



Stour Vale Benefice

Seven Churches, One Body, One Benefice

Newsletter No. 309



Sunday 29th March

10:30am Palm Sunday Benefice Communion Stour Provost

Come to hear a dramatised reading of the Holy Week story. There will be activities for children and refreshments in the Village Hall afterwards.

*Do join us for this important service that marks the start of Holy Week.
For the full list of services during Holy Week, see page 2.*

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), Helen (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.



Readings Sunday 29th March

Palm Sunday

Liturgy of the Palms:

Matthew 21.1-11

Psalm 118.1-2, 19-end

Liturgy of the Passion:

Isaiah 50.4-9a

Psalm 31.9-16

Philippians 2.5-11

Matthew 26.14—end of 27

Collect and Post Communion Sunday 29th March

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
who in your tender love towards the human race
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to take upon him our flesh
and to suffer death upon the cross:
grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
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

Lord Jesus Christ,
you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant,
and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation:
give us the mind to follow you
and to proclaim you as Lord and King,
to the glory of God the Father.

Holy Week Services

Monday 30th March: Taizé Service, West Stour Village Hall, 2.30pm

A 30-minute service including Taizé chants, scripture readings, prayers and silence.

Followed by tea and hot cross buns, if you would like to stay.

Tuesday 31st March: Online Compline, using Google Meet, 7.30pm

A short service of reflection and prayer to end the day. Join us using this QR code



Wednesday 1st April: Holy Communion, East Stour, 10.30am

Our usual mid-week Holy Communion service, adapted for Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday, 2nd April: Agape Meal, East Stour, 6.30pm

Join us as we share a meal and commemorate Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples.

If you would like to join us for this meal, please bring a plate of finger food to share - this is a celebratory meal, so the food does not have to be plain, just easy to eat with our fingers!

Good Friday, 3rd April:

Hot Cross Bun Service, Todber, 10.30am

An informal service, and the chance to eat some hot cross buns!

Reflections at the Cross, Stour Provost, 2pm

A service of hymns, readings and reflections on the sacrifice Jesus made for us on Good Friday, because of his love for us.

Easter Sunday, 5th April:

Sunrise Service, Fifehead Magdalen, 6.30am

Gather by 6.30am at the brazier outside Fifehead Magdalen Church for a simple act of outdoor worship as the sun rises on Easter Day.

Dress for the weather! Feel free to bring your dogs, as well as a lantern to light if you have one.

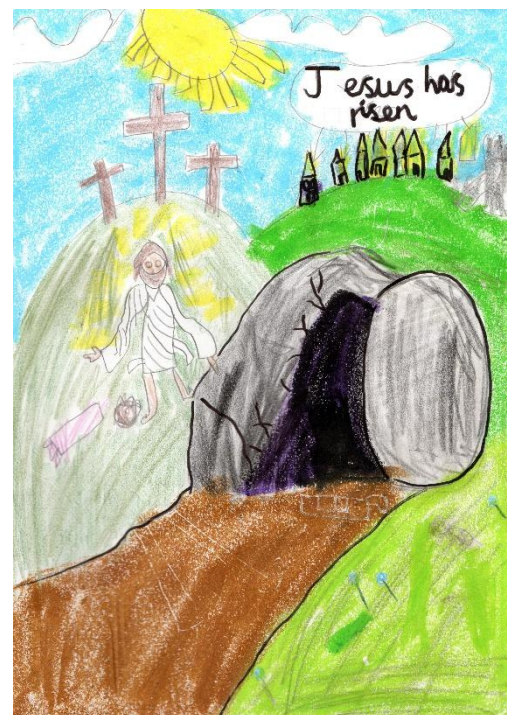
Followed by a simple breakfast of hot cross buns and coffee.

Family Easter Service, Buckhorn Weston, 9.30am

A service without Holy Communion, but with an Easter Egg hunt!

Holy Communion, Kington Magna, 11.00am

Come along to our joyful celebration of Easter Communion, with activities for children to do and opportunities for them to be involved in the service.



*Easter Art Winner
Archie Richards-Sullivan (aged 7)*

Prayer in the Benefice – Sunday 29th March to Saturday 4th April

Please join us in prayer this week, when we focus on the events of Holy Week. If you would like us to pray for something, or someone, then please contact Jill Perry. (octavoeditorsvb@gmail.com).

