



# Stour Vale Benefice

Seven Churches, One Body, One Benefice

## Newsletter No. 305

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March – *Second Sunday of Lent*

9:15am Parish Communion Todber  
10:00am Morning Worship West Stour (CW)  
11:00am Parish Communion East Stour

**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), David H (KM), Irene (KM), Peter (KM), Nicky (T), Margaret (WS) and Tony (WS); for the family and friends of Jim White (BW), Julia Gould (ES), Syliva Fox (KM), Sarah Best (KM), and all those who are bereaved.

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

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

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

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup>** – Knit and Natter 2:30pm East Stour Village Hall

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>** – Benefice Lunch 12:30pm Lakeside Kitchen

**Tuesdays** – Online Compline for Lent 7:30pm details below

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup>** – Stour Vale Benefice prayer Group 2pm East Stour Church

# DRAW NEAR

## Online Compline in Lent

Every Tuesday from 24<sup>th</sup>  
February to 31<sup>st</sup> March.

7.30pm

via the Google Meet link:

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

For more info, or if you would like  
the link emailed to you each  
week, please contact Fiona:

[fjhedges1@gmail.com](mailto:fjhedges1@gmail.com)





## Readings Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March

Genesis 12.1–4a  
Romans 4.1–5, 13–17

*Second Sunday of Lent*

Psalm 121  
John 3.1–17



### **Romans 4.1–5, 13–17 (NIV)**

What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? <sup>2</sup> If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. <sup>3</sup> What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

<sup>4</sup> Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. <sup>5</sup> However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.

It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. <sup>14</sup> For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, <sup>15</sup> because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. <sup>17</sup> As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

### **John 3:1-17 (NIV)**

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

<sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

<sup>4</sup> “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.

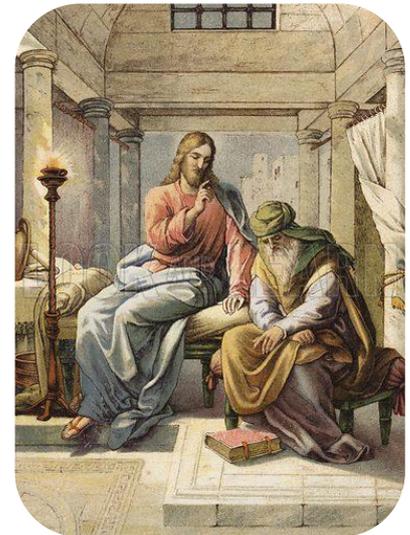
<sup>6</sup> Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. <sup>7</sup> You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’

<sup>8</sup> The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup> “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

<sup>10</sup> “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? <sup>11</sup> Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. <sup>12</sup> I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.



## Collect and Post Communion for Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March

### Collect

Almighty God,  
you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,  
that they may return to the way of righteousness:  
grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion,  
that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession,  
and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;  
through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God,  
you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves:  
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,  
and inwardly in our souls;  
that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body,  
and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## *Prayer in the Benefice – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> to Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March*

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 this week; Clare**



King of Kings, may we worship you with our whole heart and soul. Please bless all the worship services in our Benefice today and during the week. We also pray for Clare as she seeks to lead us in worship, both in the services and in the actions we take as a Benefice to support those in need and to *Make Jesus Known*. Please inspire and guide her. Give her hope, joy and peace. Amen.

### **Monday: The NHS - A prayer from the Church of England**

God of healing and compassion, we thank you for the National Health Service, and for the dedication of all who work in it: give skill, sympathy and resilience to all who care for the sick, and your wisdom to those engaged in medical research. Strengthen all in their vocation through your Spirit, that through their work many will be restored to health and strength. Amen.

### **Tuesday: Fifehead Magdalen**

Lord Jesus, please bless all who live or work in Fifehead Magdalen. We thank you for all who are involved in the church. May they feel appreciated for their efforts and joyful in all they do. We ask you to inspire more people to volunteer to help, especially to be PCC members, so that the church may continue to function. We also pray for those who struggle financially in the village, that you will encourage them to seek help when they need it, motivate others to help, and provide for their needs. 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; carers.**



Merciful Lord, we commend to your loving care all who are ill, bereaved or suffering in any way. We also pray for all carers, both professional and unpaid. Give them strength and resilience. May they know when to take time for themselves, and have the opportunities to do so. Fill them with patience, compassion and love for those they care for. May they feel appreciated and valued. Amen.

**Thursday: The Church of England Hierarchy**

Almighty God, we pray for all in positions of authority with the Church of England. Give them the discernment to know Your Will, the wisdom to know the right thing to do, and the courage to act accordingly. May they act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with you, in every step they take and every decision they make. Amen.

**Friday: Scientific Progress**

Creator God, thank you for the wonders of creation, and for the ability you gave us to explore, discover and create from those wonders. Please encourage and inspire scientists, their sponsors and the industries that use their discoveries, so that their work may be used for the benefit of all rather than for war, destruction, profiteering or selfish gain. Guide those creating new legislation, particularly around AI and assisted dying, to know how to curb abuses of new developments. Amen.



**Saturday: Ourselves**

Heavenly Father, give us eyes of compassion for the suffering and afflicted around us; save us from neglecting any opportunity of giving help; and when we come face to face with human need, may we never pass by on the other side. Amen.

**Lent Lunches**

- Wednesday 4th March—Todber 12-2:00pm—*Hosted at Copse House Moorside*
  - Thursday 5th March—Kington Magna 12-2:00pm—*Hosted in the village hall*
  - Wednesday 11th March—West Stour 12:30pm—*Hosted at The Walled Garden*
  - Thursday 19th March—Buckhorn Weston 12:30pm—*Hosted at New Barn House*
  - Friday 27th March—Stour Provost 12:30pm—*Hosted in the village hall*
  - Saturday 28th March—East Stour 12-2pm—*Hosted in the village hall*
- Please check in Octavo to see if you need to let the hosts know you are coming.***

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

