



# Stour Vale Benefice

Seven Churches, One Body, One Benefice

## *Newsletter No.293*

Stour Vale Benefice  
**Sunday 30th November**  
5th Sunday Services

First Sunday of Advent  
Benefice Service  
10:30am Kington Magna



**Patronal Service for St Andrew**  
3pm Todber

Everyone is welcome to join us for  
either of these services.



**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), Jeremy Seavers (T), Maureen Richards (formerly SP) and all those who are bereaved.

### *Other Benefice services/events coming up in November*

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

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup>** – Stour Vale Prayer Group 2pm East Stour Church



### **Readings Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November** *1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent*

Isaiah 2.1–5

Psalms 122

Romans 13.11–end

Matthew 24.36–44

### **Romans 13.11–end (NIV)**

And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. <sup>12</sup> The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light. <sup>13</sup> Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Rather, clothe

yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

### **Matthew 24.36–44 (NIV)**

“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup> As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; <sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

<sup>42</sup> “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. <sup>43</sup> But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

### **Collect and Post Communion for Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November**

#### **Collect**

Almighty God,  
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness  
and to put on the armour of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life,  
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;  
that on the last day,  
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

#### **Post Communion**

O Lord our God,  
make us watchful and keep us faithful  
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;  
that, when he shall appear,  
he may not find us sleeping in sin  
but active in his service  
and joyful in his praise;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### ***Prayer in the Benefice – Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November to Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December***

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](mailto:octavoeditorsvb@gmail.com)).

#### ***Sunday: The First Sunday of Advent – The Patriarchs***



God of Abraham and Sarah, and all the patriarchs of old, you are our Father too. Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of David. Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth, to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit to make his home among us. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world. Amen.

#### ***Monday: Political Instability: A Prayer from Compassion UK*** ([www.compassionuk.org](http://www.compassionuk.org))

O God, we pray for countries experiencing the turmoil of conflict and political instability. We ask for peace to be restored. Please grant wisdom and integrity to world leaders so that they will work for the good of the people they govern and serve. We pray that citizens everywhere would have their rights preserved, so they can live peacefully, free from fear. Amen.

### **Tuesday: Kington Magna and Nyland**

Lord Jesus, please bless all who live or work in Kington Magna or Nyland. We pray for the forthcoming events, especially the Christmas Tree Decorating, the Carol Service, the Lego Christmas Trail and Midnight Holy Communion. May these be opportunities to draw people together within the community, to create fellowship and joy, and to Make You Known. Encourage and strengthen Alma, the sides-people, and all who work so hard at this time of year to make the services welcoming, clean and decorate the church, ring the bells, or serve you in other ways. 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; those who suffering from depression or despair.**



Merciful Lord, hear us as we remember those we know who are ill in body, mind or spirit. Comfort and heal them. Lift those who are despondent from the dark valley of despair to the bright mountain of hope; from the midnight of desperation to the daybreak of joy. Amen.

### **Thursday: Church Volunteers**

Heavenly Father, we thank you for all, throughout the world, who volunteer to serve your Church, in any capacity, from cleaning the church or cutting the grass, to working for the benefit of their local community; from handing out books, to acting as chaplains in places of suffering; and everything in between! May their service and the way they undertake their role bear witness to you. Guide their thoughts, words and actions to reflect your will. Amen.

### **Friday: The Media**

Holy Spirit, guide and influence all those who work in the media: writing, editing, posting or broadcasting information. Give them discernment to differentiate facts from misinformation, and good judgement in the opinions they share. Fill them with compassion. Remove any desire to sensationalise, or be selective about the truth. May they seek to bring peace and reconciliation, rather than division and hatred. Amen.



### **Saturday: Ourselves: A prayer by Frank Colquhoun**

For light to know your will, for courage to obey your will, for a heart to love your will, we pray, our Father, in Christ's name. Amen.

## **Salisbury Diocese – Re:verse Christmas**

The King in a stable, the world in reverse, join in as we reveal a verse.

Each day leading up to Christmas, we will be playing a carol from our parishes, schools and clergy in reverse and asking you to guess the name of the carol.

### **Why?**

At Christmas, everything is reversed. Glory in humility, majesty in a manger, God with us then and now. This light-hearted social media campaign points to the heart of Christmas: God sends His Son in a way that doesn't make sense to the world, yet perfectly reveals the upside-down nature of His Kingdom.



## When and where?

Join us every day on Facebook and Instagram from 1-24 December, at 9am for the carol and 7pm for the name reveal. We can't wait to see you there. You will be able to watch the videos daily on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

## 30<sup>th</sup> November Andrew - first disciple of Jesus

Andrew, whose feast day ends the Christian year on 30<sup>th</sup> November, is probably best known to us as the patron saint of Scotland, though his only connection with the country is that some of his bones were reputedly transported in the 8<sup>th</sup> century to Fife and preserved at a church in a place now named St Andrews.

In fact, there are so many legends about him all over Europe and the Middle East that it's safest to stick to what the Gospels tell us - though the strong tradition that he was martyred by crucifixion is probably true and is perpetuated in the 'St Andrew's Cross', the 'saltyre' of Scotland.

The Gospels record that he was one of the first disciples of Jesus, and the very first to bring someone else to Christ - his own brother. Like many fervent Jews at the time Andrew and an unnamed companion had been drawn to the desert, to be taught by the charismatic prophet known to us as John the Baptist. Many thought that he was the long-promised Messiah, but John insisted that he was not. 'I am the voice crying in the wilderness,' he told the crowds. 'Prepare the way of the Lord! One comes after me who is greater than I am.' So when one day John pointed out Jesus to Andrew and his friend and described him as the 'Lamb of God', the two young men assumed that the next stage of their spiritual search was about to unfold. So as Jesus made off, they followed him.

All the more strange, then (though, on reflection, very true to human nature) that when Jesus turned and asked them what they were 'seeking', all they could come up with was a lame enquiry about his current place of residence: 'where are you staying?' Or, perhaps, they were hinting that what they were seeking could not be dealt with in a brief conversation. If they could come to his lodgings, perhaps their burning questions might be answered.

The reply of Jesus was the most straight-forward invitation anyone can receive: 'Come and see'. Come and see what I'm like, what I do, the sort of person I am. What an invitation!

The results of their response were in this case life-changing - for themselves, and for many other people. Andrew brought his brother, Peter, to Jesus. The next day Jesus met Philip and called him to 'follow'. Philip then brought Nathaniel. The little apostolic band who would carry the message of Jesus to the whole world was being formed. They came, they saw, they were conquered! And right at the front of the column, as it were, was Andrew, the first disciple of Jesus.

You can contact Revd Clare on: 01747 838171

Or by email: [clare@evzone.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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 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