

Studland Parish News



February
2026



St Nicholas Church Studland

See the Parish News in full colour – www.studlandchurch.com

March deadline is 10am on Friday 20th February

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Late contributions cannot be guaranteed.

Note from the editor...

I hope February finds you well and that you are enjoying what the 2026 Parish News has to offer so far. This month we continue with our new features, the first of the big questions is posed and we rejoin Linda's story – are you following? And of course, the regulars are there to keep us on track with local news, events, and opportunities.

This month marks Valentine's Day, which was begun by Pope Gelasius the 1st in 496, in honour of St Valentine. However, you do not have to have a romance in your life to mark the day (after all, the saint had no romance in *his* life). What he did do was show kindness and love to all who crossed his path – something we can all do.

Lent also begins this month, on Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on the 18th February. Revd Roy Shaw tells us, *'It can be helpful to think of Lent as a sort of medicine; an opportunity to strengthen us in the things that are good, rein in other facets of our personality, and reset the compass. A Spring-clean of the soul, if you like.'* With this in mind what might you be doing for this period of Lent?

I hope February brings you joy and love. Though if instead, you face challenges, may it bring you strength and poise to overcome.

Sharon Westman, Editor

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Hon. Secretary: VACANT

St Nicholas Church, Studland
Rota of Readers and Sides Persons.
February 2026.

Date	Service	Sides Person	Readers	Readings
Sunday 1 st February at 10.00am	Family Communion Candlemas <i>Rev. Tony Edmonds</i>	Sally Hogsflesh	David Hogsflesh Keith Tillyard	Hebrews 2, 14-end Luke 2, 22-40
Sunday 8 th February at 10.00am	Holy Communion 2 nd Sunday Before Lent <i>Rev. Tony Edmonds</i>	Carol Wadley	Jane Hawksworth Cindy Yeandle	Romans 8, 18-25 Matthew 6, 25-34
Sunday 15 th February at 10.00am	Morning Prayer Sunday before Lent <i>Rev John Cooper</i>	Ginny Stobart	Eric Stobart Polly Warner	2 Peter 1, 16-end Matthew 17, 1-9
Wednesday 18 th February at 2.30pm	Holy Communion Ash Wednesday <i>Rev Tony Edmonds & Rev Tony Higgins</i>	Sally Hogsflesh	Diana Edmonds June Fletcher	Isaiah 58, 1-12 John 8, 1-11
Sunday 22 nd February at 10.00am	Holy Communion First Sunday of Lent. <i>Rev Tony Edmonds</i>	June Fletcher	Sara-Jayne Smith Peter Jennings	Romans 5, 12-19 Matthew 4, 1-11

Please contact Eric Stobart by email: eric@thestobarts.co.uk if any matters arise.

St Nicholas Parish News

Dear Friends,

I suspect many of us will recall these words:

‘All you need is love, all you need is love,
All you need is love, love, love is all you need.’

Well, it can't get much more explicit than that. John Lennon's words in the Beatle's song from 1967 are pretty direct. All you need is love. As St Valentine's Day sidles up to us in February, with the shops filled with cards and treats for 'that special person' the theme of love is ever present. I know there are problems. Not everyone will have or will be that special person. Not everyone will get a Valentine's card and yes, it's getting very commercialised and the sentiments in the cards range from the soppy to the obscene, but in spite of all this, I think I'm willing to go along with the broad theme. So, I say, 'Let's get love moved up the agenda!' After all, if I wanted to sum up the Christian message, I wouldn't be far out in saying, 'All you need is love'.

Some have actually described the Bible as 'God's Love Letter to the world' and we can find evidence of that all the way through. Let's have a quick look.

Towards the back of the Bible, we find a collection of letters, some written to whole churches and some to individuals. The author of one of them, St John (sometimes called the apostle of love) writes: 'Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.....This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.....Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.'

And St Paul writing to the somewhat strife-torn church in Corinth reminded his readers that: 'Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.'

I imagine those words would have been a great encouragement to their first readers and I hope might be the same to all of us now. We can love one another by being patient, kind, content, humble, selfless, forgiving, generous, trustful, protective, hopeful and persevering. This is not a list of sentimental feelings, but a call to action in gritty reality. This sort of love makes all the difference to the world, all the difference to those who receive it and all the difference to those who give it. St. Paul is quick to remind his readers that of the three health measures by which he assesses a church, faith, hope and love, the most important is love. Love is the very nature of God. It is God's gift to us. So, not just for St. Valentine's Day, but for every day, not just for that 'special person' but for everyone, I say, 'Let's bring on the love!'

From the Registers

Funerals:

December 18th 2025 - Anne Spurgeon died on 29th November aged 96

January 22nd 2026 - Alan Churchill died on the 21st December 2025 aged 77

January 23rd 2026 - Dorothy Hodges died on the 11th December 2025 aged 99

Rev Tony Edmonds

Church Alive Writes...

