

Studland Parish News



December
2025



St Nicholas Church Studland

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St Nicholas Church, Studland

Rota of Readers and Sides Persons - December 2025

Date and Time	Service	Sides Person	Readers	Readings
Sunday 7 th December 10.00am	Family Communion 2 nd Sunday of Advent <i>Rev. Tony Edmonds</i>	June Fletcher	Polly Warner Keith Tillyard	Romans 15, 4 – 13 Matthew 3, 1 – 12
Tuesday 9 th December 6.30pm	Carol Service <i>Rev. Tony Edmonds</i>	To be advised	To be advised.	To be advised
Sunday 14 th December 10.00am	Holy Communion 3 rd Sunday of Advent <i>Rev. Tony Edmonds</i>	Carol Wadley	Eric Stobart Jane Hawksworth	James 5, 7 – 10 Matthew 11, 2 – 11
Sunday 14 th December 3.30pm	Carols in the Barn <i>Rev. Jo Lavasier</i>	Not required	Clergy	To be advised
Sunday 21 st December 10.00am	Morning Prayers 4th Sunday of Advent <i>Rev. Tony Higgins</i>	Sally Hogsflesh	David Hogsflesh Peter Jennings	Romans 1, 1 – 7 Matthew 1, 18 – end
Wednesday 24 th December Christmas Eve 11.30pm	Midnight Mass <i>Rev. David Richards</i>	Ginny Stobart	Eric Stobart Clergy	Hebrews 1, 1-4 John 1, 1-14
Thursday 25 th December Christmas Day 10.00am	Family Communion <i>Rev. Tony Edmonds</i>	June Fletcher	Sara-Jayne Smith Peter Jennings	Titus 3, 4-7 Luke 2, 1-20
Sunday 28 th December 10.00am	Holy Communion Holy Innocents <i>Rev. Tony Edmonds</i>	Ginny Stobart	Diana Edmonds Cindy Yeandle	Corinthians 1, 26-29 Matthew 2, 13-18

Swanage and Studland Team Ministry

Team Rector:

Rev Dr Ian Bird

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St Nicholas Church, Studland

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Hon. Secretary:

VACANT

JANUARY deadline is:

FRIDAY DECEMBER 12TH 10am

Email: sharonwestman@gmail.com

Tel: 01929 450358

Late contributions cannot be guaranteed.

Note from the editor...

Really, how is this the last edition of the year already? The time has truly rushed by and a lot of the year feels like a blur.

Whilst reading the words of Tony Edmonds, I am reminded that perhaps I don't always take enough time to pause, to give myself the permission to go slower and reflect on what has gone. I welcome Advent and the opportunity to reflect on a daily basis in the run up to Christmas.

The words shared by Natalie Davies also resonated with me, the understanding of darkness and light in our worlds. Personally, it makes me think of our own darkness within. I am reminded that by exploring our shadows, through reflective and contemplative thought, we can come to find light. I offer the following questions for your own contemplation: How could we know courage if we have never known fear? How could we know happiness if we never experience sadness? How could we know light if we never knew darkness?

I would like to say thank you to everyone who has given me ideas for the magazine in 2026. I look forward to sharing with you some new regular features. If anyone has any more ideas they wish to share with me, please make sure you do so before the January deadline.

However you will be spending the festive season, I hope it brings you joy. Take care,

Sharon Westman, Editor

Mini Prayer of the Month

Dear Father,

Christmas is coming. It's all such a rush – planning, shopping, spending, wrapping, posting, stressing! What's it all about? Lord, help us, in all the rat-race busyness, to make time to focus on that baby at the centre of it all. That baby who is Your Son, who was with You in the beginning and who, with You, created all things; that baby who brings life and light and hope and salvation; that baby who was and is Jesus, God, made man.

Lord, we thank You for that baby-gift to us – the greatest gift there has ever been. Thank You that because He came, grew up, lived, died and rose again, there is light in the darkness of this world's mess – light that can never be put out, that evil can never overcome. Jesus is the Light of the World. Putting our trust in Him, we thank You Lord, for Christmas – for Your grace and love for us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

St Nicholas Parish News

“Are we nearly there yet?”, “Are we nearly there yet”, “How much further?”, “When will we get there”.... How many of our journeys have been punctuated by these insistent queries, coming from the back seat occupants of the car?

Journeys can seem interminable, especially to children. I suspect adults to find waiting, or watching and waiting rather tiresome. In the Christian year, the weeks before Christmas, which we call Advent, are just such a watching and waiting time. Christians try to slow down a little, to take more time to be reflective. (Yes, I know, in the middle of the preparations for Christmas this is a bit tricky!) In part we're getting ourselves ready for the wonderful blaze of light that is Christmas day. This is the day we celebrate God's audacious rescue plan for humanity, a plan involving a baby born to a teenage mother in a makeshift location in an obscure corner of the Roman empire. This Advent season of quiet and reflection makes Christmas day itself even more intense, even more celebratory. But we also take a longer view in Advent, we look forward to a distant time when all of God's purposes come to fruition and all of time, past present and future will be bound up in his son, Jesus. We recognise that there is an arc, a trajectory to all of history, that it's not just some mish-mash of random events.

In St Nicholas Church our Advent preparations are marked by the lighting of the candles on the Advent wreath, one for each of the four Sundays of Advent. Three of the candles are purple, the colour of the reflective season of Advent (and, incidentally, Lent). One of the candles is rose pink, a colour associated with joy. (In the reflective seasons of Advent and Lent, the Christian calendar always sets apart one Sunday for a bit of celebration!). The culmination is the lighting of the central white candle on Christmas day.

