

Stour Vale Newsletter No.286

Sunday 12th October



9:15am Parish Communion Buckhorn Weston
10:30am Morning Worship Stour Provost (CW)
11:00am Morning Worship Kington Magna (CW)
6:30pm Parish Communion 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); and for all those who are bereaved.

Other Benefice services/events coming up in October

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

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

Monday 20th – Knit and Natter 2:30pm East Stour Village Hall

Tuesday 28th – Benefice Lunch 12:30pm Lakeside Kitchen Todber

Remember to book lunch with Jill or Clare by Tuesday 21st – thank you

Friday 31st – Stour Vale Prayer Group 2pm East Stour Church (Please note change of day.)

BABY LOSS MEMORIAL SERVICE



SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER 3PM
Remembering those who have been part of
our lives who died too soon
WEST STOUR

**Baby Loss Service – Sunday 12th October
West Stour 3pm**

All welcome to this short and simple service at St Mary's Church, as we join with people across the world lighting candles this week in memory of babies who have died at any stage of pregnancy, or during or after birth, recently or long ago and in recognition of their grief.

Harvest Festivals and Supper

Saturday 11th October

Fifehead Magdalen Supper 6:30pm

Sunday 12th October

Fifehead Magdalen Service 6:30pm



Saturday 18th – Confirmation Service with Bishop Karen 5pm at East Stour

Please come and support the candidates from the Stour Vale Benefice on their special day.

Benefice Vision and Planning Day - Saturday 25th October

Rev'd Clare is extending an invitation to all members of the Benefice to join the PCCs at our 'Vision and Planning' day. It is taking place at the Gillingham Scout Hall, running from 10am to 4pm with a light lunch provided.

The purpose of our Vision and Planning Day is to prayerfully seek God's guidance for the future of the Stour Vale Benefice — discerning together how we can deepen our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and share in God's mission across our communities.

If you are interested in attending, or would like information contact Clare, and **please book in with Jill Perry by Friday 17th** as there are a limited number of spaces and we need to know how many we are catering for. Thank you.



Readings Sunday 12th October 17th Sunday after Trinity

2 Kings 5.1–3, 7–15c

Psalm 111

2 Timothy 2.8–15

Luke 17.11–19

2 Timothy 2.8–15 (NIV)

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, ⁹ for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained. ¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

¹¹ Here is a trustworthy saying:

If we died with him,

we will also live with him;

¹² if we endure,

we will also reign with him.

If we disown him,

he will also disown us;

¹³ if we are faithless,

he remains faithful,

for he cannot disown himself.

¹⁴ Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them before God against quarrelling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. ¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

Luke 17.11–19 (NIV)

Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy^[a] met him. They stood at a distance ¹³ and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

¹⁴ When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.

¹⁵ One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶ He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

¹⁷ Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?" ¹⁸ Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

Collect and Post Communion for Sunday 12th October

Collect

Almighty God,
you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you:
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself,
and so bring us at last to your heavenly city
where we shall see you face to face;
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

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us,
and make us continually to be given to all good works;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer in the Benefice –Sunday 12th to Saturday 18th October

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: Benefice Events: Services this Week; Baby Loss Memorial Service



O Lord and God! You are worthy to receive glory and honour. Please bless all the services in the Benefice this week, that you may be worshipped and honoured through them. Inspire us to find opportunities to engage with families, and guide our interactions with children and young people, so that they will be drawn into a closer relationship with you. Amen.

Monday: A Prayer for Prisons Week (www.prisonsworld.org)

Lord, you offer freedom to all people. We pray for those in prison. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist. Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care. Heal those who have been wounded by the actions of others, especially the victims of crime. Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in his strength and in his Spirit, now and every day. Amen.

Tuesday: Todber

Faithful Father, please bless all who live or work in Todber. We thank you for the sacred space of our church building and for the thousands of people who have worshipped there over the years. We pray that you will guide our plans for its maintenance, especially the work to be undertaken on the roof, and for the future for this sacred space at the heart of the community. 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; prisoners.



God of compassion, comfort and heal all who are afflicted in body, mind or spirit. We pray for all prisoners. May those who have committed crimes repent and learn of your love and forgiveness. Give them the opportunity of a fresh start. Give to those who are unjustly imprisoned courage and hope in their ordeal and swift release.

We pray also for those recently released. May they have safe, welcoming places to call home, a chance at employment and support to create a new life without reoffending. Amen.

Thursday: Ourselves: A prayer by Bishop Lancelot Andrews (1555-1626)

I hand over to your care, Lord: my soul and body, my mind and thoughts, my prayers and my hopes; my health and my work; my life and my death; my parents and my family; my friends and my neighbours; my country and all people today and forever. Amen.

Friday: Give Thanks: A prayer by Zinnia Bryan



God, our loving Father, thank you that you never change. You are as strong and wise and loving as the day you made the world. Thank you that nothing can ever happen that will make you alter. You are the one true God. We worship you, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Saturday: Anti-Slavery Day: A prayer by the Clewer Initiative (clewer.org.uk)

Lord, you are a God who sets the captives free. Your Spirit searches restlessly for those in despair, that they may find the life you are calling them to. We pray for those who are being trafficked and callously put to work in our region. On the cross, you were powerless and subject to the cruelty of others. Look with mercy on those who suffer in this way. May we, who are blinded by the shallow distractions of daily life, feel the fear of the cornered and be roused to action. Amen.

The Parish Pump series on the Nicene Creed continues this month. Canon Paul Hardingham considers a bedrock of our Christian belief: that Jesus is the Son of God.

The Nicene Creed: The Person of the Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

This month we are considering what the Nicene Creed says about the Holy Spirit.

'We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life': The original version of the Nicene Creed ended simply *'We believe in the Holy Spirit.'* However, the phrase *'the Lord, the giver of life'* was added to counter the teachings of Macedonius (Bishop of Constantinople), who viewed the Holy Spirit as a creation of the Son. The Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity who shapes us, according to Christ's image, through His fruit and gifts: *'the Spirit gives life...we are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.'* (2 Corinthians 3:6,18).

'who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified': In the late 6th century the Latin churches added the phrase *'and the Son'* (the Filioque Clause), which was rejected by the Orthodox Churches. Augustine described the Spirit as *'love proceeding'* from the Father and the Son, so we can know God: *'When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, He will testify about me.'* (John 15:26).

The Creed is clear that the Holy Spirit is due equal status and worship with the Father and the Son, as a distinct divine person: *'May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.'* (2 Corinthians 13:14).

'He has spoken through the Prophets': Why does the Creed include this activity of the Spirit? It is not just referring to the OT prophets, but the whole of Scripture. He has inspired Scripture, so that we have God's word communicated by human writers: *'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness'* (2 Timothy 3:16). When we read the Bible, the Spirit enables us to hear what God is saying to us.

In what areas of life have you felt the Holy Spirit at work in you?

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.

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

