

# CHURCH ALIVE!

## Swanage Parish Magazine



April 2024

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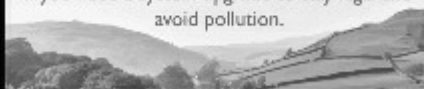
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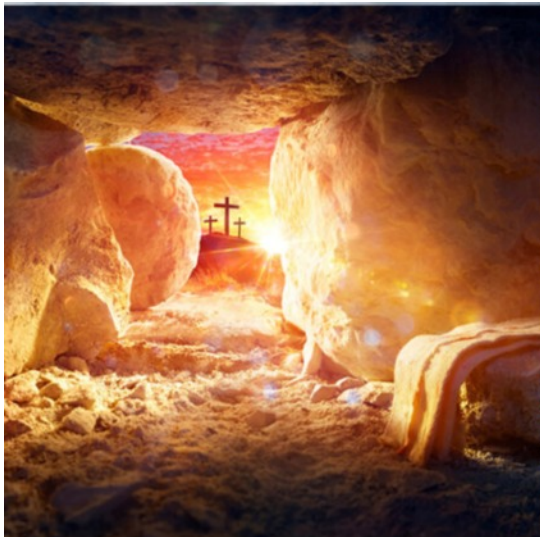
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## The Gift of Easter

Happy Easter - Christ is risen! We celebrate again the miracle of the empty tomb and the Jesus' resurrection. Over the next 50 days of the Easter season with hearts full of joy we continue celebrating 'the gloriously risen Christ.' Towards the end of this time, we commemorate Jesus' ascension into heaven and the great commission he gives to his disciples to continue his work. Finally we celebrate the fulfilment of his promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit to all believers on the day of Pentecost, which both completes and crowns the Easter season.

Deep joy marks this season because through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God demonstrates that he has kept his promise to redeem humanity, to give us new life. We have a new status as children of God, loved by a Father who loves us more than we can ever know. St Paul in his Letter to the Romans writes 'For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, not things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.' (Romans 8.38-9). Now that is something to celebrate!



I hope this Easter season that we will all be more aware of the rich blessings we have in Christ and whatever we might be facing that we know deep in our hearts that nothing can separate us from God's wonderful and immeasurable love. We continue to live through tough economic times and the current international situation is a source of great concern, yet we have hope, not in any earthly power or structure, but in the risen Lord Jesus Christ. Cardinal Basil Hume once wrote 'The great gift of Easter is hope - Christian hope which makes us have that confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph, and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake.' It is hope built on the strong and sure foundation of Jesus Christ. We are all called to share this hope with those around us in what we say and how we live. May all our churches be known as communities of hope. Let us not be timid but be bold in sharing this priceless gift we have as Christians in a world that is so desperately in need of hope.

May God richly bless you this season we continue to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Ian  
Team Rector*

**A Prayer for April 2024  
based on John 20: 19-end**

Almighty Father,  
In these weeks after Easter, help us to receive afresh  
the new life Jesus' resurrection makes possible.  
Lord, come to us. Walk through the locked doors of our fears.  
Bring us your peace. Fill us with your Holy Spirit.  
Send us onto our daily front lines to share your resurrection  
peace and hope and love with those who are lost and lonely.  
Thank you for meeting us in Jesus, our Lord and our God.  
We are your Easter people. Hallelujah.  
Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



## ST MARY'S DIARY

Tues	2.30pm	All Things Bright & Beautiful <i>(particularly suitable for those living with dementia or any kind of special need)</i>
Weds	10am-12.30pm 11.00am	T-Pot in the Rectory Classroom Holy Communion <i>(every 4<sup>th</sup> Weds with Healing)</i>
Fri	5.45pm 6.30pm 6-8pm	Junior Choir practice Adult choir practice Friday Fun Club in the Rectory Classroom <i>(term time only)</i>

Sunday	21 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am 6.30pm	Choral Eucharist followed by St Mary's AGM 'Come & Sing' Choral Evensong with Claudia Grinnell
Monday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30pm	ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING at All Saints Church, Ulwell
Saturday	27 <sup>th</sup>	5.00pm	Wedding rehearsal
Monday	29 <sup>th</sup>	12.00pm	Wedding: Archie Wright & Emma Brown