As I write this, **Christmas** is still fresh in mind, and what an amazing Christmas it was! I saw some really significant signs of God at work over Christmas:

- A large group of people joined in the Churches Together carol singing at the Christmas Market – we gave out all 150 Carol Sheets.
- I was encouraged to see and hear about larger attendances at all our Carol Services. Studland attracted people from the whole village, the Christmas Celebration at St Mary's was a great coming-together of Church and Community, and the Christmas Eve service at St Mark's seems to be the Herston Community event of the year, (so much so that we are splitting it into two in 2026).
- There was an openness to the Christian message which showed that the Holy Spirit is opening hearts and minds in our community.

With this in mind, let's trust that when we share the Good News of Jesus in a clear, confident and accessible manner, people will hear, and will come back to hear more. Let's pray that God will give us lots more openings to share the message.

Christmas is only just over, and we are already looking towards **LENT**; maybe time does go more quickly as you get older.....

LENT gives us many opportunities:

- It's an opportunity to be a little more **reflective** about our lives and our faith. Some people find it helpful to give up, or take up, something to help this reflection.
- It's an opportunity for **learning**. This year's Lent Course is all about Prayer – learning to pray more effectively is always a good idea!
- It's an opportunity for greater **fellowship** through joining a Lent Group and sharing in Lent lunches. Many Christians in our 4 Team Churches, and in the wider Swanage Churches Together, will be studying the same material on Prayer. Learning together is a great way to promote greater Team and ecumenical unity.
- It's an opportunity to **prepare for Holy Week and Easter**; the first Alleluia! of Easter is always a special moment for me. Lent reminds us that we need Jesus' help and grace to survive the temptations and trials

of life, and, as we walk with Him through Passiontide, we see more clearly how much he loves us.

As we continue to serve the Lord as His Church in Swanage, we do so against the background of a growing interest in Christianity in our nation. Reports of the “**quiet revival**” are increasing. **A recent YouGov study** found that Gen Z were more likely to believe in a higher power than any other age group, with levels of faith now surpassing those aged over 65. According to the data, church attendance among 18 to 25 year olds rose from seven per cent in 2018 to 23 per cent in 2024, while belief in a higher power increased from 28 per cent to 49 per cent.

Perhaps this helps to explain the larger numbers at our Christmas services. **It is good news, but it also presents a challenge.** Are we ready to welcome more people to our churches, people with no Church background, who might have lots of questions, who might not understand much about church, and who might question “the way we have always done things”?

Maybe we need that teaching on prayer, available in our Lent Course, more than ever; if we are to respond to a growing interest in faith, and nurture those who are seeking Jesus, we need to be in touch with Him ourselves.

Have a Blessed Lent!
Rev. David Richards



STUDLAND WI – Wednesday 14th January 2026

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

It was lovely to see a good turnout for our first meeting of the year, with many members and new ladies who are looking to join our WI.

Our first meeting of 2026 started with the Committee presenting the 2026 resolutions that were up for voting. Each resolution was spoken about and at the end of the meeting votes were gathered in to be sent off to be recorded.

In A.O.B

It was announced that our Skittles B team have been lucky to reach the final and will be playing Shillingstone WI in February. Good luck team and we look forward to a good result.

Our speaker for the evening was Ben Cooke who was talking about “Why Seahorses and Seagrass matter to Studland”.

Ben gave us an interesting insight as to what is going on under the sea in Studland Bay. Who knew so much was going on down there?

Seahorses have made Studland Bay their home and Ben explained how the seagrass is so important for their survival, they are not the only ones that it is

important too. Seagrass also provides Oxygen and it has been calculated that the amounts of seagrass in Studland produces 10 tonnes of oxygen per day which is enough for approx. 10,000 people. Ben also spoke about how the eco moorings are the best type of mooring to protect the seagrass from being ripped up by anchors. Boat owners are being encouraged to use these in the bay and with the help of them and those who use the bay it is hoped that our seagrass will keep replenishing and give our beautiful seahorses and other marine life a safe place to live and flourish.

A very interesting talk and enjoyed by us all.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 11th February at 7.30pm in Studland Village Hall. Our speaker for the evening will be Kirsty Rafferty talking about “My time”, which is a charity for young carers.

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

Lynn Elliott - President.



STUDLAND GARDENING ASSOCIATION

News this month, we're sorry to announce that due to unexpected health issues, our much-appreciated secretary, Geoff Wilcocks, has had to step down from his role organising the Gardening Association. He will be hugely missed; we wish him a speedy recovery.

The committee will be meeting to decide how to cover his role and we will keep you posted on progress. We would be very keen to hear from any members who might be interested in taking on the secretary position, even temporarily, or who can offer support by joining the committee. We are a friendly bunch and very keen to have new ideas and energy, we really need help to keep the organisation going into its Centenary year 2028! Please contact Clare if you would like to find out more at the email below.

We are thrilled to announce a new committee member in Matt, who was thrown in at the deep end when he offered to take over the January 26th talk Geoff had prepared on Compost: making it, buying it, using it. As a professional gardener we're sure he has many top tips to share!

