

TEAM NOTICES

Change of Date: update since the Church Alive went to print, the 24 hours of prayer at **All Saint's Church** will be held - 6pm Wed 8th to 6pm Thu 9th May (rather than the preceding week as stated).

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!



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. It's £1 a day in Main Beach car park up to and including Easter Sunday.

'Songs from the Shows' Concert in St Nicholas Church - On Friday 12th April at 7.30pm, St Nicholas' will host a concert by Gregory Steward, a classically trained tenor and graduate of the Royal Welsh College of Music. Still only 22, Gregory has achieved success in vocal competitions. His passion is opera and he will sing a selection of classical favourites as well as songs from shows such as Les Misérables, Carousel and West Side Story. Tickets £12 each, free for under-18s, available at Studland Stores or from Barbara on 01929 450218. Refreshments available on the night! Proceeds for the Organ Restoration Fund.

Community Coffee Morning in Studland taking a break ... this Thursday (4th April) ... but we look forward to seeing you again the following week, on Thursday 11th April. Everyone is welcome for good coffee and good conversation.

Studland Men's Breakfast - Saturday 6th April, 8.30-10am. The next Men's Breakfast will be held in St Nicholas Church Hall on Saturday 6th April from 8.30-10am - and Chef, Tony Edmonds and Sous Chef, Peter Hawsworth look forward to welcoming more hungry customers. As well as sausage and bacon rolls, there are vegetarian and vegan options, but if you have specific dietary requirements, just email us on stnicksbreakfast@yahoo.com to make sure we are catering for your needs. The Men's Breakfast runs on a café style – so drop in when you can for food and a chat. And it's free – but if you would like to make a donation, that would be great!

Nourish the Soul is an Arts Festival to be held in St Nicholas' Church in Studland **over the weekend of 25/26th May**. Designed to showcase a variety of creative skills, the Church will be full of arts and crafts produced by people within the community. Do put the date in your diary – and plan to come to nourish your soul with creativity. Be assured you'll have an opportunity to nourish your body too with a variety of home-made cakes and biscuits!

REFLECTION

Isaiah 25: 6-9, Acts 10:34-43, Mark 16: 1-8

Alleluia, Christ is risen! *He is risen indeed, Alleluia!* we reply.

This is Easter Day, we prepare like no other liturgical season. It reminds me of a multi act play, Palm Sunday processions, even animals? Certainly plenty of Palm waving and dramatised readings! Holy Week has a steady build up, reflective Complines, emotional foot washing, and then the temple is torn down, every scrap of finery is removed and we sit in desolation, there is nothing familiar to cling onto, it's just us and God. We have no other course to follow, save the story we have been handed down in scripture.

I always feel myself quite lost on Easter Saturday, what are we supposed to do? I know the reality is that there is always something to do, some last minute tasks, for example our desolate temple has to be returned to a vision of holiness. Yet I still find myself...detached?

Easter Day, the sun has risen and some are already about, who will be first to utter "Christ is risen!" In Church we gather, Welcome! We might have made a bit of an effort, a tie? A hat? The clergy certainly have, colour abounds. At last our liturgy has cast off the penitential and is full of joyful song, we smile, perhaps we laugh out loud? Our sharing of the Peace may be just a little more fervent.

"Alleluia Christ is risen!" is all we need to know. I glanced through my bookshelves and smiled at the Easter section. So many fashionable books of their time. Each perhaps used once for a Lent Course. Today my thoughts are dramatically simplified. I don't select a book, I simply turn to our Gospel reading. This year from St Mark, I love his writing, simple, urgent, dramatic and painfully moving. This is Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome's moment, they would tenderly deal with Jesus' body. Now they were the first to see....or rather not see Jesus! They were to learn that they were to become the messengers of the Good News. They would announce it to the disciples, no wonder they were trembling and bewildered.

We have been spared that anxiety, we have not seen, but have believed. We are now the Mary's and Salomes, we must go out from here proclaiming the good news, not just by word but by example. Alleluia Christ is Risen! is the simple 4 word message, we don't need the latest Easter Book to tell us that.

With Easter Greetings
Revd John Cooper

Team Contact details

Team Rector

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Parish Office

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Visit our Team website swanageteam.com