



Stour Vale Benefice

Seven Churches, One Body, One Benefice

Newsletter No. 303

Sunday 15th February – Sunday next before Lent

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

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

Tuesday 17th – East Stour Shrove Tuesday Pancakes Aysgarth 11am-1:30pm

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

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

Don't forget to let Jill have your food orders by the 17th

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

DRAW NEAR
LIFE-GIVING HABITS FOR LENT

Online Compline in Lent
Practice Session

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 15th February *Sunday next before Lent*

Exodus 24.12–end
2 Peter 1.16–end

Psalm 2
Matthew 17.1–9

2 Peter 1.16–end (NIV)

For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ He received honour and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”^[b] ¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

¹⁹ We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 17.1–9(NIV)

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ² There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. ³ Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

⁴ Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters— one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.”

⁵ While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!”

⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them. “Get up,” he said. “Don’t be afraid.” ⁸ When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, “Don’t tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

Collect and Post Communion for Sunday 15th February

Collect

Almighty Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion Prayer

Holy God,
we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ:
may we who are partakers at his table
reflect his life in word and deed,
that all the world may know his power to change and save.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer in the Benefice – Sunday 15th to Saturday 22nd 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: Benefice Events: Services this week, Knit and Natter and the Benefice Lunch



Almighty Lord, fill our whole lives with praise and worship. We ask you to bless all the services happening in the Benefice this week. We thank you for Knit and Natter and the Benefice Lunches: for the friendships forged there; for the giving of time and talents to help those in need; for laughter, support and encouragement. Please encourage those who organise them. May your will be done through them. Amen.

Monday: The Environment

Eternal God, we ask you to influence nations, businesses, communities and individuals to reduce their impact on the environment. Turn us from careless tenants to faithful stewards of your world, that your threefold blessing of clean air, pure water and rich earth may be available to all your creatures. Amen.

Tuesday: Buckhorn Weston

Faithful Lord, please bless all who live or work in Buckhorn Weston, especially those who are ill or recently bereaved. Comfort them and give them peace. We pray for the families that are moving on to pastures new, that you will guide them and keep them safe. We also pray for the new families arriving, that they will find the village a joyful place to live, where they make good friends and find great neighbours. May our church sit at the heart of the community as a place where you are made known. Amen.



Wednesday: Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent – A Church of England Collect



Holy God, our lives are laid open before you: rescue us from the chaos of sin and through the death of your Son bring us healing and make us whole in Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 struggle with their faith.

Merciful Father, heal the sick in body mind or spirit. Provide for the homeless, the hungry and the destitute. Show your pity on prisoners, refugees and all who are in trouble. Keep in safety all who are in danger. Strengthen the faith of those who waiver, giving them a sense of your presence and a surety of belief. Amen.



Friday: Healthcare - A prayer from Compassion UK: [Prayers for the world today | Compassion UK](#)



Father God, please protect those who are vulnerable to illness around the world. We think especially of children and babies living in poverty who are especially at risk, and where medical assistance is often more difficult to access. We also lift before you healthcare workers and medical researchers. Thank you for their tireless service. Lord, we praise you for the medical advances against many diseases. We pray resources will be fairly distributed around the world. Amen.

Saturday: Ourselves – *A Prayer by St Richard of Chichester*

O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, day by day. Amen.

Smile Lines - Portrait

A teacher told her young class of children to try and draw the portrait of someone they knew. While they worked, she walked about, keeping an eye on their progress.

One little girl was working diligently, and the teacher asked who she was drawing. The child replied: "I'm drawing God."

The teacher protested that no one knows what God looks like. Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

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.

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