As gardeners we continue to move with the seasons. February's talk is a little different – on Saturday 21st February at 11.30am, join us for a practical hands-on demonstration...“How to prune fruit trees”, by Gerry Edwards the chair of the RHS Fruit Committee. Gerry has judged RHS shows at Chelsea, Malvern and Hampton Court. He frequently writes on fruit in the National Vegetable Society magazine. This will be happening in the orchard at the Old Police House, Heath Green Road, Studland - home of Sarah Ferguson. The demonstration will be

followed by a warming glass of mulled wine. Members and non-members welcome, but please let us know by Sat 14th Feb if you are attending so we can get an idea of numbers, by emailing Mandy on mandysuhr250@gmail.com.

Finally, thanks to all who renewed their membership for the forthcoming year at the AGM in November.

For those who weren't able to join us, payment of £5 subs can be made online to Studland Gardening Association: Sort Code 30-99-50 / Act: 52727768 (with your name as reference), or cash payment made at the event.

Happy Gardening!

Clare Harwood, Treasurer, Studland Gardening Association
(harwood.clare@gmail.com)

Mandy Suhr, Membership, Studland Gardening Association
(mandysuhr250@gmail.com)

Studland History Group

The next meeting is on Wednesday 18th February at 2.30pm in the Village Hall. The speaker will be Malcolm Angel with "In Search of Isaac Gulliver of Worth Matravers." Isaac was a notorious smuggler who plied his trade around the local coastline. All welcome. Visitors £3.50 To include tea/coffee and biscuits.

The AGM is on Wednesday 11th March at 2.30

On 15th April there will be a talk on the Purbeck Heaths National Nature Reserve.

Joyce Meates. Secretary. 01929 439245



Updates from the National Trust:

Let's hear it for Purbeck Goes Wild!

Purbeck Goes Wild's mission is to connect local children and families with the incredible nature on their doorsteps. Launched in 2024, this pioneering programme has united schools, businesses, organisations and nature lovers across Purbeck.



- So far, the impact has been huge:
- 35 organisations including 14 schools on board
- 46 family nature events delivered
- 62 teachers trained to lead outdoor learning in Purbeck

- 75 work experience opportunities/offers for local young people

You can find a report about the first year of Purbeck Goes Wild – and all its successes – on the Planet Purbeck website. You can also find the programme of events for Purbeck families this year. Look out for a dinosaur walk at Studland, bats in Corfe Castle, puffin and nightjar walks, a picnic in the castle and more!
<https://planetpurbeck.org/purbeckgoeswild/>

(Photo: Jill Bailey)

Pigs join our Studland grazing team



Pigs have joined the cattle and ponies at Rempstone Forest and Godlingston Heath as part of our conservation grazing programme. As on other areas of the Purbeck Heaths National Nature Reserve, these Mangalitsa pigs play a vital role in caring for the land – by turning the soil and creating patches of bare ground, they help reptiles and insects thrive, just like their wild boar ancestors once did.

Together, cattle, ponies and pigs reduce the need for heavy machinery, protecting the habitat and cutting carbon emissions.

Please:

- Don't approach or feed the pigs
- Keep dogs on a short lead when near the pigs (and always between 31st March to 31st July)

(Photo: Mark Singleton)

Middle Beach update

As we thought, change is still happening fast at Middle Beach. Already, a sandy cliff is forming, and we have gained about one metre of height across the whole beach where sand has built up. Birds are making use of this new natural shoreline – oystercatchers digging for shellfish on the strandline, and large flocks of brent geese gathering on the shallows to feed on eelgrass.



The cliff is being divided into two parts by a new valley made up of water run-off from the road, much like the coombe at the other end of the car park. The

appearance of this will soften as vegetation regrows, creating a lovely natural feature.

The old toilet block which had been used as a dump before being covered over, has now completely fallen out and rubbish is no longer emerging. Staff have cleared away plastics and materials like glass and rusty metal, and will continue to check the site daily. We're hoping there are no more surprises from the days when people weren't so careful with waste disposal!

After the winter storms, we will take a view on what else might need to be removed from the beach. Ultimately, we aim to remove all man-made items apart from the World War II structures, which will stay in situ. We'll then consider when it will be safe to reopen the beach to the public.

Sadly, some media outlets ran the story about the project with click-bait headings and several inaccuracies. One of the points was that we should have rebuilt the sea defences, but that was never a possibility because it goes against the local authority's Shoreline Management Plan. You can read the plan here: <https://environment.data.gov.uk/shoreline-planning/unit/SMP15/H.6>

A much more balanced and accurate report featured in Swanage news. <https://www.swanage.news/middle-beach-coastal-erosion-reveals-old-rubbish-tip/>

(Photo: New coombe forming, Cathy Lewis)

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

Cathy Lewis, National Trust

Corfe Castle Surgery/The Patient Participation Group News

The Corfe PPG has developed a strong and effective working relationship with the Corfe Surgery, working together for the benefit of patients in the practice catchment area.

Last October following a suggestion from PPG members, the PPG initiated an exercise class for over 65's. Held in the Bill Carter room at Corfe Village Hall classes were held weekly and offered, free of charge, for a six-week period to see what interest there might be. The aim being to improve strength, mobility and balance for those who do not do regular exercise and to encourage social interaction. Led by a qualified instructor, Vanessa Neish, who also runs classes in Swanage and with sessions coordinated by PPG member Sally Feben Smith, up to 16 men and women attended regularly at each class which were held at 1030 and 1130 to meet demand.

