



Stour Vale Benefice

Seven Churches, One Body, One Benefice

Newsletter No. 311

Sunday 12th April – 2nd Sunday of Easter

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

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), 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 April

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

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

Friday 17th – Service in the Pub 11am The Ship Inn West Stour

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



Readings Sunday 12th April

2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2.14a, 22–32 †

Psalm 16

1 Peter 1.3–9

John 20.19–end

1 Peter 1.3–9 (NIV)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.

⁸ Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

John 20.19–end (NIV)

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the

Father has sent me, so I send you.’²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

²⁵ So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.’

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.’²⁸ Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’²⁹ Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Collect and Post Communion Sunday 12th April

Collect

Almighty Father,
you have given your only Son to die for our sins
and to rise again for our justification:
grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness
that we may always serve you
in pureness of living and truth;
through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ 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 God our Father,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ
you have assured your children of eternal life
and in baptism have made us one with him:
deliver us from the death of sin
and raise us to new life in your love,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer in the Benefice – Sunday 12th to Saturday 18th 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; those unable to attend church

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, may we worship you in spirit and in truth! Please bless all the worship services in our Benefice, today and during the week. We pray for all those people who would like to come to church but are unable to do so: due to their health, issues with travelling, or other commitments. May they find fulfilling ways to worship you and deepen their faith, wherever they are. May we ensure they feel part of the church community. Amen.



Monday: Parliament

Almighty God, we pray for our Government, for all MPs and Civil Servants. Make them servant-hearted, seeking to protect the poor and the vulnerable, and to encourage peace, justice and mercy throughout the whole world. Give them wisdom and courage to make the right decisions, integrity in all their actions and compassion for all. Amen.

Tuesday: West Stour

Lord Jesus, please bless all who live or work in West Stour. We pray for the church, that it may stand as beacon within the village, drawing people to faith. We give thanks for the restoration work on the bells, and look forward to their return. May they ring forth with joy, calling people to worship you. Please provide the resources needed to keep the whole church well maintained, and make it a warm and welcoming space that invites people into discover more about you. 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; those struggling financially.



Merciful Lord, hear us as we remember those we know who are ill in body, mind or spirit. Comfort and heal them. As utility bills and the price of basic necessities continue to rise, and levels of benefits and support are cut, we pray for all who struggle to make ends meet. May they seek appropriate help, stay out of unaffordable debt, and not lose heart. Meet their needs, provide them with support and encouragement. May they know your presence with them in their struggles. Amen.

Thursday: The Persecuted Church in Mali: A Prayer from Open Doors - www.opendoors.org

Dear Lord, we come alongside our brothers and sisters in Mali and pray that You will be with those Christians who risk so much simply to follow You. We pray for those who have been chased away from their homes and churches; please bring peace and allow them to return. We ask for homes for the displaced, encouragement for the downtrodden, joy for the joyless – and an ever-present sense that You walk alongside them in their pain. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Friday: Charities and Aid Organisations

Lord of All, we pray for all charities and aid organisations. Bless their efforts to make a positive difference in the world. Guide and inspire their strategies and their actions. Encourage their volunteers and donors. Amen.



Saturday: Ourselves

Gracious Lord, give us wisdom to perceive You, intelligence to understand You, diligence to seek You, patience to wait for You, a heart to meditate upon You and a life to proclaim You. Amen.

How post-Easter can be a time of re-commissioning....

Breakfast – with Jesus Christ

“It is the Lord!” (*John 21:7*) There is something very reassuring in the simple scene by Galilee's lake, described on that post-Easter morning. Taking place there was the birth of a mighty world-wide adventure that has not ended yet! Was there ever a breakfast like it? They'd been fishing all night, but in vain.... until they heard a distant call from the shore: “How are you doing, guys?”

There is even the little detail in the instructions from the beach that it was to be on the *right* side of the boat that the net should be thrown out this time.

That Stranger. That voice! Suddenly the net was full of wriggling fish. It was like coming in at the start of the film again – (see Luke 5:6). Then Peter’s hundred-yard splash to the shore... the charcoal fire and ‘large’ tilapia fish. Then the typical action of fishermen in counting the catch. How the Bible teems with stories.

And now breakfast on the beach, with Jesus Christ! It was a re-commissioning for the apostle Peter, who only days earlier had denied any knowledge of Jesus. From now on it would be different. “Feed my sheep,” said Jesus.

1. Whose call but Christ’s call? Peter would never be the same again. Those who have truly heard the call of Christ, will still be standing firm when revolutions explode, when finances plunge, when a church falls apart, when a country falls apart.

2. Whose word but Christ’s word? ‘Feed my sheep,’ were His words. Whoever we may be teaching, Christ’s servant is to see to it that what is taught is Christ’s word and not one’s own. The power that brings forgiveness and resurrection life can only come from one source!

3. Whose flock, but Christ’s flock? ‘MY lambs... MY sheep’ – they were never ours! Realise this – and so much of the conflicts that can occur between the friends of Jesus will cease overnight.

Can you smell the tilapia fish grilling on that little fire by Galilee’s beach? The Stranger on the shore is calling YOU. Along with John, dripping wet in the boat, recognise that He is no stranger. “It is the Lord.”

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 will be on annual leave from Monday 13th – Monday 20th April.



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

