

TEAM NOTICES

Laudemus Choir visit St Mary's on 7th August, 6.00pm - Former King's Singer, choral director and composer, Jeremy Jackman, returns to Dorset this August to lead the choir Laudemus, showcasing music for the service of Choral Evensong. Operating as an annual summer course, singers come from all over the UK and some from overseas. The repertoire is wide ranging, with different music for each service on the tour. The choir is accompanied for most of the week by Dorset-born organist Sam Hanson, who pursues a busy freelance career as conductor, accompanist and composer in both Dorset and London. *(for more details visit www.swanageteam.com/news-events/). Everyone welcome.*

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!



Down on the Farm with the Studland Community Coffee Morning – Thursday mornings 10am - The Coffee Morning will be held at the Manor Farm Tea Rooms in Studland on Thursday mornings from 10am. Everyone is welcome: come and meet old friends – and make some new ones ... You will all receive a warm, countryside welcome and maybe, freshly baked scones!

Congratulations to Berno Vierbergen, our Youth Minister, who has been appointed Associate Pastor at Bransgore Community Church. Berno will be leaving the parish soon – details to follow.

The Folk Festival Service will take place at St Mary's at 10.30am on Sunday 8th September.

REFLECTION

Today's readings: 1 Kings 4: 42-44; Ephesians 3: 14-end; John 6: 1-21

Abundance links our three readings this Sunday. In our Old Testament reading, the prophet Elisha feeds a multitude from the first fruits of the harvest. A small number of barley loaves and some grain fed many and there was some left over. St Paul writes to the church in Ephesus of the abundance of God and celebrates what he can do in lives grounded in Christ and filled with his Spirit.

In his gospel, John does not have miracles but signs. These point to the very nature of Jesus Christ and his power and love. In chapter six, John recounts the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand and his abundant provision for the huge crowd that had followed him. From those five barley loaves and two fishes offered by that boy, Jesus fed a lot of people, many more than five thousand, as women and children wouldn't have been included in that figure. After the meal, the disciples collected twelve baskets of leftover barley bread. Abundance indeed! Crisis and shortage are transformed into satisfaction and plenty by Jesus just as he had done at the wedding in Cana. Both signs illustrate the wonderfully generous nature of God, who in both cases gave much more than was actually needed.

In Jesus' provision to the crowd, there are echoes of the account the wandering Israelites being fed with manna in the wilderness as well as Elisha's provision mentioned above. John tells us that the Passover was near and there is a clear connection to the Last Supper and the Eucharist.

But let's go back to that boy, who offered his lunch to feed a crowd. The boy didn't know what Jesus would do, he simply trusted Jesus with what he had to give. We can so easily write ourselves off and believe that what we have to offer back to God is insignificant. But the key question is not "Do I have anything to give to God?", it is "Will I trust what I have into the hands of God?" and let him use our offerings in miraculous ways.

Rev'd Ian Bird

Team Contact details

Team Rector

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Visit our Team website swanageteam.com