## CHOIR DATES FOR THE DIARY

COME AND SING.	Sunday 21 April.	Claudia Grinnell (Winchester Cathedral)
	Sunday 19 May.	Dr Philip Moore (Formerly Guildford and York Minster)

All are welcome to join us for Come and Sing, rehearsal begins at 4pm followed by a break for tea and cake, with Choral Evensong at 6.30pm

## ST MARY'S NOTES



With the never ending rain and flooding that has been part of our lives for so many months now, the story of Noah's Ark and the flood, one of the best known stories in the Bible, springs to mind. With a little delving I have learnt that the last major Ice Age ended about 10,000 years ago. Water levels rose dramatically. Entire seaside communities were destroyed leading to memories of a great flood. Some scientists argue that the Mediterranean Sea breached a blockage in the Bosphorus and flooded a valley which then became the Black Sea. This event, the Black Sea deluge, would have happened around 5600 BCE. Others speculate about a tsunami or a comet. Perhaps the memory of one or more of these deluges is carried forward in the Bible's flood story of Noah and his ark. Noah had to persevere and trust in God's plan for him and at the end of the story, when Noah's family made it to safety, God made a covenant promise between him and humanity never to destroy the world again. The rainbow is given as a reminder of this covenant. We need to choose to remain faithful to God instead of worrying what other people think. However it is worrying to see the damage that has been caused by an excessive amount of rain in our seaside community. On a personal level and close to my heart (and house) part of the south west coast path has disappeared beyond Shep's Hollow and the steps taken by the sea long ago are now submerged by landfall! I'm looking for the rainbow.

Turning to more mundane matters, I can happily report that the west wall damage sustained about 15 months ago, has now been rebuilt. Our neighbours Steve and Jane Parker have been very patient and we are hopeful the damaged beech hedge will soon start showing green shoots again!

Our Junior Choir continue to blossom and in addition to singing, leading the prayers and lesson reading in our Family service on the first Sunday of each month, they are also joining the adult choir at Choral Evensong every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday.

***Lavinia King***  
***Churchwarden***

## REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES AT ALL SAINTS

8am Holy Communion

9am Breakfast@9 (except 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday)

10.30am Family Worship (1<sup>st</sup> Sundays  
communion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday All-Age Café Church)

6pm Informal Open Worship in the church on  
April 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>



## WEEKLY CALENDAR AT ALL SAINTS

Coffee Pot Thursdays 10:30am

Art workshop Fridays 10am

## OPPORTUNITIES TO PRAY TOGETHER

### AT ALL SAINTS

Weekly Thursdays 9:30 – 10am

Monthly on 1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays 8:30 – 9:30am Breakfast & Prayer for The Wave

### ALL SAINTS APCM

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 11:45am after our Café Church service

*advance notice*  
**24 HOURS OF PRAYER & WORSHIP**  
**AT ALL SAINTS** seeking God's  
direction for us in this new  
season  
**6pm Wednesday May 1<sup>st</sup> -**  
**6pm Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

## NOTES FROM ALL SAINTS

Music is a powerful thing: It has power to lift the heart, to engage the emotions, to soothe the soul. It provides a connection to what lies within us in a way that perhaps nothing else does. Right from earliest times music was part of the Jewish tradition. Although, as I reflected on music in the earlier parts of the Bible, trumpets appear in the first few books of the Bible, not as musical accompaniment, but as signals to call the people to move or to celebrate a particular feast; functioning like a church bell to alert people that a church service is starting soon, rather than something to lead a tune.

When the army of Israelites marched around Jericho for seven days, the trumpeters were the central part of the army. It was when the trumpets gave a loud blast on the seventh day that the army was to shout, and the city walls would fall down. And they did. Ever since that moment, God's people have known that





worshipping God with musical instruments and song is an intrinsically powerful act. 1 Chronicles 20 tells us of how King Jehoshaphat led the Judean army to victory over a huge army from Moab and Ammon, no actual fighting took place – only musical worship! Such is the power of worshipping our God in song.

Now while it is certainly true that musicians have an important in our armed forces today, I am not sure that any of the military bands would be too pleased to find themselves on the front line as the first form of attack! And yet in the spiritual world, many have discovered the power of worshipping God in breaking down barriers and bringing the Spirit of God into situations where hope seemed lost. In worship we get to participate alongside the angelic worshippers around the throne of God himself; heaven comes in earth in a tangible way.