The feedback from the sessions has been very positive and Sally is now organising further classes from January which she reports are proving popular. Those who have not attended before are being encouraged to join to meet other locals in a fun friendly atmosphere whilst doing some regular exercise.

We are grateful to the Corfe Charity for providing funding for the initial free classes and whilst a charge will now be made for classes this year some additional funding has been kindly agreed by the Corfe Charity to support some of the running costs incurred this year.

The PPG is very keen to hear of any ideas patients from the Corfe Surgery may have to support the care we all receive from our Surgery -please do contact us by leaving a message at the surgery or by email corfecastleppg@gmail.com

Maggie Hardy PPG Chair

Swanage Medical Practice Patient Participation Group

Vaccinations

Flu and COVID-19 vaccinations are still available for those who are eligible. Winter viruses spread more easily in cold weather - vaccinations can lower the risk of serious illness and help you avoid a hospital stay.

To find out more about how to get your vaccinations or about local walk-ins, visit the vaccination pages on the Stay Well Dorset website:

www.staywelldorset.nhs.uk/vaccinations/

Staying Well this Winter

NHS Dorset is asking local people to plan ahead - and to use the right service, so care is available for those who need it most. They have created a simple guide to help you contact the right service when you or your family feel unwell – this can be found at: www.staywelldorset.nhs.uk/update/stay-well-this-winter/.

PPG Meetings

The PPG now has 16 members. We last met on 13th January, when we were joined by Gill Foott, Community Engagement Officer at NHS Dorset. Gill updated us on changes at NHS Dorset – for more information, please see: <https://nhsdorset.nhs.uk/news/executive/>.

Our next meeting will be held at the Surgery on Tuesday 10th March 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

Warming Up After a Wet and Windy Start to the New Year

This January the weather has been wet, cold and windy. To brighten things up, this February we're delighted to bring back our ever-popular Soup and Sandwich Special, Monday-Friday.

Valentine's Day is just around the corner, and we're thrilled to offer a special Valentine's Menu on Friday February 13th, for both lunch and dinner, and lunch again on Saturday, February 14th. The celebrations are then topped off with our Saturday evening Valentine's Jazz Night, featuring the incredible Dylan Ross and Julia Imbach.

If you've enjoyed Dylan's performances at the Carnival or here at the golf club, you know you're in for a treat. His collaboration with Julia promises an evening of world-class jazz duos celebrating life and love. You're welcome to attend just the jazz event or make it a complete experience by enjoying dinner first. Pre-booking is essential. Details are available on our website.

Get your thinking caps on—our popular Quiz Night is back on Saturday, February 21st! It's always a lively and entertaining evening, with plenty of laughs to go around. We're looking for new teams to take on our brilliant regulars, so gather your friends and join in the fun. Entry is just £1 per person, with all proceeds going to the winning team. Food service begins at 6 PM, and the quiz kicks off at 7:30PM. Space is limited, so be sure to sign up early—either by calling us or adding your team's name to the board in our reception area.

Remember, we're open every day for breakfast and lunch, Sunday Roasts, and dinners on most Friday and Saturday evenings.

On the course, there are just two months left to take advantage of our Winter Warmers special, running through March 31st 2026. Play 18 holes for just £40 (Monday–Friday) or £50 (Saturday–Sunday), with a bacon bap and coffee included when you book at least 24 hours in advance. Reservations can be made online or through the Pro Shop.

For more details on events, dining, or to make a booking, please visit our website, give us a call, or send us an email.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

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



Studland Village Hall

The **new doors** have now been installed! Regular users should look out for the signs with details of new locking instructions. Thanks again to everyone who has contributed towards the fund to make this happen.

We will continue to raise funds for other improvements to the hall. Future fundraising activities include the **Ladies' Fashion Show** on Friday 10th April 2026 and a celebration to mark the twentieth anniversary since the new hall was officially opened.

Pop-up Shop and Fashion Show – (Ladies Only)

Join us on Friday 10th April for a fun evening of style with Colours Fashion Shows! Enjoy a catwalk show featuring all your favourite high street brands, then browse the clothes rails to find a bargain or two with up to 70% off. Over 100 styles available in a range of sizes to suit all ages. The event also includes a raffle with fabulous raffle prizes. Tickets are £10 (to be purchased in advance) Please call 07590357763 or email info@studlandvillagehall.co.uk

Community Speed Watch Notice

We continue to have at least two sessions per month, weather permitting and the volunteers availability.

I have been told by residents of their concerns of regular speeding vehicles at certain times of day through the village and along Ferry Rd. I have informed the Dorset Road Safe Team who have said they will send a vehicle to monitor this. If any residents have concerns about regular offenders, could they please email them directly with details of where and when their concerns are and they will attend. Their email address is Dorsetroadsafe@Dorset.PNN.Police.UK

Cllr Lyn Hool CSW Co-ordinator



Celebrate the light returning and banish February's chills with us!

