

Stour Vale Newsletter No.281

Sunday 7th September



9:15am Parish Communion Todber
*10:00am Morning Worship West Stour (CW)
11:00am Parish Communion East Stour

*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); and for all those who are bereaved.

Prayer Walks

Prayer walking is rooted in centuries old Christian spiritual traditions such as "Beating the Bounds" and the practice of Pilgrimage. It offers an opportunity to bless people, places, businesses and animals, intercede for the concerns of villagers, and affirm the life and unity of the community, especially in acknowledging those places which are key to village life. All welcome.

Friday 3rd October – 10am Todber (meet at the church)

Other Benefice services/events coming up in September

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

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

Monday 15th – Knit and Natter 2:30pm East Stour Village Hall

Tuesday 23rd – Benefice Lunch 12:30pm Udder Farm

Friday 26th – Stour Vale Prayer Group 2pm East Stour Church (Please note change of day.)

Harvest Festivals and Lunches/Suppers



Friday 12th September	Buckhorn Weston Service 7pm followed by Supper
Sunday 21st September	Todber Service 10:30am followed by refreshments
Friday 26th September	Kington Magna Service 6:30pm followed by Supper*
Saturday 27th September	Stour Provost Service 6:30pm followed by Supper
Sunday 5th October	West Stour Service 10:00am Lunch 12:30pm East Stour Service 11:00am followed by Lunch
Saturday 11th October	Fifehead Magdalen Supper 6:30pm
Sunday 12th October	Fifehead Magdalen Service 6:30pm

*Correction for phone number for tickets for Kington Magna Supper – Brenda 01747 838175 or Ann 01747 838690.

*Remember to check if you need to book for harvest lunches/suppers
– see Octavo for more information.*

Readings for Harvest Festivals: Deuteronomy 26.1–11 Psalm 100 John 6.25–35



Readings Sunday 7th September 12th Sunday after Trinity

Deuteronomy 30.15–end

Psalm 1

Philemon 1–21

Luke 14.25–33

Philemon 1–21 (NIV)

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker—² also to Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier—and to the church that meets in your home:

³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear about your love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ. ⁷ Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.

⁸ Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, ⁹ yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—¹⁰ that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

¹² I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. ¹³ I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. ¹⁴ But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favour you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary. ¹⁵ Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever—¹⁶ no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self. ²⁰ I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

Luke 14.25–33 (NIV)

Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: ²⁶ “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

²⁸ “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? ²⁹ For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, ³⁰ saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.’

³¹ “Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. ³³ In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

Collect and Post Communion for Sunday 7th September

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray
and to give more than either we desire or deserve:

pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid
and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask
but through the merits and mediation
of 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 all mercy,
in this eucharist you have set aside our sins
and given us your healing:
grant that we who are made whole in Christ
may bring that healing to this broken world,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer in the Benefice –Sunday 7th to Saturday 13th September

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).

This week we join in the National Week of Prayer for our Nation and our Society:
www.nationalweekofprayer.uk

Sunday: National Week of Prayer - The Church



Great and gracious God, we thank you for the miracle of the church. You have gathered us, from every part of the globe: people of every tongue, tribe and nation. You have made us one family, united in our love for you. As your gathered people we join together to worship you. May our words and our actions bring your presence and your purpose to every part of our lives, and to every part of our society. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Monday: National Week of Prayer – Education

Lord Jesus, we know what a difference a good education makes to people's lives. May everyone have the opportunity of a good education, and make the most of that opportunity. May all educators enable their students to reach their full capability. At the start of the academic year, we pray for all who teach and all who learn, that they may grow in wisdom, understanding and compassion. Amen.

Tuesday: National Week of Prayer – Businesses, Charities, Social Enterprises, etc

Faithful Father, we pray for all businesses, charities and other organisations, that they may act ethically and honestly, and work for the benefit of all. May they value those who work for them, ensure a just supply chain, and provide affordable, accessible goods and services for those whose need is greatest. Amen.

Wednesday: National Week of Prayer – The Government and the Law

Sovereign Lord, we pray for the Government and all in positions of authority, that they may be wise, gracious, and know they are accountable to you for their actions. May they behave with integrity and impartiality, seeking long term solutions over short term popularity, and serving the poorest and most vulnerable in society.

We pray for law makers and law upholders, that they may be just, merciful and unprejudiced. May the justice imparted be restorative, rather than penal, providing opportunities for redemption and restitution. Amen.

Thursday: National Week of Prayer – Health and Social Care; those who suffer

Merciful God, please comfort and heal those we know who are suffering in any way. Please bless all who work in health or social care. Give them resilience, empathy and wisdom. Show the leaders how to balance ethical care, cost, and compassion for the good of all. Amen.



Friday: National Week of Prayer - Religion

Our Father, we ask that people may come to recognise religion as a source of hope. May churches be places of acceptance and welcome, where burdens are lifted and fellowship offered unconditionally. May they deliver creative solutions that relieve the problems in their communities. May truth and integrity be upheld, and unity sought. May we learn to disagree well, to respect everyone's opinion, to discern when to speak and when to listen. May miracles abound, and God's power be manifest to all. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Saturday: Ride and Stride

Lord of All, we thank you for our historic church buildings, for the sacred spaces they contain and the Christian symbolism they enact in their neighbourhoods. Show us how we can make best use of the buildings, and how to fund their upkeep. Please bless anyone doing the 'ride and stride' event today. Keep them safe, and encourage many people to sponsor them. May the money raised be used for your glory and in line with your will. Amen.



Church Pass for free entry for parishioners to Westminster Abbey

Clare has been able to organise a Church Pass for Westminster Abbey which allows up to four people to visit the Abbey – for more information talk to Clare.

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