Our Sunday services follow the great Advent themes of watching and waiting. Maybe you could join us: give yourself a bit of a break from the helter-skelter preparations for Christmas. Of course, you can also join us to sing carols and celebrate the Christmas story at our traditional service of Carols and Lessons on the 9th December at 18:30 and the Carols in the Barn at 15:30 on the 14th. We have a Midnight Mass service at 11:30 on Christmas Eve and a lively Family Communion at 10:00 on Christmas day.

There's plenty of opportunity to be thoughtful and celebratory at St Nicholas!

Rev. Tony Edmonds

Church Alive Writes...

As I write this article, we have just celebrated Remembrance, honouring the fallen, all those who have given their lives in the service of this country, in striving for peace. Remembering the past year as we approach the end of it, we will be no doubt be mindful that another year has passed in which the yet more conflicts have broken out or continued across our globe.

Advent is a time in the liturgical calendar of waiting and preparation. We are waiting for Jesus, the light of the world and bringer of peace to come into our lives. This year this waiting is again more poignant than ever.

However, as we mark the start of Advent at the evening Advent Sunday service at St Mary's, beginning with darkened church which is gradually lit with candles, we will be reminded that the *light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it* (John 1:5). Wars continue because there are those who continue to resist evil, who are determined to bring freedom to those who are persecuted and to return peace to places torn apart by violence. During Advent we wait and look toward the coming of the light into the darkness, the root of Jesse, Emmanuel, God with us who was born of the Virgin Mary and sent by God as the saviour of the world. Christ is our hope and our light in the darkest of times.

Moving through Advent, closer to Christmas the Church offers us a set of prayers to be used to herald the coming of Christ. The Advent O Antiphons have been used since the early Middle Ages and have been sung since the sixth or seventh centuries at Evening Prayer between 17th-23rd December. Each are drawn from a description of the Messiah from the Old Testament prophets and concludes with a plea- *Veni!* 'Come!'. Together these offer us a profound and beautiful meditation on the coming of the Messiah.

O Wisdom, O Adonai, O Root of Jesse, O Key of David, O Morning Star, O King of the Nations, O Emmanuel, Come! (and if you want to read more about this and how to pray with these, I highly recommend to you *O Come Emmanuel: Reflections on the Advent Antiphons* which has been recently published by Church House Publishing).

In calling the O Antiphons to mind we can look in joyful expectation to the celebration of the birth of Christ, our light and our salvation, who has so much to offer us today. Because despite all the darkness in our world, there is still much that has happened in which we have been guided and accompanied by Christ that we can be thankful for and celebrate:

This year across our churches we have seen: nine couples married, two of our choristers confirmed, baptisms, the licensing of Revd Dave and Carol Richards at St Marks and Revd Tony Edmonds in Studland; All Saints have had two very successful community Fundays and have seen the successful launch of the new Toddler Group, a Holy Week prayer room, hosted a work experience student, and held many other successful services and events; St Marks had two excellent

Teddy Bear Picnics organised by Team Teddy!, and the popular Pimms and Hymns event in July; St Mary's highlights have included the Lent Course, the (as always) rich liturgy and music during our Easter services provided by our very talented musicians and choir, and community celebrations of the Folk Festival and the annual Lifeboat service which this year marked 150 years of the Swanage Lifeboat Station. It was also a great pleasure to welcome Stephen, the Bishop of Salisbury who preached at the Lifeboat service and preached and presided at the Patronal Festival at St Mary's that morning. As always, we have maintained great relationships with other Swanage churches in Churches Together in Swanage events such as the Carnival tent and Carnival Praise service, the United Service and others.

We already have many more exciting projects, events and services planned for the coming year and so as this year draws to a close, I look forward in hope and thanksgiving that Christ, Emmanuel, is with us.

From all of the us in the Swanage and Studland Team Ministry we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year.

Revd. Natalie Davies

St Mary's clock

Many of you will I am sure be wondering what is happening with the hands on the south face of the clock at St Mary's. These had to be removed last year after the minute hand was dropping to 4 minutes past instead of 1 minute past when it moved past the 12-hour position. Upon inspection by Smith of Derby it was found that the thread in the hand nut had failed and the hour shaft had loosened considerably meaning the hands were at risk of falling on passersby!

Over the past few months Revd Natalie and Revd Ian have therefore been working on an application for funding from ChurchCare (a Church of England body that gives grants for the conservation of historic churches) to repair the clock and replace the hands. It is with great joy and relief to report that our grant was successful and so we hope that the repairs will be completed and hands on the South face replaced in time for Christmas!

Revd. Natalie Davies

STUDLAND WI – Wednesday 12th Nov 2025

The President welcomed all members who attended the meeting. Apologies were given for those who were unable to attend.

A busy meeting was held with lots of information for the ladies with all the forthcoming events that are coming up over the next month.

Reports were given from the walking netball team who have recently taken part in a tournament along with the Swanage WI. There were 7 players from Studland, and they won 2 out of their 3 matches.

Both the skittles teams are busy getting their matches played. The B team have won 2 out of their 3 matches so far and last week beat the reigning champs from Bride Valley WI. Quite a trek down to Litten Cheney on a wet and windy November night but worth it for the win.



On Thursday 13th November we planted our Victoria Plum tree in the Church Orchard. This is to commemorate 110 years of the National Women's Institute. Studland WI is 104 years old, so we're not doing bad!

