

Stour Vale Newsletter No.275

Sunday 27th July



9:15am Parish Communion Stour Provost
10:30am Morning Worship Buckhorn Weston (CW)
11:00am Parish Communion Kington Magna
6:30pm Evensong Fifehead Magdalen (BCP)

**Please remember all who are ill or bereaved in Sunday's intercessions
and in your prayers this week**

All who are ill, especially Peter (KM), Nicky (T), Margaret (WS) and Tony (WS); those who are bereaved, especially the family and friends of John Parker (KM), Henrietta Davys (KM), Jean Hoskins (KM), Monica de Sallis (KM), Matthew Hibbert (WS) and Margaret Elsworth (WS).

A Message from Carol and Martin

Carol and Martin are very grateful for the messages of condolence and flowers they have received and would welcome the support of anyone who would like to attend the service of Thanksgiving, at Midday on Friday 1st August at West Stour.

Other Benefice services/events coming up in July

Every Tuesday – Said Morning Prayer 9:30am West Stour Church

Every Wednesday – Said Holy Communion 10:30am East Stour Church

Thursday 31st – Stour Vale Benefice Prayer Group 2pm East Stour Church



Readings Sunday 27th July *6th Sunday after Trinity*

Genesis 18.20–32

Psalms 138

Colossians 2.6–15

Luke 11.1–13

Colossians 2:6-15 (NIV)

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

⁹For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, ¹⁰and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. ¹¹In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, ¹²having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

¹³When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴having cancelled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Luke 11.1–13 (NIV)

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”

² He said to them, "When you pray, say:

"Father,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ Forgive us our sins,

for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.

And lead us not into temptation."

⁵ Then Jesus said to them, "Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶ a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.' ⁷ And suppose the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

⁹ "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

¹¹ "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Collect and Post Communion for Sunday 27th July

Collect

Merciful God,

you have prepared for those who love you

such good things as pass our understanding:

pour into our hearts such love toward you

that we, loving you in all things and above all things,

may obtain your promises,

which exceed all that we can desire;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion

God of our pilgrimage,

you have led us to the living water:

refresh and sustain us

as we go forward on our journey,

in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer in the Benefice – Sunday 27th to Saturday 2nd August

Please join us in prayer this week, either by adding the topics to your usual daily prayers or by praying the specific prayers suggested below. If you would like us to pray for something, or someone, then please contact Jill Perry (octavoeditorsvb@gmail.com).

Sunday: Church Events: Services in the Benefice.

Amazing God, may your presence be tangible in our worship services today and throughout the week. Fill us with thankfulness and awe so that we praise and glorify you. May our communal

worship inspire our thoughts, words, and deeds all week long, so that we worship you at all times and in all places, living lives that are pleasing to you. Amen.

Monday: Hostages, Prisoners of Conscience and all who are unjustly imprisoned.



O Lord, we think of all those who are imprisoned unjustly. For hostages, held for the selfish benefit of their captors; for prisoners of conscience, held for their convictions and refusing to conform; for those wrongly convicted of crimes they did not commit. Give them hope and courage to survive their ordeal. Let them know they are not forgotten. Provide for their needs and secure their release. Amen.

Tuesday: Todber

Faithful Father, please bless all who live or work in Todber. We thank you for all who are involved in the church: helping to organise or take part in the services; cleaning, decorating or maintaining the church and the churchyard; raising funds or contributing financially to the costs; showing God's love by caring for others; or in any other way. May they feel appreciated for their efforts and joyful in all they do. Amen.



Wednesday: All who are ill or bereaved, especially those listed on the first page of the newsletter that we have specifically been asked to pray for; all who suffer from long-term conditions.



Merciful Lord, we hold before you all who are suffering, especially those who have suffered for many years; those who know they have only a short time left to live; those who face an operation; those who can never leave their chair or bed; and all those who watch and wait with them. Amen.

Thursday: The Church of England

Great High Priest, we pray for the Church of England. Please bless our archbishops, bishops, priests, deacons and all in positions of power or influence. Give them wisdom and discernment, courage and faithfulness. Guide the process to appoint a new Archbishop of Canterbury. We pray for all who worship within the Anglican community. Bind us together and make us one body in Christ. May we work together in pilgrimage and discipleship. Amen.

Friday: Climate Change

Loving Lord, we know our actions have consequences, and we want to care for your creation and do our part to protect the environment. However, it is so hard to know what is the right thing to do. Often things that we are told are good turn out to have other, hidden, consequences. Help us, and all who can make a difference, to see through the agendas of businesses, the media and lobbyists to really understand the issues and the solutions, then give us the bravery and the commitment to promote long-term resolutions and to take effective action. Amen.



Saturday: Holidays and Relaxation

Heavenly Father, we thank you for holidays and all times of rest and relaxation. May the summer give opportunities for us to spend time enjoying: the company of our families and friends; the joy of being outdoors; the uplifting effect of sunshine; the chance to stop *doing* and just *be*. In all our experiences make us aware of your presence smiling on us. Amen.

Canon Paul Hardingham considers a bedrock of our Christian belief: that God is Trinity.

The Nicene Creed: Who is God?

'We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.'

2025 sees the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed. We use it at Communion services, but how much notice do we take of the words? In this new series we are looking at what it means to believe in God as Trinity.

We believe: In Greek, the Creed begins '*we believe*' (in Latin, '*I believe*'). It was formulated at the time of Arius, who declared that Jesus was the first and greatest of God's creatures, but not the same as God the Father. His teaching proved so damaging that the Emperor Constantine called an ecumenical council in Nicaea (AD 325) to clarify the core beliefs for all Christians.

in one God: We believe in a God who is both one and Trinity: '*Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one*' (Deuteronomy 6:4). He is the Old Testament God, who we know through the life and work of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We are to worship Him alone and not people or things.

the Father, the Almighty: God is both the almighty Creator and loving Father: '*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name*' (Matt 6:9). Although the Father of all that exists, He is specifically Father to those who are His children through their faith in Jesus.

maker of heaven and earth: God comes before anything that was created, and Creation is His alone: '*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty*' (Genesis 1:1,2). The implication is that He created '*ex nihilo*' ie out of nothing. He is one God who is unchangeable, lacking in nothing and the source of all that exists.

of all that is, seen and unseen: God did not just create the physical universe, but also the spiritual powers: '*For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him.*' (Colossians 1:16). Reality is more than what we can see, smell, taste, touch or measure.

The Creed establishes the 'big picture' of who God is and challenges our commitment to Him. *How do these opening words of the Nicene Creed speak to us today?*

Parish Pump



You can contact Revd Clare on: 01747 838171

Or by email: clare@evzone.co.uk

Please Note: Clare's usual day off is Monday.

This Newsletter



We hope you find this newsletter helpful. If you know of anyone who would like to join the mailing list, tell them to send their name, parish and email address to Jill Perry at octavoeditorsvb@googlemail.com with the subject "Newsletter Mailing List". But, if you do not wish to continue receiving them, please email her with "Unsubscribe" in the subject field.

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089949903748 or search for 'The Church of England in the Stour Vale' on Facebook, or follow the link on the Benefice Website.

Newsletter produced on behalf of the Stour Vale Benefice:
Buckhorn Weston – East Stour – Fifehead Magdalen
Kington Magna – Stour Provost – Todber – West Stour

