



# Stour Vale Benefice

Seven Churches, One Body, One Benefice

## *Newsletter No. 323*

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Trinity**

9:15am Parish Communion Todber  
10:00am Morning Worship West Stour (CW)  
11:00am Parish Communion 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), 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.

***Other Benefice services/events coming up in July***

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

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

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup>** – Service in the Pub 11am The Ship Inn West Stour

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>** – Benefice Lunch at Lakeside Kitchen Todber 12:30pm  
*Please place orders by Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July*

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup>** – 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](http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089949903748)

### **Important Pastoral update from Bishop Karen**

You may be aware of media reports about a safeguarding investigation into the Bishop of Salisbury, Stephen Lake. The national church has confirmed that concerns relating to Bishop Stephen have been raised with the National Safeguarding Team. These are being taken very seriously and responded to according to House of Bishops Code of Practice. Support is being offered to all those involved.

This news is shocking and distressing to us all. There is no further information from the national church at this stage. Please pray for all those affected and if the news raises particular concerns for you, please do make contact with the National Safeguarding Team who are dealing with this investigation or contact the independent charity Safe Spaces, who offer a free helpline:

**Website:** [www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk](http://www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk)

**Safe Spaces Helpline:** 0300 303 1056

Further options are listed at the end of the newsletter.



**Readings Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July** *5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Trinity*

Zechariah 9.9-12  
Romans 7.15-25

Psalm 145.8-15  
Matthew 11.16-19, 25-end

**Psalm**

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

<sup>9</sup>The Lord is good to all;  
he has compassion on all he has made.

<sup>10</sup>All your works praise you, Lord;  
your faithful people extol you.

<sup>11</sup>They tell of the glory of your kingdom  
and speak of your might,

<sup>12</sup>so that all people may know of your mighty acts  
and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.

<sup>13</sup>Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
and your dominion endures through all generations.

The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises  
and faithful in all he does.

<sup>14</sup>The Lord upholds all who fall  
and lifts up all who are bowed down.

<sup>15</sup>The eyes of all look to you,  
and you give them their food at the proper time.

**Romans 7:15-25 (NIV)**

I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. <sup>16</sup>And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup>As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. <sup>18</sup>For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. <sup>19</sup>For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do – this I keep on doing. <sup>20</sup>Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

<sup>21</sup>So I find this law at work: although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. <sup>22</sup>For in my inner being I delight in God's law; <sup>23</sup>but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. <sup>24</sup>What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? <sup>25</sup>Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

**Matthew 11.16-19, 25-end (NIV)**

"To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the market-places and calling out to others:

<sup>17</sup>"We played the pipe for you,  
and you did not dance;  
we sang a dirge,  
and you did not mourn."

<sup>18</sup>For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon." <sup>19</sup>The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners." But wisdom is proved right by her deeds.'

At that time Jesus said, 'I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. <sup>26</sup> Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

<sup>27</sup> 'All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

<sup>28</sup> 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.'

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

#### **Collect**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified:  
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,  
that in their vocation and ministry  
they may serve you in holiness and truth  
to the glory of your name;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

#### **Post Communion Prayer**

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you,  
that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by your governance,  
that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### ***Prayer in the Benefice – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July***

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](mailto:adminsrb@gmail.com)).

If you have been affected by any of the issues we are praying for on Sunday, Monday and Wednesday then please do get in touch. There is a list of support services at the bottom of the page.

***Sunday: A Prayer by the Church of England following its apology for historical adoption practices:*** ([www.churchofengland.org/about/libraries-and-archives/family-history/church-england-apologises-role-post-war-historical-adoption-practices](http://www.churchofengland.org/about/libraries-and-archives/family-history/church-england-apologises-role-post-war-historical-adoption-practices))



Ever loving Father, we pray:

For all whose lives have suffered rejection, separation, or grief.

For all who have carried burdens of shame and fear, that they may know the comfort of God's love.

For children separated from their mothers, and for all families divided, that God may bring restoration and peace.

For those whose dignity was denied and whose voices were not heard, that they may be honoured and upheld

For all who carry wounds of body, mind, or spirit, that Christ may bring healing and freedom.

For the hope of new creation, that sorrow may be turned to joy and every tear wiped away. Lord, have mercy. Amen.

### **Monday: A Prayer for the current investigations affecting the Diocese of Salisbury**

Lord Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life, we pray for all those affected by the current investigations relating to Bishop Stephen. Guide those entrusted with seeking the truth, and grant wisdom, integrity, and compassion to all those involved. May the truth be revealed, whatever it may be.