It is with great biblical history in mind that we at All Saints have been investing in our musical worship groups who lead us on a Sunday morning. It has been exciting to draw together people young and old and everything in between to lead the congregation in praising God and we have been encountering God powerfully in our times together on a Sunday morning. (It's been fun to fill the vicarage living room with musicians to practice midweek – now I know what that wonderful big room is for!) Over the coming months we hope to continue to build and strengthen our team as well as draw in some who haven't participated for a while.

As we seek God's leading for our next steps at All Saints, we're planning a 24-hour period of prayer and worship at the very beginning of May: from 6pm on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May to 6pm on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. All Saints will be transformed into a "24-7 Prayer Room" with prayer stations to lead us in reflective prayerful activities as well as space to sit and be with God. There will be times of led worship and times of quiet. Perhaps you would like to come and take part for some of the time. There is something incredibly powerful about putting aside special time to seek God's face and meeting with him in a different setting.

Why not join us? You never know how you might encounter God in a new way.

***Revd Jo Levasier***

## DIARY DATES FOR APRIL 2024



Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	6.30pm	Pizza Night Social Event
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> April	10:am – 1pm	St Mark's 'Many Hands Gardening & Spring Clean'
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> April	10am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	7pm	Bible Study Group
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> April	10am	Holy Communion
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	10am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	7pm	Bible Study Group
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	10am	<b>St Mark's Day Celebration</b> (see below)
Tuesday May 7 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	Bible Study Group

**Choir Rehearsal** – Mondays 6:15 - 7pm

**Prayer and Share** - is every Wednesday 10am – 10.45am.

## ST MARK'S NOTES

***April Showers !! 'Rain, Rain, go away come again another day!'***

We have had a very wet and, at times, very windy few days this winter. Christmas seems a distant memory now and no sooner had we celebrated Epiphany with a wonderful Team Service, than we were thinking about Shrove Tuesday, (*Pancakes*), Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent!

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March, St Mark's hosted the World Day of Prayer. Eleven churches were represented by members who participated in the service, making the morning so welcoming and inclusive, with prayers prepared by an ecumenical group of Christian women from Palestine, with the theme '*I beg you, bear with one another in love.*' The service was well supported, and a collection was taken and generously supported.

Thank you to everyone who participated in making this such a great occasion.

The St Mark's Lent Lunch followed the World Day of Prayer, with many people joining us for a welcoming bowl of warming soup, bread, and cheeses. It was also St David's Day, so we had some tasty Welsh Soup, Daffodils, Leeks, we put up the Welsh Flag and we sang a well-known Welsh Hymn, suitably lead by our very own Welshman, Revd Dave Richards!!

We shared a lovely lunchtime resulting in a wonderful donation to Christian Aid of £354.00, with Gift Aid to be added. A big **'Thank You'** to everyone who made soup, helped on the day, and supported the lunch.



As I write, we have just observed the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent and celebrated Mothering Sunday, by distributing beautiful posies of daffodils to everyone.

The 'Difference' Lent Course; discussing The Three Habits, continues, and has brought many people together, through several groups, from different backgrounds, to enjoy discussion and fellowship exploring God and Jesus' teaching. St. Mark's Bible Study Group have joined in the Lent Difference Course and will continue with discussing St Mark's Gospel after Easter.

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March, there will be an Open Deanery Synod Meeting at Lady St Mary's Church Hall on Wareham Quay, with a presentation on the new Diocesan Vision '*Making Jesus Known*', when several of us will be attending. Hopefully, we can feed back on how this vision will move forward, through five key action areas, and, as partners in this initiative, we can all be involved.

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March St Mark's Church Committee Meeting was held.

On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March, following the service, we held our Annual General Meeting, which I hope many of you were able to attend and participate in. A summary of this meeting will be given in May's edition of Church Alive, with news of appointments made for St Mark's for the coming year.

As we move through Lent towards Holy Week, St Mark's will be observing Palm Sunday on 24<sup>th</sup> March, with a Celebration Service with the Band.

After Palm Sunday, Meditations and Compline was held in Church, at 6pm, on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in Holy Week.

Good Friday will be observed with a Meditation at 10:00am.

On Easter Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> March, at 10:00am, we will have our Easter Family Communion, followed by celebratory refreshments in the meeting room, in keeping with our reputation as the 'Party Church'!

