

TEAM NOTICES

St Mary's Harvest Festival service is at 10.30am today, Sunday 5th October at Gabby North from The Leprosy Mission will also be speaking at the service.



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 10.00am to 12.30pm in the Rectory Classroom. So if you are on your own on a Wednesday or new to the area and would like to meet others, 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 4-9 year olds to enjoy food, games and chat. All are welcome.

'Come & Sing' Choral Evensong next Sunday, 12th October at 6.30pm in St Mary's Church. Our guest this month is Dr Elizabeth Stratford, Arundel Cathedral. *Come and Sing* event is open to all singers. Arrival at St Mary's is for a 4.00pm rehearsal start. Cups of tea are provided between the rehearsal end and the service starts at 6.30pm. All Welcome. Music provided. Just come and sing!

Dates for your Diary:

'Be Still, Be Silent' Reflections on the poetry of David Scott. John Mann and Canterbury Press invite you to the launch of David's new book on Friday 10th October at 2pm, St Lawrence Church, The Square, Winchester, SO23 9EX. Copies of the book will be available to purchase.

Any Questions? – 'Faith & Ethics in a Secular World'. A presentation by Canon Professor Vernon White, King's College, London. Tuesday 14th October at the URC, 112 High St, Swanage, Doors open at 6.30pm, presentation from 7.00pm. Everyone 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

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Philippians 4:4-9 John 6:25-35

It's the Harvest Festival season, which, in Swanage and Studland lasts a whole month. If it's not Harvest in your church this week, don't worry, it recently has been/will be soon.

Harvest Festival is unique, because it is celebrated by people of all faiths and none. Whether we recognise God as the provider of the Harvest, or not, there is a desire to celebrate the fruits of the earth.

The Bible encourages us to celebrate the good things which God gives us, but it adds a distinctively Christian reminder that there is more to life than food and drink.

- In Matthew chapter. 6 Jesus reminds us: *"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?"*
- In John chapter 6 he goes even further: *"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."*
- In the Old Testament Harvest instructions, recorded in Deuteronomy 26, the command is to celebrate the Harvest with a basket of produce and a remembrance of God's wider blessing on His people.

Christians are called to recognise that God gives us the wonderful gifts of the earth in order to free us to serve him. We are called to use them wisely and with care. Harvest is not an end in itself, it is God's provision for the journey of a life in his service.

If we want a Biblical Harvest challenge, Deuteronomy 26 gives us one: *"Then you, together with the Levites **and the aliens who reside among you**, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you."* As God's people, we are called to welcome the refugees, asylum seekers, and the people on small boats. He gives us his good gifts, and expects us to share these gifts with them.

Rev. David Richards