



Stour Vale Benefice

Seven Churches, One Body, One Benefice

Newsletter No. 312

Sunday 19th April – 3rd Sunday of Easter

8:45am Breakfast Church Buckhorn Weston Village Hall
10:00am Family Service Todber
10:30am Parish Communion West Stour
6:00pm Evensong East Stour (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 Jack Osborne (BW), Julia Gould (ES), Syliva Fox (KM), Sarah Best (KM), David Hustwayte (KM), Tom Higgins (KM), and all those who are bereaved.

Other Benefice services/events coming up in April

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

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

Monday 20th – Knit and Natter 2:30pm East Stour Village Hall

Friday 24th – Stour Vale Benefice prayer Group 2pm East Stour Church

Tuesday 28th – Benefice Lunch 12:30pm Lakeside Kitchen

Don't forget to place your food orders with Jill by Tuesday 21st April



Readings Sunday 19th April

Acts 2.14a, 36–41

1 Peter 1.17–23

3rd Sunday of Easter

Psalm 116.1–3, 10–end

Luke 24.13–35

1 Peter 1.17–23 (NIV)

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

²²Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Luke 24.13–35 (NIV)

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes

were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' ¹⁹ He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' ²⁵ Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us^[f] while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Collect and Post Communion Sunday 19th April

Collect

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord:
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;
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

Living God,
your Son made himself known to his disciples
in the breaking of bread:
open the eyes of our faith,
that we may see him in all his redeeming work;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever..

Prayer in the Benefice – Sunday 19th to Saturday 25th April

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.



Holy Spirit, thank you for your presence at all the services, lent lunches, and children's events throughout Lent and Easter. Thank you for all the people who came along, especially those who rarely come to church; may they have drawn closer to you and have encountered fellowship and enjoyment. May we nurture those who would like to get more involved and be inspired to do those things that are in line with your will, as we celebrate in this Easter season. Amen.

Monday: Countries Experiencing Political Instability – A prayer from Compassion UK:

O God, we pray for countries experiencing the turmoil of conflict and political instability. We ask for peace to be restored. Please grant wisdom and integrity to world leaders so that they will work for the good of the people they govern and serve. We pray that citizens everywhere would have their rights preserved, so they can live peacefully, free from fear. Amen.

Tuesday: The Benefice

Faithful Father, please bless all who live or work in our Benefice. Bless all our churches, and their congregations. Guide and inspire those in positions of authority or influence. May we work together so that your will be done, and your kingdom come, in our communities. 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; people suffering from mental health issues.



Compassionate Lord, have mercy on all who are suffering in any way. We pray especially for those who are ill or bereaved and for those struggling with depression, anxiety, or other mental health issues. May they find appropriate and timely professional help. Please fill them with peace and joy. May they know your presence in their struggles. Amen.

Thursday: The Diocese of Salisbury

Dear Lord, we come to you in our shock and disappointment at the allegations of financial irregularities within our Diocese. We ask you to influence the investigations to get to the truth. May they be neither a cover-up nor a witch-hunt. Protect the innocent and convict the guilty. Please bless Bishop Karen as she takes on the additional duties of Bishop of Salisbury. Give her wisdom, resilience and compassion. Please comfort all who are disheartened or disillusioned by the news. May they know you are bigger and more trustworthy than the flawed humans who represent you in our broken world. Amen.

Friday: Our Families and Friends

Loving Father, thank you for our families and friends. Fill their lives with faith, joy and hope. Watch over the children, keeping them safe and innocent. Guide the young people as they make decisions that will impact their whole lives. Inspire parents as they encourage their children, and children seeking to help their parents. Instil wisdom and compassion in the older generations as they support others through their words and their actions. Amen.



Saturday: Ourselves – A prayer by St Ignatius

Teach us, good Lord, to serve thee as thou deservest: to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labour and not to ask for any reward save that of knowing that we do your will. Amen.

Lester Amann considers how the risen Christ reveals Himself to us...

Never Far Away

We can only imagine how the two travellers to Emmaus felt, knowing that Jesus had died. Gone were their hopes for a bright future. They thought God had let them down. They had suffered a cruel blow and were bewildered and upset.

In their grief, the risen Jesus came alongside them and spoke with them at length, but somehow, they didn't recognise Him. Why was this, and why did Jesus intend to leave them at Emmaus without first revealing who He was?

The answers may be found by looking back at the encounters Jesus had with people. He never forced His true nature onto anyone. Every individual had to make up their own mind as to who He was, and to decide if the things He said were true.

Today, Jesus does not 'gate-crash' into our lives. In a number of ways, He gently and persuasively reveals Himself. So, the story of the walk to Emmaus should encourage us each time we feel His absence; at those times when we thought He would step in and immediately solve our problems! On *our* journey of life, we can have times of sadness, and it can seem as though God is far away.

But while we are thinking that Jesus has left us alone, He is actually with us. He knows where we are and what we are feeling. He can quietly draw alongside us. Surprisingly, it can sometimes be in situations of sadness and solitude that Jesus 'speaks' to us more clearly.

We don't have to go off in search of some 'religious experience' or to a special 'holy place'. He is present in the here and now. Jesus is the unseen companion on every journey and the unseen guest at every meal. In His way and in His time, our Lord reveals Himself to us in different situations. We may be aware of His presence in surprising circumstances and on unexpected occasions. How important it is that we stay alert.

There will be times when we will be like those two men on the Emmaus Road, searching for answers. We will earnestly desire clear and direct answers to our questions and the knowledge, understanding or revelation may be slow to come. But, with Jesus, there are many lessons to be learnt along *our* Emmaus Road that would not have been discovered any other way.

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

