

# TEAM NOTICES

**Come & join us at St Mary's** THIS EVENING, 1<sup>st</sup> December at 6.30pm for our Advent Carols Service: *Music & Readings for Advent Sunday*. With candles & light it's a wonderful way to start Advent.

**Christmas Vintage T-pot** - Weds. 4<sup>th</sup> December 10.00am- 12noon in the Rectory Classroom. Do join us for delicious festive treats, Christmas carols sung by a select group from St. Mary's choir, and a visit from the Christmas fairy! All are very welcome.

**Carols in Studland** - 6.30pm on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December in St Nicholas Church. This will be a traditional carol service, with readings and Christmas music. Do join us for a wonderful evening of festive words and music with refreshments afterwards.

**Belvedere Singers Christmas Concert** at St Mary's on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30pm. Tickets £9, under 18's free.

**Church in the Community** - Do you have a heart for working in our local community? Do you have time to invest? Might you be our missing piece? We are exploring the idea of a part-time Swanage Anglican team and are community-focused role across the inviting expressions of interest. If this is something **you** might like to explore, please contact:  
Rev'd Ian Bird [ian@swanageteam.com](mailto:ian@swanageteam.com) or Rev'd Jo Levasier [jo@swanageteam.com](mailto:jo@swanageteam.com)



**From the Treasurer** - Once a month we count the money which has come in as collections or has come into the church office by other means. There is a team of four that assist me and so each only gets to do it once every four months. This is a valuable job that helps the administration of our finances and takes up to two hours in a morning (usually a Monday but could be Friday). We have one vacancy in our team for 2025 - if interested, please talk to me, John Way (01929 422951).

**Facilitators needed for Swanage Depression Support (SDS)**. SDS is a mutual support group where people suffering from depression have found much-needed help over many years. We are looking for people who could act as facilitators. If you are interested, please contact SDS on [swanagedepression@outlook.com](mailto:swanagedepression@outlook.com) or 07748 672069.

**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.

**Christmas Services** – you can now find our Christmas Services leaflet, detailing all services across our 4 churches, at the back of each church.

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Funerals in our churches this week:

**Bill Brown**

Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Dec

1.30pm

St Mary's

# REFLECTION

## 1Thessalonians 3: 9-end; Luke 21: 25-36

Today, Advent Sunday, is the beginning of the new church year. Advent is a season of expectation and preparation where we prepare ourselves to celebrate the incarnation, Christ's coming (*adventus*) as a baby, but also look ahead to his final coming as king and judge. Our readings during Advent reflect this, directing us towards both Jesus' birth and his triumphant return to judge the world.

Our gospel reading is not an easy passage to hear or interpret. Jesus encourages his listeners to be alert at all times, praying that they may have the strength to escape what is to come. Just prior to our reading, Jesus had just predicted the destruction of the Temple, a cataclysmic event that finally happened in AD70, which shattered Jewish religion and culture. In his parable of the fig tree, Jesus seems to be saying that anyone can see how the clash between Jewish nationalism and Roman power was going to end. The writing was on the wall. His listeners needed to be on their guard, expectant, alert, not surprised by the coming storm of destruction and finding strength through a vision of the sovereignty and supremacy of Christ.

Paul's words from 1 Thessalonians are more tender, personal and easier to read than the gospel. Responding to the faith of the Christians in Thessalonica he writes this wonderful blessing. He prays that his readers may be faithful to their calling, love one another, be strengthened, and stand blameless, ready for Jesus' return as king and judge. These are timeless words and speak to us today. The world often can seem a dark, foreboding and hopeless place, but we are to live in the light of Christ, knowing that we have a glorious future as his people, regardless of what is going on around us. He will carry us through as 'nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom. 8:39).

Rev'd Ian Bird

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### Team Contact details

**Team Rector**

Revd Dr Ian Bird Tel: 01929 422916 (normal day off Friday)

**Team Vicar**

Revd Jo Levasier Tel 01929 208217 (normal day off Friday)

**Parish Administrator**

Karon Quirey [swanage.team@btconnect.com](mailto:swanage.team@btconnect.com)

**Parish Office**

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

Visit our Team website [swanageteam.com](http://swanageteam.com)