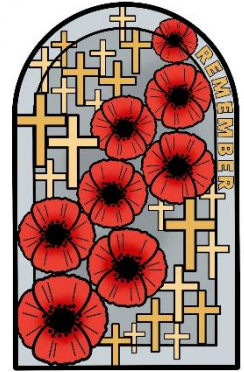


Stour Vale Newsletter No.290

Sunday 9th November

9:00am Said Communion Buckhorn Weston

10:30am **Remembrance Sunday** Stour Provost



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), Jeremy (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

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 9th November

Job 19.23-27a

2 Thessalonians 2.1-5, 13-end

Remembrance Sunday

Psalm 17.1-9

Luke 20.27-38

2 Thessalonians 2.1-5, 13-end

The Man of Lawlessness

As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, ²not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here. ³Let no one deceive you in any way; for that day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless one is revealed, the one destined for destruction. ⁴He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. ⁵Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you?

Chosen for Salvation

¹³ But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. ¹⁴For this purpose he called you through our proclamation of the good news, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵So then, brothers and

sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter.

¹⁶Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, ¹⁷comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

Luke 20.27-38

The Question about the Resurrection

Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to him ²⁸and asked him a question, 'Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. ²⁹Now there were seven brothers; the first married, and died childless; ³⁰then the second ³¹and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. ³²Finally the woman also died. ³³In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her.'

³⁴Jesus said to them, 'Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage; ³⁵but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. ³⁶Indeed they cannot die any more, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. ³⁷And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. ³⁸Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive.'

Collect and Post Communion for Sunday 9th November

Collect

Almighty Father,
whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the King of all:
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority,
and bring the families of the nations,
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,
to be subject to his just and gentle rule;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion

God of peace,
whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom
and restored the broken to wholeness of life:
look with compassion on the anguish of the world,
and by your healing power
make whole both people and nations;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.



Prayer in the Benefice – Sunday 9th to Saturday 15th 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: Remembrance Sunday

Gracious God, on this Remembrance Sunday, please bless all the services in our Benefice. May those who come to church specifically for the Remembrance Service find it a source of comfort, inspiration and fellowship. Use the liturgy, hymns and worshipping community to speak to them of your love for them and to draw them closer to you. Amen.

Monday: Police Officers and the Communities they Serve

Lord our Protector, we pray for strong, positive connections to flourish between our police officers and the communities they serve. Help our police officers be seen as partners in promoting safety and justice. Grant them the opportunity to engage with community members, building relationships based on mutual respect and understanding. Give all our police officers wisdom and discernment in the face of complex situations. Amen.



Tuesday: Remembrance Day, Peace

King of Kings, on this day of remembrance draw the hearts of all, especially those in positions of leadership in our world, to seek peace rather than conflict; to value human life, in all its diversity; and to learn from history rather than repeating the mistakes of previous generations. We thank you for all who made sacrifices so we can live in freedom. Please bless, strengthen and protect those who currently serve, or have previously served, in the Armed Forces. 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 have died recently and those who mourn them.



Merciful Father have compassion on all who are suffering, especially those we know who are ill or struggling in any way. Thank you for the lives of those we know who have died recently. Grant them the joy of eternal rest with you. Give us grace to follow in their footsteps as they followed in Yours. Comfort those who mourn them and give them peace. Amen.

Thursday: Ourselves

We pray that our love may abound more and more. That we may have knowledge and discernment: that we may approve things that are excellent and that we may be sincere and without offence. May we be filled with the fruits of righteousness, to the glory and praise of God. Amen.

Friday: Buckhorn Weston

Faithful Father, please bless all who live or work in Buckhorn Weston. We thank you for the wonders of modern technology, especially for the provision of internet and wifi within the church. Help us to use this to your glory. Send us technical people who can help us make the most of our technology and resolve issues for us quickly, especially with the CollecTin which is so valuable in raising money to maintain our church. Amen.



Saturday: Open Doors International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church



Almighty God, who sustained the apostles of your Son through trials and imprisonment, give strength and hope to all who are persecuted for their faith. Keep them under the shadow of your wings, that they may trust in your unfailing love, and stand steadfast in the face of trouble. Help us, with them, to labour for the coming of your kingdom of righteousness and justice, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From WWI to Afghanistan – Private Curtis Welsby (The 1st Mercian Regiment)

WHEN PTE CURTIS WELSBY'S FRIEND, JAMIE, DIED IN AFGHANISTAN JUST WEEKS BEFORE THEIR BATTALION WAS TO RETURN TO THE UK, THE 20-YEAR-OLD FROM MANCHESTER TURNED TO THE BIBLE. PTE WELSBY, FROM



PHOTO: BIBLE SOCIETY/CANE KENDALL

THE 1ST BATTALION THE MERCIAN REGIMENT, CARRIED AN ACTIVE SERVICE TESTAMENT FROM 1916 IN HIS BODY ARMOUR.

'I was upset, I was angry', Pte Welsby recalls that time in March 2013. 'We all had our body armour on. I noticed the Bible popping out a little bit from my pocket. I went to put it back and then I thought, "No, I'm going to read it. I need something to make me feel good right now".'

Randomly, he found himself at Revelation and read in chapter 21 verse 4: 'And God shall wipe away all tears from the eye; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.'

'I read it over and over again,' he says. 'And I thought, there's nothing for Jamie to worry about now. It was exactly what I needed to read, because what happened was so totally devastating and unexpected.'

Pte Welsby's little New Testament has seen five conflicts.

It first belonged to his great-great grandfather, Jay Greenwood, a teenager who fought in the First World War having lied about his age. It passed on to his great grandfather who took it with him to the battlefields of the Second World War. It then travelled to Korea with Pte Welsby's grandfather and to Northern Ireland with his Uncle.

Its thin pages are worn with use and it readily falls open both at Acts and John. But it was Revelation that spoke to Pte Welsby on his tour of Afghanistan. 'Arriving in Afghanistan was scary,' he recalls. 'When you leave Camp Bastion you realise that it's real. It's you and your friends now. I kept my Bible with me in my pocket all the time and it calmed me down. I thought that God would be looking down over me. I had a sense of Him being with me.'

'I would pull it out and read it when we went on patrol and I had a tingling feeling go through my body every time. Anything could happen. Nobody had a clue what would happen to us. we got into firefights, but we always got out of them.'

'When we were out on patrols and we would stop, I would pull it out and the stories in there make you feel happy. I could read it all day. The local kids used to ask me for it but I always said "no". it's been in my family for so long. It'll be passed on to my nephew. He's only seven, but he already wants to be in the Army.'

All five generations of Pte Welsby's family have service in the Infantry, so it is perhaps surprising that that both the Bible and men survived.

'It means a lot to me,' he says. 'All of my family has read it. I wish I could know what they read. But me and my granddad were very close and we both liked exactly the same things. I reckon he had a hand in saying, "Stop at that page". I reckon somehow he guided me to reading Revelation.'

From *Hear my cry: Words for when there are no words* The British and Foreign Bible Society

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