Stour Vale Benefice

Seven Churches, One Body, One Benefice

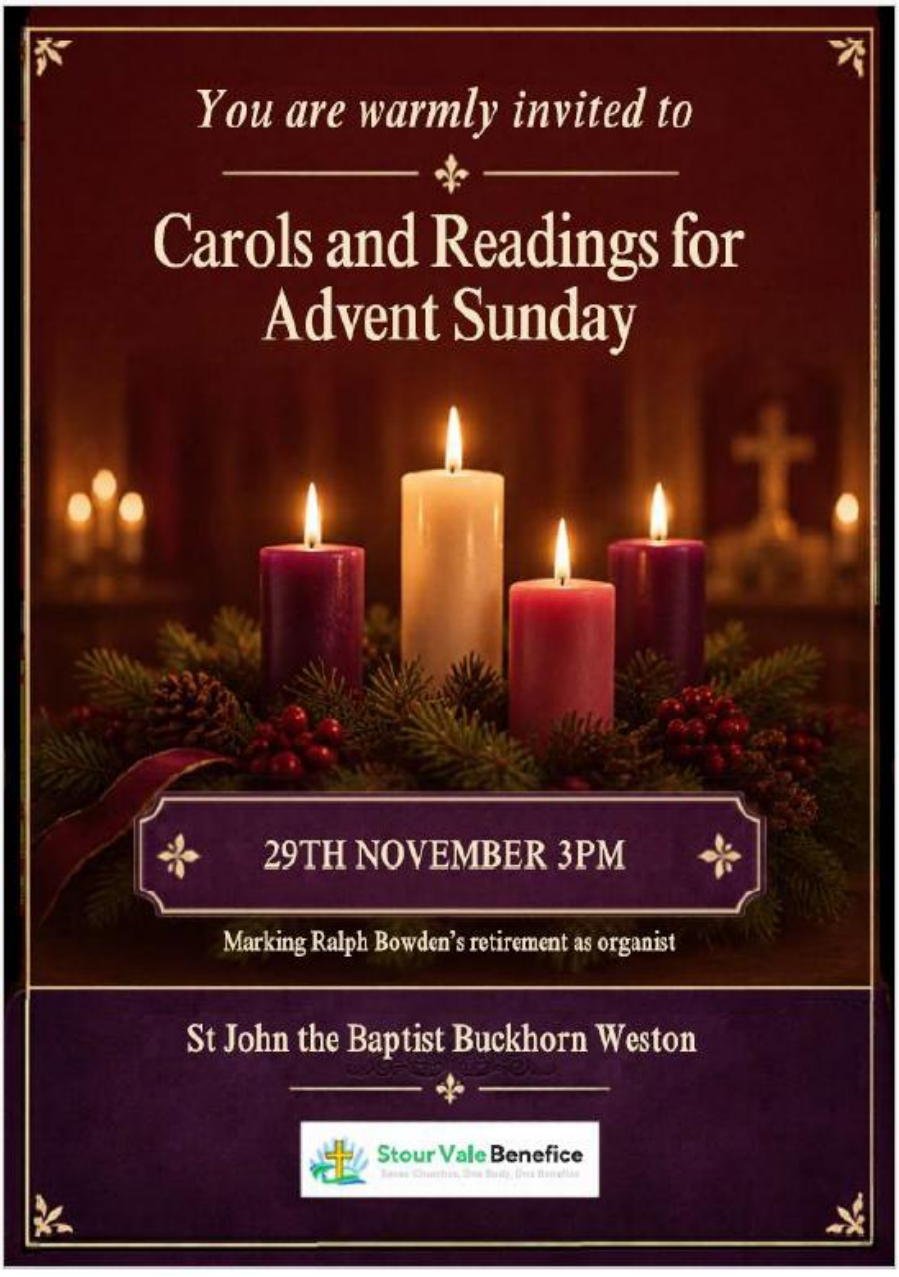
Newsletter No. 344

Sunday 29th November *1st Sunday of Advent*

10:30am Benefice Holy Communion Stour Provost
3:00pm Benefice Advent Carol Service Buckhorn Weston – see below

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 December

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

Tuesday 1st 8th 15th & 22nd – Compline for Advent via Google Meet – details below

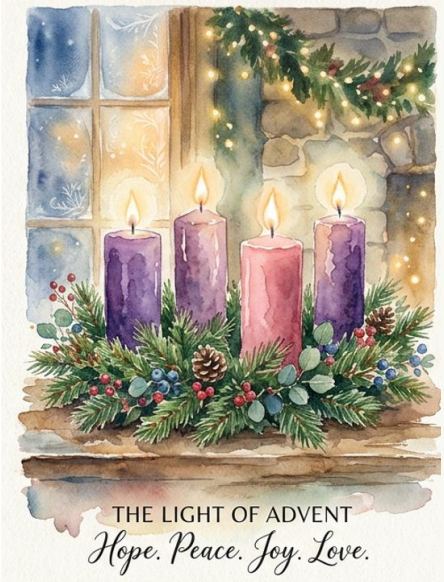
Saturday 5th	Christmas Fayre 10:30am	Buckhorn Weston
	Christmas around the world 10am	Todber
	Soup Lunch & Fayre 12-2pm	East Stour

For others events around the Benefice see Octavo, or the website:
https://stourvalebenefice.org.uk/
Or Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089949903748

From the Registers:

Funerals:

Wednesday 2nd December for Gill Townsley – 2pm at Kington Magna
Friday 4th December Thanksgiving for Eoin Ashton Johnson – 12:00pm at Stour Provost
May they rest in peace and rise in glory



Compline for Advent

via Google Meet

7.30pm

Tuesday 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd December

A short, reflective online service to end the day

Scan the QR code,

click the link https://meet.google.com/wfd-buid-wxg

or email stourvalemessychurch@gmail.com and we'll send you the link



Readings Sunday 29th November *1st Sunday of Advent*

Isaiah 64.1–9	Psalm 80.1–8, 18–20
1 Corinthians 1.3–9	Mark 13.24–end

Psalm 80:1-8,18-20 (NIV)

Hear us, Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock.
You who sit enthroned between the cherubim,
shine forth [2] before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.
Awaken your might;
come and save us.

