

Stour Vale Newsletter No.274

Sunday 20th July



8:45am Breakfast Church Buckhorn Weston Village Hall
10:00am* Parish Communion West Stour
10:00am Family Service Todber
6:00pm Evensong East Stour (BCP)

*Please remember that West Stour's services are now at 10:00am

**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 Ann Duvall (BW), John Parker (KM), Henrietta Davys (KM), Jean Hoskins (KM), Monica de Sallis (KM) Matthew Hibbert (WS) and Margaret Elsworth (WS).

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

Sunday 20th – Breakfast Church 8:45am Buckhorn Weston Village Hall

Monday 21st July – Knit and Natter 2:30pm East Stour Village Hall

Tuesday 22nd July – Benefice Lunch 12:30pm at Udder Farm East Stour

Don't forget to let Jill or Clare know ASAP if you want to come to the lunch!

It's church, but not as you know it.

**20th July – Buckhorn Weston Village Hall
(SP8 5HF)**

A free breakfast will be served from 8.45am and the service will start at 9am, finishing by 9.30am.

Fun, child-friendly and informal, but it's not just for families! Everyone is welcome.

Do come and join us for a bacon sandwich, muffin, or just cereal and toast, washed down with a cappuccino or a cup of tea, while we hear about God and get to know Jesus.

If you have any questions then please do get in touch with Fiona Hedges: fjhedges1@gmail.com; or Revd Clare Dean: clare@evzone.co.uk



Readings Sunday 20th July *5th Sunday after Trinity*

Genesis 18.1–10a

Psalm 15

Colossians 1.15–28

Luke 10.38–end

Colossians 1:15-28 (NIV)

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ He is before all

things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.



²¹ Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. ²² But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— ²³ if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

²⁴ Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. ²⁵ I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— ²⁶ the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. ²⁷ To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

²⁸ He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.

Luke 10.38–end (NIV)

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

⁴¹ "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Collect and Post Communion for Sunday 20th July

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you,
that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by your governance,
that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer in the Benefice –Sunday 20th to Saturday 26th July

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, especially Breakfast Church.



O Lord, whose mercy reaches to the heavens, whose faithfulness knows no end: let the greatness of your love be known to us, that we may worship you with wonder, joy and thanksgiving. Bless the services happening today, especially our first Breakfast Church this morning. May all the arrangements run smoothly; everyone be safe and happy; may your presence be tangible and may all who attend be drawn closer to you. Amen.

Monday: World Peace.

Come, Lord, into our world of military might and political blindness, to overturn our tired ideas of power and glory, until your wisdom invades our understanding. Bring peace, especially to Ukraine, Russia, Gaza, Israel and Sudan. Protect the innocent. Comfort the injured and the bereaved. Give courage to the fearful. Amen.

Tuesday: Stour Row

Faithful Father, please bless all who live or work in Stour Row. We pray for the village community: for the relationships between neighbours, that they may support those in need. For the businesses and farms, that they may prosper and have a positive impact on the community and the environment. For the Village Hall and all the activities held there. May your light shine into dark places, your glory be revealed and your will be done. 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, the lonely, the housebound.



Merciful Lord, we bring to you those who especially need our prayers, and yet more your presence; the sick, the bereaved, the lonely, the housebound. Save us from being so wrapped up in our own concerns that we forget them, and so busy that we fail to bring them what help and comfort we can. You have given us so much. Make us sensitive to the needs of others, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Thursday: Evangelists, Pioneer Ministers and Fresh Expressions of Church

Heavenly Father, we pray for all those who work on the margins of church, seeking to bring your Good News to those who do not know you. Bless their endeavours and encourage them. Give them inspiration, fortitude and courage. Protect their health and their relationships. Make their efforts fruitful. Amen.

Friday: End of the school year.

Loving Father, as the academic year comes to an end we pray for all children and teachers. Watch over them as they embark on their summer adventures. Keep them safe and refresh them. Give them good health and the ability to make responsible choices. We pray especially for those leaving school, college or university. Grant them wisdom, courage, and resilience to face the challenges that lie ahead. May they use their education to make a positive impact on the world. Amen.



Saturday: Ourselves

May God give us light to guide us, courage to support us and love to unite us, now and evermore. Amen.

22nd July - What do we really know about Mary Magdalene?

Fake news is not new. Perhaps one old example is the assertion that Mary Magdalene was a prostitute. Back in the 6th Century, Pope Gregory is said to have confused her with two other women in the Bible. Medieval Bible scholars also attempted to name an unidentified sinful woman who had washed and anointed the feet of Jesus. As Mary Magdalene is mentioned in the next chapter, they regarded her as the same person! After this, many classical artists painted Mary in various states of undress, perpetuating a falsehood.

So what do we really know about Mary? The Gospels tell us that she came from Magdala, a town in Galilee, and Jesus healed her by casting out seven evil spirits. After this she followed Jesus, with other women, on His ministry providing resources. Later, Mary watched Jesus die on the cross, and having cared for His needs while He was alive, wanted to care for Him after His death.

It was when Mary went to anoint the body of Jesus at the tomb that the risen Jesus appeared to her. He told Mary to go to His disciples and tell them about His return to Heaven. She was obedient and became the first emissary of the resurrection. In those days, the witness of a woman was worthless. Despite ridicule, Mary had the courage to speak about Jesus in a place of great disbelief. We have to ask, do we have the same courage as Mary? How prepared are we to stand our ground to share Jesus with others in the face of those who mock and scoff at us?

Although we usually associate Mary with the Easter story, this month on 22nd July, the Church celebrates her Feast Day. In this snapshot of Mary's life we know she had experienced great distress and suffering. After Jesus healed her, Mary expressed her gratitude by being utterly committed and devoted to Him.

Jesus can give everyone a new start; a new purpose and direction in life. Like Mary, we can thank Him for blessing us, loving us and forgiving us and moving into practical forms of service. Only Jesus can transform our lives so that we can glorify God in all that we do.

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

