

TEAM NOTICES

Come and be part of the **National Week of Prayer for the UK**, Sat 6th – Sun 14th Sept: Gather, Remember, Return: The nationwide vision is: “As the body of Christ, we are gathering across the UK and beyond; to humble ourselves, repent and pray for lives to be transformed by Jesus, as a spiritual awakening continues in the nations.”. During the week there will be a range of prayer opportunities across all the different churches in Swanage and Studland. See the posters or flyer in the Sept magazine for full details.

Please support Mark's swim for Swanage Lifeboat Station: At 10am on Monday 8th September Mark Critchlow will be swimming from Shell Bay at the far end of Studland Beach, around Old Harry Rocks to Swanage Pier (a distance of 7 miles), to raise funds for Swanage Lifeboat. To sponsor Mark go to: www.justgiving.com/page/mark-critchlow-11_or Mark will probably be happy to receive donations directly if you don't want to give online. Mark has swum the Channel twice, so he knows what he's doing!

A Service to Celebrate 150 Years of the Swanage Lifeboat will be held at St Mary's on Sunday 14th September at 10.30am. All welcome.

Toddler Group: The team is launching a new Toddler Group based at All Saints' Church on Monday mornings 9.15-11am from 15th September, for ages 0-4 with their parents or carers, £2 per adult. A safe place with a listening ear for you and creative play for your children. Coffee, cake and fruit. Bible stories and songs for the children with a thought for the day to encourage you.

Volunteers are needed and if you are interested in helping please contact Suzanne Dominy on 07496 201815 or on e-mail: communityprojects@swanageteam.com.

T-Pot's summer break is almost over and will be back with you on Wednesday 3rd September, 10am-12.30pm. We hope you've all had a great summer and look forward to seeing you next week - the T-Pot Team ☺



Friday Fun Club – restarts on Friday 5th September, 6.30-8pm in the Rectory Classroom for 10-13 yr olds to enjoy food, games and chat. All are welcome.

Save the Date: Tuesday 30th September at 7pm. Bishop Karen is coming to St Mark's Church to Licence Revd Dave as an official member of the Team (rather than a retired priest) and to re-activate Carol's Licence as a Lay Minister (dormant since she moved to Salisbury Diocese). There will be a Service followed by refreshments. Everyone welcome.

Beetle Drive Result – The Bank Holiday weekend Beetle Drive raised £420 for Christian Aid. This was a splendid result, and thanks are due to the more than 40 people who supported this fruitful social gathering on the Friday evening in St Mary's.

Funerals in our churches:

Valerie Scott

Weds 3 Sept

1.00pm

St Nicholas, Studland

REFLECTION

Jeremiah 2:4-13 Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 Luke 14:1, 7-14

Today's gospel shows Jesus quoting from Wisdom teaching in Proverbs, in one of four critiques of the way the religious men of Jerusalem were handling the *Torah*. The context is the meal (teaching) given by a pharisee in his own house (temple), on the sabbath (when the *Torah* is fulfilled). In three of the four examples of distorted teachings Jesus re-interprets, the metaphor is feasting. In the end, he states categorically that none of these religious men will taste the goodness of God. For one thing, they have forsaken the wisdom of humility.

Alas, our religious certainties are a perennial temptation to forsake Wisdom. Jeremiah accused the religious men of his own day of destroying the 'land of fruitful fields' (aka the land 'flowing with milk and honey' – OT symbols of Wisdom herself). "They that commandeer the law knew me not." They have "forsaken the spring of living water" – another symbol of Wisdom/Holy Spirit – and hewed out broken cisterns that can't hold water. The image of humans trying to contain water for themselves in rock is echoed throughout the Old and New Testament. Think of all the references to stone/rock and the new hearts of flesh in which the law springs by grace, or the springs of living water that flowed from the original temple, or the Spirit's life-giving water that she offers freely to all who seek her.

Hebrews is a theological text, so we have (in the bit the lectionary compilers left out because, no doubt, they thought it was technical and therefore irrelevant) a sharp contrast between the priests sacrificing in the temple, and Jesus sacrificed 'outside the city'. The temple's teaching is 'diverse and strange' – food that hasn't helped those 'walking' (disciples). Those who dare to walk with Jesus out of the city where they don't belong, have another altar or offering, that of Jesus himself. Their fruit – their food – is the praise of Jesus's name. They're nourished by Wisdom herself, eternally embodied in Jesus, and love one another.

Why is the teaching of the Spirit and Jesus vital? Because it is the original *Torah* that draws us into the inclusive, unity of God's life-giving forgiveness and love. And as the best teachers, Jesus shows – doesn't just tell. It is real, humble, merciful – and ultimately, always self-renewing. This is food we can dine on for free, and offer to all.

Revd Terence Handley MacMath

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)

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