

TEAM NOTICES

Swanage Folk Festival takes place next weekend (8th September) and St Mary's looks forward to welcoming many visitors to our special service at 10.30am, with singing and dancing in various Folk traditions. It's a way of blessing the Festival, and it's certainly a blessing for the Church to be involved in this way. Do join us at St Mary's if you're not worshipping elsewhere at that time.

Volunteers are still required for the Folk Festival Service at St Mary's at 10.30am next **Sunday 8th September**. We anticipate a large congregation and need a group to serve refreshments after the service. Please contact Avril, Judith or Ian if you can help – thank you!

Swanage Depression Support - Many thanks to those who responded to the article in Church Alive. For those who missed it, we are trying to rejuvenate this peer-support group for people suffering depression/anxiety, which has fallen by the wayside. We are now ready to move forward and are convening a meeting on **Thursday 12th September, 7.30 at 103 High Street (shopfront just up from Purbeck House Hotel)**, by kind arrangement with the Methodist Church, to enable a wide-ranging discussion and form a supervisory group. If you have any interest in or experience of depression, please join us, without any necessary further commitment. You may have personal experience of depression, be a professional in this field or just want to give moral support. If you can't join us then but would like to be involved in any way, please contact us at swanagedepression@outlook.com or Alan on 07748 672069.

Could you be the next Church Alive! editor? Jane Cooper who has done an amazing job as editor for the past 10 years will be retiring at the end of the year and we need a new editor for the parish magazine. Could that be you? If you would like further information about this role and what it entails please talk to Jane (423591) or email her at dinofoot@hotmail.co.uk or speak to Rector Ian or Avril, Churchwarden.

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!



Dates for your diary:

Bob Chilcott Singing Day at St Mary's – 5th October, 10am-4.15pm. (*Please see posters for details.*)

We will be celebrating 50 years of Swanage Town Council in a Civic Service at St Mary's at 3pm on Sunday 6th October.

REFLECTION

Deut. 4.1-2, 6-9. Song of Solomon 2.8-13. Mark 7.1-7, 14-15,21-23

You must observe them (10 Commandments) diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!' (Deut. 4.v 6). These are not easy words to hear in a world with different standards, yet their wisdom is absolute. The book of Deuteronomy is about our love relationship with God and God with us.

In some churches we will hear a reading from the Song of Solomon. In ancient Israel everything human came to expression in words, reverence gratitude, anger, sorrowing, trust, friendship, commitment, loyalty, hope, wisdom, outrage and repentance. The Song of Solomon poetically depicts this illustrated by two young people in love. We often use this passage at weddings. We may understand the intensity that can come in a relationship between two people. If we take that understanding to the relationship, we have with God through the person of Jesus Christ we begin to understand the relevance of reverence gratitude, anger, sorrowing, trust, friendship, commitment, loyalty, hope, wisdom, outrage and repentance. These are things that come from the heart and were perhaps not fully understood by the Pharisees and Scribes that Jesus stood before.

Their kind of observance to commandments was a colourless observance that made little sense of wisdom and discernment. Someone sitting on a filled hot water bottle travelling on a train on the Sabbath is observing the law by travelling over water but failing to observe that the Sabbath which is about time to rest and recover. In the same way the disciples eating with unwashed hands were not keeping the law but were there to feed their souls to listen to Jesus' teaching. Jesus' retort "These people (the Pharisees and Scribes) honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me" is precisely the narrow focus the Pharisees and Scribes had toward the law.

The Song of Solomon and Book of Deuteronomy point us in the right direction to understand love and show through them the way we should live, the way to true wisdom and discernment.

Revd Tony Higgins

Team Contact details

Team Rector

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Team Vicar

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Parish Administrator

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Parish Office

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Visit our Team website swanageteam.com.