

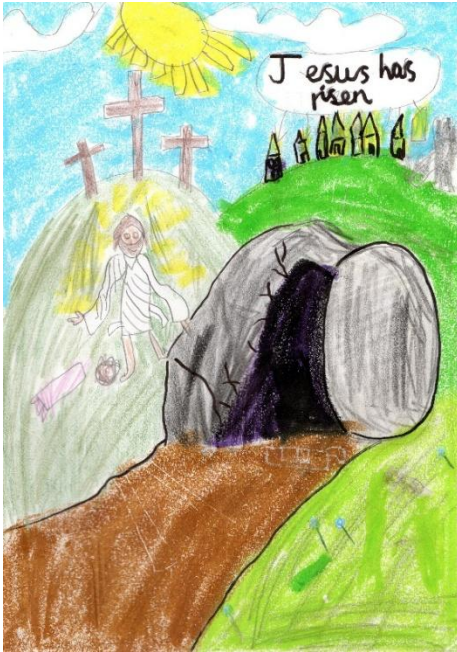


# Stour Vale Benefice

Seven Churches, One Body, One Benefice

## Newsletter No. 310

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Sunday



Easter Art Competition Winner  
Archie Richards-Sullivan (aged 7)

### **6:30am Sunrise Service – Fifehead Magdalen**

*In the Graveyard for a simple act of outdoor worship as the sun rises on Easter Day. Dress for the weather! Feel free to bring your dogs, as well as a lantern to light if you have one. Followed by a simple breakfast of hot cross buns and coffee.*

### **9:30am Family Easter Service – Buckhorn Weston**

*A service without Holy Communion, but with an Easter Egg hunt!*

### **11:00am Easter Communion Service – Kington Magna**

*Come along to our joyful celebration of Easter Communion, with activities for children to do and opportunities for them to be involved in the service.*

### **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), Jack (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.

### **Remaining Holy Week Services**

#### **Maundy Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April: Agape Meal, East Stour, 6.30pm**

*Join us as we share a meal and commemorate Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples.*

*If you would like to join us for this meal, please bring a plate of finger food to share - this is a celebratory meal, so the food does not have to be plain, just easy to eat with our fingers!*

#### **Good Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April:**

##### **Hot Cross Bun Service, Todber, 10.30am**

*An informal service, and the chance to eat some hot cross buns!*

##### **Reflections at the Cross, Stour Provost, 2pm**

*A service of hymns, readings and reflections on the sacrifice Jesus made for us on Good Friday, because of his love for us.*

*Other Benefice services/events coming up in April*

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

**Please Note:** this service will be at **10:15am on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April**

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

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup>** – Service in the Pub 11am The Ship Inn West Stour

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup>** – Knit and Natter 2:30pm East Stour Village Hall

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup>** – Stour Vale Benefice prayer Group 2pm East Stour Church

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>** – Benefice Lunch 12:30pm Lakeside Kitchen



**Readings Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April**

Acts 10.34–43 †  
Colossians 3.1–4

*Easter Sunday*

Psalm 118.1–2, 14–24  
John 20.1–18

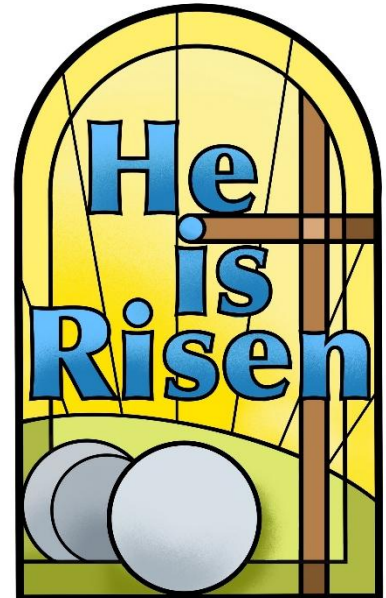
**Collect and Post Communion Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April**

**Collect**

Lord of all life and power,  
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son  
overcame the old order of sin and death  
to make all things new in him:  
grant that we, being dead to sin  
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,  
may reign with him in glory;  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit  
be praise and honour, glory and might,  
now and in all eternity.

**Post Communion Prayer**

God of Life,  
who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son  
to the death of the cross,  
and by his glorious resurrection  
have delivered us from the power of our enemy:  
grant us so to die daily to sin,  
that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



***Prayer in the Benefice – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:octavoeditorsvb@gmail.com)).

**Sunday: Easter Day** – A Collect from the *Church of England*: [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org)

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.