Our November speaker was Nick Dobbs talking about "Native Reptiles". Nick works for The Wildlife Trust and is a licensed herpetologist (reptile handler) and keen wildlife photographer. Nick gave us details about all 5 native reptiles in the UK all of which are present here in the Purbecks; Slow worms, common lizards, sand lizards, barred grass snake and the European adder – our only viper. He discussed each one in detail telling us how to distinguish them from different markings and tell if they are male or female. Their size and eating habits. There were plenty of questions from the ladies and stories of what has been seen in gardens and around the local area. Nick was a very knowledgeable speaker, and the talk was very interesting.

Next month our meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th December at Studland Village Hall at 7.30pm. There will be no speaker this month as it is our Christmas social. This is a member only meeting so we look forward to seeing you all.

WI is here for all ladies of all ages, and we would love to welcome you to join us, so why not come along in the New Year and join our friendly group. Fun, friendship and plenty of laughter.

Lynn Elliott - President

Studland History Group

On Wednesday 10th December we have the Christmas Lunch at the Village Inn for those who have pre-booked.

We start 2026 with a talk by Carlton Hobbs on Wednesday 14th January at 2.30pm in the Village Hall. For this talk "Petticoat Tale – the story of Ann Hibbs and her several husbands", Carlton has once more delved into the Vestry Minutes to follow this fascinating tale!

On the 18th February we have a talk by Malcolm Angel, "In Search of Isaac Gulliver of Worth Matravers".

The AGM is on 11th March to be followed by "Growing up in Studland in the 1950's, 60's and 70's". by Joyce Meates.

All welcome to these meetings.

Joyce Meates. Secretary. 01929 439245



Updates from the National Trust:

Have a really wild Christmas!

Firstly, we wanted to wish you all a really wild Christmas and nature-rich New Year! Thank you for your support this year and for the

lovely feedback we've had about our updates. Remember, if you're on Facebook, you can follow us on National Trust Purbeck Countryside, where we feature the wonderful wildlife of our area.

Pictured is an extremely rare ground beetle found on Hartland Moor. The iridescent colours couldn't be more Christmassy!

(Photo: Purbeck Natural History Forum)



Remarkable resurgence of wildlife



Five years after the creation of the Purbeck Heaths National Nature Reserve (NNR) – volunteers have revealed a remarkable resurgence of wildlife. At the recent AGM of the Purbeck Natural History Forum, held at Studland Village Hall, speakers presented the highlights of a year of wildlife monitoring:

*Dartford warblers have reached a record 97 breeding pairs at Arne, an extraordinary recovery

for a species that was almost extinct in the UK in the 1960s.

*Silver-studded blue butterflies on the Studland heaths saw their highest ever counts in 2024 and 2025. This is in a time of national butterfly decline.

*A nationally rare ground beetle, famed for its iridescent green and gold colouring, is thriving on Hartland Moor.

*Water voles, an endangered species, have been recorded on several sites on the heaths.

*Pine martens, critically endangered in England, have been recorded for the first time at Little Sea.

Read more here: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/dorset/spyway/remarkable-wildlife-resurgence-on-purbeck-heaths

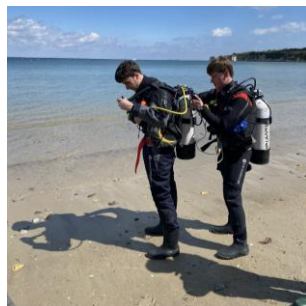
(Photo: Dartford warbler, Paul Wright)

National recognition for Studland divers

As seahorse numbers increase in Studland Bay, a growing community of divers is coming together to help monitor their progress. At the recent UK Seahorse Symposium in Cardiff, Dr Ken Collins, Research Fellow at the University of Southampton, praised the volunteer divers who have spent years mapping Studland's seagrass meadows and building a database of seahorse sightings.

He said: *"The recovery of the seagrass meadows and increasing numbers of seahorses seems to be galvanising the diving community. Our volunteers, ranging from university students to retired divers, have put in nearly 3,000 hours between 2008 and 2025 – that's equivalent to four months continuously underwater! If we were employing professional divers, it would cost around £750,000! Being invited to talk at the symposium shows that the work of the Studland Bay Marine Partnership to restore the seagrass meadows is being recognised as a leading UK example of marine conservation through co-operation. Our practices are being adopted around the world."*

(Photo: Cathy Lewis)



Middle Beach – rubble source revealed

As predicted, change is happening fast to the shoreline at Middle Beach now that the sea defences have been removed. But what did surprise us is the amount of building rubble coming out of the cliff. This information from Studland historian Joyce Meates sheds some light on this: *"The great barn and cottages next to Manor Farm were demolished in 1964/5 and all*

the stone was tipped in front of the beach shop to fill in behind the dragons' teeth on the beach. Watery Lane cottages were demolished and the stones from them were also dumped in front of the beach shop."

Our staff are checking the beach daily and removing plastic and harmful debris, but for safety, the beach will remain closed to the public during this period of rapid change.

(Photo: Paul Bradley)

If you have any queries, email us on purbeck@nationaltrust.org.uk.

Cathy Lewis, National Trust

Corfe Castle Surgery/The Patient Participation Group News

I would like to start with a very big THANKYOU to all Staff, PPG volunteers, and patients for their support during our two Saturday flu clinics in October. It has been another successful campaign, and we look forward to seeing you all again next year!

With Christmas just around the corner I wanted to confirm this years opening hours as follows; Please make sure that you have enough medication for the festive season!