We serve a full range of beers, ciders, wines, spirits & soft drinks to Studland locals and visitors to the village in our family and dog friendly bar.

Our team are ready to greet you with a warm welcome this Winter.

You will find us opposite the shop, tucked just behind the village hall.

We have a full-sized pool table, board games and delicious stone baked pizzas!

OPENING HOURS

We are open 5 days a week for the Winter Season

MON, THURS, FRI & SAT Open: 5pm – 10.30pm

SUNDAYS Open: 3pm – 8pm

(Closed on Tuesday and Wednesday)

What's Happening at Old Harry Bar?

Live Music: Sunday 22nd February 5pm - 7pm

Dorset Gene Pool - Uncovered classics and recreated hits

with support from: The Missing Links: Fiddle & Guitar

MONDAY – Bridge Club – Beginners Welcome - 6pm

THURSDAY – Craft Club – Bring your own crafty projects to work on from 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 January 2026

Studland Parish Council (SPC) met on 19th January. All councillors were present with the exception of Steve Smith and Stephen Yeoman. Cllr Ben Wilson also attended. Emma Wright of the National Trust sent her apologies.

During Public Participation Donovan Van Staden gave an update on Knoll House:

- The owners are working on submitting a third planning application. They are working with the Dorset Council Planning Officer, and will only submit an application – hopefully by late Spring, early Summer – when the Planning Officer is able to fully support the application.
- The key sticking issue has been the designation of C3 for the proposed apartments. The new application will now be purely for a C1 hotel.
- Most features of the design in the last application will be retained.
- There will be a plan to accommodate some staff in Swanage.
- Don assured SPC that local residents will have discounts for use of the hotel.
- A detailed presentation will be made to SPC when plans are finalised.

During Public Participation a resident also asked that there be specific road markings to indicate the drop curve opposite the Social Club – so that vehicles do not park there.

During Public Participation it was also noted that Alan Churchill had died: Alan had been a long serving councillor, and a driving force behind the development of the Village Hall and Social Club. SPC will consider a way of commemorating Alan at a future meeting.

Cllr Ben Wilson submitted a report. He indicated that Dorset Council will spend £482m this year on providing services in Dorset: 60% of this on care for the elderly, and for vulnerable adults and children. Council tax will rise by 4.99%. Ben also indicated that he will be meeting Stephen Mephram of Dorset Highways to discuss outstanding highway issues in Studland and Purbeck. He also indicated the proposed 20mph introduction in Studland will be funded by Dorset Council.

Emma Wright of the NT was not present but had submitted a report:

- 6 Mangolitza pigs have been introduced to the Purbeck Heaths grazing unit to join the existing cattle and ponies. The NT asks that dogs are kept on leads near the pigs, and that the pigs are not fed.
- The proposed cattle grid at Geenlands track has been put on hold for the moment.
- Gorse near Pinewood has been cleared.
- There will be a British rowing event at Knoll Beach on February 21st and 22nd.

No planning applications had been received.

Under Highways it was noted that the signs at the junction of the Swanage and Corfe roads have not yet been replaced. Also, that the surface of the B3351 near to Corfe is in a bad way. Also noted was the cordoned off van at the View Point.

Parish Councils have been asked to nominate candidates to attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace on May 8th. We were asked to recognize individuals who have made frontline contributions, and who have shown dedication, resilience and quiet heroism. The Chairman nominated Lynn Hool for this honour due to her outstanding work on Community Speed Watch. This recommendation was unanimously endorsed by SPC.

Under Officer reports:

- Chrissie Neville had submitted a detailed report on the work of the Volunteer Tree Wardens who are devising methods for classifying trees in Studland, particularly those that are ancient, veteran or notable. This will be valuable when considering tree works and planning applications. Chrissie will be making a report in the Parish News in due course.
- Tim Yeandle reported that he had met the NT, and that they will be developing a path coming up beside Swanage Road – so that walkers crossing from Currondon do not need to walk on the main road.
- Mark Elliott had planned to attend a Dorset Council meeting on developing resilience plans – but the Officer in charge has left, a new person just recently appointed. The meeting will be rearranged.
- Lyn Hool reported there had been two Community Speed Watch sessions, each identifying about 8 speeders who will receive caution letters from the police.

The reports on our accounts were noted, and it was agreed to pay all invoices.

It was agreed to set up a WhatsApp group for emergency communications amongst SPC members.

It was also noted that the Clerk was making good progress in moving all Councillors to the new dedicated SPC email system.

SPC received a report from the Finance Committee on proposed budgets and precepts for 2026-27. These were approved. As a result, there will be no increase in the SPC precept next year for residents: this should be good news for residents!

SPC approved the reappointment of Rosie Darkin Miller as our Auditor for next year.

SPC also approved the Council's Risk Register and Control Plan.

A working group has been set up by some residents to examine options for additional facilities on the Playpark site. SPC will be represented on this by Tim Yeandle and David Battle.

The next SPC will take place on February 16th at 19.30.

