



Stour Vale Benefice

Seven Churches, One Body, One Benefice

Newsletter No.299

Sunday 18th January 2026

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

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

Monday 19th – Knit and Natter 2:30pm East Stour Village Hall

Friday 23rd – Stour Vale Singers Concert 6pm Buckhorn Weston VH– see attached flyer

Tuesday 27th – Benefice Lunch 12:30pm Udder Farm

Please remember to pre-order your food with Jill by Tuesday 20th – thank you

Friday 30th – Stour Vale Benefice prayer Group 2pm East Stour Church

Faculties - problems and solutions

A message from the Rural Dean, Revd Canon Tim Heaton

Churchwardens and anybody else involved or interested in the faculty procedure are warmly invited to attend Deanery Synod on Tuesday 20 January, 2 for 2:30pm, at Shillingstone Church Centre, Blandford Road, Shillingstone, DT11 0SW, to hear a presentation by Dan Crooke and Revd Canon Jonathan Triffitt on the faculty system and the internal review carried out by the diocese in 2025. Dan is the DAC Secretary, oversees the Church Buildings Team and is Diocesan Lead for Net Zero. Jonathan is the Deputy Diocesan Secretary, Director of Ministry & Mission and Bishop's Missioner. They will address the concerns that arose in January 2025 and Deanery Synod's vote of no confidence in the faculty procedure.



Readings Sunday 18th January *Epiphany 2*

Isaiah 49.1–7

Psalm 40.1–12

1 Corinthians 1.1–9

John 1.29–42

1 Corinthians 1.1–9 (NIV)

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

²To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours:

³Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵ For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— ⁶ God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. ⁷ Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸ He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

John 1.29–42 (NIV)

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is the one I meant when I said, ‘A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’ ³¹ I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.”

³² Then John gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. ³³ And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴ I have seen and I testify that this is God’s Chosen One.”

³⁵ The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!”

³⁷ When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?”

They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?”

³⁹ “Come,” he replied, “and you will see.”

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

⁴⁰ Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. ⁴¹ The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which, when translated, is Peter).

Collect and Post Communion for Sunday 18th January

Collect

Eternal Lord,
our beginning and our end:
bring us with the whole creation
to your glory, hidden through past ages
and made known
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion Prayer

God of glory,
you nourish us with your Word
who is the bread of life:
fill us with your Holy Spirit
that through us the light of your glory
may shine in all the world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer in the Benefice –Sunday 18th to Saturday 24th 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).

This week we join churches across the world in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. For 2026, the prayers and reflections have been prepared by the Armenian Apostolic Church, along with their brothers and sisters of the Armenian Catholic and Evangelical Churches.

These resources draw upon centuries-old traditions of prayer and petitions used by the Armenian people, along with hymns that originated in the ancient monasteries and churches of Armenia, some of which date as far back as the fourth century.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026 extends an invitation to draw upon this shared Christian heritage and to delve more deeply into our fellowship in Christ, which unites Christians worldwide.

For related daily reflections, more prayers and further information please go to:

www.ctbi.org.uk/resources/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2026/

Sunday: Our Call to Unity

Loving God, You have called us to unity. May our response to Your call lead us to actively seek justice and reconciliation and share Your light with the world. Amen.



Monday: Bearing with One Another in Love

Lord Jesus Christ, show us how to be patient with one another in humility and gentleness. May the light You shine on our path lead us towards unity and help us heal the wounds of division and indifference that often break communities apart. Amen.

Tuesday: The Bond of Peace

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: Called to One Hope



Lord Jesus Christ, You bring us together in all our diversity, as family and church. In the face of so many situations on earth, where hope has given way to despair and hearts are wounded and emptied by disappointment, renew our strength and unify us. Help us to share Your hope wherever we find ourselves. You are the true Light, who casts out the darkness of sin, despair and brokenness, who shines into our hearts, releasing the joy and the true hope of Your eternal love for all. Amen.

Thursday: One Faith, One Baptism (*St Nersess the Gracious (adapted)*)

Spirit of God, and true God, who descended on the River Jordan and entered into the upper room; who enlightened us by the baptism of the water of life, we have sinned against heaven and before You. Purify us again with Your divine fire, as You did the Apostles with fiery tongues. Have mercy on us and all Your creatures. Amen.

Friday: One God Over All

Loving God, we worship You as our Creator, for Your presence in the heavens beyond words and Your presence on earth beyond understanding. Through Your Son Jesus Christ we yield to Your tender care as the beginning and fulfilment of everything. Help us to fulfil Your will in our lives. Glory for ever to You, God our Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.



Saturday: Christ's Gift

Lord Jesus Christ, You have bestowed wonderful graces and multiple gifts upon us for the sake of building up Your Body, the Church. Help us to embrace and recognise our individuality, so that

we may be caught up in the childlike wonder of Your diverse making and creating. Breathe in us with Your creative Spirit, that we may respond and spread Your word, Your dream, Your grace and Your beauty, to every place that we can reach, as we play and pray in Your name. Amen.



You can contact Revd Clare on: 01747 838171

Or by email: 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 octavoeditorsyb@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

THE PHOTOCOPIER

