

THE BENEFICE OF STURMINSTER NEWTON, HINTON ST MARY AND LYDLINCH

'Making Christ's Love Known to All'



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Sunday 8 February 2026 – 2 before Lent

St Mary's

9:30am – Morning Prayer
6:00pm – Evensong

St Peter's

9:30am – Morning Prayer

St Thomas'

11:00am – Holy Communion

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.

Genesis 1.1-2.3

1 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And

there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

2 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

Psalm 136.1–9, 23–end

- ¹ Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious, •
for his mercy endures for ever.
- ² Give thanks to the God of gods, •
for his mercy endures for ever.
- ³ Give thanks to the Lord of lords, •
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ⁴ Who alone does great wonders, •
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ⁵ Who by wisdom made the heavens, •
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ⁶ Who laid out the earth upon the waters, •
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ⁷ Who made the great lights, •
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ⁸ The sun to rule the day, •
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ⁹ The moon and the stars to govern the night, •
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ²³ Who remembered us when we were in trouble, •
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ²⁴ And delivered us from our enemies, •
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ²⁵ Who gives food to all creatures, •
for his mercy endures for ever.
- ²⁶ Give thanks to the God of heaven, •
for his mercy endures for ever.

Romans 8.18–25

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation

waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Matthew 6.25-end

'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing?

Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

'So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

Post Communion

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.

News and Notices

All events are open to all across the Benefice.

A Note from Brenda Stables

After many years I have recently retired as a Lay Pastoral Assistant. If anyone would like to find out what being a Lay Pastoral Assistant (LPA) entails, please get in touch with me:

Brenda Stables (01258 471487) b.stables@btinternet.com

Being an LPA has been very rewarding and enjoyable.

Benefice Bible Study

11 February 1430-1600 at the Vicarage. All welcome. Then suspended for Lent groups.

Christians Together in Stur Lent Course

Methodist Church - Friday 13th February to Friday 27th March 10th for 10.30am -12 noon. Repeated Monday 16th February to Monday 30th March 7:00pm for 7.30pm -9:00pm.

Ash Wednesday (18 Feb) Holy Communion Services

10:00am at St Mary's and 7:00pm at St Peter's

Date for your Diary

21st March – Evening Bistro in aid of the Bells -Hooper Hall.

Services & Events in the Benefice Tue, 10 Feb 9:30am – Tots & Toast – St Mary's Church Hall Wed, 11 Feb 10:00am – Holy Communion – St Mary's Fri, 13 Feb 6:30pm – Choir Practice – St Mary's	Sun 15 Feb – Next before Lent Readings: Exodus 24.12–end Psalm 2 2 Peter 1.16–end Matthew 17.1–9 St Peter's, Hinton St Mary 9:30am Morning Prayer St Mary's, Sturminster Newton 11:00am Holy Communion St Thomas', Lydlinch 4:00pm Evensong
Vicar: Rev Mary Gubbins revd.mary.gubbins@gmail.com ☎ 07440 680 387 Benefice Safeguarding Officer: Mrs. Nicole Forbes-Marshall ☎ 07960 827108 nicoleforbes@btinternet.com	Find us on A Church Near You (www.achurchnearyou.com) and then enter Sturminster Newton, Lydlinch or Hinton St. Mary
Lay Pastoral Assistants: For Communion at home or pastoral visits, please contact: Carol Moody ☎ 01258 721 729 Fiona Norman ☎ 01258 472 693	Administration: Please pass any notices or news for the pew sheets to office.sturbenefice@gmail.com by noon Wednesday.
Mother's Union Brenda Stables (b.stables@btinternet.com)	
Churchwardens: St Mary's Sturminster Newton St Peter's Hinton St Mary St Thomas a Becket, Lydlinch	Tony Moody Fiona Norman ☎ 01258 472 693 Robin Gibbs ☎ 01258 471 493 K Peto-Bostick ☎ 01258 475 469 John Barrett ☎ 01963 23375 Sarah Frizzle ☎ 077 4165 2713