As usual more detail can be obtained from our website:

www.studlandparishcouncil.org

Nick Boulter, Chairman

Free Course in Swanage to help babies move from milk to meals

The 'Mush & Munch' Weaning Course, from the Friendly Food Club offers support to parents introducing their baby to solid foods.

Over four Thursday mornings, 09:30-11:00, at Herston Village Hall, the free sessions offer practical advice and the chance for parents and caregivers to share stories, experiences and explore together with their little ones in tow! The course has been funded by the Purbeck Integrated Neighbourhood Team.

Said Rachel Tapping, from Wellbeing Swanage, who are organising the course; "The move from milk to meals is one of the first big adventures you and your child take together. The journey can be really rewarding but can also be an anxious time. The course will help parents create happy, positive food memories from the very start."

Each 90-minute session is personal, informal, and non-judgmental. Led by a friendly and knowledgeable team, the course focuses on achievable, budget-conscious strategies that align with nutritionist-approved guidance.

The course aims to reduce anxiety about feeding, provide a safe environment for children to play with and explore new foods, including key allergenic foods, and equip families with ideas to encourage a wider, healthier diet that sets the foundation for long-term well-being.

Families with young children ready to begin their food adventure are invited to book their free place. Registration can be done online, by calling 01202 057100, or by dropping into the Welcome Lounge at the Focus Centre on Swanage High Street.

For more information visit <https://www.thefriendlyfoodclub.org/>

BIG QUESTION 1. IS GOD REAL?

We can't prove that God exists but there is evidence all around us that suggests that he does. This is an age-old question. Major moments in life like the birth of a child or the death of a loved one or experiencing a dazzling sunset or a spectacular view have often provoked people to wonder if there really is a God.

For thousands of years, people have looked at the world around them and the skies above and concluded that they are the work of a creator. Scientific advances continue to reveal the incredible complexity of the universe and how extremely unlikely it is that life should exist at all. And yet all the scientific laws and constants are in place to allow humanity to thrive. Christians acknowledge there are various theories about how the universe came to exist, but they conclude that a creator God made it happen.

What Christians believe

Christians see evidence for God in nature. For them it speaks of his character: powerful, vast, intricate, and with a special place for human beings.

Christians also see evidence for God in how people are made. People have an instinctive understanding of right and wrong, but where does that morality come from? The atoms and molecules from which we are made have no moral compass. Christians believe that God, who is perfect and just, is the ultimate source of that morality and he placed it in us.

Jesus Christ is an expression of God in human form. Jesus' life was not only documented by his followers but also by non-Christian historians of the time. Reading about Jesus in the Bible is a very good way to find out what God is like. Jesus' life was one of love, forgiveness, compassion and self-sacrifice. He hated injustice and hypocrisy and he championed the oppressed and the outsider.

The Bible tells us a lot about God. Some concepts are not easy to grapple with: God is eternal – he has always existed and always will; God is everywhere – he is not confined to one part of his creation; God is absolutely powerful and will ultimately bring justice. Knowing God personally is a wonderful experience.

Christians believe they can experience God in their everyday lives, in the form of the **Holy Spirit**. He is with them in all situations offering guidance, strength and comfort. As a result, the Bible says they develop certain attributes, like fruit growing on a tree. These include love, peace, patience, kindness, joy and self-control.

You can ask God to show you that he is real. Talking to God through prayer is a good way to start.

If you would like to buy a longer booklet exploring this question, please go to <https://www.cpo.org.uk/explore-project>

(Shared with permission. Further resources from: <https://explorechristianity.info/>.)

Acknowledgments: Allchurches Trust [now Benefact Trust], Jerusalem Trust, Kirby Laing Foundation, The Diocese of London)



Linda's Story

Linda Jacson wrote this charming account of her life, as a daughter of a farm worker raised in Studland in the mid 1920's/30's for her grand-daughter.

As editor, I have been asked to share her memories here for readers...

Continuation...

"...As I got older, I had to do certain things for my father. The one thing I dislike most was taking the battery from the wireless to be recharged and to bring another one home. I was afraid of spilling the acid from the battery. Another job was going to the shop to buy a pack of green backed cigarette papers. Actually, the papers were white. If I took a pack of orange papers, then woe betide me!

Occasionally on a Saturday afternoon, I would have to turn the handle on the whetstone when my father sharpened his axes and hook.

In August my father worked over time on the harvest, so I had to go to the pub to get a pint of beer in a jug. If there were cows in the field, I would walk down the road and up the hill to the pub. Cows had horns in those days! If no cows I would climb 2 styles and went across the field.

On a Friday night, my father would say to my sisters and me *'tomorrow, I am digging up my row of potatoes in the field and I want you to pick them up'*. Sometimes my father would take me with him to see if he had caught any rabbits in his snares. I did not like seeing rabbits in snares.

Every afternoon after tea in the summer, my father, mother, and I went for a row out to old Harry Rocks and back. Weather permitting, of course.

