

Stour Vale Newsletter No.289

Sunday 2nd November



9:15am Parish Communion Todber
10:00am Morning Worship West Stour (CW)
11:00am Parish Communion East Stour
4:00pm Benefice Annual Memorial Service Fifehead Magdalen

**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); for the family
and friends of John Score (KM) and all those who are bereaved.

Other Benefice services/events coming up in November

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

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

Monday 17th – Knit and Natter 2:30pm at East Stour Village Hall

Tuesday 18th – Benefice Lunch 12:30pm Udder Farm Shop

Please remember to pre-order your food with Jill by Tuesday 11th November

Friday 28th – Stour Vale Prayer Group 2pm East Stour Church



Stour Vale Benefice

Remembrance Sunday
Sunday 9th November

Benefice Service
at Stour Provost 10:30am

Please note there will be a Said Communion
At Buckhorn Weston—9:00am



Readings Sunday 2nd November *All Saints Day*

Daniel 7.1–3, 15–18

Psalm 149

Ephesians 1.11–end

Luke 6.20–31

Ephesians 1:11-end (NIV)

In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, ¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Luke 6.20-31 (NIV)

Looking at his disciples, he said:

"Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ Blessed are you who hunger now,
for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² Blessed are you when people hate you,
when they exclude you and insult you
and reject your name as evil,
because of the Son of Man.

²³ "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

²⁴ "But woe to you who are rich,
for you have already received your comfort.

²⁵ Woe to you who are well fed now,
for you will go hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you,
for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

²⁷ "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Collect and Post Communion for Sunday 2nd November

Collect

Almighty God,
you have knit together your elect
in one communion and fellowship
in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord:
grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints
in all virtuous and godly living
that we may come to those inexpressible joys
that you have prepared for those who truly love you;
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, the source of all holiness and giver of all good things:
may we who have shared at this table
as strangers and pilgrims here on earth
be welcomed with all your saints
to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer in the Benefice –Sunday 2nd to Saturday 8th November

This week we will be using ‘popcorn prayers’.

Jesus told us that it’s not the length of our prayers that matter to God. Popcorn prayers are only one sentence long, allowing us to pray for lots of specific things in a short space of time, rather than pray longer, generic prayers. This week we will pray ‘blessing popcorn’, where we ask God to bless each thing, so he is free to act as he sees best, rather than asking him for the specific outcomes we would like.

If you would like us to pray for something, or someone, then please contact Jill Perry (octavoeditorsvb@gmail.com).

Sunday: Benefice Events

Go through the newsletter and pray ‘God, please bless.....’ naming each event in turn.



Monday: The News Headlines

Watch, read or listen to the news headlines and ask God to bless each situation mentioned. You might also want to ask God to bless things you know are happening in the world that have ceased to make the headlines, but still need praying for.

Tuesday: Those in need



Ask God to bless those of your family, friends and neighbours who you know are struggling due to illness, bereavement, depression, financial difficulties, relationship issues, or anything else. Please remember to include those we have been asked to pray for, as listed on the first page of this newsletter.

Wednesday: Your community

Ask God to bless your neighbours, any events happening in your village, and specific situations impacting your community.

Thursday: Persecuted Church

Ask God to bless people who are being persecuted for their faith, naming specific countries where you are aware of persecution happening. Open Doors provides an annual World Watch List of countries in order of severity of persecution for Christians (www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/) which says the five worst countries to be a Christian are: North Korea, Somalia, Yemen, Libya, and Sudan. There are many more on the list if you have time to pray for those as well!



Friday: Family and Friends

Ask God to bless each member of your family and your friends.

Saturday: Ourselves

Thank God for some specific things that are good in your life and ask him to continue to bless them. Ask him to bless anything that is worrying you. Ask him to bless you, your relationships with others and your faith in him.

All Saints' Day – the feast day of all the redeemed

All Saints, or All Hallows, is the feast of all the redeemed, known and unknown, who are now in heaven. When the English Reformation took place, the number of saints in the calendar was drastically reduced, with the result that All Saints' Day stood out with a prominence that it had never had before.

This feast day first began in the East, perhaps as early as the 5th century, as commemorating 'the martyrs of the whole world'. A Northern English 9th century calendar named All Hallows as a principal feast, and such it has remained. Down the centuries devotional writers have seen in it the fulfilment of Pentecost and indeed of Christ's redemptive sacrifice and resurrection.

The saints do not belong to any religious tradition, and their lives and witness to Christ can be appreciated by all Christians. Richard Baxter, writing in the 17th century, wrote the following:

He wants not friends that hath thy love,
And made converse and walk with thee,
And with thy saints here and above,
With whom for ever I must be...

As for my friends, they are not lost;
The several vessels of thy fleet,
Though parted now, by tempests tost,
Shall safely in thy haven meet....

The heavenly hosts, world without end,
Shall be my company above;
And thou, my best and surest Friend,
Who shall divide me from thy love?*

1,255 ancient English churches were dedicated to All Saints - a number only surpassed by those dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

*(Maurice Frost (ed.), *Historical Companion to Hymns Ancient and Modern* (London: Clowes, 1962), no. 274, verses 1,3,6.

From 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

