



# Stour Vale Benefice

Seven Churches, One Body, One Benefice

## Newsletter No. 306

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March – *Third Sunday of 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 remember all who are ill or bereaved in Sunday's intercessions and in your prayers this week**

All who are ill, especially Angela (BW), Joyce (ES), Richard (ES), 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), David Hustwayte (KM), Tom Higgins (KM), Terry Cox (SR) 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

### **Lent Lunches**

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.***

**DRAW  
NEAR**

### *Online Compline in Lent*

*Every Tuesday during Lent – 7.30pm*

*via the Google Meet link:*

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)

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



### **Readings Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March**

Exodus 17.1-7  
Romans 5.1-11

### *Third Sunday of Lent*

Psalm 95  
John 4.5-42



### **Romans 5:1-11 (NIV)**

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup> And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup> You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

<sup>9</sup> Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! <sup>10</sup> For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

<sup>11</sup> Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

### **John 4:4-24 (NIV)**

So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup> When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?"

<sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

<sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

<sup>11</sup> "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

<sup>13</sup> Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

<sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

<sup>16</sup> He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

<sup>17</sup> "I have no husband," she replied.

Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. <sup>18</sup> The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

<sup>19</sup> "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

<sup>21</sup> "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

<sup>25</sup> The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

<sup>26</sup> Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."

<sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?"

<sup>28</sup> Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, <sup>29</sup> "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" <sup>30</sup> They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something."

<sup>32</sup> But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about."

<sup>33</sup> Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him food?"

<sup>34</sup> "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. <sup>35</sup> Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. <sup>36</sup> Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. <sup>37</sup> Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. <sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labour."

<sup>39</sup> Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. <sup>41</sup> And because of his words many more became believers.

<sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Saviour of the world."

### **Collect and Post Communion for Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March**

#### **Collect**

Almighty God,  
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,  
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:  
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,  
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

#### **Post Communion Prayer**

Merciful Lord,  
grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil,  
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### ***Prayer in the Benefice – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 14<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; Music and Musicians***



Almighty Lord, may we sing your praise! Please bless all the worship services in our Benefice, today and during the week. Thank you for the gift of music, and for all those who enhance our worship by playing instruments, singing, ringing bells, choosing hymns, or are in anyway involved in our use of music to praise you. Amen.

#### ***Monday: Iran and the Middle East: A prayer from the Church of England***

God of mercy, look with compassion on all who are affected by the present conflict. Grant insight to hardened hearts, comfort to the fearful, protection to those in danger, and hope to those who are despairing, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### ***Tuesday: Kington Magna and Nyland***

Lord Jesus, please bless all who live or work in Kington Magna or Nyland. We pray for those who are recently bereaved, and for those who are not well, that you will comfort them, heal them, and give them peace. We give thanks for the work being undertaken on the west window of the church. May it go smoothly, swiftly and successfully. Please provide sufficient funds to complete all the required maintenance. 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 disadvantaged.**



Good Shepherd, we commend to your loving care all who are ill, bereaved or suffering in any way, especially those in our Benefice and those known to us. We also pray for anyone who lives their life at a disadvantage – physically, because of their background or family life, because of where they live, or how little money they have, because they lack the power to change their circumstances, or for any other reason. Bless them. Give them resilience, power and hope. May we do our bit to understand the issues they face and how we can help to change them. Amen.

**Thursday: The Diocese of Salisbury**

Almighty God, we pray for our Diocese, that it may be a place where you are worshipped and honoured. Guard and guide our Bishops, Priests and Deacons to proclaim your word, shepherd your flock, and safeguard your vulnerable. Inspire and encourage all who work in the Diocesan Offices. May their work be fruitful. May they be responsible stewards of the resources you have given us. Amen.

**Friday: An End to Poverty**

Heavenly Father, we pray for an end to poverty, trusting that all things are possible for you. Please help us examine our own hearts and actions, so that we would live with integrity towards others and bring about fairer societies. We pray for charities and other organisations seeking to alleviate poverty. Bless and encourage them, provide the resources they need and make their voices heard. We pray for all in positions of power, that they will use their influence to make the world a fairer, more equitable, place. Amen.



**Saturday: Ourselves** – A prayer written by Martyn Payne for the Bible Reading Fellowship:

God of grace, surprise us in the ordinary of every day; console us in the dilemmas we face; inspire us when we don't know what to do; encourage us in the depths of our being, that we might taste afresh the joy of eternal life, in the here and now. Amen.

You can contact Revd Clare on: 01747 838171

Or by email: [clare@evzone.co.uk](mailto:clare@evzone.co.uk)

**Please Note:** Clare will off on Monday and Tuesday this week.



### **This Newsletter**

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*