In the winter, we walked to the farm after dinner on a Sunday. I only had one thing to do for my mum before I started school. We used to go to the house my grandfather, Richard Sutton-Clerk, had built when he retired from the Bankes Arms. It is called Holme Dean and is quite near the pub. It is a beautiful house but Mum, grandmother Clark and me and her companion Miss Berry all sat in the kitchen. I had to sit on a chair without making a noise for two hours. One day I knelt on the chair and watched Mr. Green working in the orchard. What a relief."

To be continued...

Quotes for Lent

Lent is the time of year when the Church encourages people to take spiritual stock of themselves, and to seek a deeper commitment to God. You may find these observations helpful.

'Still water and still religion freeze the quickest.' - Anon

'Christianity is the total commitment of all I know of me to all I know of Jesus Christ.' - William Temple

'Every action of our lives touches on some chord that will vibrate in eternity.' - E H Chapin

'It is dangerously possible for activity to be no more than a dizzy whirl around a central emptiness.' - Anon

'God would not rub so hard, were it not to fetch out the dirt and spots that be in His people.' - Thomas Brooks

'God denies a Christian nothing but with a design to give him something better.' - Richard Cecil

'It is not great talents that God blesses, so much as great likeness to Jesus.' - Robert Murray M'Cheyne

'I am so busy at this present time I cannot do with less than four hours each day in the presence of God.' - Martin Luther

'Great eagles fly alone; great lions hunt alone; great souls walk alone – alone with God.' - Leonard Ravenhill

'No man ever said, at the end of his days, 'I have read my Bible too much, I have thought of God too much, I have prayed too much, I have been too careful with my soul.' - J C Ryle

'A guilty conscience is a hell on earth, and points to one beyond.' - Anon

'Nature forms us; sin deforms us; school informs us; Christ transforms us.' - Anon

'That faith which is never assaulted with doubting is but a fancy. Assuredly that assurance which is ever secure is but a dream.' - Robert Bolton

'It costs to follow Jesus Christ, but it costs more not to.' - Anon

'If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it.' - Anon

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and love your neighbour as yourself.' - Jesus Christ

'The heart of man is like a creeping plant, which withers unless it has something around which it can entwine.' - Charles James Apperley

Introducing Dame Sarah Mullally – The 106th Archbishop of Canterbury

The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE officially became Archbishop of Canterbury on 28th January 2026, when she was legally confirmed at St Paul's Cathedral. Most people know that she had been Bishop of London for several years, and that she is the first woman to ever become Archbishop of Canterbury. But what else do you know about her?

*She was born in Woking in 1962, and is one of four children, with two sisters and one brother.

*She attended Winston Churchill Comprehensive School and Woking Sixth Form College. She went on to South Bank Polytechnic and Heythrop College, University of London

*She worked as a nurse in the National Health Service, which she has described as "an opportunity to reflect the love of God". She specialised as a cancer nurse and became a ward sister at Westminster Hospital, before being made Director of Nursing at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital.

*In 1999, at the age of 37, she was appointed the Government's Chief Nursing Officer for England in the Department of Health. She was the youngest person ever to be appointed to the post. Bishop Sarah was made a Dame Commander of the British Empire in 2005 in recognition of her outstanding contribution to nursing.

*She was ordained in 2001 and served her curacy in St Saviour's Battersea Fields, initially as a self-supporting minister, before leaving her government post in 2004, which she has described at the time as "the biggest decision I have ever made".

*In 2012 she was installed as Canon Treasurer at Salisbury Cathedral and three years later took the role as Suffragan Bishop of Crediton in the Diocese of Exeter, the fourth woman to become a Bishop in the Church of England.

*On 12th May 2018, Bishop Sarah was installed as the 133rd Bishop of London at St Paul's Cathedral, the first woman to hold the role.

*Bishop Sarah sits in the House of Lords as one of the Lords Spirituals, having been introduced on 24th May 2018. Her maiden speech paid tribute to the NHS on its 70th anniversary, telling the Lords: "I am the Bishop I am today because of that first vocation to nursing, and compassion and healing are constants at the heart of who I am."

*She was sworn in as a member of the Privy Council in March 2018 and became Dean of Her Majesty's Chapels Royal in July 2019.

*She is Chair of Christian Aid.

*She has spoken openly about her dyslexia, describing her difficulties with writing and reading.

*In her spare time, she loves cooking, walking and pottery.