The Church, and gardens will be filled with spring flowers to reflect and celebrate, 'Christ has Risen! and a New Hope has dawned,'

A big '**Thank You**' to everyone who has donated, decorated a window, or helped in the church garden to make this such a special day.

Some of us will join the Churches Together Sunrise Praise Service, at 6:30am on Easter Day. The clocks will be going forward the night before, on Saturday evening, too! - Hope to see you there?!! An Easter Sunday Lunch will be held, in aid of Linking Lives and the Place of Welcome, at Herston Village Hall, at 12 noon till 2:30pm.

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April: we are really looking forward to our next Social Event; a *Pizza Night*, at The Coast Crust Pizza Restaurant at 6:30pm, when, I am sure, everyone will have a wonderful evening together.

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April; 10:00am – 1pm; 'Many Hands at St. Mark's;' when we will have the opportunity to 'work off' the lovely pizza meal we had the night before! With Gardening and Spring Cleaning the church. Tea/Coffee and cakes will be provided for all the hungry workers!

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April; We will celebrate '**St Mark's Day**' with a special Celebration Service with the Band. We will invite past and present pupils from St Mark's School to join us at this very special service. The service will be followed by some celebratory party refreshments, as is traditional at St Mark's!

Look out for our new outdoor church wall Banners! We have a '*Follow The Star*' banner for Christmas, a special banner for our '*Celebration Sundays*', and a new *Easter Sunday* banner. Our collection is growing with each event!

***Advance Notice Date for your Diary:-***

Purbeck Village Choir and Band will perform a Concert of West Gallery Music at St Mark's on the evening of ***Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May, at 7pm***, with refreshments to follow. Admission is free, with a retiring collection in aid of the Herston Village Hall re-building fund.

***A reflection –***

On the first day of Creation,  
God said, 'Let there be light!'  
On the first day of Resurrection,  
The Father said, 'Let there be Jesus!'  
Rejoice therefore that the darkness is passing,  
as the dayspring from on high dawns upon us.  
Halleluia!      (*Martyn Payne*)

May God Bless and Keep You  
***Anne Roper, Church Warden***



## Letter from Bishop Stephen

At this time of year, we are beckoned outside after a long, cold and often wet winter. Spring has sprung and all creation calls us to go outside, to tend to our gardens and to admire the new life around us.

The benefits to our health from time outside are well known. Growing something from a small seed to a flourishing plant or flower requires care, skill and patience which not only brings us satisfaction but also slows us down. Unlike life in the modern world, nothing in nature is instant or immediate – it will not be rushed.

In this Easter Season, our scriptures also draw us outside. On Easter morning, Mary Magdalene finds herself in a garden, outside of Jesus's tomb, so much so that she mistakes the resurrected Christ for the gardener. There is a vast passage of time between Adam and Eve's banishment from the Garden of Eden to that moment when, in a garden, Mary realises that it is the *risen* Christ who calls her by name. Yet now in that garden, Mary and all who throughout the ages proclaim, 'I have seen the Lord' are restored to God's eternal presence.

Maybe then there is something in the Easter Season when the resurrected Christ is 'made known' to us that can help us as we – as the Church of today – seek to make him known. Firstly, we need to go outside: to be active in our communities, in our schools and in reaching out to all as we show them the love of God; the God who – through Jesus – calls us by name. And secondly, all of this takes time. There can be an understandable anxiety about the often low numbers of people who come to church. Yet let us never forget that it took time for the good news of Jesus Christ to spread through active discipleship – like growth in a garden, nothing of this was immediate or instant – we need to persevere. As the Declaration of Assent made by all who are being ordained or licensed to a new appointment states, our faith is one that the church is called upon to 'proclaim afresh to each generation.'

I pray that we can do this; go outside, take time to build relationships with all around us, show to all the love, compassion and forgiveness of God and in doing so Make Jesus Known afresh, to all generations.



## Studland Parish News April 2024

We are truly blessed that our beautiful church is back for Easter celebrations. The organ is now fully rebuilt though there will be some small adjustments over the next few weeks to ensure it settles down. The organ was able to function for the Good Friday Meditation and Easter Day services. The joys of an ancient building mean there are often things that need to be done. Thank you to all who have encountered any difficulties, your acceptance and forbearance have been greatly appreciated. After many hours of applications and letter writing by Barbara

Matthews, we are finally able to restore the portion of Psalm 8 which adorns the Choir arch. This will require scaffolding in the church, which will be put up from 6<sup>th</sup> May.

