



Stour Vale Benefice

Seven Churches, One Body, One Benefice

Newsletter No. 307

Sunday 15th March – 4th Sunday of Lent

- 8:45am Breakfast Church Buckhorn Weston Village Hall
10:30am Parish Communion West Stour
10:00am Family Service Todber
10:30am Morning Worship East Stour (CW)

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.

Other Benefice services/events coming up in March

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

2nd Wednesday of the month with be a Healing Communion service

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

Monday 16th – Knit and Natter 2:30pm East Stour Village Hall

Tuesday 24th – Benefice Lunch 12:30pm Lakeside Kitchen

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

Friday 27th – Stour Vale Benefice prayer Group 2pm East Stour Church

Lent Lunches

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

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



Readings Sunday 15th March

Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Samuel 16.1–13

Ephesians 5.8–14

Psalm 23

John 9



Mothering Sunday

Exodus 2.1-10

Psalms 34.11-20

2 Corinthians 1.3-7

John 19.25b-27



2 Corinthians 1.3-7 (NIV)

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. ⁵ For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. ⁶ If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. ⁷ And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

John 19:25-27 (NIV)

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," ²⁷ and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Collect and Post Communion for Mothering Sunday 15th March

Collect

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:
strengthen us in our daily living
that in joy and in sorrow
we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal;
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

Loving God,
as a mother feeds her children at the breast
you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life:
help us who have tasted your goodness
to grow in grace within the household of faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer in the Benefice – Sunday 15th to Saturday 21st 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).

Sunday: Benefice Events: Services this week; Volunteers



King of Kings, praise, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honour, power and might belong to you. May that be reflected in all our worship services this week.

We thank you for all the volunteers who help in our churches: the retired clergy and Lay Worship Leaders who lead services, those who clean the church, welcome people at the door, arrange flowers, ring the bells, read, write intercessions, play the organ, deliver leaflets

and put up posters, manage the finances, maintain the buildings and the grounds, and so many other jobs, often unnoticed. May they feel appreciated, and find joy in their service. Amen.

Monday: Terrorist and Warmakers

Gracious Lord, you have taught us to pray for our enemies. We pray for all terrorists and warmakers, that you will change their hearts to see that the power of love is stronger than bullet and bomb. Lead them away from violence into your ways of peace. Amen.

Tuesday: Stour Provost

Lord Jesus, please bless all who live or work in Stour Provost. We pray for the Village Open Gardens in May, that the weather may be kind and the event may be successful in every way. We also ask you to bless and heal the many villagers who are unwell at the moment. Give them comfort and peace in their suffering. 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 lonely.



Merciful Father, hear us as we remember those we know who are ill in body, mind or spirit, especially those in our Benefice and those known to us personally. We also pray for those who feel lonely, bereaved, unloved or unseen. May they know you are always with them. Comfort them and empower them. Give them meaningful friendships, a sense of purpose, and peace. Amen.

Thursday: The Persecuted Church in Myanmar – A prayer from *Open Doors*: www.opendoorsuk.org

Lord Jesus, come to the rescue of Your children in Myanmar, who have suffered so much. We pray for strong and just governance, a stable economy, and peace between warring groups. Shield our family from harm, engulf the hurting with Your unfailing comfort, and bring timely encouragement to those who need it today. Provide every physical, emotional and spiritual need, and make a way for the displaced to return to their homes. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Friday: Springtime – A Prayer from the *Mother's Union Anthology of Public Prayers*

As the days lengthen, and earth spends longer in the light of day, may we spend longer in the light of your presence, O Lord. May the seeds of your word which have been long buried within us grow like everything around us into love for you and love for other people, a visible declaration of your lordship in our lives. Amen.



Saturday: Ourselves – A Prayer by *Saint Teresa of Avila*

O most holy God, you know me better than I know myself, forgive what needs forgiveness, strengthen what is weak and give me wisdom for Jesus sake. Amen.

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

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 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.

Quotes for Lent – Parish Pump

God requires a faithful fulfilment of the merest trifle given us to do, rather than the most ardent aspiration to things to which we are not called. - *St Francis de Sales*

Very often, when people first turn towards God and realise that God loves them and that everything about them matters to Him, a wave of joyful emotion overwhelms them. But actual faith is mostly the realisation that, even though we don't in the least deserve it, God believes in us and finds us lovable. This is astonishing. - *Philip Pare*

You have made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in You. - *Augustine of Hippo*

Be simple; take our Lord's hand and walk through things. - *Fr Andrew SDC*

And for Mothering Sunday

For a wife, take the daughter of a good mother. - *Fuller.*

One good mother is worth a hundred schoolmasters. - *George Herbert*

Her children arise up and call her blessed. - *Proverbs 31.28*

The Daughters of Mothers

There are certain small things that you notice,
Little things you have started to do,
That prompt you to question, and wonder
If the face in the mirror, is *you*.

The realisation is dawning,
As one year hurtles after another,
That in word, thought and deed,
In gesture and glance,
You have somehow turned into your mother!

By Daphne Kitching



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