Please also remember to pray for those who are ill or bereaved, especially those we have been asked to pray for, listed on the first page of this notice sheet.

Sunday: Palm Sunday - A Collect from the Church of England's 'Common Worship'

True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you, that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory. Amen.



Monday: A Prayer by Martin Payne for the Bible Reading Fellowship - www.brf.org.uk

Heavenly Father, we ask you to provide economic stability throughout the countries of the world. Give leaders wisdom, prudence and foresight to ensure their country can manage its finances, provide for its poor and vulnerable, and ensure stability and security for its population. Thwart those who would act selfishly, for personal or parochial gain at the expense of others. Amen.

Tuesday: A Prayer by Derek Worlock and David Sheppard



Saviour of the World, we marvel at the salvation you have accomplished: help us to walk with you in the way of the cross, together with your other children, and to discover your victory through failure and pain. We make this prayer that our Father's name may be glorified. Amen.

Wednesday: A Prayer by Richard Neibuhr

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference.

Thursday: Maundy Thursday – A Collect from the Church of England's 'Common Worship'

God our Father, your Son Jesus Christ was obedient to the end and drank the cup prepared for him: may we who share his table watch with him through the night of suffering and be faithful. Amen.

Friday: Good Friday – A prayer from the Church of England's 'Draw Near' Reflections for Lent

Almighty God, as we stand at the foot of the cross of your Son, help us to see and know your love for us, so that in humility, love and joy we may place at his feet all that we have and all that we are; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Saturday: Easter Eve – A Prayer by Martin Payne for the Bible Reading Fellowship - www.brf.org.uk

Lord of holy sabbath and the silent tomb, may your solidarity with all who have died strengthen us to be channels of comfort and hope, for the sake of all who live in the shadow of death in the dark places of our world. Amen.



The Chrism Eucharist – Salisbury Cathedral Thursday 2nd April (Maundy Thursday) 11am

The Chrism Eucharist is not just for licensed and commissioned ministers but for all who would like to attend, and Bishop Stephen has encouraged us to extend an invitation to all in the parishes to attend, especially those who may be exploring a vocation to ordained ministry or to licensed or commissioned lay ministry, so that they may sense the power of the ministry that we share with each other and with the one who calls us and in whose name we serve.

DON'T FORGET THE CLOCKS GO FORWARD THIS WEEKEND!



Two donkeys

Two donkeys were walking the streets of Jerusalem. One said: "Just a few days ago I came down that hill carrying Jesus, and the people were all singing and shouting and throwing down their cloaks and palms for me to walk on. But today they don't even recognise me."

The other donkey replied: "That is how it is, my friend. Without Jesus, none of us amounts to much."

Lester Amann considers the little donkey of Palm Sunday...

Why we should be like donkeys

Are you a pet-lover? Many people own a dog, a cat or a budgie, but most of us don't own a donkey! Yet in Bible times, donkeys were essential to daily life. They did everything from helping to grind corn, to ploughing, to carrying people, to transporting their belongings. Despite their small frame, donkeys are surprisingly tough. They are content with poor fodder like thistles and can travel an average of 20 miles a day.

There are two occasions in the Christian calendar where donkeys walk into the picture. At Christmas, Mary travelled the 100 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem on a donkey. And although a donkey doesn't get a specific mention in the manger story, that same one that transported her was probably there at the birth; where else would it have been?

On Palm Sunday Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey. Jesus deliberately chose this animal rather than a horse. Why? In Bible times, the horse was associated with war, conquest and worldly might. But the donkey was a symbol of peace and humility. Jesus used this animal to show that He had come with the dignity of the King of peace. His entry into the Holy City also fulfilled Zechariah's prophecy concerning the Messiah.

Donkeys are hardworking and undemanding. They wait for their master to put them to the work he has chosen for them. And, remarkably, each one bears the mark of the Cross on their backs!

Parish Pump

You can contact Revd Clare on: 01747 838171

Or by email: vicarsvb@gmail.com - **please note Clare has a new email address**

Please Note: Clare's usual day off is Monday.



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