Looking back to March we were very happy with the support given to The World Day of Prayer which was an emotive service as it was written by the women of Palestine some while before the disasters they have faced. The service was very well supported and poignant. Thank you to all who contributed to the enjoyable tea and for the generous donations. Thank you also to all the ladies who decorated the church for Easter. If anyone would like to join our happy group of flower arrangers please telephone Felicity on 01929450691.

We look forward to Gregory Stewart a professional tenor who will perform a concert of both classical music and Songs from the Shows on 12<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm This will be a rather special evening. Tickets are available from Studland Post Office and Stores or from Barbara Matthews 01929 450218 This will be the first of several Fund raising events this year.

Our first wedding of the year will take place on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April and will be conducted by our team Rector Revd Dr Ian Bird.

You are warmly invited to our Annual Parish Church Meeting at 7pm on 24<sup>th</sup> April. Annual meetings do not always enjoy a reputation for being fun, however they are very informative and are a very important part of the life of

the Church. This is an opportunity to shape the church that is meaningful for your lives. It is far more than reports and accounts which are always presented informatively and with respectful brevity.

The community coffee morning will continue in the Church Hall until 4<sup>th</sup> May (no coffee on Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> April) and from 4<sup>th</sup> May Julie Smith will kindly host the coffee morning at Manor Farm Tea Room.

The Men's Breakfast, held in St Nicholas Church Hall on the first Saturday of each month, is a great success - and Chef, Tony Edmonds and Sous Chef, Peter Hawksworth look forward to welcoming more hungry customers to the Men's Breakfast on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April from 8.30 to 10am. It's café style – so drop in when you can. And it's free! but if you would like to make a donation, that would be great! As well as sausage and bacon rolls, there are vegetarian and vegan options. If you have specific dietary requirements, just email us on [stnicksbreakfast@yahoo.com](mailto:stnicksbreakfast@yahoo.com)

Early notice of our "Nourish the Soul" festival which is on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> May from 10am - 4pm, more in the May edition. Also 5<sup>th</sup> May is Rogation Sunday. After the success of last year "Rogation" with pets we will use the same route through the now planted Church Meadow and you can see for yourselves an idea coming to fruition.

Please note that Tony will be taking leave from 15<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> April

***From the Registers***

24<sup>th</sup> May

Baptism of Elodie Ava Baker

*Rev Tony Higgins*  
Resident Priest

**GREGORY STEWARD**  
**PROFESSIONAL TENOR**  
*presents*  
*An evening of Classical Favourites and Songs from the Shows'*  
*Les Miserables*  
*Carousel*  
*South Pacific*  
*St Nicholas Church, Studland*  
Friday 12th April 2024 at 7.30 p.m.  
Tickets £12 - refreshments available  
To book tickets please contact Barbara 01929 450218  
Or email barmat18@btinternet.com  
Or contact Gregory 01458 211197 gregorstewardtenor@gmail.com  
Or Pay On The Door - Under 18s Free

**Swanage Skatepark Community Project (SSCP) is beyond excited to announce the first Swanage Skatepark Community Day; 1st June 2024, 12-5pm.**

The event will be hosted by King Ramps of Bournemouth who will bring a 'pop-up skatepark street course' to fill the current empty space in Swanage Skatepark. King Ramps will provide skateboards and safety gear for anyone who doesn't have their own. Expect a fun packed day designed to bring the whole community together as SSCP begins to re-energise the park. "King ramps are really excited to be working with SSCP and the local community. We will be hosting workshops throughout the day as well as demonstrations with our King Ramps Pro team. We will also be holding contests throughout the day for Scooter, BMX and Skateboard. We can't wait to see everyone there!" - Richie Inskip, King Ramps.



Thanks to funding from local charity #Willdoes, entry to the event, use of equipment and access to lessons is all FREE. "We hope to show just how valuable a resource the skatepark is and get everyone behind our long-term goal of raising funds for new ramps. The event will increase access to skateboarding with free

beginner lessons for all age groups (adults are welcome too!) and guidance from coaches. It will be a fun day to make new connections, hone skills and be entertained by demos and competitions." - James Woodford, SSCP. "In 2023, SSCP ran a user consultation. There were over 220 votes from people who wanted to see beginner lessons, pro riders and skate jams taking place in Swanage Skatepark. We're thrilled this event will be delivering the things our community want" - James Woodford, SSCP.

