



Sunday 12 October 2025
Holy Communion 10.00am
Revd Tony Edmonds

**A very warm welcome to our
service this morning in
St Nicholas Church, Studland**

... and a special welcome if you are a visitor to our Church! This is a Holy Communion service, and you are most welcome to take Communion with us. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please ask. Or if you would prefer to have a blessing, just bring this Notice Sheet with you to the communion rail, to give an indication to the priest.

Children are most welcome in our church. Do not worry if they are noisy or make a break for freedom: we are just delighted to have the children in Church with us. There are toys in the two green boxes at the back of the Church - and everyone is welcome to use them.

We do not pass around a collection plate at St Nicholas' Church, but we are most appreciative of donations to help maintain both the Church and its ministry. We have a traditional plate for cash donations with Gift Aid envelopes available as well as a contactless card payments station at the exit to the Church. If you would like to make regular donations, please consider setting up a Standing Order with your bank: if this is of interest, please contact the Treasurer, Eric Stobart at eric@thestobarts.co.uk. Later this year, we are looking to move to the Parish Giving Scheme which should streamline making donations on a regular basis.

After the service, we serve coffee, tea and other refreshments in the Church Hall. Please do join us - and get to know us all a little better.

For regular updates on Church activities throughout the week, please find us on www.achurchnearyou.com You can also follow us on Facebook. (St Nicholas Church Studland) – do give us a like or two!

St Nicholas Church in Studland is part of the Swanage and Studland Team

Team Rector	Revd Dr Ian Bird	Tel 01929 422916 (normal day off Friday)
Team Vicar	Revd Jo Levasier	Tel 01929 208217 (normal day off Friday)
Parish Administrator	Karon Quirey	swanage.team@btconnect.com
Parish Office	Tues & Weds 9am-5pm / Friday 9am – 4pm	Tel: 01929 421117

Visit our Team website www.swanageteam.com

SWANAGE & STUDLAND TEAM MINISTRY
St. Mary's – St. Mark's – All Saints' – St. Nicholas'
12 October 2025 – Trinity 17

Reading for this Sunday is: 2 Timothy 2, 8 - 15

Gospel Reading: Luke 17:11-19

¹¹ On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³ they called out, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!' ¹⁴ When he saw them, he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶ He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus asked, 'Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they?' ¹⁸ Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' ¹⁹ Then he said to him, 'Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.'

Collect:

Almighty God
you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you:
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself,
and so bring us at last to your heavenly city
where we shall see you face to face:
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Post Communion:

Lord we pray that your grace
may always precede and follow us,
and make us continually to be given to all good works;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

REFLECTION

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 Psalm 66:1-12 2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19

I'm pondering these readings after seeing a production of *Candide*, in which Voltaire mercilessly debunks nationalism, idealism, and contemporary teaching of European Jewish and Christian communities. It was the day of *Yom Kippur* and the atrocity in Manchester. They offer a different response to blame, protest and violence aroused by 'otherness', immigration and assimilation.

On one reading, the exile to Babylon seems to be the ultimate cataclysm, marking the failure of Solomon's golden age of national unity. God's faithful promises have amounted to nothing, because of his people's failure to keep their covenant faithfully. Babylon even becomes a metaphor in *Revelation* for Jerusalem and its temple as the ultimate source of faithlessness. Jeremiah is more realistic, and history bears him out: the highly educated Hebrew diaspora will learn a lot from their time in another culture. (Among many other things, they adopted a different script — the script in which we read the Hebrew Bible today.) Jeremiah and Voltaire are unlikely bedfellows but their response to random violence and suffering seems a resigned shrug: just cultivate your garden.

The psalm invites gratitude, not resignation: whatever happens, bless God for your 'garden', and recognise that, though we've suffered and perhaps loved and lost, we are offered a 'spacious place' though suffering. There are always, by grace, more blessings to receive, and more blessings to offer, however contracted our garden becomes. This is wisdom for *all* nations — including Israel.

The commitment to being a blessing to our own communities, wherever we are, whoever we are, and to make our own garden grow — whatever, wherever — isn't the easy escapism that Voltaire lampoons. Later Jewish commentators — from Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in *Daniel* to Topol in *Fiddler on the Roof* — are courageous in the face of persecution: if God abandons them, they will nonetheless remain faithful to God. As a witness to the realities of crucifixion and resurrection, Timothy's correspondent has even more confidence in God's faithfulness (if rather less in our own).

The gospel shows that God's faithfulness can heal and delight anyone reaching for it in faith. Had the priests in Jerusalem ever seen ten lepers cured before? Ten Samaritans enter their temple in joy? Our freedom in Christ lets us see these transformations. Could it help us liberate others bounded by suspicion, blame, hatred and violence?

Revd Terence Handley MacMath

TEAM NOTES

Jane Hawksworth would like to say thank you to Revd Tony Edmonds and the St Nicholas congregation for the support she received when she was relicensed by Bishop Karen as a Licensed Lay Minister, together with Carol Richardson. It was a magnificent service, held at St Mark's Church in Herston – and it was wonderful to have some of our choir singing during the service. Congratulations to Carol Richards – and also to her husband, Dave Richards who was licensed as associate priest. Thanks, to you all.

Studland Men's Breakfast – Hold the date! The next Men's Breakfast will be held on **Saturday, 1st November** in the Church Hall. It runs on a café style – so come any time between 8,30am – 10am for a great breakfast – and great conversation. You will be welcomed by Chef, Tony Edmonds, and Sous Chef, Peter Hawksworth, who will be cooking up a gastronomic treat of bacon rolls, sausages and black pudding, together with toast and marmalade (or honey) - and unlimited tea and coffee. They cater for vegetarians and vegans too – and, of course, offer gluten free options. There is no charge for the breakfast, but we are grateful if you can make a donation. The important thing is that you join us! Any queries, just email Stnicksbreakfast@yahoo.com

Community Coffee Down on the Farm Studland's Community Coffee Morning has moved to Manor Farm for the summer. Join us on Thursday mornings from 10am to 11am – for coffee, scones and conversation. We'd love to see you there.

Any Questions? Tuesday 14th October 2025 at 7.00pm (with refreshments served from 6.30pm) at the United Reformed Church. Canon Professor Vernon White (Visiting Professor in Theology at King's Cross, London) will discuss "Faith and Ethics in a Secular World") All are welcome

Purbeck Film Festival – St Mary's will be hosting on Monday 20th October at 7.30pm. The film showing will be 'A Real Pain', a comedy/drama by Director Jesse Eisenberg. Tickets £8, £6 students, under 25s and UC.

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. Lists for those who wish to have names of loved ones read out during the service will be available in the churches as usual in the days prior to the service.

Volunteers needed! You may have noticed that we are hospitable at St Nicholas – we love offering refreshments after Church and we love hosting the Community Coffee morning. We need more volunteers to help out – so if you feel that you could serve coffee on Sundays after the service, or help with the Community Coffee session on Thursday mornings, please see Diana Edmonds or Jane Hawksworth – or just sign up on the Notice Board.

Funerals in our churches:

Margaret Rose Noyce

Mon 13th Oct

12 noon

St Mark's