



# Stour Vale Benefice

Seven Churches, One Body, One Benefice

## Newsletter No. 308

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

- 9:15am Parish Communion Stour Provost  
10:30am Morning Worship Buckhorn Weston (CW)  
11:00am Parish Communion Kington Magna  
6:30pm Evensong Fifehead Magdalen (BCP)

### **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 Husthwaite (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

*2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month with be a Healing Communion service*

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

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>** – Spring Sale and Coffee Morning 10am – **This will now be in the Church**

(we're delighted to say the roof and ceiling repairs are now complete!)

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>** – Benefice Lunch 12:30pm **Udder Farm**

**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**

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March—Stour Provost 12:30pm—*Hosted in the village hall*

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> March** *Fifth Sunday of Lent*

Ezekiel 37.1-14  
Romans 8.6-11

Psalms 130  
John 11.1-45



## **Romans 8.6–11 (NIV)**

The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.

<sup>7</sup>The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. <sup>8</sup>Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

## **John 11.1–45 (NIV)**

Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup>(This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) <sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." <sup>4</sup>When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." <sup>5</sup>Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. <sup>6</sup>So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, <sup>7</sup>and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

<sup>8</sup>"But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?" <sup>9</sup>Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. <sup>10</sup>It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light."

<sup>11</sup>After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." <sup>12</sup>His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better."

<sup>13</sup>Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

<sup>14</sup>So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, <sup>15</sup>and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." <sup>16</sup>Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

<sup>17</sup>On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. <sup>18</sup>Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, <sup>19</sup>and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. <sup>20</sup>When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

<sup>21</sup>"Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

<sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

<sup>24</sup>Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

<sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; <sup>26</sup>and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

<sup>27</sup>"Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

<sup>28</sup>After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." <sup>29</sup>When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him.

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him.

<sup>31</sup>When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

<sup>32</sup>When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

<sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. <sup>34</sup>"Where have you laid him?" he asked.

"Come and see, Lord," they replied. <sup>35</sup>Jesus wept.

<sup>36</sup>Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" <sup>37</sup>But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" <sup>38</sup>Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. <sup>39</sup>"Take away the

stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." <sup>40</sup> Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

<sup>43</sup> When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

<sup>45</sup> Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

### **Collect and Post Communion Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**

#### **Collect**

Most merciful God,  
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ  
delivered and saved the world:  
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross  
we may triumph in the power of his victory;  
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 have taught us  
that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters  
we do also for you:  
give us the will to be the servant of others  
as you were the servant of all,  
and gave up your life and died for us,  
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

### ***Prayer in the Benefice – Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Saturday 28<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; Easter Services Leaflet***



Almighty Lord, may the whole Earth rejoice at your majesty! Please bless all the worship services in our Benefice, today and during the week. As we deliver our Holy Week and Easter Services leaflets around our villages, we ask that you will draw people's attention to them and inspire them to come along to a service. Give them a positive experience of church and draw them closer to you. Amen.

#### ***Monday: Economic Stability***

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: Stour Row**

Lord Jesus, please bless all who live or work in Stour Row. We pray for the prison at Guy's Marsh. Make it a place of safety and rehabilitation for the inmates; give the staff compassion, resilience and joy in their work; bless and support the families of the prisoners; provide healing and closure to the victims of crime. 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; political prisoners and hostages.**



Merciful Father, we pray for those who are struggling, especially the sick, the bereaved, the housebound, those in hospital, and those in care homes. We also pray for political prisoners and hostages, that they will be filled with courage, hope and peace. May those with influence work to enable their release. Amen.

## **Thursday: Church Administrators**

Gracious Lord, we thank you for all the people who give their time and their talents to running our churches and our Diocese. We remember especially Jill, our Benefice Administrator; Sue, our Benefice Treasurer; Jeremy our Safeguarding Officer; all the Parish Treasurers, Secretaries and other PCC members; and all the staff in the Diocesan Office. Give them enthusiasm, inspiration and resilience. May they feel appreciated for their efforts. Amen.

## **Friday: Diversity – An extract from Pope Francis' Encyclical 'Fratelli Tutti':**

Come, Holy Spirit, show us Your beauty, reflected in all the peoples of the earth, so that we may discover anew that all are important and all are necessary; different faces of the one humanity that God so loves. Amen.



## **Saturday: Ourselves – A prayer by Martyn Payne from BRF:**

Lord, I confess that my awareness of you is at times faint, my experience of you is often shallow, my commitment to you can be half-hearted, and my love for you remains weak. And yet I also sense that it is in these honest moments in prayer that I come closest to you, I am at my most real, I receive more of your grace, and I am becoming more like you, which is my best self. Thank you. Amen.

## **The Chrism Eucharist – Salisbury Cathedral Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

You can contact Revd Clare on: 01747 838171

Or by email: [vicarsvb@gmail.com](mailto: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](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*  
Buckhorn Weston – East Stour – Fifehead Magdalen  
Kington Magna – Stour Provost – Todber – West Stour