The Community Day is important because it aims to improve social inclusion for teenagers and young people in Purbeck. The #Willdoes Community Bus





will be at the event to provide a safe space for young people to meet and access information and support. The Skatepark Community Day will take place on the closing weekend of a Crowdfunder Campaign set to launch in April 2024 to raise money for new ramps. If our community can raise £20k, Sport England will provide

£10k in match funding. Any local businesses or individuals who see themselves being able to make a financial contribution are invited to get in touch with Heidi, SSCP Secretary at [swanageskatepark@gmail.com](mailto:swanageskatepark@gmail.com). We hope to see you on Saturday 1st June at Swanage Skatepark, bring friends and family with you!

*Photos courtesy of King Ramps*





## Look how far we have come in the race to end the world's oldest disease

In 2024 – Olympic year - The Leprosy Mission marks its 150th anniversary. The baton to end the world's oldest disease is now with a generation running the race with more tools and knowledge than ever before.

*Chief Executive Peter Waddup chats to leprosy patient Lawal in Nigeria about the difference a prosthetic leg has made to his life. Photo © Jeffrey Chukwu*

The earliest evidence of leprosy dates to 4,000 years ago. We also read in the Gospels of how Jesus cured people with this disease during his time on earth. Leprosy should no longer exist in the 21st Century as there has been an effective antibiotic cure since 1982. Yet because we live in a fallen world, this disease continues to blight millions of lives today. The lives of some of the poorest and most marginalised people on the planet.

Supporters and Leprosy Mission teams around the globe are calling on governments, philanthropic organisations, churches and individuals to join the race to end leprosy. Chief Executive Peter Waddup explained that for the majority of The Leprosy Mission's existence there was no cure for leprosy.

Peter says, "All those who went before us could do was offer love and practical care for those who had been cast out by their families and communities. There was, and still is, so much fear when a person develops visible signs of leprosy.

"Yet today, as well as an effective cure, we have a diagnostic test and undertake contact tracing. By doing so we can detect and cure leprosy in family members before they develop disabilities. There are also scientific advances in the pipeline that will hugely accelerate the race to stop the transmission of leprosy. We have better ways to heal ulcers and world-class reconstructive surgeons to help transform the lives of people disabled by leprosy. Crucially, there is a new generation of people affected by leprosy who are empowered to fight for their rights.

"Arm in arm with communities affected by leprosy, we want the 150th anniversary to be a launchpad to a world where no one is diagnosed with leprosy again. No one should live with a preventable disability caused by leprosy in this day and age. And no one should face discrimination just because they have this disease.

"The fight to end leprosy has never looked more hopeful and this is thanks to the incredible compassion and generosity of supporters. We believe that, with the right backing from governments, we can end leprosy. It is a disease that has haunted this world for too long and we are better equipped now than ever before to end leprosy."

"We praise our sovereign God for sustaining this mission through wars, pandemics and economic crises through the compassion of our amazing supporters. Wellesley Bailey, founder of the Leprosy Mission, famously said The Leprosy Mission was 'born and cradled in prayer.' One hundred and fifty years later, prayer remains at the very heart of everything we do. Each morning Leprosy Mission teams come together around the globe to thank God for blessing the work of our hands as we seek to end leprosy.

"I am so touched by the amazing stories of dedication and self-sacrifice among our supporters. I wish I could take each one to Asia and Africa, showing them the difference they are making to people every day."

To find out how you can get involved, please visit [leprosymission.org.uk](http://leprosymission.org.uk)

*From Gabby North*

## **The Leprosy Mission Swanage Parish Statement of Accounts**

1<sup>st</sup> March 2023-29<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Collecting boxes	£240.00 (£151.99 Gift Aided)
Donation	£50.00
Special donations from St Mary's on 17/09/23	£283.40
Total	£573.40

Once again I give my thanks to all of you who continue to support this important and necessary work of the Mission in helping to relieve the suffering of so many people diagnosed with this debilitating and incurable disease.

On 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023 Gabby North, Community Partnership Manager, visited St Mary's and spoke about the ongoing work of the Mission.

