



Stour Vale Benefice

Seven Churches, One Body, One Benefice

Newsletter No. 329

Sunday 16th August – 12th 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), 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 Nicki Whitmarsh (ES), Mark Hoskins (KM), Alan Aimes (T) and all those who are bereaved.

Baptism:

Baptism of Albie Peter Hawtree at West Stour on Sunday 16th August
We welcome him into God's family

Wedding:

Chris Rhodes and Eve Mason at East Stour on Saturday 22nd August
We pray for your life together

Benefice Pet Service – Sunday 23rd August 3pm in Todber Churchyard



Pet and Family Friendly service to bless our pets
from across the Benefice.

Benefice Songs of Praise Sunday 30th August 11am at West Stour

Benefice 5th Sunday Service – All Welcome!



Please Note: There will also be a Holy Communion Service at 9:15am at Todber.

Other Benefice services/events coming up in August

Every Wednesday – Said Holy Communion 10:30am East Stour Church
2nd Wednesday of the month will 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 16th August

Trinity 11

Isaiah 56.1, 6–8

Psalms 67

Romans 11.1–2a, 29–32

Matthew 15.10–28

Psalm 67 (NIV)

- ¹ May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face shine on us –
² so that your ways may be known on earth,
your salvation among all nations.
³ May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.
⁴ May the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you rule the peoples with equity
and guide the nations of the earth.
⁵ May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.
⁶ The land yields its harvest;
God, our God, blesses us.
⁷ May God bless us still,
so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.

Romans 11.1–2a, 29–32 (NIV)

I ask then: did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. ² God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew. Don't you know what Scripture says in the passage about Elijah – how he appealed to God against Israel:

²⁹ for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, ³¹ so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now ^[a] receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you.

³² For God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.

Matthew 15.10–28 (NIV)

Jesus called the crowd to him and said, 'Listen and understand. ¹¹ What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them.'

¹² Then the disciples came to him and asked, 'Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?'

¹³ He replied, 'Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots.'

¹⁴ Leave them; they are blind guides. ^[a] If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.'

¹⁵ Peter said, 'Explain the parable to us.'

¹⁶ 'Are you still so dull?' Jesus asked them. ¹⁷ 'Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? ¹⁸ But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts – murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them.'

²¹ Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. ²² A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, 'Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly.'

²³ Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, 'Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.'

²⁴ He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.'

²⁵ The woman came and knelt before him. 'Lord, help me!' she said.

²⁶ He replied, 'It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs.'

²⁷ 'Yes it is, Lord,' she said. 'Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table.'

²⁸ Then Jesus said to her, 'Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.' And her daughter was healed at that moment.

Collect and Post Communion Sunday 16th August

Collect

O God, you declare your almighty power
most chiefly in showing mercy and pity:
mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace,
that we, running the way of your commandments,
may receive your gracious promises,
and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure;
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

God of all mercy,
in this eucharist you have set aside our sins
and given us your healing:
grant that we who are made whole in Christ
may bring that healing to this broken world,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer in the Benefice – Sunday 16th to Saturday 22nd 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: Church Events: Services in the Benefice; this week's Baptism and Wedding



O Lord, may your presence be tangible in our worship services today. Fill us with thankfulness and awe so that we praise and glorify you with our thoughts, our words and our deeds.

We pray for Albie Hawtree and his family, as he is baptised in West Stour this morning.

Bless them and encourage them in their faith. May they walk with you throughout their lives, knowing your presence and your love, serving you and their neighbours in all they do.

We ask you to bless Chris and Eve, getting married in East Stour on Saturday. Be with them in their final preparations and on their wedding day. May it be a day full of joy, producing many happy memories. Give them your love in their hearts throughout their married lives together.

Monday: Natural Disasters

Sovereign Lord, we pray for all who are impacted by the recent natural disasters in our world: the earthquakes in Columbia, Venezuela, the Philippines and Japan; the wildfires in Canada, Europe and the UK; the Ebola virus in Africa; the drought conditions being experienced in so many places. Comfort those who have lost family, friends, property, livelihoods or hope. Heal the injured and provide for the destitute. Guide, encourage and resource all those involved in relief and rescue work. Bless all the farmers, struggling with the impact of the weather, and all families struggling with inflated prices.



Make us all aware of our own environmental impact, and guide the nations of the world to respect and steward your creation. Amen.

Tuesday: Fifehead Magdalen

Loving Father, please bless all who live or work in Fifehead Magdalen. We pray for all the farmers, and ask you to guide their actions, safeguard their mental health and inspire those in positions of influence to provide the support they need. We also pray for a revitalisation of the church and the community: for a renewed sense of collective purpose and a desire to engage in fellowship, throughout the village. Amen.



Wednesday: The Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show

We ask your blessing on the Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show. We especially pray for the Church Tent, and for all within our Benefice and our neighbouring Benefices, who will support that by baking cakes, setting up, manning the stall, chatting to customers, or any of the other myriad jobs that combine to highlight your presence to all who attend the show. May The Tent be an oasis of peace and hospitality, and a place where people can find you. Amen.

Thursday: The persecuted Church in Algeria – A Prayer by Open Doors: www.opendoorsuk.org

Heavenly Father, as so many Algerian Christians follow You live in constant risk, we pray for their safety, their resilience and their courage. Bless those who are imprisoned or face arrest and fines simply because they follow You. Be with converts who are shunned by their families or expelled from their homes – be a ‘Father to the fatherless’ in the words of Psalm 68:5. We ask this for the sake of Your Son, Jesus, Amen.

Friday: 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 struggling financially.



Merciful Lord, comfort and heal those who suffer in body, mind or spirit. We remember especially the people we have been asked to pray for, and people we know personally.

We also pray for all who are struggling to feed their families, or to pay for their accommodation or their utility bills. Enable them to find help where they need it. Give them joy, hope and peace. Inspire the government to set benefit levels that allow all people to live in security and dignity, regardless of their personal circumstances. Amen.

Saturday: Ourselves

Heavenly Father, in Jesus’ name we ask for a fresh outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Help us to grow in our experience of your love, forgiveness and healing. Challenge our contentment to stay as we are. Renew our vision of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, that through our words and the way we live, others may be drawn to his way. 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