



Stour Vale Benefice

Seven Churches, One Body, One Benefice

Newsletter No. 321

Sunday 21st June – 3rd Sunday of Trinity

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), Irene (KM), Peter (KM), Eoin (SP), Liz (SP), Margaret (WS) and Tony (WS); for the family and friends of Roy Collis (ES) and Doris Parfitt (ES), and all those who are bereaved.

Funerals:

Helen Joan Cobbald – Tuesday 30th June, 10:30am at Stour Provost
Malcolm Raymond (Ray) James – Wednesday 1st July, Midday at Buckhorn Weston
May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Other Benefice services/events coming up in June

Every Wednesday – Said Holy Communion 10:30am East Stour Church
2nd Wednesday of the month with be a Healing Communion service

Friday 26th – Stour Vale Benefice prayer Group 2pm East Stour Church
Please note there is no Benefice Lunch in June

For others events around the Benefice see Octavo, the website:

<https://stourvalebenefice.org.uk/>

Or Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089949903748



Readings Sunday 21st June

3rd Sunday of Trinity

Jeremiah 20.7–13
Romans 6.1b –11

Psalm 69.8–11, 18–20
Matthew 10.24–39

Psalm 69.8–11, 18–20

⁸ I am a foreigner to my own family,
a stranger to my own mother's children;
⁹ for zeal for your house consumes me,
and the insults of those who insult you fall on me.
¹⁰ When I weep and fast,
I must endure scorn;
¹¹ when I put on sackcloth,
people make sport of me.

¹⁸ Come near and rescue me;
deliver me because of my foes.
¹⁹ You know how I am scorned, disgraced
and shamed;
all my enemies are before you.
²⁰ Scorn has broken my heart
and has left me helpless;
I looked for sympathy, but there was none,
for comforters, but I found none.

Romans 6.1-11 (NIV)

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning, so that grace may increase? ² By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ³ Or don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with,^[a] that we should no longer be slaves to sin – ⁷ because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.

¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

¹¹ In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 10.24—39 (NIV)

The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵ It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

²⁶ 'So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. ²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. ²⁸ Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. ³⁰ And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

³² 'Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven.

³³ But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

³⁴ 'Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to turn

“a man against his father,

a daughter against her mother,

a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law –

³⁶ a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.”

³⁷ 'Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸ Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

Collect and Post Communion Sunday 21st June

Collect

Almighty God,

you have broken the tyranny of sin

and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts

whereby we call you Father:

give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,

that we and all creation may be brought

to the glorious liberty of the children of God;

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

O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining
and whose power we cannot comprehend:
show us your glory as far as we can grasp it,
and shield us from knowing more than we can bear
until we may look upon you without fear;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Prayer in the Benefice – Sunday 21st to Saturday 27th June

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: Church Events: Services this week; Community Events



Almighty God, may we worship you in Spirit and in Truth at all our services this week. We pray for all the community events happening in our villages over the summer, especially the Kington Magna and East Stour Fairs next weekend, and the Buckhorn Weston Fete in early July. May they be times of joy, fellowship and successful fundraising. May we grasp these, and every, opportunity to engage with our neighbours and *Make Jesus Known*. Amen.

Monday: Poverty Relief

Sovereign Lord, you looked with compassion on the hungry people of your day and fed them. Hear us as we pray for the starving multitudes of our own time. Prosper the efforts of all engaged in providing relief for those in need of food, clean water, or medicine, that out of the world's vast bounty the needs of all may be supplied. Amen.

Tuesday: Stour Row

Loving Lord Jesus, please bless all who live or work in Stour Row. We thank you for the success of the Open Gardens weekend and the Pop-Up Pub. Inspire more people to volunteer for the church hall committee and to organise village events. Encourage a spirit of fellowship, support and community in all the residents. 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 homeless or living in unsuitable housing.



Merciful Father, hear us as we remember those we know who are ill. You love them, and know their needs far better than we do. All we ask is that you do for them as you see best, and bless them with your peace. We pray for all who are homeless, or unable to afford housing suitable to the needs of themselves or their family. Provide for their needs. Influence those who can make a difference to their suffering to do so. Amen.

Thursday: Church Buildings and Facilities

Gracious Lord, thank you for the amazing resources we have at our disposal as the Church of England. We pray especially for our historic, sacred buildings, and for all who work to maintain and improve them. May our churches, abbeys and cathedrals stand as witnesses to your glory, and draw people to worship you. May they be places of welcome and support. Amen.

Friday: Give Thanks: Based on a 6th Century Prayer by Bishop Padarn.

In every morning sunrise, we thank you, O Lord. For every bird that sings, we thank you, O Lord. For every friend that takes time to listen, we thank you, O Lord. In every evening sunset, we thank you, O Lord. For good health and vision, we thank you, O Lord. Alleluia.



Saturday: Ourselves

Lord Jesus, you have called us to be doers of the word, not just hearers. Help us to remember what you require of your servants is not profession but practice, not words but deeds. May we honestly measure the quality of our lives by the thing that matters, obedience to Your word. Amen.

Canon Paul Hardingham considers Father's Day

Celebrating Fathers

'If you want to know how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much they make of the thought of being God's child and having God as their Father.' (J I Packer, *Knowing God*)

This month we celebrate the importance of fathers on Father's Day. Unlike Mothering Sunday, this doesn't have a distinctly Christian origin. However, it does provide an opportunity to celebrate God's Fatherhood and what it means for us.

At His baptism, when Jesus came out of the water: *'heaven was opened, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.'* (Matthew 3:16,17). What do we learn about Jesus' relationship with His Father, our relationship with God and the role of fathers?

The Father's presence

When Jesus was baptised, the Father was present in the Holy Spirit. It's the Spirit who enables us to address God as daddy ('*abba*', Galatians 4:6) in an intimate way. God is present with us and understands our joys and sorrows, fears and trials. Dads should relate to their children like this.

The Father's love

The Father described His Son as '*beloved*'; like us, Jesus was the subject of God's unconditional love. Dads should assure their children of their constant, undeserved love.

The Father's pleasure

The Father tells Jesus that He is '*well pleased*' with Him, as He embarked on His public ministry. We need to hear this as well, especially when we feel that we are disappointing God or letting Him down. We should also be aware of the effect of our words spoken to our children. Dads should be using every opportunity to demonstrate their pleasure in their children, especially when things go wrong.

Parish Pump

You can contact Revd Clare on: 01747 838171

Or by email: vicarsvb@gmail.com



Please Note: Clare is on annual leave from the 15th -30th June inclusive.



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.

Newsletter produced on behalf of the Stour Vale Benefice

Buckhorn Weston – East Stour – Fifehead Magdalen
Kington Magna – Stour Provost – Todber – West Stour