Monday 22nd December 8.30am-6.30pm
Tuesday 23rd December 8.30am- 6.30pm
Wednesday 24th December 8.30am -6.30pm
Thursday 25th December **CLOSED**
Friday 26th December **CLOSED**
Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th **CLOSED**
Monday 29th December 8.30am-6.30pm
Tuesday 30th December 8.30am- 6.30pm
Wednesday 31st December 8.30am -6.30pm
Thursday 1st January 2026 **CLOSED**
Friday 2nd January 8.30am- 6.30pm

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Kerry Norman, Practice Manager and Maggie Hardy, PPG Chair.
corfecastleppg@gmail.com

Swanage Medical Practice Patient Participation Group Flu Vaccination

You may have heard that this year's flu season has started earlier than usual. Flu rates are already much higher than normal for this time of year. Australia has just experienced its worst flu season on record and there are concerns that the UK is also facing its worse flu season in a decade. The NHS is urging everyone eligible to have a flu jab as soon as possible. Those eligible for a free flu jab at the Surgery this Autumn include:

- *People aged 65 or older
- *People aged under 65 in high-risk groups
- *Children aged 2-3 years
- *People who live with someone with a weak immune system
- *Those who provide unpaid care to an older or disabled person.

If you've not already had your flu jab, please ring the Surgery to book an appointment.

Dorset HealthCare is providing free flu jabs for housebound patients and care home residents, as well as for school age children (Reception to Year 11) and young people attending special educational schools aged up to the age of 25 years.

Pregnant women are being offered free flu jabs through their Maternity Service. Frontline health and social care workers are being offered free flu jabs through their employers.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Vaccination

RSV can cause serious lung conditions, particularly in babies and adults over 75. As RSV rates are also increasing, we urge everyone eligible to get their RSV jab. You can get a free RSV jab at the Surgery if you're aged 75-79 or if you turned 80 after 1 September 2024. Older adults only need one dose.

Pregnant women are also being offered free RSV jabs through their Maternity Service to help protect their babies after they're born.

PPG Meetings

The PPG now has 15 members. At our last meeting on 11th November, Diana Edmonds, Chair of the Friends of Swanage Library, updated us on the services offered by Swanage Library, as well as the work of the Friends. We look forward to working more closely with the Friends of Swanage Library in the future.

Our next meeting will be held at the Surgery on Tuesday 13th January 2026 at 12:30pm.

You can find out more about the PPG, including Minutes of our meetings and our current Priorities, at: www.swanagemedical.org.uk/pages/Patient-Participation-Group

If you are interested in joining the PPG, please contact Natasha Ritchie, the Practice Manager, or email the PPG directly at ppgswanage@gmail.com

Dr Margaret Guy (Mrs Broadhurst)
Chair, Swanage Medical Practice PPG



Isle of Purbeck Golf Club

December is just around the corner, and if you're still planning your festive outings, we've got some fantastic options waiting for you. Our festive and tasty 2 and 3 course Christmas Lunches return from 1st – 23rd December—always a seasonal favourite.

Our Join-In Party Nights on 5th, 6th, 12th, 13th, 19th and 20th December are proving incredibly popular and are filling up quickly.

We're also delighted to host our special Christmas Eve Brunch on Wednesday 24th December from 9am–12pm. All menus are available on our website, and advance booking is required due to high demand. To book any of the Christmas events, please call Kathy on extension 3.

Throughout December, the Bar is open daily (except Christmas Day and Boxing Day) for breakfast and hot drinks from 8:30am–11:30am. Lunch is served in the bar from 11:30am–4pm and in the dining room from 12pm–2pm. With the clubhouse beautifully decorated for the season, including our famous sleigh, it's the perfect time to drop in and soak up the festive atmosphere.

Winter Warmer packages run through to the end of March at £40 (Mon–Fri) and £50 (Sat–Sun), including a bacon bap and coffee. You can upgrade to a Full English for just £5. Please remember that food is included only with bookings made at least 24 hours in advance. You can book online or through the Pro Shop. For more details or to make a booking, visit our website or get in touch.

01929 450361 • www.purbeckgolf.co.uk • iop@purbeckgolf.co.uk

BRIDGE CLUB Meets every Monday from 6-8PM in Old Harry's Bar. Experienced players and beginners' welcome.

Virginia Lynch 01929 450177



ARTSREACH AT STUDLAND VILLAGE HALL:

Thursday 4th December 2025 at 7.30pm

Our next Artsreach show at the Village Hall features “A Night at the Opera”.

Delve into a world of vengeance, love and regret this winter with a musical feast from soprano Callie Gaston, tenor Roger Paterson and pianist Elspeth Wilkes. Callie and Roger work

internationally as performers in a variety of touring ensembles, but this new opera gala tour makes it possible to bring the grand drama of opera to life in the Village Hall. Featuring a variety of well-loved opera arias and duets followed by some musical theatre classics, this show is ideal for anyone wanting a relaxed introduction to the genre. Revel in the romance of Puccini, the passion of Gounod and the heartbreak of Verdi. Each piece is set into context by the performers, so no prior knowledge is necessary. Expect a wonderful show for both opera newbies and aficionados alike.



More info at www.calliegaston.co.uk www.rogerpaterson.co.uk and www.artsreach.co.uk

As usual, there will be refreshments available and the Old Harry Bar will be open. Tickets Adults £12.50, under 18s £6, family (2 adults 2 children) £35, available online from www.artsreach.co.uk and in person from Studland Stores. Telephone bookings and enquiries 01929 450587. Tickets will also be available on the door unless we have sold out by then.



Tis' the season to be jolly at your local Bar!

There's a warm, seasonal welcome waiting for you in our family & dog friendly bar. We have a full-sized pool table; board games and we also serve tasty stone baked pizzas! Find us opposite the shop, tucked just behind the village hall.

