

Stour Vale Newsletter No.291

Sunday 16th November



8:45am Breakfast Church Buckhorn Weston Village Hall
10:00am Family Service Todber
10:30am* Parish Communion West Stour
10:30am Morning Worship East Stour (CW)

**Please note the new time for West Stour's service of 10:30am*

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 Jeremy Seavers (T), and all those who are bereaved.

Other Benefice services/events coming up in November

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

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

Request for help from Stower Provost School

At the recent Benefice Vision Day, it was discussed that we find ways to engage more with the school and when Fiona went to take an assembly this week, she discovered they have a very practical need that we may be able to help with.

They are currently experiencing unprecedented staff shortages due to illness, especially among the kitchen staff, and so are looking for people who could give, say, an hour a week, perhaps over lunchtime, to do simple practical things like stack the dishwasher. This could be a really practical way that we can build new relationships with the school and provide a blessing to everyone there. If you can help, please contact Fiona on 01747 838 942 or fjhedges1@gmail.com



Readings Sunday 16th November 2nd Sunday before Advent

Malachi 4.1–2a

Psalm 98

2 Thessalonians 3.6–13

Luke 21.5–19

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 (NIV)

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, ⁸ nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, labouring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. ⁹ We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat."

¹¹ We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies.

¹² Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat. ¹³ And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good.

Luke 21.5–19 (NIV)

Some of his disciples were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. But Jesus said, ⁶ “As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down.”

⁷ “Teacher,” they asked, “when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to take place?”

⁸ He replied: “Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ and, ‘The time is near.’ Do not follow them. ⁹ When you hear of wars and uprisings, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away.”

¹⁰ Then he said to them: “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹ There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.

¹² “But before all this, they will seize you and persecute you. They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. ¹³ And so you will bear testimony to me. ¹⁴ But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. ¹⁵ For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death.

¹⁷ Everyone will hate you because of me. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ Stand firm, and you will win life.

Collect and Post Communion for Sunday 16th November

Collect

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and great glory
we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion

Gracious Lord,
in this holy sacrament
you give substance to our hope:
bring us at the last
to that fullness of life for which we long;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Prayer in the Benefice –Sunday 16th to Saturday 22nd November

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: Safeguarding Sunday

Loving Lord, we are horrified when we hear to stories of people who take advantage of the weak, the vulnerable and the naïve. We mourn for lives destroyed; for damage done to bodies, minds and souls. We ask that you mitigate whatever hurt has been done, and thwart those intent on harming others for their own gratification or benefit. May we all be alert, to notice the signs of those in need we encounter in our daily lives. Give us the courage and the wisdom to do the right thing when we suspect someone may be in danger. Amen.

Monday: World Leaders



King of Kings, guide and influence all who hold power in our world. Give them wisdom, and make them servant-hearted, so that they work for justice and equality, uphold the cause of the weak and the vulnerable; and seek peace and reconciliation. We pray especially for peace in the Middle East, in Sudan and in Ukraine. Amen.

Tuesday: East Stour

Lord Jesus, please bless all who live or work in East Stour. We give thanks for the village hall and all the community activities that happen there, especially the Post Office and coffee morning. Please continue to encourage a sense of community in the village, and the neighbourly support network for any who are struggling or vulnerable. 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; all facing adversity – a prayer from Malawi



So fill us with your Spirit, O Lord, to think and pray for our friends who are in adversity, that they may grow from strength to strength; finding their joy in you. Repel every anxiety and discouragement. May they develop a childlike faith and trust in you, the Almighty. Amen.

Thursday: The Blackmore Vale Deanery

Glorious Father, we pray for the churches and Benefices in our Deanery: for Gillingham with Milton and Silton, Shaftesbury, Hazelbury Bryan and the Hillside Parishes, Marnhull, Okeford, Spire Hill, Sturminster Newton with Hinton St Mary and Lydlinch, and not forgetting the Stour Vale! Please bless, guide and inspire all the clergy, especially Tim Heaton our Rural Dean, and all Lay Ministers, Churchwardens and PCC members. Give them joy and peace in their labours, appropriate rest, and satisfaction in the knowledge that they are serving You. Amen.

Friday: Boring tasks

Lord, we spend so much time doing dull, repetitive things, like cleaning, or mowing the lawn, that seem futile – no sooner are they done than they need doing again, and rarely do we feel that anyone appreciates our efforts! Help us to do even the most menial tasks with joyful hearts, knowing that they are done to serve others in some small way, and grateful that we are able to do them. May we remember that when we serve others we are also serving you. Amen.



Saturday: Ourselves

Eternal God, the light of minds that know you, the life of souls that love you, the strength of wills that serve you, help us so to know you that we may truly love you and so to love you that we may fully serve you, whom to serve is perfect freedom. Amen.

Parish Pump's series on the Nicene Creed concludes this month, as Canon Paul Hardingham considers a bedrock of our Christian belief: that the Church has an eternal future.

The Nicene Creed: The Church and the Future

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

'We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church': The Creed affirms the four marks of the church, defining a truly orthodox Christian community:

one: despite the many different churches and traditions, there is only one Church to which we all belong. *'There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.'* (Galatians 3:28).

holy: the church is a holy community set apart for God (*ekklesia*, lit 'called out'), whose mission is to reflect God's holiness in worship and live out His love in the world.

catholic: this doesn't refer to the Roman Catholic church, as the word means '*universal*', reminding us of the unity of the church across the whole world and all denominations.

The church aims to apply the same gospel in whatever situation, context or culture it finds itself.

Apostolic: The apostolic ministry of the church (*'apostolos'*) is one of being sent to communicate the good news of the gospel: *'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations.'* (Matt 28.19).

'We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins': As baptism is a sign of belonging to the church, it can only happen once. The issue addressed in the Creed is that of Christians who left during persecution, but wanted to be accepted back by rebaptism. It affirms the principle '*one Lord, one faith, one baptism*' (Ephesians 4:5). Today, those baptised as children, theologically can't be re-baptised to demonstrate an adult commitment. However, they can be confirmed or reaffirm their baptismal vows.

'We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come': The Creed ends with a statement of hope, that we will share in Jesus' resurrection life after death.

It is not simply about the immortality of our soul, but the resurrection of our bodies. They will be transformed to fit us for life of heaven for eternity: *'The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable...it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.'* (1 Corinthians 15:42-44).

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.

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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

