



Stour Vale Benefice

Seven Churches, One Body, One Benefice

Newsletter No. 302

Sunday 8th February – 2nd Sunday before Lent

*9:30am	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 new service time

Important notice:

Please note that Todber's church will be closed and services suspended while essential roof repairs are carried out.

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 February

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

Every Tuesday during Lent – Morning Prayer West Stour 9:30am

Monday 16th – Knit and Natter 2:30pm East Stour Village Hall

Wednesday 18th – Ash Wednesday Communion Service at East Stour 10:30am

Tuesday 24th – Benefice Lunch 12:30pm Lakeside Kitchen

Friday 27th – Stour Vale Benefice prayer Group 2pm East Stour Church



We are going to try using Google Meet, rather than Zoom, for our Lent Compline sessions this year.

If (like me!) you are new to Google Meet and would like a 'trial run' to see how the functionality works and make any necessary adjustments to your settings in a safe environment, before joining the service, I will be running a 'practice session' on Tuesday 17th February, at 7.30pm, on this link:

<https://meet.google.com/rbv-csqr-xqu>

Please do feel free to join me and hopefully we can work out what we are doing together! Fiona



Readings Sunday 8th February 2nd Sunday before Lent

Genesis 1.1—2.3
Romans 8.18–25

Psalm 136.1–9, 23–end
Matthew 6.25–end

Romans 8.18–25 (NIV)

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that^[a] the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

Matthew 6.25–end (NIV)

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life^[a]?

²⁸ “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Collect and Post Communion for Sunday 8th February

Collect

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things,
now and for ever.

Post Communion Prayer

God our creator,
by your gift
the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise,
and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:
may we who have been nourished at your table on earth
be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross
and enjoy the delights of eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer in the Benefice – Sunday 8th to Saturday 14th February

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: Racial Justice Sunday - The Church of England Collect

Merciful God, you are righteous and love justice: stir the hearts of your people that, rejoicing in our diversity, we may repent of the wrongs of the past, and, by your grace, seek the peaceable kingdom of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.



Monday: General Synod, starting today

Father of all mercies and God of all comfort, send your Holy Spirit to refresh and renew your holy and beloved people. May the members of our General Synod clothe themselves continually with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Guide and lead them into all truth as they seek your ways together. Bind them lives together in love for Jesus Christ your Son and for your world. Amen.

Tuesday: Our Benefice

Lord Jesus, we pray for all who live and work in our Benefice, that you will send your Holy Spirit to turn their hearts to you. Give them a hunger for your Bread of Life, a thirst for your Living Water and many opportunities to draw closer to you. May we play our part in achieving your will for the Stour Vale. 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 unemployed and the underemployed.



Comfort, O loving Father, all who are afflicted or distressed in body, mind or spirit. We pray especially for those we know who are ill, or bereaved, and for all people who are searching for employment, either to provide for themselves and their

families, or seeking a role that matches their skills and gives them purpose. Grant them strength and resilience in the face of rejection and uncertainty. Bless their efforts. Open doors that seem closed, and lead them to opportunities that align to your will for them. Amen.

Thursday: The Middle East: *A prayer written by The Very Revd Canon Richard Swell, Dean of St George's College Jerusalem, for Christian Aid.*

O God of all justice and peace we cry out to you in the midst of the pain and trauma of violence and fear which prevails in the Middle East. Be with those who need you in these days of suffering; we pray for people of all faiths - Jews, Muslims and Christians and for all people of the land. While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end to violence and the establishment of peace, we also call for you to bring justice and equity to the peoples. Guide us into your kingdom where all people are treated with dignity and honour as your children, for to all of us you are our Heavenly Father. Amen.



Friday: Give Thanks

Gracious Lord, thank you for the many blessings you have given to me. Thank you that you care about me, and want the best for me. Thank you that in moments of fear or weakness I can rely on you. Amen.

Saturday: Ourselves

God our Father, you are the source of all health and healing, all strength and peace. Teach us to know you more truly and trust you more firmly. Take from us all anxieties and fears and help us in our weakness to rest in your love and enter into the stillness of your presence. Amen.

Smile Lines – God made us

A little girl sitting on her grandfather's lap reached up to touch his wrinkled cheek. "Grandpa, did God make you?"

"Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago."

"Oh," she paused. "Grandpa, did God make me too?" Her grandfather assured her that He had. Feeling his wrinkled cheek again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't He?"

From Parish Pump

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 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

