



Stour Vale Benefice

Seven Churches, One Body, One Benefice

Newsletter No.294

Sunday 7th December – 2nd Sunday of Advent

9:15am Parish Communion Todber
10:00am Morning Worship West Stour (CW)
11:00am Parish Communion East Stour



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 December

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

Tuesday 16th – Benefice Lunch 12:30pm Lakeside Kitchen

Don't forget to pre-order food with Jill by Tuesday 9th December

**Compline
in Advent**

via Zoom

7.30pm

Tues 2nd, 9th and 16th Dec



If you would like the links emailed to you each Tuesday, then please contact Fiona:
fjhedges1@gmail.com

Zoom Meeting Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83974510798?pwd=BU1kKtv2s5vWRLbk2y7wKeSWV4B55b.1>

Within Zoom

Meeting ID: 839 7451 0798 Passcode: 087479



Readings Sunday 7th December *2nd Sunday of Advent*

Isaiah 11.1–10

Psalm 72.1–7, 18–19

Romans 15.4–13

Matthew 3.1–12

Romans 15.4–13 (NIV)

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

⁵ May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶ so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed ⁹ and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written:

"Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles;

I will sing the praises of your name."

¹⁰ Again, it says,

"Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people."

¹¹ And again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles;

let all the peoples extol him."

¹² And again, Isaiah says,

"The Root of Jesse will spring up,

one who will arise to rule over the nations;

in him the Gentiles will hope."

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 3.1-12 (NIV)

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea ² and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³ This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

'Prepare the way for the Lord,

make straight paths for him.'"

⁴ John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. ⁶ Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹ And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.

¹⁰ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Collect and Post Communion for Sunday 7th December

Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power
and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness
we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,

be honour and glory, now and for ever.

Post Communion

Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our judge:
give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming
that, when he comes again,
we may be ready to greet him
with joyful love and firm faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer in the Benefice – Sunday 7th to Saturday 13th 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).

Sunday: The Second Sunday of Advent – The Prophets



God our Father, you spoke to the prophets of old of a Saviour who would bring peace. You helped them to spread the joyful message of his coming kingdom. Help us, as we prepare to celebrate his birth, to share with those around us the good news of your power and love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world. Amen.

Monday: The Government

God of mercy and justice, we pray for those in positions of power and influence in our parliament. Give them wisdom and discernment as they face decisions on major issues (such as international relations, balancing the country's finances, supporting the poor and vulnerable in society and managing immigration) that will impact the lives of thousands. Be their inspiration and their source of compassion. May they do what is right and aligned to your will, rather than acting in their own best interests. Amen.

Tuesday: Stour Provost

Lord Jesus, please bless all who live or work in Stour Provost. We thank you for all who are involved in the church: helping to organise or take part in the services; cleaning, decorating or maintaining the church and the churchyard; raising funds or contributing financially to the costs; showing God's love by caring for others; or in any other way. May they feel appreciated for their efforts and joyful in all they do. 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; the cold weather.



Merciful Father, heal and comfort the sick, the lonely, the bereaved and the oppressed. We pray especially for those who find the cold and wet weather a burden – the homeless; those who struggle to keep warm; those who work outside; those who have medical conditions made worse by cold or damp. Please meet their needs and give them perseverance and joy. Amen.

Thursday: The Church – A Prayer from www.praytoday.uk.

Almighty God, we pray for your Church, here locally, and across the world. We pray for her ministers. Grant them the gifts of leadership, and equip them to enable your people to fulfil their calling as fishers of men and women, making disciples of all people. May your church be the body of Christ on earth - a channel of your love, getting alongside people in need and proclaiming the

Gospel of salvation. Grant the Church your protection. May she speak truth to power, and give her the opportunities to make Christ known, that lives may be transformed and your Kingdom grow in all sorts of wonderful ways, to your praise and glory. Amen.

Friday: Give thanks

Father in heaven, we give thanks for life and the experiences it gives us. We thank you for our joys, sorrows, trials, failures and triumphs. Above all, we thank you for the hope we have in Christ that we shall find fulfilment in him. Amen.



Saturday: Ourselves: A prayer by David Adam

Lord God, awaken me to the beauty of the world and to the wonders of creation. Awaken me to your love and to your coming to me this day. As you came to the patriarchs and the prophets, you come to me, Help me to be aware of your coming. 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](#).

You can contact Revd Clare on: 01747 838171

Or by email: clare@evzone.co.uk

Please Note: Clare is taking Monday and Tuesday off this week.



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

