



Sunday 11th October 2026
Holy Communion 10.00am
Rev'd Tony Edmonds

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

... and a special welcome to visitors and newcomers to our service. This is a Holy Communion service, and you are all most welcome to take Communion with us. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please ask. And, if you would prefer to have a blessing, just bring this Notice Sheet with you to the communion rail.

We love having children in our church. Please do not worry if they are noisy - or make a break for freedom: we are just delighted to have them 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 are always most appreciative of donations to help maintain both the Church here in Studland, and its ministry. If you would like to make a gift, we have a traditional plate for cash donations with Gift Aid envelopes available, as well as a contactless card payment station at the exit to the Church. If you would like to make a donation directly from your bank account or set up a regular donation by Standing Order, the Church's bank account is '*PCC of Studland, sort code 55-61-19, account number 69056935*'. If you have any queries or questions, please contact the Treasurer, Eric Stobart at eric@thestobarts.co.uk.

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, you can find us on www.achurchnearyou.com You can also follow us on Facebook. (St Nicholas Church Studland) – do give us a like or two!

For additional information about St Nicholas Church and its services, please contact:
Associate Minister: Rev'd Dr Tony Edmonds 01929 450097 revtonyedmonds@outlook.com
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SWANAGE & STUDLAND TEAM MINISTRY
St. Mary's – St. Mark's – All Saints' – St. Nicholas
11th October 2026 Trinity 19

Reading for this Sunday is: Philippians 4:1-9

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:1-14

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ 'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.'

Collect:

O God, forasmuch as without you
we are not able to please you:
mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit
may in all things direct and rule our hearts;
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.

Post Communion:

Holy and blessed God,
you have fed us with the body and blood of your Son
and filled us with your Holy Spirit:
may we honour you,
not only with our lips
but in lives dedicated to the service
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

REFLECTION

Exodus 32:1-14 Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 Philippians 4:1-9 Matthew 22:1-14

The Jewish people still study to prepare for Yom Kippur – the annual day of atonement: to return to God, and to be reconciled with each other, in the hope that their names will be written in the book of Life, as Paul begs the Philippians to do. There are two formidable leaders in their church whose disagreements have reached Paul's ears in prison, perhaps as far as 800 miles away. *Plus ça change...*

The precious covenant between God and creation, that we keep on breaking – from Adam till today – is renewed by such atonement, spectacularly for the family of Israel with their miraculous escape from Egypt and the gift of the law on Sinai. The covenant goes through many iterations in the Bible – 'Adamic covenant', 'Noahic covenant', 'covenant of peace', 'everlasting covenant' etc – but it is essentially the same covenant or marriage (*berit* can mean both, and, for Jews, circumcision because this is the defining mark of the covenant). This is what binds God and his creation in peace.

Matthew's parable of the cursed fig tree gives us the key to his parable of the wedding feast. The rejection of the laws of peace by the leaders of Israel is behind their rejection of Jesus because he has been preaching peace to all. Matthew's careful structure is interrupted by three related sets of three (the 'few small fish' that accompany the 'bread' of his universal teaching). These describe the terrible consequences of Israel's leaders' rejection of peace, drawing on references from the Torah and Isaiah. In Matthew 22:1-14 we read of marriages made for a son; a sacrifice prepared; three of the responses to the sower's 'seed' that Jesus talked about; the fate of some of God's prophets; the 'parting of the ways' (not 'thoroughfares' or 'streets') that will inevitably ensue.

Matthew's 'bridal chamber' can be read as a post-mortem vision ('reclining ones', often translated as 'guests', can mean people feasting pagan-style – or corpses lying on a bier). And who is the man without a wedding garment? Matthew gives us three clues: the Spirit clothes her children with garments of Wisdom, but this 'man' has no garment; the king addresses him as 'Friend'. Whom does Jesus call 'Friend', and when? The man who kissed him at Gethsemane.

Revd Terence Handley MacMath

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

TEAM NOTES

Community Coffee is back in the Church Hall, every Thursday morning from 10am. Everyone is welcome – do join us for cafetiere coffee, brilliant biscuits and cheerful conversation.

Your Church needs you! We do a lot at St Nicholas Church – and we need your help to keep doing it – and doing it better. We need:

Volunteers for the Flower Rota. Absolutely no experience necessary! Just an interest in helping to decorate the beautiful church a few times a year on a rota basis. Anyone and everyone welcome, help and guidance given!!

Volunteers to help with coffee on Sunday mornings after the service: Again, support and guidance will be provided. All you need is the ability to make coffee and put out the biscuits. It's a great way to meet people – and make them happy.

Volunteers to go on the rota for the Community Coffee Morning. Community Coffee comes back to the Church Hall at the beginning of October. We work in 2s, so you are never on your own. We make coffee, provide cake and biscuits – and talk a lot, to a very nice group of people.

If you are interested, put your name and phone number on one of the clipboards in the Church Hall. And if you want to chat more about it, please ask Diana Edmonds or Jane Hawksworth.

Churches Together AGM – Weds 14th October at Emmanuel Baptist Church. 7pm for coffee, 7.30pm time of worship. Followed by a short time of news, appointing of new officers for Churches Together forum and a brief review of the year. Along with an introduction to the work of AllSort'd by Pauline Kirk.

Jonathan Viera – at Emmanuel Baptist Church on Friday 16th October, 7.30pm. Jonathan, renowned singer and musician, will be performing his acclaimed one man show, filled with music, singing, moving and hilarious anecdotes from his professional and personal life. Tickets £10 available from Parish Office or see Rector Ian.

'Wear it Pink' – special event in aid of Breast Cancer Now on Sunday 18th October, 10am Holy Communion; 11am coffee, tea, wine and lots of delicious cakes. Join us at St Mark's Church, Bell St, Herston. Donations will be invited for 'Wear it Pink' Breast Cancer Now.

"H is for Hawk" is the film at St Mary's for this year's Purbeck Film Festival. It's on **Monday, 19th October at 7.30pm.** The actors include Claire Foy, Brendan Gleeson, Denise Gough, Lindsay Duncan, and the rating is 12A. The film is followed by a "Q and A" session with the film's BAFTA-winning British director, Philippa Lowthorpe, an acclaimed film and television director. She has directed *Call the Midwife* and episodes of *The Crown* among other things. See October's Church Alive for more information.