

# THE BENEFICE OF STURMINSTER NEWTON, HINTON ST MARY AND LYDLINCH

‘Making Christ's Love Known to All’



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

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## Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026 – Lent 2

*St Mary's*

*St Peter's*

*St Thomas'*

11:00am Holy Communion

9:30am Holy Communion

No Service

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### 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.

### Genesis 12.1-4a

**12** Now the Lord said to Abram, ‘Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him;

and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

### Psalm 121

- <sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills; • from where is my help to come?
- <sup>2</sup> My help comes from the Lord, • the maker of heaven and earth.
- <sup>3</sup> He will not suffer your foot to stumble; • he who watches over you will not sleep.
- <sup>4</sup> Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel • shall neither slumber nor sleep.
- <sup>5</sup> The Lord himself watches over you; • the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
- <sup>6</sup> So that the sun shall not strike you by day, • neither the moon by night.
- <sup>7</sup> The Lord shall keep you from all evil; • it is he who shall keep your soul.

<sup>8</sup> The Lord shall keep watch over your going out and your coming in, • from this time forth for evermore.

### **Romans 4.1–5, 13–17**

**4** What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, ‘I have made you the father of many nations’)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and

calls into existence the things that do not exist.

### **John 3.1-17**

**3** Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.’ Jesus answered him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.’ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?’ Jesus answered, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, “You must be born from above.” The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.’ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can these things be?’ Jesus answered him, ‘Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ‘Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has

ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

### **Post Communion**

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.

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### **News and Notices**

*All events are open to all across the Benefice.*

#### **Christians Together in Stur Lent Course**

Methodist Church - Fridays 10.30am -12 noon until 27th March. Repeated Mondays 7:00pm for 7.30pm -9:00pm until 30th March.

**St. Mary's Coffee Morning** Friday 6th March 10:30 -12:00 in St. Mary's Church Hall. All welcome.

**World Day of Prayer led by women** Friday 6th March 2:00pm at the Christian Fellowship. Organised by Christians Together in Stur. All welcome.

#### **Calling all St Mary's Churchyard volunteers, and new recruits!**

You are all invited to a Thank You Afternoon Tea on Monday 9th March in the Church Hall, 14:30pm. It will be lovely to meet up again and make plans for managing the care of the churchyard in 2026.

#### **St. Mary's East Window**

During the Mothering Sunday Holy Communion service on 15th March, we will thank God for the work done recently on the East Window. On 24th April at 7:00pm in St. Mary's, anyone will be able to come to hear about the work and we will express our thanks to the many people who've enabled the project to happen.

## Date for your Diary

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

<p><b>Services &amp; Events in the Benefice</b></p> <p><b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March</b> 9:30am – Tots &amp; Toast – St Mary's Church Hall</p> <p><b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March</b> 10:00am – Holy Communion – St Mary's</p> <p><b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March</b> 6:30pm – Choir Practice – St Mary's</p>	<p><b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March – Lent 3</b></p> <p><b>Readings:</b> Psalm 15; Genesis 18:1-10a Luke 10:38-end</p> <p><b>St Peter's, Hinton St Mary</b> 9:30am Morning Prayer</p> <p><b>St Mary's, Sturminster Newton</b> 9:30am Morning Prayer 6:00pm Evensong</p> <p><b>St Thomas', Lydlinch</b> 11:00am Holy Communion</p>															
<p><b>Vicar:</b> Rev Mary Gubbins revd.mary.gubbins@gmail.com ☎ 07440 680 387</p> <p><b>Benefice Safeguarding Officer</b> Mrs. Nicole Forbes-Marshall 07960 827108 nicoleforbes@btinternet.com</p>	<p><b>Administration:</b> Please pass any notices or news for the pew sheets to office.sturbenefice@gmail.com by noon Wednesday.</p>															
<p><b>Lay Pastoral Assistants:</b> For Communion at home or pastoral visits, please contact: Carol Moody ☎ 01258 721 729 Fiona Norman ☎ 01258 472 693</p>	<p>Find us by putting Put 'A Church near you' in your search engine and then enter Sturminster Newton, Lydlinch or Hinton St. Mary</p>															
<p><b>Mothers' Union Secretary:</b> Brenda Stables (b.stables@btinternet.com)</p>																
<p><b>Churchwardens:</b></p> <table><tr><td>St Mary's Sturminster Newton</td><td>Fiona Norman</td><td>☎ 01258 472693</td></tr><tr><td>St Peter's Hinton St Mary</td><td>Robin Gibbs</td><td>☎ 01258 471493</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>K Peto-Bostick</td><td>☎ 01258 475469</td></tr><tr><td>St Thomas a Becket, Lydlinch</td><td>John Barrett</td><td>☎ 01963 23375</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Sarah Frizzle</td><td>☎ 077 4165 2713</td></tr></table>		St Mary's Sturminster Newton	Fiona Norman	☎ 01258 472693	St Peter's Hinton St Mary	Robin Gibbs	☎ 01258 471493		K Peto-Bostick	☎ 01258 475469	St Thomas a Becket, Lydlinch	John Barrett	☎ 01963 23375		Sarah Frizzle	☎ 077 4165 2713
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