I have just spoken to Gabby who has just returned from a visit to India – very hot she said. She informed me that she is planning to come to St Mary's on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2024. It would be great if as many of you as possible can join us on that day, especially as this year marks the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mission.

If anyone wishes to have a Collecting Box please contact me on 01929 423418.

Many thanks.

*Rosemary Carpenter  
Hon Sec, Swanage Parish TLM*



## **Any Questions?**

**Do come and hear Rev Canon Richard Bartlett**  
***"Christian Mission in 21st century Britain –***  
***has it had its day?"***

**Swanage Methodist Church, High Street, Swanage**

**On Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April**

**Doors open at 6.30pm (coffee/tea) presentation from 7pm**

In his talk the Rev Canon Richard Bartlett will consider the challenges in communicating faith in a changing world.

Richard Bartlett is currently based in the benefice of West Purbeck and is the Parish Vicar at Holy Rood, Wool. In his previous role as a missionary in Brazil with USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel) and as Director of Mission Engagement at USPG based in central London, he has gained much experience on the subject.

Do join us and hear what Rev Bartlett has to share - he is a lively speaker - we look forward to welcoming you.

Further information can be obtained from David Williams:

[d.stephen.w1@gmail.com](mailto:d.stephen.w1@gmail.com)

## Teapot News



### Dear friends

Teapot is flourishing with new guests and home baked cakes, and here's a picture of Paul all smartly dressed up for the "posh Teapot" at the beginning of the month.



A friend shared this wise thought that's true for us all:

### WORRY

is the conversation you have with yourself about things you cannot change...

### PRAYER

is the conversation you have with Jesus about things He can change.

We hope you can join us (every Wednesday 10-12.30 in the Rectory classroom.)

All are welcome

*Mary Bevis*



## Swanage Communicare will celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

There will be a service of celebration and thanksgiving, open to all, at Emmanuel Baptist Church on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 2.30pm.

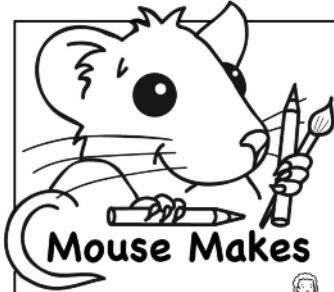
Followed by tea and cakes!

Please save the date in your diary and come and join us.

All are welcome.

*Jenny Lazenbury*





Some time after Jesus had risen a few of His disciples met together to go fishing. They fished all night but caught nothing. As the sun rose a man on the shore asked; "Have you caught anything?" "Not a thing" they answered.



He said to them "Throw your net out onto the right side of the boat and you will catch some." So they did and they and they caught so many fish they could not pull in the net. Then John recognised the man, "It is the Lord!"



How many times had the risen Jesus revealed himself to the disciples before this?



Read John 21:14

How many disciples were there? Who were they? Read John 21: 11

How many fish did they catch? Read John 21: 11



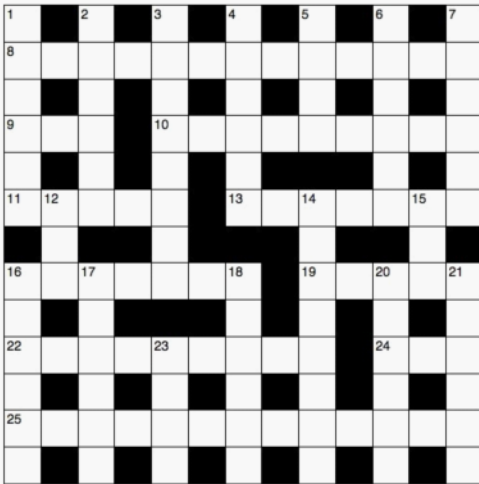
READ the story in John 21

B S N F F I R E R F  
 W A T E R I F D A Y C W  
 R I G H T A N I I B O A T Y  
 J O H N D S S O C S I N  
 M S H C B N T B A  
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 F O J K M E H E D I U A N D  
 B R E A K F A S T N S S A  
 D F I S H U N I G H T E  
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Colour in all the fish