WINTER OPENING HOURS

MON, THURS, FRI & SAT: 5pm – 10.30pm

SUNDAYS: 3pm – 8pm

(Closed on Tuesday and Wednesday)

Christmas Opening Hours in December:

Mon 22nd & Tues 23rd: 5pm – 10.30pm

Christmas Eve: 5pm – 11pm

Christmas Day: 11am – 3pm

Boxing Day: 12pm – 8pm

Sat 27th & Sun 28th: 5pm – 10.30pm

Mon 29th: 5pm – 10.30pm

Tuesday 30th: CLOSED

New Years Eve: 7pm – 2am

New Years Day: 3pm – 8pm

What's Happening at Old Harry Bar?

Friday 12th - Chris's Christmas Trivia Quiz (Teams of up to 6) 7.30pm

Sunday 28th - Marks Big Fat Quiz of the Year (Teams of up to 6) 7.30pm

Wednesday 31st - 2026 New Year Party 7pm – 2am

Usual Weekly Programme:

MONDAY Bridge Club, beginners welcome - 6pm

THURSDAY Craft Club, Yap & Yarn, Bring your own craft projects along - 5.30pm

FRIDAY NIGHT: MEAT RAFFLE – weekly at 9pm

SATURDAY NIGHT: MEMBERS DRAW – weekly at 9pm

(You must be a member and be there in person for a chance to win!)

Italian Stone baked Pizzas

(Available to eat in or take away - Order on 01929 450561)

12" Margherita - £12 - (Tomato sauce and mozzarella cheese)

Plus, a wide selection of extra toppings to choose from at 50p each

We also have a deal for 2 pizzas and 2 drinks!

See our 5 Star Reviews on TRIPADVISOR

See: Facebook, Instagram, our members newsletter or visit:

www.oldharrybar.co.uk



studlandparishcouncil.org

Update from Studland Parish Council December 2025

Studland Parish Council (SPC) met on November 18th. All councillors were present, except Nick Boulter, David Battle and Stephen Yeoman. Emma Wright and Mark Singleton were in attendance to represent the National Trust, but Cllr Ben Wilson of Dorset Council was unable to be present due to illness. No members of the public attended.

Emma Wright offered the following updates on behalf of the NT:

- New car parking system – The new Automatic Number plate Recognition (ANPR) system will be installed at Knoll Beach car park in week beginning 8th December. The NT anticipates that the new machines and cameras etc will be operational by the 13th December. Any Studland residents who wish to register their number plate details can do so from 1st December at Knoll Beach visitor reception. This registration will allow access until 28th February 2026. Licence plates will then need to be re-registered from 1st March 2026 until 28th Feb 2027, annually. For resident access permits to the other 3 car parks residents are asked to apply at Knoll Beach visitor reception, when current permits run out, instead of at the NT's Currendon office.
- Shell Bay toilets - Due to the installation of new hand wash machines the ladies and gents will be closed during week commencing 17th November. Portaloos will be in place during this period.
- Events – the Next T10 run is on 23rd November.

In his absence, Cllr Ben Wilson had provided a written report on behalf of Dorset Council. Under 'Local News' his report gave the key headlines from the Decision Notice and Inspector's Report into the Ferry Company toll application:

- The Secretary of State has agreed to make the Toll Revision Order with modifications, following the Inspector's recommendation.
- The road toll proposal has been rejected at this stage due to unresolved operational concerns.
- Ferry toll increases have been reduced from the proposed £1.75 to £1.18 for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorcyclists.
- Bulk ticket for pedestrians and cyclists' discounts from the 2021 Order will be maintained, offering 10% for 50 tickets and 15% for 100 tickets.
- Discounts on bulk tickets for cars will reduce over time as per the order.

Further details of how the outcomes of the Secretary of State's decision affects ferry users, including local residents, are given in a separate report by Cllr Stephen Yeoman published in this edition of the Parish News.

Cllr Wilson's report drew attention to the Dorset Council Minerals and Waste Plan Consultation – which closed on 25th November. The draft Plan does not contain any detailed policies or details of sites at this stage.

Cllr Wilson also explained that Dorset Council's 5-year housing land supply expired on 31st October 2025 – because DC can no longer demonstrate that there is sufficient development land identified which would meet the increased housing targets (3,246 per year) set by central government. This means that greater weight in planning decisions will be given to housing delivery and less weight to Local Plan policies. Consequently, speculative applications by developers will have a greater chance of success - unless there are strong reasons for refusal.

There were no new planning applications for the Parish Council to consider this month.

On Highways, the Council noted that the replacement of the “Give Way” and “No Entry” signs at the Swanage Road / Corfe Road triangle intersection which had been knocked down in a vehicle collision are still awaited. The Clerk is chasing this.

No incidents of crime had been reported.

Under Officer reports, Steve Smith confirmed that the Christmas tree for the Green has been ordered. The switch-on of the lights will take place on Sunday 7th December, after the Studland Christmas Lunch. Steve also confirmed that the road salt / grit bins will be put out during week commencing 24th November ready for the winter weather. Mark Elliott is continuing to review and update the Studland Emergency Plan. He welcomes any comments or questions from residents which may help to further strengthen the plan – which will be reviewed at a meeting with the Dorset Council Resilience Officer on 9th January.

Lyn Hool reported on the work of the Studland Community Speedwatch Group this month. Two Speedwatch sessions had taken place since the previous Council meeting - on 28th October and 6th November. A total of 372 vehicles were seen, of which 27 were speeding. The fastest recorded was 49mph. Lyn and the members of the group were thanked for their continued dedication to this very important task.

It was agreed to pay all invoices.

