



Stour Vale Benefice

Seven Churches, One Body, One Benefice

Newsletter No. 332



Sunday 6th September *Creation in Christ*

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), 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 Brian Botelle (BW), Nicki Whitmarsh (ES), Mark Hoskins (KM), Christina Symes (KM), Alan Ames (T) and all those who are bereaved.

Other Benefice services/events coming up in September

Every Wednesday – Said Holy Communion 10:30am East Stour Church

2nd Wednesday of the month with be a Healing Communion service

Monday 21st – Knit and Natter – 2:30pm

Friday 25th – Stour Vale Benefice prayer Group 2pm East Stour Church

Tuesday 29th – Benefice Lunch – Udder Farm 12:30pm

Pre-orders for food to Jill by Tuesday 22nd please

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 6th September *Creation in Christ*

Isaiah 55.12–end

Psalms 96

Colossians 1.15–20

John 1.1–14

Psalm 96 (NIV)

Sing to the Lord a new song;

sing to the Lord, all the earth.

² Sing to the Lord, praise his name;

proclaim his salvation day after day.

³ Declare his glory among the nations,

his marvellous deeds among all peoples.

⁴ For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;

he is to be feared above all gods.

⁵ For all the gods of the nations are idols,

but the Lord made the heavens.

⁶ Splendour and majesty are before him;

strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

- ⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- ⁸ Ascribe to the Lord the glory due to his name;
bring an offering and come into his courts.
- ⁹ Worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth.
- ¹⁰ Say among the nations, 'The Lord reigns.'
The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity.
- ¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;
let the sea resound, and all that is in it.
- ¹² Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;
let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.
- ¹³ Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes,
he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples in his faithfulness.

Colossians 1:15-20

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

John 1.1–14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Collect and Post Communion Sunday 6th September

Collect

Holy and eternal God,
you are the Maker of heaven and earth,
you are the Word through whom all things were made,
and you are the Spirit, the giver of life:
draw us into the mystery of your love,
that with all creation we may proclaim your praise,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Post Communion Prayer

God our Creator,
by your gift the tree of life was set
at the heart of the earthly paradise,
and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:
may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed
by the glory of the Saviour's cross
and enjoy the delights of eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer in the Benefice – Sunday 6th to Saturday 12th September

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: The Global Week of Prayer – A prayer by 24-7 Prayer: www.24-7prayer.com/weekofprayer



Father, we come before you with hearts deeply moved—moved by the sheer magnitude of all the trouble, suffering and lostness we see in our world. But we know even this sense of overwhelm – when we feel smallest and the task feels largest—is actually a sacred moment that leads us directly to you. Because, in the end, you are the only person who can truly transform our nations and our cultures.

Lord Jesus, you are exalted to the highest place. Your name is above every other name —every ruler and principality and power in heaven and on earth and under the earth.

So today we pray in the name of Jesus—that every knee would bow and every tongue confess that He is Lord. Not because we have the strength to make it happen, but because you do. Not because our plans are sufficient, but because your power is limitless. The places that overwhelm us are the very places you came to save.

Come, Lord Jesus. Transform our nations. Transform our cities. Transform our neighbourhoods. Let your name be proclaimed throughout the globe. In Jesus' mighty name we pray, Amen.

Monday: The United Kingdom

Sovereign Lord, thank you for our country and the freedom we have within it. We ask for a new and better nation in which people strive not only to gain their rights, but to fulfil their responsibilities. Give everyone a deeper sense of duty, to You and to one another, so we reflect Your kingdom values not of wealth and power, but of service and faithfulness. Amen.

Tuesday: Todber

Loving Lord Jesus, please bless all who live or work in Todber. As plans for the future of the church building are progressed, we ask for your guidance, your influence and your provision. May the church be a hub for the village and a place where you are worshipped, honoured and made known. 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 have died.



Merciful Lord, we commend to your loving care those who are ill or suffering. May they realise how much their patience and cheerfulness can influence others for good. Strengthen them and help them to see beyond the pain to the glorious future you have prepared for them.

Hear us as we remember those who have died, recently or long ago, especially those who cared about us, challenged us, cheered us up, or otherwise influenced our lives for good. Have mercy on them and grant them a share in your eternal kingdom. Amen.

Thursday: The Persecuted Church in North Korea – A prayer from *Open Doors*:
www.opendoorsuk.org



Heavenly Father, we can't imagine what life is like for our family in North Korea, but You know – indeed, You are with them. Awaken this powerful truth in their hearts today, pouring fresh strength and hope into their spirits. Protect believers and secret gatherings, and give Christians courage and ingenuity in their faith and witness. Soften the stance of the Kim regime to enable the country to be helped and influenced by the wider world. Amen.

Friday: Celebrities and those in the spotlight

King of Kings, we pray for all on whom the media spotlight falls, both those who seek fame and those who have fame thrust upon them by the circumstances of their lives. Give them perspective and keep them humble. May their words and their actions be a force for good in the world, reflecting your values and your will. Amen.

Saturday: Ride and Stride

Lord of All, we thank you for our historic church buildings, for the sacred spaces they contain and the Christian symbolism they enact in their neighbourhoods. Show us how we can make best use of the buildings, and how to fund their upkeep. Please bless anyone doing the 'ride and stride' event today. Keep them safe, and encourage many people to sponsor them. May the money raised be used for your glory and in line with your will. Amen.

Kington Magna Scarecrow Competition Sept 2026

(information not available at the time of printing Octavo)

This year we are running a Scarecrow Competition in the run up to Harvest Supper. They will be judged by a voting box on the evening of Kington Magna Harvest Supper (Friday 25th September) AND there's a prize for the lucky winner! ** Free entry ** Just enter by contacting me, and then display the scarecrow in your garden by Friday 18th September! Please let me know if you'd like to enter (Sophie 07909 110453) and I will pop by and take a photo that week so that all entries can be judged. Good Luck!!

You can contact Revd Clare on: 01747 838171

Or by email: vicarsvb@gmail.com

Please Note: Clare is on leave from 5th to 15th September.
For anything urgent speak to your Churchwarden, Fiona or Jill.



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