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## DOWN

- 1 My — for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)
- 2 Festival of the resurrection (6)
- 3 'His sons will prepare for war and — a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)
- 4 'Let not the — string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)
- 5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)
- 6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — — him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)
- 7 'But Christ is faithful — — — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)
- 12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)
- 14 Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)
- 15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)
- 16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)
- 17 'They gave him — — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)
- 18 'Weren't there three men that we — — and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)
- 20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)
- 21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is — towards God?' (James 4:4) (6)
- 23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)

## ACROSS

- 8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the — ' (Isaiah 53:12) (13)
- 9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30) (3)
- 10 Comes between Galatians and Philippians (9)
- 11 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)
- 13 Muslim holy month (7)
- 16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)
- 19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)
- 22 How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)
- 24 'Go to the — , you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)
- 25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)



## Family News

### Baptism

Matilda Diane Deane

17 March



### Funerals

We give thanks for the lives of

Mrs Thelma Norman(94), Hanbury Road

04 March

Mr Mark Russell Rowley (60), Ulwell Road

07 March

Mrs Nicole Therese Shipman (95), Victoria Avenue

08 March

## A service of thanksgiving on the 200th anniversary of the RNLI

*Part of an article written by a member of the Poole Lifeboat crew*



As we arrived at Westminster Abbey, the sky above, was a perfect blue, spring sunshine, blending with the swarm of blue RNLI guernseys assembled on mass, that was quite a sight, representatives from every realm, every station and lifeguarded beach, and from the lifeboat College, support centres and from all elements of our RNLI story.

We made our way into the Abbey, chatting to people in the queue, we always say, if you are near a lifeboat station, you are close to home, we felt at home, all of us brought together in a magnificent building.

We sat in awe, there was much warmth when our president for 52 years, His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent arrived and made his way up the aisle, a life of service. Most of the lifeboat stations around the coast have had the honour of welcoming him,



we remember when he came to Poole, a true advocate and ambassador for the RNLI.

The service began with the words of our founder Sir William Hillary his 'Appeal to the Nation', it resonated with us all, reigniting our passion and desire to be 'in constant readiness' to help others 'whom they have never known or seen', his values, his valour passed on and not diminished through the years.

Inevitably there would be a wave in a congregation full of lifeboat crew, a wave of raw emotion as 'Eternal Father, Strong to Save' reverberated around the gothic ceilings and with an extra verse added for this special day, it hit the heart and the brine crept out of a few eyes.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby shared his thoughts and lightened the mood, he ended his sermon with '200 years is something extraordinary to celebrate. A common purpose for 200 years is almost unknown. Saving life is the most precious gift of all, and the basis of these gifts in the life and self-giving of God is a model for everyone. So, as it shows that model, may God continue to bless and protect those who serve in the RNLI'.

Articles for the **MAY 2024** edition of  
*'CHURCH ALIVE!'*

should be in the Parish Office

E-mail:

***swanage.team@btconnect.com***

by **FRIDAY 12TH APRIL 2024**

**no later than 12 noon on that date**

or

in the hands of the Editor

(Jane Cooper Telephone: 423591)

e-mail: ***dinofoot@hotmail.co.uk***

**no later than 12 noon on that date**

The editor cannot guarantee the inclusion of any contributions received after that date.

**Solution to the March crossword**

W	I	N	E		T	H	E	A	L	E	R	T
R		A				E		S		N		U
O	O	Z	E		P	A	S	S	O	V	E	R
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A		E			F	H		B		I		T
C	A	N	N	O	T		E	L	I	S	H	A
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F	L	O	G	G	I	N	G			S	T	Y
E												

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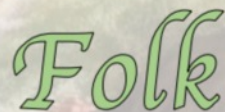
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A graphic of a musical staff with a treble clef, containing the text 'Mayday Singers' written in a blue, cursive font.


*Mayday Singers*

The word 'Springtime' is written in a green, cursive font, positioned above the word 'Folk'.

*Springtime*

The word 'Folk' is written in a green, cursive font, positioned below 'Springtime'.

*Folk*

A detailed illustration of a rural scene. In the foreground, a woman in a green dress and red skirt stands next to a white horse. A man in a hat is riding the horse. In the background, there is a thatched-roof building with a swan picture on the wall, a church spire, and a landscape with trees and a cow. A dog is lying on the grass in the lower left.

**3:30pm, Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

**St George's Church,  
Langton Matravers**

**Tickets - £8 on the Door**

**Followed by Tea and Cakes**

Cathy Murray – Soprano

John Watkins – Musical Director