

Stour Vale Newsletter No.283

Sunday 21st September



8:45am Breakfast Church Buckhorn Weston Village Hall
*10:00am Parish Communion West Stour
10:30am Harvest Festival 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); and for all those who are bereaved.

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

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



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.

Readings for Harvest Festivals:

Deuteronomy 26.1–11

Psalms 100

John 6.25–35

Collect for Harvest Festival

Creator God,
you made the goodness of the land,
the riches of the sea
and the rhythm of the seasons;
as we thank you for the harvest,
may we cherish and respect
this planet and its peoples,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Readings Sunday 21st September *Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist*

Proverbs 3.13–18

Psalms 119.65–72

2 Corinthians 4.1–6

Matthew 9.9–13

2 Corinthians 4:1-6

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart.

² We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. ³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 9.9-13

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.

¹⁰ And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' ¹² But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'

Collect and Post Communion for Sunday 21st September

Collect

O Almighty God,
whose blessed Son called Matthew the tax collector
to be an apostle and evangelist:
give us grace to forsake the selfish pursuit of gain and the possessive love of riches
that we may follow in the way of your Son Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion

Almighty God,
who on the day of Pentecost
sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles
with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame,
filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel:
by the power of the same Spirit
strengthen us to witness to your truth
and to draw everyone to the fire of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer in the Benefice – Sunday 21st to Saturday 27th 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).

Sunday: Peace in the Middle East. *Today is UN World Peace Day. A prayer by Archbishop Hosam of Jerusalem:*



Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: in Your mercy, provide for all those in Gaza and beyond who suffer from hunger and starvation, that they may be given both physical bread to nourish their bodies and heavenly bread to sustain their souls. By the power of Your Spirit, bring a speedy end to this cruel war, the release of all

captives, care for the sick and wounded, comfort for those who have lost loved ones, and the opening of a pathway for a just and lasting peace here in the very homeland where Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ministered during His earthly life; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Monday: Peace in Ukraine *A prayer by the Archbishop of York:*

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

Tuesday: Fifehead Magdalen

Loving Father, please bless all who live or work in Fifehead Magdalen. We pray for your guidance on the future of the village church: for ways to ensure this sacred space is utilised in line with your will; for praise and worship to radiate from it as a light to all; for people to volunteer to help run it; for its role in nourishing the village community spirit. Amen.



Wednesday: All who are ill or bereaved, especially those listed on the first page of the newsletter we have specifically been asked to pray for and those who have died.



Merciful Lord, we commend to your loving care those who are ill or suffering. May they realise how much their patience and cheerfulness can influence others for good. Strengthen them and help them to see beyond the pain to the glorious future you have prepared for them.

Hear us as we remember those who have died, recently or long ago, who cared about us, challenged us, cheered us up, or otherwise influenced our lives for good. Have mercy on them and grant them a share in your eternal kingdom. Amen.

Thursday: Those Who Pray

Almighty God, we thank you for all who uphold, in prayer, our Benefice, our churches and us as individuals. May all of us be faithful to pray for those in need, for our communities and for our Benefice, that through our prayers your will may be done and your Kingdom come. Amen.

Friday: Our family, friends, and neighbours

Loving Father, we bring before you our families, our friends, and our neighbours. Thank you for them, all that they mean to us, all that they do for us. Pour out your blessings on them. Fill their days with love, joy, peace and faith in you. Amen.



Saturday: Autumn)

Creator God, thank you for the things we love about autumn. The warm but fresh days, the gentle sunshine, the colours, the beauty of the countryside through the mist. Yet it's often tinged with sadness, with the knowledge that the harshness of winter is close at hand. Help us to live in the moment, to pause and appreciate what we can see and hear and smell. As we look to the future, give us courage, comfort, joy and peace. Be with us in the autumn of the year, and in the autumn of our lives. Amen.

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)

We continue the Parish Pump series on prayer by the Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle

Praying with Prayers of the Bible - Learning to Pray by Example

Luke 11:1: 'Lord, teach us to pray.'

Luke tells us that the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray after He had just prayed. This is very important. In His preaching Jesus had spoken about prayer; (e.g. Matt. 6:5-8) He had also included prayer in His teaching; e.g. Luke 18:1. But it was neither His preaching or teaching on prayer that inspired this request from His disciples; it was His *example* in prayer. Also, Jesus had sent His disciples out to preach, yet their request was not, 'Lord, teach us to preach.' They had witnessed the mighty miracles that He performed and saw the astonishment of the crowds (Luke 9:43), but they did not ask Him, 'Lord, teach us to perform miracles.' No, they asked instead, 'Lord, teach us to pray.'

The disciples were beginning to learn that there was a direct link between the prayer life of Jesus and His Spirit-anointed ministry. We need go no further than what we find here in Luke's Gospel to see the consistent prayer life of Jesus. As news of His mighty ministry spread far and wide, 'great multitudes gathered to hear and be healed' (Lk. 5:15). This was 'high noon' in the ministry of our Lord and as the crowds gathered to hear Him, 'He withdrew to the wilderness and prayed' (v.16).

The next chapter tells us that Jesus made a habit of having whole nights of prayer. 'In those days He went out into the hills to pray, and He continued all night' (6:12). A little later the evangelist records that immediately following the feeding of the five thousand, the disciples were with Jesus – and He was praying (9:18). When Luke recounts the Transfiguration of Jesus, he says the Lord took Peter, John and James up the mountain 'to pray' (9:28).

Luke wants his readers to know about the prayer life of Jesus. At every step of His ministry we see Jesus praying. He prayed early in the morning before the day began; He prayed late in the evening after hours of demanding ministry; He prayed in secret; He prayed with His disciples, and He often prayed all night. He prayed in homes; He prayed by the roadside; He prayed on mountains; He prayed in boats; He prayed in the wilderness; He prayed in the synagogue; He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane; He prayed on the Cross.

No wonder that Jesus' example in praying prompted His disciples to ask, 'Lord, teach us to pray.' As we read and study the life and ministry of our Lord, we will be likewise moved to ask Him, 'Lord, teach us to pray.'

You can contact Revd Clare on: 01747 838171

Or by email: clare@evzone.co.uk

Please Note: Clare's 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.

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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