Peter Hammond reported that he had no further news yet on the financing of work on the pond, and the responsibilities of the NT as its owner. However, Emma Wright, agreed to receive the points which need to be clarified, and to pass them on to appropriate people within the NT.

The Clerk has done further work on the budgets for 2026-27 in preparation for the Finance Committee meeting scheduled to take place in the Village Hall Committee room on 8th December to consider the details.

The Clerk reported on his attendance at the “Future Dorset” full day meeting for all Town and Parish Councils across Dorset. This concerned the steps towards devolution of some assets and responsibilities currently held by Dorset Council. It became clear that this largely affects the towns and largest parishes – where facilities such as Council leisure centres, libraries, car parks, theatres and the like

are located. At this stage it appears that the impact on places such as Studland is likely to be very little at all.

The Council approved a proposal for all Council members and the Clerk to have new dedicated official .gov.uk email addresses for their communications on Council business. These, plus the adoption of a new IT Policy, are important steps required to ensure Council complies with new Governance standards all local councils now have to meet.

The next meeting of SPC will be on December 15th. Agenda items will include further updates on the pond, the work towards agreeing next year's Parish Council budgets and Council Tax requirement, and the provision of the new dedicated .gov.uk email addresses for Council members.



STUDLAND VILLAGE HALL

Due to supply chain hold-ups Polar Glaze will not now install the new doors until next year. It should take place in January so watch this space!

Some dates for your diary:

ArtsReach Events:

*Thursday 4th December at 7:30 pm – “A Night at the Opera”. Callie Gaston & Roger Paterson provide an evening full of highlights from the world's most memorable operas.

*Saturday 24th January at 7:30pm – Singer/songwriter and musician Sarah McQuaid

Ring Christmas Bells with the Belvedere Singers

This year's Christmas concert is very much a local affair with soloists Nick Aiko Dando (trumpet) and Martha Harwood (soprano) both hailing from Swanage and both being Purbeck Youth Music Ambassadors. Nick will be playing the Slavonic Fantasia by Carl Hohne while Martha will sing the solo in O Holy Night and also join the choir as soloist in Kenneth Leighton's Lully Lulla, a very beautiful twentieth century version of the text of Coventry Carol. As ever, the choir will be singing music from across the centuries with both familiar and sometimes more unusual Christmas pieces. These will range from Gaudete (1582) to Walking in the Air and Winter Wonderland from more recent times. And the icing on the cake is that the audience gets to join in one or two special pieces - not least the eternal favourite, The Twelve Days of Christmas. What could be more fun?

The concert is at 7.30pm on Saturday 6th December, St Mary's Church, Swanage. Tickets are £9, on the door or from choir members. Under 18s free.

Words of Hope and Inspiration by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

'Christmas is a festival which brings us together in small groups, a family group if we are lucky. Today, we are not just nameless people in a crowd. We meet as friends who are glad to be together and who care about one another's happiness.'

Nowadays, this is a precious experience. So much of the time we feel that our lives are dominated by great impersonal forces beyond our control; the scale of things and organisations seem to get bigger and more unhuman. Then Christmas comes, and once again we are reminded that people matter, and it is our relationships with one another that is most important.'

1975

'We know that the world can never be free from conflict and pain, but Christmas draws our attention to all that is hopeful and good in this changing world; it speaks of values and qualities that are true and permanent, and it reminds us that the world we would like to see can only come from the goodness of the heart.'

1980

'Throughout his ministry, Jesus of Nazareth reached out and made friends with people whom others ignored or despised. It was in this way that he proclaimed his belief that, in the end, we are all brothers and sisters in one human family. The Christmas story also draws attention to all those people who are on the edge of society – people who feel cut off and disadvantaged; people who, for one reason or another, are not able to enjoy the full benefits of living in a civilized and law-abiding community.'

2007

'In 1914, many people thought the war would be over by Christmas, but sadly by then the trenches were dug and the future shape of the war in Europe was set. But as we know, something remarkable did happen that Christmas. Without any instruction or command, the shooting stopped and German and British soldiers met in No Man's Land. Photographs were taken and gifts exchanged. It was a Christmas truce.'

Sometimes it seems that reconciliation stands little chance in the face of war and discord. But, as the Christmas truce a century ago reminds us, peace and goodwill have lasting power in the hearts of men and women.'

2014

What's the Big Idea? Introducing the Books of the Bible:

An Introduction to the Books of the New Testament: Ephesians

Paul wrote the letter of Ephesians around AD 60, while in prison at Rome. It was probably a circular letter to be read in the house churches of Ephesus and the local area. Paul founded the church over a period of three years (Acts 19:1-20:1) between 52-55 AD. Ephesus was the leading city and commercial centre in the region, famous for its temple to the goddess Artemis (Diana). Paul's aim was to help his readers understand the dimensions of God's purpose and grace for them and His eternal plan for the church. The believers needed to understand their status *'in Christ'* and the call to live a life worthy of Christ. Ephesians is divided into two halves: chapters 1-3 concern theological issues, while chapters 4-6 deal with the practical outworking of faith. Having shown God's purpose for the church, Paul shows how God has reconciled individuals to Himself by grace (2:1-10). He has reconciled people to each other by breaking down the barriers through Christ's death (2:11-22). This is the *'mystery'* revealed by Paul (3:1-13) and he shows how Christ's gifts promote unity and maturity (4:1-16). The believer's new life stands in contrast to the old way of life without Christ (4:17-6:20). The overarching theme of the letter is that we are rescued by God not just for our personal benefit, but to bring praise and glory to Him in our lives: *'He made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfilment – to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.'* (1:9,10).

