



# Stour Vale Benefice

Seven Churches, One Body, One Benefice

## Newsletter No.298

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

9:30\*am 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 note the new service time for Buckhorn Weston's Communion Service

**Please remember all who are ill or bereaved in Sunday's intercessions and in your prayers this week**

All who are ill, especially Joyce (ES), Richard (ES), Irene (KM), Peter (KM), Nicky (T), Margaret (WS) and Tony (WS); for the family and friends of Jim White (BW), John Score (KM), Jeremy Seavers (T), Maureen Richards (formerly SP) and all those who are bereaved.

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

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

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup>** – Service in the Pub 11:00am for 11:15am start – details below

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup>** – Knit and Natter 2:30pm East Stour Village Hall

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Stour Vale Singers Concert 6pm Buckhorn Weston VH– see attached flyer

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup>** – Benefice Lunch 12:30pm Udder Farm

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup>** – Stour Vale Benefice prayer Group 2pm East Stour Church

*Stour Vale Benefice  
Service  
in the  
Pub*



**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January**  
**Open from 11am for an 11.15 start**

Tea and coffee will be provided, and the licenced bar will be open throughout for those who would like to buy a drink. After the service, feel free to leave or stay for a drink and a chat. If anyone would like to stay for lunch, we would advise you to reserve a table in the usual way.



For more details, please contact Fiona Hedges on 01747 838942 or [stourvalemessychurch@gmail.com](mailto:stourvalemessychurch@gmail.com)

**The Ship Inn,  
West Stour, SP8 5RP**



## Readings Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January *Baptism of Christ*

Isaiah 42.1–9

Psalms 29

Acts 10.34–43

Matthew 3.13–end

### Acts 10.34–43 (NIV)

Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favouritism<sup>35</sup> but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.<sup>36</sup> You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.<sup>37</sup> You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—<sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

<sup>39</sup> “We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross,<sup>40</sup> but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen.<sup>41</sup> He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.<sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead.<sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

### Matthew 3.13–end (NIV)

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John.<sup>14</sup> But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

<sup>15</sup> Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.

<sup>16</sup> As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.<sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

## Collect and Post Communion for Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January

### Collect

Eternal Father,  
who at the baptism of Jesus  
revealed him to be your Son,  
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:  
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,  
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### Post Communion Prayer

Lord God,  
the bright splendour whom the nations seek:  
may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light  
discern the glory of your presence in your Son,  
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

## ***Prayer in the Benefice – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January***

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: Benefice Events: Services During the Week***



Amazing God, may it be our delight as well as our duty to worship you. We pray for all the services happening in the Benefice today, for Tuesday Morning Prayer, mid-week Holy Communion and Service in the Pub. Bless all who attend and all who would like to attend but are unable to do so. Amen.

### ***Monday: The UK***

Sovereign Lord, we pray for our country: for the health of our democracy; for wisdom and good leadership in our government; for equality; and for charity amongst our people. We ask for harmony, peace and compassion throughout our society. May every individual do their bit for the common good of all. Amen.

### ***Tuesday: West Stour***

Lord Jesus, Please bless all those who live or work in West Stour. We give thanks for the joy experienced in the Christingle Service on Christmas Eve, and for the opportunity for the community to mix with family and friends to celebrate Christ's birth and catch up on the latest news. We ask you to pour your blessing and your peace on everyone for 2026. Amen.



### ***Wednesday: Open Doors World Watch List Launch today***

Almighty God, as *Open Doors* launch their new *World Watch List*, of the most dangerous places to be a Christian, we pray for all our persecuted sisters and brothers, wherever they may be. Bless them. Give them courage and strength. Keep them safe and provide for their needs. We pray for those who persecute them, that you will change their hearts and bring them to know you. We thank you for *Open Doors* and all the other organisations that support persecuted Christians. Amen.

### ***Thursday: 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 are abused.***



Merciful Father, we bring to you those who need our prayers: the suffering, the lonely, the elderly, the sick, the housebound. We pray especially for anyone experiencing physical, emotional, sexual, domestic or psychological abuse. Keep them safe. Make them resilient. Give them courage and wisdom to face their situation and resolve it. In their suffering may they know your presence and your love. Amen.

### ***Friday: Charities and Aid Organisations***

Loving and compassionate Lord, we pray for all charitable organisations. Thank you for their work to help people who are unable to help themselves for whatever reason. Fill all charitable workers with wisdom, kindness and strength. May they not be overwhelmed by the size of the challenges facing them, and perceptive in how to make the biggest difference with their limited resources. Amen.



### ***Saturday: Ourselves – A Prayer by St. Columba of Iona:***

My dearest Lord, be thou a bright flame before me, be thou a guiding star above me, be thou a smooth path beneath me, be thou a kindly shepherd behind me, today and for evermore. Amen.

*There is a lot of talk about 'mindfulness' these days, and how to find calm moments in our daily lives. Both the BBC and Classic FM have even got radio stations devoted to 'mindful' and 'calm' music. But as Christians, we have an extra, divine resource, to call on. And so this month we are launching a new series, simply offering three verses to help reassure your readers that they are not alone in their tough times.*

## **Peaceful mind**

The Bible tells the story of Jesus and His disciples in a boat. The wind blows, the waves rise, and the disciples are stressed. Like them, we also get hit by storms in life. Like them, we can't control what comes our way. But like them, we can know that Jesus is also with us. Why not take a moment to ponder these promises:

In peace I will lie down and sleep, for You alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety. (*Psalm 4:8*)

The Lord gives strength to His people, the Lord blesses His people with peace. (*Psalm 29:11*)

For God is not a God of disorder but of peace - as in all the congregations of the Lord's people. (*1 Corinthians 14:33*)

*Parish Pump*

## **Smile Lines - U**

What did the raspberry say to the blueberry? Breathe, breathe!!!

A hangover is the wrath of grapes.

When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

*Parish Pump*

You can contact Revd Clare on: 01747 838171

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

**Please Note:** Mondays are Clare's usual day off.



## **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.

Follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089949903748](https://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

