Stour Vale Benefice

Seven Churches, One Body, One Benefice

Newsletter No. 342

Sunday 15th November *2nd Before Advent*

8:45am	Breakfast Church Buckhorn Weston Village Hall
10:30am	Parish Communion West Stour
10:30am	Morning Worship East Stour (CW)
3:00pm	Thanksgiving Service Todber

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), Liz (SP), Penny (T), Bunny (T), Richard (WS), Margaret (WS) and Tony (WS); for the families and friends of Daphne Watts (BW), Joan Osborne (BW), Gill Townsley (KM), Mark Hoskins (KM), Christina Symes (KM), Eoin Ashton Johnson (SP), and all those who are bereaved.

Other Benefice services/events coming up in November

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

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

Monday 16th - Knit and Natter 2:30pm East Stour Village Hall

No Benefice Lunch this month

Friday 27th – 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

From the Registers:

Funerals:

Thursday 19th November for Daphne Watts – 11:30am at Buckhorn Weston
Wednesday 2nd December for Gill Townsley – 2pm at Kington Magna
Friday 4th December for Eoin Ashton Johnson – 11:30am at Stour Provost

May they rest in peace and rise in glory



Readings Sunday 15th November *2nd Sunday Before Advent*

Zephaniah 1.7, 12–end	Psalm 90.1–8
1 Thessalonians 5.1–11	Matthew 25.14–30

Psalm 90.1–8 (NIV)

Lord, you have been our dwelling-place
throughout all generations.
2 Before the mountains were born
or you brought forth the whole world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

3 You turn people back to dust,
saying, 'Return to dust, you mortals.'
4 A thousand years in your sight
are like a day that has just gone by,
or like a watch in the night.
5 Yet you sweep people away in the sleep of death –
they are like the new grass of the morning:
6 In the morning it springs up new,
but by evening it is dry and withered.
7 We are consumed by your anger
and terrified by your indignation.
8 You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your presence.

1 Thessalonians 5.1–11 (NIV)

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, 2 for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, 'Peace and safety', destruction will come on them suddenly, as labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. 5 You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. 6 So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. 9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Matthew 25. 14–30 (NIV)

'Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. 15 To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag,[a] each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. 16 The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. 17 So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. 18 But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

19 'After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. 20 The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. "Master," he said, "you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more."

21 'His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"

22 'The man with two bags of gold also came. "Master," he said, "you entrusted me with two bags of gold: see, I have gained two more."

23 'His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"

24 'Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. "Master," he said, "I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you."

26 'His master replied, "You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? 27 Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

28 "'So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. 29 For whoever has
will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they
have will be taken from them. 30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness,
where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Collect and Post Communion Sunday 15th November

Collect
Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and great glory
we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion Prayer
Gracious Lord,
in this holy sacrament
you give substance to our hope:
bring us at the last
to that fullness of life for which we long;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Prayer in the Benefice –Sunday 15th to Saturday 21st November

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 (adminsvb@gmail.com).

Sunday: **Safeguarding Sunday.**



Loving Lord, we are horrified when we hear stories of people who take advantage of the weak, the vulnerable and the naïve. We mourn for lives destroyed; for damage done to bodies, minds and souls. We ask that you mitigate whatever hurt has been done, and thwart those intent on harming others for their own gratification or benefit. May we all be alert, to notice the signs of those in need we encounter in our daily lives. Give us the courage and the wisdom to do the right thing when we suspect someone may be in danger. Amen.

Monday: **General Synod, meeting this week - A prayer from the Diocese of Oxford:**

Father of all mercies, may the members of our General Synod clothe themselves continually with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Guide and lead them into all truth as they seek your ways together. Help them to bear with one another, to forgive as they have been forgiven. Make them a means of consolation, reconciliation and healing in the earth. Through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Tuesday**: Todber**



Faithful Father, please bless all who live or work in Todber. We thank you for the completion of the work on the roof and the progress on the windows in St Andrew's. Please guide and inspire those making decisions about the next steps and future plans for this sacred building, and provide the necessary resources for the work you would like undertaken. 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; children in care.**



Comfort, O merciful Father, all who are afflicted or distressed in body, mind or spirit. We pray especially for the bereaved family and friends of Daphne, whose funeral is tomorrow and Eion, who died this past week.

We also ask you to bless all children who are in foster homes or care homes. May they find love, acceptance, and stability. Remove any trauma or stigma they feel. Give them peace, joy, good friends and good role models. We also pray for all those who care for them. Give them compassion, patience and wisdom. Amen.

***Thursday*: Health across the World –** A prayer from *Compassion UK*: www.compassionuk.org
Father God, please protect those who are vulnerable to illness around the world. We think especially of children and babies living in poverty who are especially at risk, and where medical assistance is often more difficult to access. We also lift before you healthcare workers and medical researchers. Thank you for their tireless service. Lord, we praise you for the recent medical advances against many diseases. We pray resources will be fairly distributed around the world. Amen.

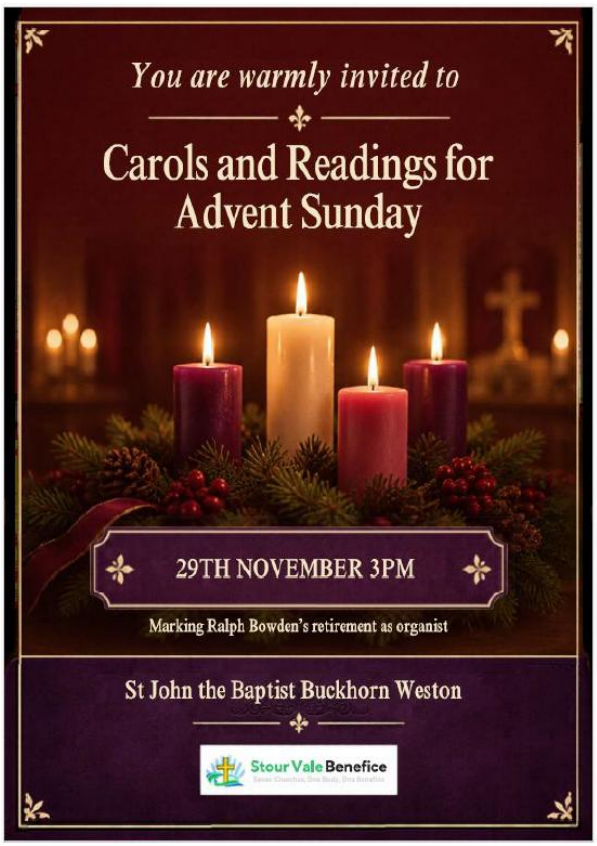
***Friday:* Vandalism**



Merciful Lord, we pray for those who feel the need to damage other people's property. We ask you to replace the anger, the resentment, and the frustration that fuels their destructiveness with worthwhile outlets for their energy. Show them that the gratification gained from helping others outweighs the thrill of doing harm. Amen.

***Saturday:* Ourselves**

We pray that our love may abound more and more. That we may have knowledge and discernment: that we may approve things that are excellent and that we may be sincere and without offence. May we be filled with the fruits of righteousness, to the glory and praise of God. Amen.



You can contact Revd Clare on:
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Or by email:
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Please Note: Clare's usual day off is Monday.

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