An Introduction to Books of the New Testament: Philippians

This letter was written to Christians in the Macedonian city of Philippi when Paul was in prison. His primary purpose in writing was to thank them for the gift they had sent him upon learning of his imprisonment. However, he also uses the letter as an opportunity to report on his situation; to encourage the Philippians to stand firm in the face of persecution and rejoice regardless of circumstances; to exhort the church to live in humility, fellowship, and unity; to commend Epaphroditus and Timothy to them; and to warn them about false teaching. This included Judaizers who were persuading the Philippians to submit to circumcision. The central message of Philippians focuses on joy (the word occurs some 16 times!). For Paul, joy isn't simply an emotional response to favourable circumstances. True joy is to be found through a relationship with the resurrected and glorified Christ. Death ceases to be an enemy, because through it we can more fully enjoy the presence of Jesus. This joy is also rooted in an expectation of the return of Jesus, which gives urgency to the task of sharing the gospel. So, Paul begins his letter by thanking the Philippians for their partnership together in the work of the gospel through the offerings they have sent. Paul also powerfully appeals to the Philippians to be of *'one mind'* in pursuing humility and unity. He gives the example of Jesus himself *'who made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant'* (2:7) to the point of dying the death of a common criminal. *'Therefore'*, say Paul, *'God exalted him to the highest place'* (2:9). This *'Jesus attitude'* is the one that all believers should share.

FERRY INQUIRY – SUMMARY OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE’S DECISION

Most will have heard by now that the Secretary of State for Transport has confirmed the Inspector’s recommendations for the Ferry. Briefly, the increase in vehicle tolls has been approved and the discounts for journeys purchased through the ferry card have been confirmed. The Inspector did reduce the proposed increase to pedestrian and cycle tolls but reduced the proposed discounts for bulk purchase to compensate. Also, the separate toll for using the road has not been approved; however, the Inspector dismissed this aspect on operational and technical uncertainties rather than the general principle; we can therefore expect this to be revisited in future applications.

The result in terms of the actual figures is as follows. The Ferry Company has stated that tolls will not be increased until 1st April next year. Subject to confirmation, from that date the rates should be:

Pedestrian (one way toll from Sandbanks)	£1.18 plus CPI increase Jan 2025 to Jan 2026*	(Current toll: £1)
Pedestrian (one way from Shell Bay)	£0.00	
Pedal or motor cycle	£1.18 plus CPI increase Jan 2025 to Jan 2026*	(Current toll: £1)
Car/light van	£6.26 plus CPI increase Jan 2025 to Jan 2026*	(Current toll: £5.40)
Goods vehicle or similar	£12.52 plus CPI increase Jan 2025 to Jan 2026*	(Current toll: £10.80)
Coach/bus	£12.52 plus CPI increase Jan 2025 to Jan 2026*	(Current toll: £10.80)

*assuming the Statutory Instrument legislating for the new tolls is made reasonably quickly by the Government.

Thereafter the tolls will be increased by CPI each year.

The discounts for ferry card journeys will be as follows:

VEHICLE / CLASS	Quantity	(Current Discount)	01/04/26 to 31/03/27	01/04/27 to 31/03/28	01/04/28 onwards
Car/light van	10	(28%)	33.0%	29.0%	24.0%
Car/light van	50	(32%)	36.7%	32.8%	28.0%
Goods vehicle or similar	10	(28%)	33.0%	29.0%	24.0%

Goods vehicle or similar	50	(32%)	36.7%	32.8%	28.0%
Coach/bus	10	(28%)	33.0%	29.0%	24.0%
Coach/bus	50	(32%)	36.7%	32.8%	28.0%

These were as presented to the Inquiry and are greater than the Ferry Company was originally suggesting when the application was first submitted in 2024 (which would have resulted in discounts reducing from current levels to eventually as little as 15% for 10 journeys and 20% for 50). It will be seen that for the first couple of years the discounts will actually be higher than they are currently, but will end up from 2028 a bit lower than they are at the moment.

Discounts for books of tickets for pedestrians and cycles will remain as they are at the moment – 10% for 50 and 15% for 100.

Responding to the Secretary of State’s decision, Nick Boulter, Chairman, said: “SPC is disappointed that the Inspector dismissed the concerns of residents about the increased charges for car users, and the detrimental impact this will have on residents’ standard of living and ability to use the ferry. Also, we believe yet more drivers will now choose to drive around Poole Harbour, further clogging up the roads. We also remain concerned that the Ferry Company claims to impose tolls for use of Ferry Road were not dismissed outright.”

Stephen Yeoman
Studland Parish Council

Hall & Woodhouse to donate £66,000 to charity following Charity Day initiative; Including a major donation of over £33,000 to Lewis-Manning Hospice Care



On Tuesday 4th November 2025, Hall & Woodhouse (H&W) held its annual Charity Day, donating 50% of net sales generated from its Managed House estate to charity. Sales from H&W’s managed pubs (including The Quay, The Olive Branch, The Duchess of Cornwall, The Grasshopper, The Old Granary, The Crown, The Royal Lion, The Smuggler’s Inn, and the Lulworth Cove Inn) has resulted in donations totalling over £9,200

going to each pub’s local charity partner.

The overall donation was split between several charitable causes across the south, with 25% of sales made at each pub to be donated directly to its own chosen charity partner. The remaining 25% collated from all of H&W's managed pubs will be donated to Lewis Manning Hospice Care. Other notable donations include to Dorset Mind, which will receive a donation of over £2,400, and The Lantern Trust, which is to be gifted over £1,860.

