



Stour Vale Benefice

Seven Churches, One Body, One Benefice

Newsletter No.295

Sunday 14th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent

- 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); 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

**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

Christmas Services in the Benefice

Friday 19th December 6.30pm, Carol Service, Kington Magna. 

Saturday 20th December 6pm, Carols by Candlelight, Stour Provost. 

Sunday 21st December

8.45am, Breakfast Church Christmas Celebration



3pm, Outdoor Carol Service, St Andrew's, Todber.

Please dress for the weather and bring something to sit on.



5pm, Carols by Candlelight, East Stour.

6.30pm, Carols by Candlelight, Fifehead Magdalen.



Tuesday, 23rd December 4pm, Crib Service, The Village Hall, Stour Row.

Christmas Eve



4pm, Christingle & Crib Service, Buckhorn Weston.



5pm, Christingle & Crib Service, West Stour.



11.30pm, Midnight Communion, Kington Magna.

Christmas Day



10am Christmas Service, St Andrew's, Todber.

10.30am Christmas Family Communion Service, East Stour



Key to services:



Reflective Service



activities available for children



Children welcome to take part in the service

You are welcome to join us at any, or all, of these services



Readings Sunday 14th December 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35.1–10

Canticle : Magnificat

James 5.7–10

Matthew 11.2–11

James 5:7-10 (NIV)

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. ⁹Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

¹⁰Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Matthew 11:2-11 (NIV)

When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples ³to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

⁴ Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ⁶ Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

⁷ As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ⁸ If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. ⁹ Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Collect and Post Communion for Sunday 14th December

Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

Prayer in the Benefice – Sunday 14th to Saturday 20th 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 Third Sunday of Advent – John the Baptist

God our Father, you gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age a son called John. He grew up strong in spirit, prepared the people for the coming of the Lord, and baptized them in the Jordan to wash away their sins. Help us, who have been baptized into Christ, to be ready to welcome him into our hearts, and to grow strong in faith by the power of the Spirit. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world. Amen.

Monday: World Peace

Sovereign Lord, we are sometimes frightened by the state of our world, with its naked wickedness, its ruthless cruelty and its wanton disregard for human life. Have mercy on our lost world and rebellious peoples. Bring peace, justice and mercy to bear in all the areas where your will is being ignored. We think especially of Russia, Ukraine, the Middle East, Sudan and Nigeria. Amen.



Tuesday: Stour Row

Lord Jesus, please bless all who live or work in Stour Row. Please bless the Crib Service, that it will be well attended, that your presence will be tangible, that all present will worship and adore you, that it will inspire people to want to get to know you better and draw closer to you. 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 struggling financially.



Our Father, hear us as we remember those we know who are ill, bereaved, or suffering in any way. You love them, and know their needs far better than we do. All we ask is that you do for them as you see best, and bless them with your peace.

We pray especially for those who struggle financially. Christmas can be a time when so many feel pressurised to spend more than they can afford. Help them, and those they buy for, to understand the true meaning of Christmas and give them the ability to resist the pressures upon them. Amen.

Thursday: The Persecuted Church at Christmas

Almighty God, as we approach christmas we pray for all our sisters and brothers who will celebrate it in secret, in fear, or in danger. Make this a time of joy and peace for them. Provide for their needs and remove their anxieties. Confound their persecutors, and fill their hearts with compassion. Amen.

Friday: One Parent Families

Father in heaven, give strength, patience and wisdom to parents trying to be both Father and Mother to their children. We also pray for children who miss one or more of their parents, for whatever reason. Be their comfort in their confusion and loneliness, and heal their pain. Bless all parents and children with joy and peace. Amen.



Saturday: Ourselves: A prayer by Gemma Simmonds from Donkey Roads and Camel Treks

Jesus, you are the light that no darkness can ever overcome. Shine your light in the dark places of our minds and hearts, in the darkness of our world, and help us to hold firm and take heart. Amen.

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.

Follow us on Facebook at

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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