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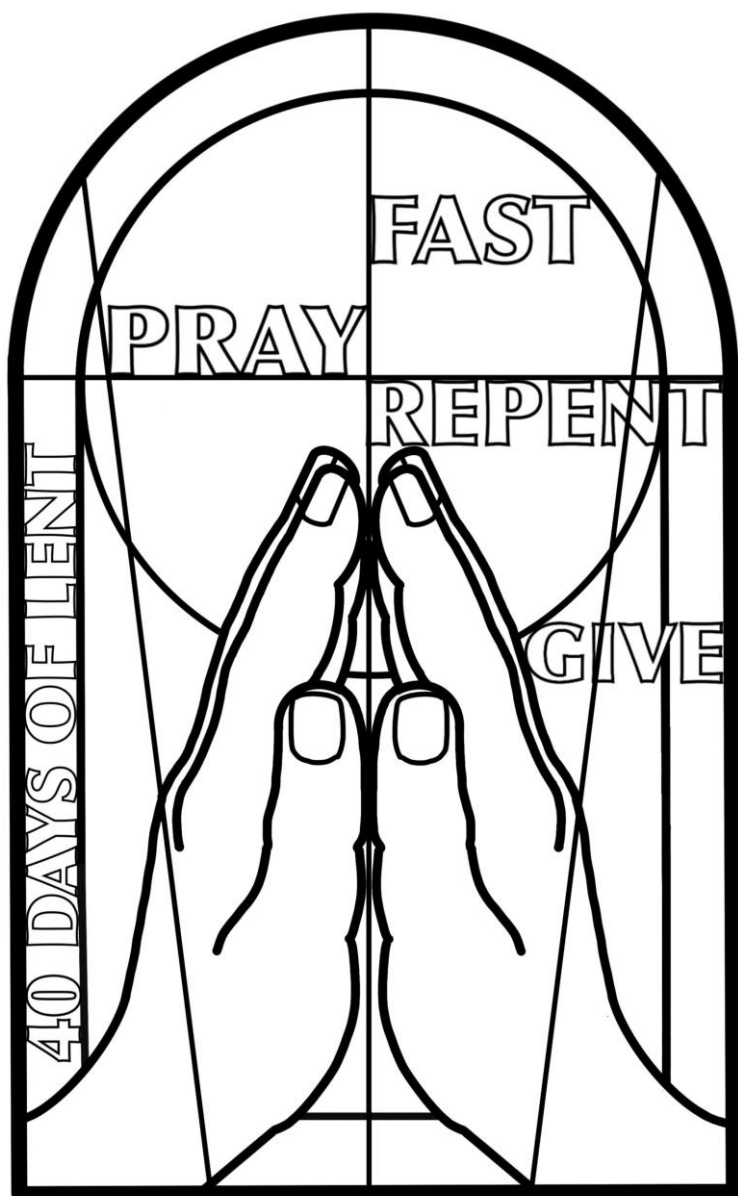
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Monthly Awareness:

Boost your Self-Esteem

Boost Your Self-Esteem Month is a dedicated period for individuals to focus on improving their self-esteem and self-confidence. It encourages people to develop a positive self-image and embrace their worth and abilities. This month-long observance provides opportunities for self-reflection, personal growth, and building a healthier sense of self.

What is Boost Your Self-Esteem Month?

Boost Your Self-Esteem Month is an annual initiative designed to empower individuals to enhance their self-esteem and self-worth. It serves as a reminder that self-esteem is essential for overall well-being and personal success. During this month, people are encouraged to engage in activities and practices that contribute to building and maintaining a positive self-image.

When is Boost Your Self-Esteem Month?

Boost Your Self-Esteem Month is observed throughout the month of February. This month provides a fresh start to the year, allowing individuals to set positive intentions and work on their self-esteem goals.

How to Boost Your Self-Esteem

Improving self-esteem is a personal journey, and different strategies work for different people. Here are some tips to help boost your self-esteem during this special month:

- **Practice Self-Compassion:** Be kind and compassionate toward yourself. Avoid self-criticism and practice self-love.
- **Set Realistic Goals:** Set achievable goals and celebrate your successes, no matter how small they may seem.
- **Challenge Negative Thoughts:** Identify and challenge negative thought patterns. Replace them with positive affirmations.
- **Self-Care:** Prioritize self-care activities that nourish your body and mind, such as exercise, meditation, and relaxation.
- **Seek Support:** Reach out to friends, family, or a therapist for support and encouragement.
- **Learn and Grow:** Continuously learn and develop new skills to boost your self-confidence and sense of accomplishment.

History of Boost Your Self-Esteem Month

Boost Your Self-Esteem Month was established to raise awareness about the importance of self-esteem and self-confidence in leading a fulfilling life. While the specific origins of this observance are unclear, it is rooted in the belief that everyone deserves to feel good about themselves and their abilities.

Throughout the years, Boost Your Self-Esteem Month has grown in significance, with individuals and organizations alike promoting self-esteem-building activities and resources to help people become more confident and self-assured.

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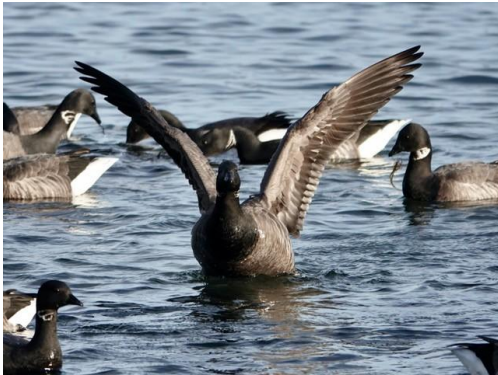
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March deadline is **10am on Friday 20th February**

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Late contributions cannot be guaranteed.

Studland Picture Gallery...



(Photos of dark-bellied brent geese at Middle Beach on New Years Day courtesy of Mike Cheeseman)

Please share your photos - email sharonwestman@gmail.com