**Monday: The Armed Forces** – A prayer from the *Church of England*: [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org)

Almighty God, stretch forth your mighty arm to strengthen and protect all members of our armed forces: grant that, meeting danger with courage and all occasions with discipline and

loyalty, they may truly serve the cause of justice and peace; to the honour of your holy name. Amen.

### **Tuesday: Todber**

Lord Jesus, please bless all who live or work in Todber. We thank you for all who are involved in the church: helping to organise or take part in the services; cleaning, decorating or maintaining the church and the churchyard; raising funds or contributing financially to the costs; showing God's love by caring for others; or in any other way. May they feel appreciated for their efforts and joyful in all they do. 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; all in adversity.**



God our healer, lift the shadow of suffering from all who are ill, bereaved, homeless, lonely, depressed, struggling financially, abused, or in any form of adversity. Help them and heal them, Lord. Relieve the things that make life difficult for them and give them courage, joy and self-belief. May they know you are with them in their difficulties. Amen.

### **Thursday: People who Lead or Enhance our Worship**

Gracious Lord, we thank you for those you called to lead worship in our churches and throughout the world. We pray for all bishops, priests, deacons, licenced lay ministers and lay worship leaders. We also thank you for all those who enhance our worship through doing the readings and the intercessions, playing instruments, singing, keeping the church clean, acting as sidespeople, arranging the flowers, or any of the other jobs that make the experience more pleasant. Finally, we thank you for those who help with the fellowship by providing a warm welcome, a listening ear, or refreshments. Please bless them all. Amen.

### **Friday: Give Thanks**

Lord of All, we thank you for the many blessings you have given us in our lives. Thank you for our families, our friends, a roof over our head and food on the table. Thank you, most of all, for your love for us, for your forgiveness, for your compassion and for your guidance and help. Amen.



### **Saturday: Ourselves** – A prayer by Molly Lucas in *Women at Prayer* edited by Rachel Stowe

Holy Spirit, give to each of us the precious gift of your peace. Enable us to bring peace into all that we think and do; and strengthen us to work and pray until the whole world is filled with peace, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

## **Resurrection life**

Did you have 'a good Lent'? Were you able to make the journey with Jesus through the turmoil of those last days of His earthly ministry as He set His face to go to Jerusalem, knowing He would be killed there? I find the Lenten journey, particularly Holy Week (the week leading up to the crucifixion) harrowing, and by 3 o'clock on Good Friday - the hour at which Jesus traditionally died - I am wrung out.

All of which makes Easter Day and the weeks that follow, with the joy and reality of new life, so much the sweeter. No wonder Christians make this the most important day of the year - much more so than Christmas. God, in the resurrection of Jesus, has vindicated the way of love, truth, sacrifice and service, kindness and hope over the self-serving and grubby ways that seek power, self-advancement, privilege, hatred and division. Hallelujah!

It's all summed up in the poem 'Easter Wings' by the 17<sup>th</sup> century poet and priest George Herbert. For me, it's not the words of the poem so much as its shape - it's written in the shape of

a butterfly's wings. Now that's clever; - to let both shape and words express something lovely, like the freedom and beauty of a butterfly on the wing. That sums up Resurrection life.

We are not asked to explain how the Resurrection took place. That is known to God alone, and we would trip ourselves up in all sorts of ways as we seek to find a rational explanation as to how it happened. But we are invited to live it - yes, live the Resurrection in ourselves -as we ask the Risen Lord to lead us through each day. In time, this constant invitation to live out the Resurrection changes our whole being, as we try, in the words of Mother Teresa to 'do little things with great love.'

The more I try and live out Resurrection life (more properly, the more I allow Jesus to live the Resurrection life through me) the more boundless I find it to be. Which I guess is why God gives us a season - seven weeks up till Pentecost - to allow this stupendous fact of the Resurrection to sink into us, call out a response from us.

Enjoy your Easter eggs, your Easter bonnets, your egg-pacing; in fact, have a great Easter. But don't let the Resurrection pass you by. It's the gateway to what Jesus calls 'life in all its fulness'.

*By the Revd Roy Shaw, a retired but active priest in the diocese of York, where he is a spiritual director.*

*Parish Pump*

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 will be taking Monday and Tuesday off this week and will be on annual leave from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> 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](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

