

THE BENEFICE OF STURMINSTER NEWTON, HINTON ST MARY AND LYDLINCH

‘Making Christ's Love Known to All’



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Sunday 20th September 2026 – Trinity 16

St Peter's

St Thomas'

9:30am Morning Prayer

6:00pm Evensong

Collect

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

Jonah 3.10-end of 4

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, ‘O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.’ And the

Lord said, ‘Is it right for you to be angry?’ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, ‘It is better for me to die than to live.’ But God said to Jonah, ‘Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?’ And he said, ‘Yes, angry enough to die.’ Then the Lord said, ‘You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in

which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?’

Psalm 145

- ¹ I will exalt you, O God my King, • and bless your name for ever and ever.
- ² Every day will I bless you • and praise your name for ever and ever.
- ³ Great is the Lord and highly to be praised; • his greatness is beyond all searching out.
- ⁴ One generation shall praise your works to another • and declare your mighty acts.
- ⁵ They shall speak of the majesty of your glory, • and I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.
- ⁶ They shall speak of the might of your marvellous acts, • and I will also tell of your greatness.
- ⁷ They shall pour forth the story of your abundant kindness • and joyfully sing of your righteousness.
- ⁸ The Lord is gracious and merciful, • long-suffering and of great goodness.

Philippians 1.21-end

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I

will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God’s doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Matthew 20.1-16

20‘For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, “You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.” So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, “Why are you standing here idle all day?” They said to him, “Because no one has hired

us.” He said to them, “You also go into the vineyard.” When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, “Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.” When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, “These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.” But he replied to one of them, “Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what

belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?” So the last will be first, and the first will be last.’

Post Communion

Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

News and Notices

All events are open to all across the Benefice.

St. Mary's Sides Team **We urgently** need some new members to join our Sides Team. Thank you to Isobel who has agreed to organise the rota on a temporary basis.

Lydlinch Bells Appeal - William Barnes Society are holding a Special Afternoon of Poetry, Readings, History & Fundraising at St Thomas's on Sunday 27th September at 2:30 pm. Tea will be served. All welcome. No tickets, Donations instead!

Sunday 4th Oct – St Mary's Shared Harvest lunch in the church hall after the 11:00am service. There is a list available at services to sign up if you can join us, and what savoury dish you would like to bring along. Alternatively please let Fiona know as soon as possible for catering purposes, thanks.

Advance notice All are warmly welcome to a Pilgrim Praise Service (with a healing theme as on the eve of St. Luke's Day) at St. Mary's on 17th October. Refreshments 6.30pm and service at 7:00pm. Any musicians including singers, are invited to join a rehearsal at St. Mary's at 5.15pm. Please let me know if you plan to come, so any music can be shared with you in advance.

Services & Events in the Benefice Tuesday, 22nd September 9:30am – Tots & Toast – St Mary's Church Hall Wednesday, 23rd September 10:00am – Holy Communion – St Mary's Friday, 25th September 6:30pm – Choir Practice – St Mary's	Sunday 27th September – Trinity 17 Readings: St Mary's 1Chronicles29 10-18 Colossians3 12-17 Luke 17 11-19 St Peter's & St Thomas' Ezekiel 18.1–4, 25–end Psalm 25.1–8 Philippians 2.1–13 Matthew 21.23–32 St Peter's, Hinton St Mary 9:30am Holy Communion St Mary's, Sturminster Newton 11:00am Holy Communion 6:00pm Evensong St Thomas', Lydlinch 11:00am Morning Prayer				
Vicar: Rev Mary Gubbins revd.mary.gubbins@gmail.com ☎ 07440 680 387 Benefice Safeguarding Officer Mrs. Nicole Forbes-Marshall 07960 827108 nicoleforbes@btinternet.com	Administration: Please pass any notices or news for the pew sheets to office.sturbenefice@gmail.com by noon Wednesday.				
Lay Pastoral Assistants: For Communion at home or pastoral visits, please contact: Carol Moody ☎ 01258 721 729 Fiona Norman ☎ 01258 472 693	Find us by putting Put 'A Church near you' in your search engine and then enter Sturminster Newton, Lydlinch or Hinton St. Mary				
Mothers' Union Secretary: Brenda Stables (b.stables@btinternet.com)					
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