

TEAM NOTICES

Christian Aid Week 12th to 18th May. This year's theme is the cost of living crisis faced by many people around the world. We will be reflecting on this in our services today. There will be envelopes available for donations for the work of Christian Aid.

Down on the Farm with the Studland Community Coffee Morning at Manor Farm Tea Rooms – Thursday 16th May from 10am, Everyone welcome:

Purbeck Village Quire Summer Concert: Saturday 18th May, 7pm at St Mark's Church. Folk songs and West Gallery Hymns from the 18th and 19th centuries, linked with a script, with performers (including Dave & Carol) in period costume. Admission is FREE, with a retiring collection for the rebuilding of Herston Village Hall. Light refreshments afterwards.

Belvedere Singers Concert: 'May Melodies'. Saturday 18th May at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church. Tickets £7 (under 18's free). Retiring collection for Purbeck Besom.

'Come & Sing' Choral Evensong, Sunday, 19th May at 6.30pm in St Mary's Church. Our guest this month is Dr Philip Moore, formerly Guildford and York Minster. *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. A short service, which includes well known hymns, is followed by tea and cake. All Things Bright and Beautiful 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.

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!



REFLECTION

Acts 1:15-17, 21 to the end. 1John 5:9-13. John 17: 6-19

The recounting of the Ascension is one of my favourite passages, in any of the Gospels. It is also (for once) a great opportunity to be up and about at 5.30am to join the congregation at Studland for an early morning Eucharist...and breakfast!

Today we have a “rest break” before another truly inspiring event, Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit. It does give us the opportunity to reflect upon the work of Christian Aid, which should of course be close to our hearts whatever the liturgical season.

We find ourselves listening to the words of Christ at his first farewell to his disciples, at his soon to be experienced arrest. In many respects this has resonances with his Ascension Day prayer. It is a kind of “account giving”. He is praying to God for his disciples and it leads me to reflect with thanks on our intercessors today as they lead prayer on our behalf. What would we like them to pray for (if we really told the truth?) Does, then, Jesus’ prayer match up to your expectations in any way?

At the heart of it is Jesus’ love for his disciples, and the assurance of God’s love and his gift for them to be Jesus’ companions and witnesses. He prays for their protection for they will surely need it in the future. He acknowledges that the message he left with them causes them to be set aside from “the world” and thus in great danger. In our reading Jesus asks his Father to sanctify them. Another word we might use is dedicate. As Jesus dedicated his being to his Father he prays that they too should be similarly dedicated.

The disciples were sometimes muddled and mistaken, as are we. Nevertheless we are God’s Holy people in God’s needy world, and we pray that we too may be dedicated to his world and its needs.

A prayer from Christian Aid week resources:

Dear Lord, you call on us to build your kingdom of justice, mercy, and truth.

It isn’t a task for the faint-hearted.

When we lose our sense of purpose, fill us with faith. When we doubt or throw up our hands in despair, fill us with hope.

When we pass by our neighbour as though we did not know them,

Fill us with the love that turns us back and takes us to their aid.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Revd John Cooper

Team Contact details

Team Rector

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Parish Office

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