guest this month is Paul Leddington-Wright, Organist Emeritus, Coventry Cathedral and BBC Songs of Praise Conductor.. *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** takes place in St Mary's Church each Tuesday from 2.30pm – 3.30pm. 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!



**Studland Community Coffee Morning** - Do join us for the Studland Community Coffee Morning, which takes place every Thursday morning from 10am to 11.30 am in St Nicholas Church Hall. Good coffee, biscuits and cake are on offer, together with time and space to chat with old friends – and to make new ones. Everyone is welcome – we can't wait to see you!

**Parking at St Mary's** is very limited in the winter months when the area under the trees is not useable. In order to maximise the parking space on the tarmac, drivers are requested to "park up" and not leave unnecessarily wide spaces between cars. When driving from the churchyard, please don't drive over the central lawn to avoid damage to the lawn and its Purbeck stone edging.

**Christ's Seven Words from the Cross:** John Mann's new book is now available to purchase from Swanage Bookshop (*more stock arriving soon, call them for availability on 424088*), Amazon and Messenger Publications. More info coming in 'Church Alive!' and our website [swanageteam.com/news](http://swanageteam.com/news).

# REFLECTION

**Today's readings: 2Kings 2: 1-12; 2Corinthians 4: 3-6; Mark 9: 2-9**

In our Old Testament reading Elisha faithfully journeys with his master Elijah during his last day on earth. He is rewarded by witnessing an awesome vision. The chariots and horsemen of Israel come to meet Elijah as he vanishes into heaven. The sight of this vision simply overwhelms Elisha. It appears that this vision was a personal gift to him, and it could be argued a confirmation of his calling. He had previously asked for a double portion of his master's spirit and this was granted as he was with Elijah at the end. Elisha went on to be a great prophet.

Is something similar happening in the transfiguration? Mark tells us that only three of Jesus' disciples, Peter, James and John, witnessed the extraordinary sight of the transfigured Jesus dialoguing with Moses and Elijah. They also hear God's voice declaring that Jesus speaks for him. This must have been not just a terrifying experience, but also a profoundly affirming one for these men who had given up everything to follow Jesus. On that mountain top out of their comfort zone they see the truth of who Jesus is, the Son of God, the Messiah. Was the transfiguration a gift to them, a confirmation of their calling? They clearly see the unveiled glory of God revealed in Jesus Christ that St Paul writes about in his second letter to the Corinthians.

As we approach Lent, let us set aside time to be with Jesus, to listen and rejuvenate our relationship with him. We may not climb a mountain to do this like those disciples, but may we gain a fresh perspective enabling us to see our Lord and Saviour more clearly in all his glory and commit ourselves afresh to follow him.

*Revd Ian Bird*

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## Team Contact details

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Visit our Team website [swanageteam.com](http://swanageteam.com)