

# 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 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – Lent 3**

***St Mary's***

9:30am Morning Prayer  
6:00pm Evensong

***St Peter's***

9:30am Morning Prayer

***St Thomas'***

11:00am Holy Communion

## **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.

## **Exodus 17.1-7**

**17** From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, ‘Give us water to drink.’ Moses said to them, ‘Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?’ But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, ‘Why did you bring us out of

Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?’ So Moses cried out to the Lord, ‘What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.’ The Lord said to Moses, ‘Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.’ Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, ‘Is the Lord among us or not?’

## **Psalms 95**

- <sup>1</sup> O come, let us sing to the Lord; • let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.
- <sup>2</sup> Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving • and be glad in him with psalms.
- <sup>3</sup> For the Lord is a great God • and a great king above all gods.

- <sup>4</sup> In his hand are the depths of the earth • and the heights of the mountains are his also.
- <sup>5</sup> The sea is his, for he made it, • and his hands have moulded the dry land.
- <sup>6</sup> Come, let us worship and bow down • and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
- <sup>7</sup> For he is our God; • we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.
- <sup>8</sup> O that today you would listen to his voice: • ‘Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, on that day at Massah in the wilderness,
- <sup>9</sup> ‘When your forebears tested me, and put me to the proof, • though they had seen my works.
- <sup>10</sup> ‘Forty years long I detested that generation and said, • “This people are wayward in their hearts; they do not know my ways.”
- <sup>11</sup> ‘So I swore in my wrath, • “They shall not enter into my rest.” ’

## **Romans 5.1-11**

**5** Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually

dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

## **John 4.5-42**

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, ‘Give me a drink’. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, ‘How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?’ (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, ‘If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, “Give me a drink”, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.’ The woman said to him, ‘Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?’ Jesus said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks of this

water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.' Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.' Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one

said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.' Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

## Post Communion

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

**News and Notices** All events are open to all across the Benefice

**St. Mary's East Window** 15th March 11:00am service, we will thank God for the recent work done.  
Friday 24th April 7:00pm in Church, we will thank people who've enabled this work, including with  
displays and refreshments.

**Calling all St Mary's Churchyard volunteers, and new recruits!** Come to a Thank You Afternoon  
Tea, Monday 9th March Church Hall, 14:30pm and to plan the managing the care of the churchyard in  
2026.

**Volunteers please for the Big Clean of St. Mary's** Wednesday 11th March 2:00pm (high areas) &  
Thursday 12th March 10:00am (lower areas) Please do come and help, as dust from the finished work on  
the East window has found its way into all the corners of the church.

**Date for your Diary** 21st March – Evening Bistro at Hooper Hall in aid of the Bells.

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| <b>Services &amp; Events in the Benefice</b><br><b>Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March</b><br>9:30am – Tots & Toast – St Mary's<br>Church Hall<br><b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March</b><br>10:00am – Holy Communion – St Mary's<br><b>Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March</b><br>6:30pm – Choir Practice – St Mary's | <b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March – Mothering Sunday</b><br><b>Readings:</b> Exodus 2. 1-10   Colossians 3. 12-17  <br>John 19. 25b-27<br><b>St Peter's, Hinton St Mary</b><br>9:30am Morning Prayer<br><b>St Mary's, Sturminster Newton</b><br>11:00am Holy Communion<br><b>St Thomas', Lydlinch</b><br>6:00pm Evensong |
| <b>Vicar:</b><br>Rev Mary Gubbins<br>revd.mary.gubbins@gmail.com<br>☎ 07440 680 387<br><b>Benefice Safeguarding Officer</b><br>Mrs. Nicole Forbes-Marshall<br>07960 827108<br>nicoleforbes@btinternet.com                                                                                                | <b>Administration:</b><br>Please pass any notices or news for the pew<br>sheets to office.sturbenefice@gmail.com<br>by noon Wednesday.                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Lay Pastoral Assistants:</b><br>For Communion at home or pastoral visits,<br>please contact:<br>Carol Moody ☎ 01258 721 729<br>Fiona Norman ☎ 01258 472 693                                                                                                                                           | Find us by putting Put 'A Church near you' in your<br>search engine and then enter Sturminster<br>Newton, Lydlinch or Hinton St. Mary                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Mothers' Union Secretary:</b> Brenda Stables (b.stables@btinternet.com)                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Churchwardens:</b><br>St Mary's Sturminster Newton<br>St Peter's Hinton St Mary<br><br>St Thomas a Becket, Lydlinch                                                                                                                                                                                   | Fiona Norman ☎ 01258 472693<br>Robin Gibbs ☎ 01258 471493<br>K Peto-Bostick ☎ 01258 475469<br>John Barrett ☎ 01963 23375<br>Sarah Frizzle ☎ 077 4165 2713                                                                                                                                                              |