

TEAM NOTICES

Leaving Party:: Next Saturday, 3rd May 3.00pm Studland Village Hall. Leaving Tea Party for Tony and Felicity Higgins. Please come along to wish them well - all welcome.

Sunday School starting - We are delighted to be starting a Sunday School for children aged 8-14 from Sunday 11th May. This will run every 2nd and 4th Sunday directly after the service for approximately 45 minutes in the St Mary's Rooms. In these sessions we will explore the themes and readings for the week, in a fun way! If you are interested, please bring your children along on 11th May or speak to Revd Natalie for details- natalie@swanageteam.com / 07516 786944. **Sunday School leaders** - If you are interested in helping to lead our new Sunday School, please also contact Natalie!

Confirmation Classes. The Bishop of Sherborne will be coming to our area on Saturday 5th July for a confirmation service. If you or your child have been baptised, would you or they now like to be confirmed? We will be running preparation classes at St Mary's in the summer term. All are welcome to attend the classes to learn more about the Christian faith, even if they do not feel ready for confirmation at this stage. If you or your child is interested but has not yet been baptised, this can also be arranged! Please speak to Revd Natalie or Revd Ian for more details.



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.

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.



Friday Fun Club – meets on Friday evenings 6.30-8pm in the Rectory Classroom for 10-13 yr olds to enjoy food, games and chat. All are welcome.

Team Contact details

Team Rector

Team Vicar

Parish Administrator

Parish Office

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

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

Karon Quirey swanage.team@btconnect.com

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

REFLECTION

Acts 5:27-32 Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21 John 20:19-31

Like the blind man healed in two successive stages, who mirrors Peter's first confession of Jesus's identity and then his second, painful, slow realisation of what this will entail, a second new creation 'week' begins with Jesus blessing all future apostles, who understand the Spirit's new creation *without* seeing, touching, hearing, etc. John's account gradually unfolds the resurrection or new creation, so long promised by the prophets as the outpouring of the Spirit on all Israel or, indeed, all humankind.

In *Acts* Peter also ascribes this revelatory work to the Spirit, and promises that when Jesus returns 'on clouds' everyone will see and know and understand (and most will regret their erstwhile blindness). The 'cloud' is the Spirit, of course – *not* confused with material clouds by those who have the Spirit's gift of understanding and vision. It's the cloud which led the Israelites to the Promised Land – a journey of huge test of trust and courage. It's the cloud which hovers over Jesus at his baptism and gathers him into the spiritual realm at the Ascension. It's the cloud/Spirit who anoints those who seek truth, and *can* see Jesus clearly. The Spirit is forming them into a new nation of kings and priests. It's not a nation fighting for existence in a land with geographical borders; this nation is without borders or one ethnic profile, and it takes even more courage to cross that border.

What identifies its citizens? Jesus always warns that we're going to be surprised. Unlike new UK immigration rules, citizenship of this new nation of God is granted not to those who have amassed wealth, but to those who dare to give most.

Revd Terence Handley MacMath