

TEAM NOTICES

Sunday School (every 2nd and 4th Sundays in the month). All children in school years 4-9 are welcome to join us for our Sunday School following the service this morning in St Mary's Rooms, finishing at 12.30pm. Come for snacks and fun activities!

A Service in Which to Remember: 2nd November at 3.30pm, St Mary's Church. To all who have lost loved ones, both in the past few months, and longer ago, please join us in a service at All Souls tide to light candles and pray together. There will also be refreshments after the service.

The Leprosy Mission – Gabby North sends her grateful thanks for the splendid sum of £353.50 as a result of her visit to St Mary's on 5th October. Please read her letter on the Notice Board in the porch.
Thank you. Rosemary Carpenter

Community Coffee Studland's Community Coffee Morning has moved back to the Church Hall for the winter season. Please join us on Thursday mornings from 10am to 11am – for coffee, cake and conversation. We'd love to see you there.

Swanage Town Remembrance Service – 9th November, 2.30pm at St Mary's Church. The parade will march from The Mowlem at 2pm and after the service in church, the parade will make its way to the War Memorial where the poppy wreaths will be laid at about 4.00pm. An Act of Remembrance will be held at the wreath-laying ceremony as well as during the church service.

'Come & Sing' Choral Evensong Sunday, 16th November at 6.30pm in St Mary's Church.

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.

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.



Friday Fun Club – there will be no club on 31st Oct as it is half term but will be back as usual on Friday 7th November. The club meets on Friday evenings 6.30-8pm in the Rectory Classroom, during term time, for years 4-9 to enjoy food, games and chat. All are welcome.

Funerals in our churches:

Diane Barraclough	Tues 28 th Oct	12 noon	Poole Crematorium
Brian Barker	Thurs 30 th Oct	12 noon	St Mary's

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 Monday)
Parish Administrator	Karon Quirey swanage.team@btconnect.com
Parish Office	Tues & Weds 9am-5pm / Friday 9am – 4pm Tel: 01929 421117

REFLECTION

Luke 18:9-14

The parables in the Bible cause us to face the truth of who we are in Christ, and the reality of our relationship with him as believers and today's parable is no exception.

On the one hand we have the Pharisee who seems to have turned his faith and spiritual practices into a competition, and is keen to show himself to be better than others. On the other hand, we have the tax collector, who on the face of it would be in more spiritual peril than the Pharisee, but proves himself in fact to have a much more genuine and honest relationship with God. But the Pharisee still insists on distancing himself from those who he sees as sinners, overlooking the obvious genuine piety of the tax collector and judging him based on what little he knows of his lifestyle.

The reality of the human condition is that we are often tempted to compare ourselves to others, to judge, and to keep score. For our children and young people this exacerbated by our present-day social media culture where we can be overwhelmed by the barrage of celebrities and influencers telling us what we need to buy, wear, do, and the lifestyles we must lead to be better, do better, live better than our neighbour.

The reality is however that with God we always have the opportunity to do better, to be better. We always have the chance to begin again, to be forgiven and find our renewal in Jesus Christ our saviour. Rather than comparing ourselves with or judging others, this parable invites us to be honest in our own relationship with God and to surrender to the reality that we all need God in our lives.

Revd Natalie Davies