

TEAM NOTICES

Sad News - **Stephen Williams**, the Rev'd Margaret Williams' husband, has died suddenly. Please pray for Margaret and the family at this very difficult time.

Swanage Churches Together United Service for the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** is today, **19th January, 10.30am** at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Victoria Ave, Swanage.
Please Note: There will be **no** 10/10.30am Holy Eucharist at St Mark's, St Mary's, & All Saints

The Bible. The Most Important Book in the world! And we can help get it into the hands of people here and abroad with **Bake or Bring a Cake for a Bible** at the **United Service at Emmanuel Baptist Church** today, **Sunday 19th January at 10:30am**. This will be the Bible Society Fundraiser which will help provide Bibles to many who need hope, faith and love. If you would like to make a donation please contact Liz Fielder at St. Mary's on 07384 741716.

The Big Quiz Night – Saturday 25th January, 7pm for 7.30pm start at All Saints Church, Ulwell. Max 8 people per team – bring a whole team or we can introduce you to others on the night. £5 per person to include nibbles. All funds raised will go to help the work of Tearfund. For tickets please contact Gill Kaiser at gill.kaiser@aol.com or after 10.30am am services at All Saints.

Inspiring the Next Generation - In the absence of a junior church, a small group of helpers are preparing a simple activity for children to do in church each Sunday. The aim is to match the activity to the weekly theme/readings. Are you good at coming up with activities? Perhaps you might like to take a turn at providing something? If you'd like to get involved please talk to either Hatty Fawcett or Jane Cooper at St Mary's.

On your own on a Wednesday? Or new to the area and would like to chat to others? **T-Pot is held** every Wednesday from 10.00am to 12.30pm in the Rectory Classroom. Come along for a cuppa and a chat, we'd love to see you.



Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer will be held at St. Mary's on February 6th 12:30 - 2:00pm for the deanery. Bring a packed lunch, but refreshments will be provided. All are welcome!

Friday Fun Club- help needed. We are looking to grow our team of helpers and leaders to facilitate the running and continued growth of this popular group for children and youth. The group is held 6.30-8pm in the Rectory Classroom every Friday evening during term time and involves food, games, activities and a talk on a weekly theme. Leaders sign up for the sessions they can make depending on their availability. If you think you might be interested in joining our team or would like more information, please contact Revd Natalie Davies - natalie@swanageteam.com / 07516 786944.

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

Parish Office

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

Visit our Team website swanageteam.com

REFLECTION

Reflections on The Second Sunday of the Epiphany.

Isaiah 62: 1-5, 1 Corinthians 12: 1- 11, John 2: 1- 11

Good morning to you wherever you are? I say this because you may not be in one of the team services this morning because you are attending The United Service for all our town Churches at Emmanuel Church. Perhaps this is a good moment to mention that you can read the notice sheet on our Team Website.

Our Gospel reading this morning is the account of The Wedding that took place in Cana of Galilee. This is the first of the Seven signs in John's Gospel which affirm the divinity of Jesus.

I am sure you are familiar with the story. A family Wedding goes pear shaped! A little falling out between Jesus and his Mother. The guests drinking the wine too quickly. The need to avoid public humiliation. Jesus' reluctance to get drawn into the ensuing crisis and ultimately a miracle that saves the day.

Weddings are curious events. The day is full of joy, but the tensions are high. Two families meet often for the first time and are quietly assessing each other. The service draws the families together in controlled circumstances and then things become rather more informal, but there are still tricky moments to navigate. I'm sure we all have recollections of such occasions.

Look out for little signs. "On the third day" pointing to the great fulfilment. The link with Jesus' words to Mary at the wedding and before the Cross. There is the link with Israel, the Jewish purification of the water and then turning it into wine. God has kept the best wine until now.

We conclude by "Reflecting" on God's choice of weddings and wine as signs of glory. When we leave church, or for us oldies "arise from prayer" would people mistake us for wedding guests? For party goers? Why not? I know that at least one of our team churches describes itself as The Party Church...and rightly so!

Did we do whatever he told us? Did we see his glory and believe?

Enjoy your morning meeting new friends

Revd John Cooper