We pray that any who have been hurt may be heard and treated with dignity and care. Bring comfort and healing to all who are shocked, scarred, or disillusioned, and strengthen your Church with grace, honesty, and hope.

We pray for Bishop Karen, and all who are taking on extra responsibilities and duties during this difficult time, and all who are affected in any way, that you will give them resilience and peace. May we all, across our diocese seek to embody the love of Christ, Amen.

### **Tuesday: West Stour**

Lord Jesus, pour your blessings onto the residents of West Stour. We pray for the Ship Inn, the Riverside Garage and all the other businesses within the parish. Thank you for the employment opportunities they bring and the ways they support the community. 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 whose lives have involved rejection, loss or neglect.** A Prayer by the Church of England.



Loving God, you hear the cry of the afflicted and gather the outcast. Look with mercy on all whose lives have suffered rejection, loss, or neglect. Bind up the wounds of the broken-hearted, assure them of your love, and grant us grace to walk in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Thursday: General Synod meeting this weekend**

Good Shepherd, we pray for the General Synod meeting this weekend. May all the members be willing to listen and to contribute. Give them wisdom and discernment to understand the issues that face them. Give them courage to speak up, willingness to understand the view of others, and humility to accept when decisions do not go the way they wanted. May all the discussions and the outcomes align to your will. Amen.

### **Friday: Housing and Homelessness**

Sovereign Lord, we pray for everyone who is unable to afford suitable housing for themselves or their family. Please inspire those in government, and those within the housing industry, to find innovative solutions to providing affordable, good quality housing for people to rent and to buy. Please bless and guide charities like Big Issue, Shelter, Crisis and the Salvation Army, who support the homeless, those in unsuitable housing and those exploited by unscrupulous landlords. Amen.



### **Saturday: Ourselves - From Ridley's Prayers, 1566**

Lord for thy tender mercies' sake, lay not our sins to our charge, but forgive that which is past and give us grace to amend our sinful lives; to decline from sin and incline to virtue. That we may walk with a perfect heart before thee, now and evermore. Amen.

## **Finding support**

There are a number of specialist organisations that can provide support and advice.

### **National PAC-UK Advice Line**

The National PAC-UK Advice Line provides independent, confidential advice and information for people affected by adoption, special guardianship and other forms of permanent care. The service is staffed by qualified and experienced PAC-UK counsellors and social workers with specialist expertise in these areas.

**Website:** [www.family-action.org.uk/pac-uk](http://www.family-action.org.uk/pac-uk)

**Email:** [advice@pac-uk.org](mailto:advice@pac-uk.org)

**Phone:** 0300 1800 090

### **FamilyConnect Advice Line**

Delivered by Family Action's adoption support agency PAC-UK, FamilyConnect provides information, support and guidance on tracing and reconnecting with family members, the services available and whether you may be eligible for funding.

**Website:** [www.familyconnect.org.uk](http://www.familyconnect.org.uk)

**Email:** [familyconnect@pac-uk.org](mailto:familyconnect@pac-uk.org)

**Phone:** 0300 1800 205

These organisations also provide additional services.

### **Barnardo's Adoption Support**

Support for adoptees, birth families, and adoptive families

**Website:** [www.barnardos.org.uk/adopt/link-adoption-support-service](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/adopt/link-adoption-support-service)

**Email:** [link.referralhub@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:link.referralhub@barnardos.org.uk)

### **Samaritans**

24/7 emotional support for anyone in distress

**Website:** [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)

**Phone:** 116 123

### **The Adoption Contact Register**

**Website:** [www.gov.uk/adoption-records/the-adoption-contact-register](http://www.gov.uk/adoption-records/the-adoption-contact-register)

**Phone:** 0300 123 1837

**Safe Spaces** provides a confidential, personal and safe space for anyone who has been abused by someone in the Church.

**Website:** [www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk](http://www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk)

**Helpline:** 0300 303 1056

**Benefice Safeguarding Officer:-** Jeremy Stanford 07766 071538

**Diocesan Safeguarding team:** [safeguarding@salisbury.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@salisbury.anglican.org) to speak to a caseworker or Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor regarding safeguarding concerns or ongoing cases. Or 01722 438651 and press option 3.

For out of hours help: If your query is urgent or out of hours (5pm Friday to 10pm Sunday), please contact thirtyone:eight on [0303 0031111](tel:03030031111). Call 999 if a child or adult is in immediate danger of significant or serious harm.

You can contact Revd Clare on: 01747 838171

Or by email: [vicarsvb@gmail.com](mailto: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](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.

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

