



Stour Vale Benefice

Seven Churches, One Body, One Benefice

Newsletter No. 327

Sunday 2nd August – 9th Sunday of Trinity/Lammas

9:15am Parish Communion for Lammas Todber
10:00am Morning Worship West Stour (CW)
11:00am Parish Communion for Lammas East Stour

**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), Nancy (4yrs old with a connection with KM), Jill (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.

Don't forget to let your churchwarden or Jill know your favourite hymn by the 2nd August for our Benefice Songs of Praise at West Stour on Sunday 30th August

Gillingham and Shaftesbury Agricultural Show 19th /20th August and Our Church Tent

Arrangements are well under way as D Day or Cake Day approaches.
Home-made cakes are the speciality of the Church Tent and we depend on the Bakers of the churches in Gillingham, Shaftesbury and Stour Vale for their donations.
Cakes should be delivered to St. John's, Enmore Green by 4.00pm on Tuesday 18th August

Other Benefice services/events coming up in August

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

Monday 17th August – Knit and Natter 2:30pm East Stour Village Hall

Friday 28th – Stour Vale Benefice prayer Group 2pm East Stour Church

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 2nd August

Isaiah 55.1–5
Romans 9.1–5

9th Sunday of Trinity

Psalm 145.8–9, 15–end
Matthew 14.13–21

Lammas

2 Corinthians 9:6–11

John 6:5–12

Psalm 145.8–9, 15–end (NIV)

⁸The Lord is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.

⁹The Lord is good to all;
he has compassion on all he has made.

¹⁵ The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food at the proper time.
¹⁶ You open your hand
and satisfy the desires of every living thing.
¹⁷ The Lord is righteous in all his ways
and faithful in all he does.
¹⁸ The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

¹⁹ He fulfils the desires of those who fear
him;
he hears their cry and saves them.
²⁰ The Lord watches over all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.
²¹ My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord.
Let every creature praise his holy name
for ever and ever.

Romans 9:1-5 (NIV)

I speak the truth in Christ – I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit – ² I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race, ⁴ the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption to sonship; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. ⁵ Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, for ever praised! Amen.

Matthew 14.13-21 (NIV)

When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed those who were ill.

¹⁵ As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, ‘This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away, so that they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.’

¹⁶ Jesus replied, ‘They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.’

¹⁷ ‘We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,’ they answered.

¹⁸ ‘Bring them here to me,’ he said. ¹⁹ And he told the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. ²⁰ They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

²¹ The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

For Lammas

2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written:

‘They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;
their righteousness endures for ever.’

¹⁰ Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

John 6:5-12

When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming towards him, he said to Philip, ‘Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?’ ⁶ He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

⁷ Philip answered him, ‘It would take more than half a year’s wages [\[a\]](#) to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!’

⁸ Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, ⁹ 'Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?'

¹⁰ Jesus said, 'Make the people sit down.' There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). ¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

¹² When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, 'Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.'

Collect and Post Communion Sunday 2nd August (Trinity 9)

Collect

Almighty God,
who sent your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of your Church:
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love and joy and peace;
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

Holy Father,
who gathered us here around the table of your Son
to share this meal with the whole household of God:
in that new world where you reveal the fullness of your peace,
gather people of every race and language
to share in the eternal banquet of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer in the Benefice – Sunday 2nd to Saturday 8th August

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: A Sabbath Blessing by Peter Grieg (www.dirtyglory.org/new-page-3)

May this day bring Sabbath rest to my heart and my home.
May God's image in me be restored, and my imagination in God be re-storied.
May the gravity of material things be lightened, and the relativity of time slow down.
May I know grace to embrace my own finite smallness in the arms of God's infinite greatness.
May God's Word feed me and His Spirit lead me into the week and life to come.
Amen.



Monday: Hostages, Prisoners of Conscience and all who are unjustly imprisoned

O Lord, we think of all those who are imprisoned unjustly. For hostages, held for the selfish benefit of their captors; for prisoners of conscience, held for their convictions and refusing to conform; for those wrongly convicted of crimes they did not commit. Give them hope and courage to survive their ordeal. Let them know they are not forgotten. Provide for their needs and secure their release. Amen.

Tuesday: Buckhorn Weston

Faithful Father, please bless all who live or work in Buckhorn Weston. We pray for the church, that it may stand as a beacon within the village, calling people to faith. Please provide the resources needed to keep it well maintained, and make it a welcoming space that draws people in to 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; all who suffer from long-term conditions.

Merciful Lord, we hold before you all who are suffering, especially those who have suffered for many years; those who know they have only a short time left to live; those who face an operation; those who can never leave their chair or bed; and all those who watch with and care for them. Amen.



Thursday: Evangelists, Pioneer Ministers and Fresh Expressions of Church

Heavenly Father, we pray for all those who work on the margins of church, seeking to bring your Good News to those who do not know you. Bless their endeavours and encourage them. Give them inspiration, fortitude and courage. Protect their health and their relationships. Make their efforts fruitful. Amen.

Friday: Climate Change



Loving Lord, we know our actions have consequences, and we want to care for your creation and do our part to protect the environment. However, it is so hard to know what is the right thing to do. Often things that we are told are good turn out to have other, hidden, consequences. Help us, and all who can make a difference, to see through the agendas of businesses, the media and lobbyists to really understand the issues and the solutions, then give us the bravery and the commitment to promote long-term resolutions and to take effective action. Amen.

Saturday: Holidays and Relaxation

Heavenly Father, we thank you for holidays and all times of rest and relaxation. May the summer give opportunities for us to spend time enjoying: the company of our families and friends; the joy of being outdoors; the uplifting effect of sunshine; the chance to stop *doing* and just *be*. In all our experiences make us aware of your presence smiling on us. Amen.



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.

Newsletter produced on behalf of the Stour Vale Benefice
Buckhorn Weston – East Stour – Fifehead Magdalen
Kington Magna – Stour Provost – Todber – West Stour