Richard Curtis, Head of Charity at Hall & Woodhouse, said: *"2025 marks our fourth annual Charity Day. Making people's day and supporting our communities sits at the heart of everything we do; whether through exceptional hospitality for our guests, or ongoing local fundraising efforts across our estate. Charity Day gives us the opportunity to make an even greater impact within the communities we are so proud to be part of. Thank you to all our guests who dined with us on Tuesday 4th November, it's thanks to you that we've been able to make such a significant donation to such deserving causes."*

Lewis-Manning Hospice Care, Dorset's independent hospice charity and The Quay's chosen charity partner, will receive £33,607 from Hall & Woodhouse's Charity Day. The donation will cover the cost of a nurse making over 2,000 patient visits in Dorset for a year.

Clare Gallie, Chief Executive of Lewis-Manning Hospice Care, said: *"We are absolutely overwhelmed by the generosity shown by Hall & Woodhouse and everyone who dined in their pubs on Charity Day. The incredible donation will have a lasting impact on local people living with life-limiting illnesses and their families. As an independent hospice, we rely heavily on the kindness of our wonderful Dorset community and partners like Hall & Woodhouse. Every year, Lewis-Manning Hospice Care needs to raise over £4.2million to keep our vital services running, as only 12% of these funds come from NHS Dorset. The generosity of others helps ensure that Dorset patients can access free, specialist hospice care in their homes, in our hubs, or virtually, wherever they feel most comfortable. We're so grateful for this continued partnership and for the heartfelt commitment Hall & Woodhouse makes to supporting its local communities."*

Lewis-Manning Hospice Care supports people facing life-limiting illnesses and their families. The charity's multidisciplinary, anticipatory care approach sees every person receive an individual support plan that may include hospice at home care, bereavement counselling, lymphoedema clinic, complementary therapies, or breathlessness support.

Charity Day is an initiative that contributes to Hall & Woodhouse's overall mission to donate and raise £1million per annum for local good causes. In 2024, the Dorset brewer contributed over £800,000 to charitable causes and is on target to beat that figure in 2025.

To read more about H&W's fundraising efforts and the business' direct giving, visit www.hall-woodhouse.co.uk

Puzzle Place – Wordsearch - Did the Old Testament expect Jesus to

come? Yes indeed! Here are just some examples of OT prophesies:

He would be born of a virgin. ‘The virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son and will call Him Immanuel.’ (Isaiah 7:14) / **He would be born in Bethlehem.** ‘But

you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel...’ (Micah 5:2) / **His lineage would be of the line of David.** ‘I will

raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.’ (Jeremiah 23:5-6) / **He would bring healing.** ‘Then will

the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.’ (Isaiah 35:5-6)

He would be crucified. They pierce my hands and my feet. All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my clothes among them and

cast lots for my garment. (Psalm 22) / **He would rise from the dead.** ‘You will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see

decay...’ (Psalm 16: 8-11)

WORDS TO FIND: Born – Virgin – Immanuel – Bethlehem – Ruler – Israel – David – King – Just – Right – Healing – Blind – Deaf – Lame – Mute – Crucified – Pierce – Hands – Feet – Gloat – Rise – Dead – Abandon – Decay – Realm



Book Review

Giving Thanks – rediscovering the Heart of Gratitude, By Philip Plyming, Canterbury Press

For more than 350 years, a powerful resource has helped believers frame their thanksgiving: The General Thanksgiving from the 1662 *Book of Common Prayer*. This theological masterpiece has guided generations in expressing profound truths in an accessible way, providing a framework for gratitude even in the hardest times.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we shew forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory, world without end.

Giving Thanks seeks to reintroduce this prayer to the contemporary church. It explores the spiritual truths embedded in the prayer and reveals how thanksgiving is not about ignoring reality, but responding to God's goodness – past, present, and future. Far from being a burdensome duty, a life of gratitude is a whole-life response to who God is and

what God has done. This is an invitation to rediscover The General Thanksgiving and integrate its wisdom into daily Christian living.



Wellbeing Swanage

Welcome Lounge

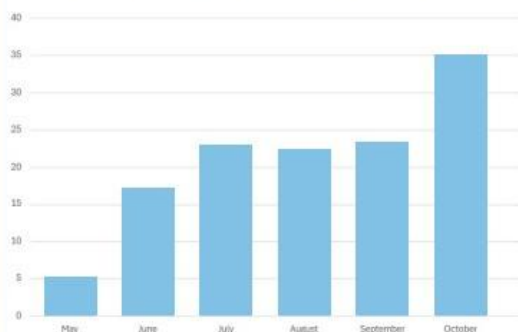
May 2025 - November 2025

www.wellbeingswanage.org.uk

The Welcome Lounge is a friendly place where people can pop in for a chat and get help to find services.

Based at the Focus Centre, The Lounge opened in April 2025, and up to the start of November 2025, we had **133** signposting conversations.

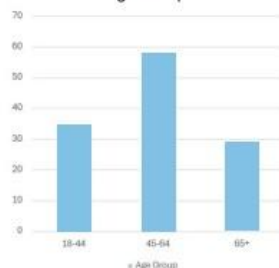
Signposting Conversations per month May-Oct 2025



Gender



Age Group



We've signposted people **133** times since opening.

The most common topics we have signposted to have been:

Mental health 53

Housing and homelessness 32

Debt and benefits 30

Disability and carers 18

Isolation and loneliness 17



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Colouring in – for the children and the adults....



Studland Picture Gallery...

Pictures courtesy of Mike Cheeseman from a visit to Brownsea Island with his daughter-in-law and grandson.

Pics: Little Egret / Redshank / Shelduck / Starling / Male peacock / Red Squirrel



Please share your photos - email sharonwestman@gmail.com