

TEAM NOTICES

Warren Sellers sadly passed away on 1st September. We shall be remembering him at St Mary's Evensong this evening, 29th September starting at **6.00pm**.

Bob Chilcott Singing Day at St Mary's – 5th October, 10am-4.15pm. Music includes 'The Song of Harvest', 'Songs that my Heart has Taught me' and other Chilcott favourites. Tickets £20 (incl score hire). Booking forms available from swanage.team@btconnect.com. (*More details on posters and website.*)

Civic Service at St Mary's - We will be celebrating 50 years of Swanage Town Council in a Civic Service at 3pm next Sunday 6th October. Everyone is invited and there will be refreshments afterwards.

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!



Friday Fun Club – meets on Friday evenings 6.30-8pm, during term time, in the Rectory Classroom for 10-13 yr olds to enjoy food, games and chat. If you would like to join or need more information please contact Trish Clark at jandtclark@hotmail.com or Tel: 01929 425427.

Dates for your diary:

Harvest Family Eucharist at St Mary's on 13th October, 10.30am.

Organ Recital at St Nicholas Church, Studland by Geoffrey Morgan, the resident organist at Christchurch Priory. The recital will take place on Saturday 19th October at 3pm. Tickets are £10.00, available either directly from Barbara Matthews (barmat18@btinternet.com), from Studland Stores or on the door. This is Studland, so fabulous refreshments will be available in the Church Hall after the recital. Please do support the event.

Christmas cards with a nativity theme are available again for this year at St Mary's, All Saints', and St Mark's, at £2 for a pack of five cards.

REFLECTION

Genesis 28:10-17; Hebrews 1:5-end; John 1:47-end

The story of Jacob's dream (possibly written or redacted in about 400BC) speaks of angels who have already appeared in the narrative as 'three men' who approach Abraham in the heat of the day. Abraham addresses them as 'My Lord' – and watches them eat before 'the Lord' announces the birth of Isaac and they leave.

What did the idea of angels mean to the writers of Genesis? Some *midrashim* suggest that in Jacob's dream, Jacob himself is the ladder, and angels ascending and descending are his spiritual receptivity or search for God and God's response to Jacob's *psyche*. It is God who awaits him at the top of the ladder, with another promise, extending the promises made to Abraham. The Hebrew narratives seem to remain intentionally imprecise about human intimations of messages from God: are angelic messengers intermediaries between humanity and God, or a careful way of reminding listeners that God can't be seen, described, quantified or even referred to according to our normal grammatical rules?

But by the time *Hebrews* and *Revelation* was written, there had developed a complex angelology, with ranks and titles, drawn from the *seraphim* of Isaiah, *cherubim* of Ezekiel, and other literature naming angels with individual names – Michael, Raphael, Uriel, Gabriel – and ranks – for example, 'thrones, powers and dominions' – imagining them as soldiers or courtiers, "spirits" ministers who are "flames of fire". In contrast to Jesus, "begotten" not made, they belong to created space and time which will grow old and perish. They are created and sent to serve us – we who are, like Jesus, created to become, by grace, children of God.

John's opening chapter is both polemic against rabbinic Jewish denials of Jesus's messianic identity, and a deeply, densely re-writing of Genesis - the new creation of the material world and the spiritual human family. It is not important to John to quantify or classify angels. He expresses for us the new/restored revelation of God to humanity. Nathaniel is a new Jacob; the fig tree is new life-giving tree (no longer a hiding place for a dis-graced *adam*); Jesus is the ladder connecting earth and heaven; Nathaniel ('God's gift') is the new Jacob/Israel (*?ish-ra-el* – 'the one who sees God'). He is also the new Adam, restored in God's image. Because Jesus is, we and all humanity are brought back to life.

Revd Terence Handley MacMath

Team Contact details

Team Rector

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Team Vicar

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Parish Administrator

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Parish Office

Tues & Weds 9am-5pm / Friday 9am – 4pm Tel: 01929 421117

Visit our Team website swanageteam.com