



Stour Vale Benefice

Seven Churches, One Body, One Benefice

Newsletter No. 317

Sunday 24th May – Pentecost

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), Irene (KM), Peter (KM), Eoin (SP), Liz (SP), Margaret (WS) and Tony (WS); for the family and friends of Jack Osborne (BW), Julia Gould (ES), Roy Collis (ES), Doris Parfitt (ES), Sylvia Fox (KM), Sarah Best (KM), David Hustwayte (KM), Tom Higgins (KM), and all those who are bereaved.

Other Benefice services/events coming up in May

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

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

Friday 29th – Stour Vale Benefice prayer Group 2pm East Stour Church

Sunday 31st May – Benefice Service

Communion Service for Trinity Sunday, 10:30am at Todber



Readings Sunday 24th May

Acts 2.1–21
1 Corinthians 12.3b–13

Pentecost

Psalm 104.26–36, 37b
John 20.19–23

1 Corinthians 12.3b–13 (NIV)

Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, 'Jesus be cursed,' and no one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

⁷Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

¹²Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For we were all baptised by one Spirit so as to form one body – whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

John 20.19-23(NIV)

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!' ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.' ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.'

Collect and Post Communion Sunday 24th May

Collect

God, who as at this time
taught the hearts of your faithful people
by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:
grant us by the same Spirit
to have a right judgement in all things
and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion Prayer

Faithful God,
who fulfilled the promises of Easter
by sending us your Holy Spirit
and opening to every race and nation
the way of life eternal:
open our lips by your Spirit,
that every tongue may tell of your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer in the Benefice – Sunday 24th to Saturday 30th May

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 (adminsrb@gmail.com).

Sunday: Pentecost – A prayer from the *Church of England*

Faithful God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: open our lips by your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Monday: The new Church of England Prayer for Unity in Our Nation:



Almighty God, source of all wisdom, love and power, we pray for the nations of this United Kingdom, and give thanks for all who work for peace and build up our common life. Give us wisdom as we seek to protect the most vulnerable among us. Help us to love all who call these islands their home; and, in your power, protect us from the perils of division and hatred. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who died on the cross that we might be reconciled with you and with our neighbour. Amen.

Tuesday: East Stour

Loving Lord Jesus, please bless all who live or work in East Stour. We give thanks for the Gardening Club, for the joy and fellowship it brings. May it encourage people to appreciate your creation, and to be thankful. 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 who are lonely, housebound or isolated.



Merciful Lord, pour your love and healing power onto all who are suffering through illness, bereavement, loneliness or isolation. Remove their pain and their anguish. Give them joy and peace. Amen.

Thursday: The Persecuted Church in China: A Prayer from *Open Doors*: www.opendoorsuk.org

Sovereign God, equip our Chinese family with all they need to stand strong in their faith and share it with others. Give them courage and creativity as they navigate suffocating restrictions and surveillance, and inspire the words of those brought before the authorities. Protect underground gatherings, and guard Your people from harm. Strengthen, encourage and grow Your church in China in these difficult times, we pray. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Friday: Those We Find Hard to Like - A Prayer from *Women at Prayer* edited by Rachel Stowe

Loving Father, help us to love and care for those we find hard to like. Teach us to understand and befriend all who have been so hurt by life that they can only express themselves in hurtful ways. Bring to them, and to us, healing and wholeness. Amen.



Saturday: Ourselves – A Prayer by Malcolm Muggeridge

O God, stay with me; let no word cross my lips that is not your word, no thoughts enter my mind that are not your thoughts, no deed ever be done or entertained by me that is not your deed. Amen.

Volunteers Day – Friday 5th June

We would love you to join our Volunteers Day, with resources and seminars to help you in your context, as well as a celebratory lunch.

Join the diocesan team as we resource and celebrate those who volunteer and serve in our churches across the Diocese of Salisbury.



This day is for anyone who volunteers and serves regularly in their church, in an official or unofficial capacity.

You can choose different sessions to support your work and ministry, and there will also be drop-in sessions available for individual, informal conversations. (Giving and Fundraising, Energy Footprint Tool, Parish services, Governance, Thirtyone:Eight and Safeguarding Hubs, Flower Arranging and Anglican Heritage)

There is free parking available at Wilton Park and Ride, The Avenue, SP2 0FG. Do consider giving a lift share to others in your parish or benefice if possible, and if you are getting the train to Salisbury, you can then get a bus to the Wilton Park and Ride, [click here](#).

When and where? Friday 5th June at Emmaus House, The Avenue, Wilton SP2 0FG. The event will begin at 10:00am and end at approximately 4:00pm.

To book and for more information on the sessions, [click here](#).

Or visit the Diocesan Website.

Canon Paul Hardingham considers the day the 'church' began.

The power of Pentecost

The celebration of Pentecost this month could be described as a birthday party for the church, when we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit to the first disciples (Acts 2:1-13). What are we celebrating?

God's Promise:

The disciples obeyed Jesus' instructions as they gathered in the Upper Room: *'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift My Father promised'* (1:4). They met expectantly in prayer for God's promised gift. Just as we look forward to birthday presents, how eager are we to receive more of the Spirit in our lives?

God's Power:

'All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit' (4). The disciples needed the power of the Spirit to be different: not fearfully gathered behind locked doors, but instead energised to make Christ known. The Spirit can transform our lives into the likeness of Jesus and give gifts to equip our witness. Although the disciples' experience of this power was overwhelming, it was essentially an encounter with God's love. For us, this can be equally emotional or quiet, but *all* of us are included, and nobody is excluded from this experience.

God's Purpose:

The disciples *'began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.'* (4). The Spirit empowered their witness, so that everyone heard them speaking in their own *'native language'* (lit: *dialect*, v8). We all have a story to tell of God's activity in our lives, and the Spirit will translate our words and actions into a language that those around can understand! At Pentecost, 3000 people were added to the Church in one day! What do we expect of the Spirit in our day?

'Let the church return to Pentecost, and Pentecost will return to her. The Spirit of God cannot take possession of believers beyond their capacity of receiving Him' (Andrew Murray).

Parish Pump

You can contact Revd Clare on: 01747 838171
Or by email: vicarsvb@gmail.com



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