3 Restore us, O God;
make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.
4 How long, Lord God Almighty,
will your anger smoulder
against the prayers of your people?
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have made them drink tears by the bowlful.
6 You have made us an object of derision to our neighbours,
and our enemies mock us.
7 Restore us, God Almighty;
make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.
8 You transplanted a vine from Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.
Then we will not turn away from you;
revive us, and we will call on your name.
19 Restore us, Lord God Almighty;
make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.

1 Corinthians 1.3–9 (NIV)

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
4 I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. 5 For in him you have been enriched in every way – with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge – 6 God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. 7 Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. 8 He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mark 13.24–end (NIV)

'But in those days, following that distress,
'"the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light;
25 the stars will fall from the sky,
and the heavenly bodies will be shaken."
26 'At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.
27 And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.
28 'Now learn this lesson from the fig-tree: as soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. 29 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.
32 'But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. 34 It's like a man going away: he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.
35 'Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back – whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or at dawn. 36 If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. 37 What I say to you, I say to everyone: "Watch!"'

Collect and Post Communion Sunday 29th November

Collect
Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for eve.

Post Communion Prayer
Almighty God,
who on the day of Pentecost
sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles
with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame,
filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel:
by the power of the same Spirit
strengthen us to witness to your truth
and to draw everyone to the fire of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer in the Benefice –Sunday 29th November to Saturday 5th December

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: **Advent Sunday - A prayer by Walter Brueggemann**



In our secret yearnings we wait for your coming, and in our grinding despair we doubt that you will. Give us the grace and the patience to wait for your coming to the bottom of our toes, to the edges of our fingertips... Come in your power and come in your weakness, in any case come and make all things new. Amen.

Monday: **Political Instability: A Prayer from Compassion UK** (www.compassionuk.org)

O God, we pray for countries experiencing the turmoil of conflict and political instability. We ask for peace to be restored. Please grant wisdom and integrity to world leaders so that they will work for the good of the people they govern and serve. We pray that citizens everywhere would have their rights preserved, so they can live peacefully, free from fear. Amen.

Tuesday**: 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 recently and those who mourn them.**



Merciful Father have compassion on all who are suffering, especially those we know who are ill or struggling in any way. Thank you for the lives of those we know who have died recently. Grant them the joy of eternal rest with you. Give us grace to follow in their footsteps as they followed in Yours. Comfort those who mourn them and give them peace. We pray especially for the family and friends of Gill and Eoin, whose funerals are this week. Amen.

***Wednesday*: Christmas Events in the Benefice**

Faithful Father, please bless all who live or work in our Benefice. Make our villages places of community and fellowship. We pray especially for all the Christmas fairs, carol services and other seasonal events, that these may be times when your influence is felt and your presence is acknowledged. At this time of year when many feel lonely or struggle financially, make us aware of those in need and give us the will, the wisdom and the resources to help them. Amen.

***Thursday*: The Blackmore Vale Deanery**

Glorious Father, we pray for the churches and Benefices in our Deanery: for Gillingham with Milton and Silton, Shaftesbury, Hazelbury Bryan and the Hillside Parishes, Marnhull, Okeford, Spire Hill, Sturminster Newton with Hinton St Mary and Lydlinch, and not forgetting the Stour Vale! Please bless, guide and inspire Tim Heaton, our Rural Dean, all the clergy, lay ministers, churchwardens and PCC members. Give them joy and peace in their labours, appropriate rest, and satisfaction in the knowledge that they are serving You. Amen.

***Friday:* The Media**



Holy Spirit, guide and influence all those who work in the media: writing, editing, posting or broadcasting information. Give them discernment to differentiate facts from misinformation, and good judgement in the opinions they share. Fill them with compassion. Remove any desire to sensationalise, or be selective about the truth. May they seek to bring peace and reconciliation, rather than division and hatred. Amen.

***Saturday:* Ourselves** – a prayer written by Martyn Payne for the Bible Reading Fellowship:

God of our life's pilgrimage, we know that in company with you, no experience is wasted, no encounter is by chance, no episode on our journey is without meaning. Help us to go on bearing fruit into old age, until you call us home. Amen.

Advent Appeal to support Archbishop Stephen Dokolo with funding for the Diocese of Lui to help with the Lui Hospital and medical care



You will remember that in October we highlighted the urgent need for funding for the Lui Hospital from Archbishop Stephen.

His message was:

> *"I am writing from the Diocese of Lui to submit a special appeal to you about the needs in Lui Missionary Hospital. The hospital is currently suffering terribly because there is no medicines in the hospital store. There is no diesel for running the generator, there is no Ambulance in the hospital. The workers have not received incentives for a period of more than six months. The situation is terrible. We need your help."*

And to support this our Collection at the Advent Sunday Carol service will go to the Lui appeal.

You can contact Revd Clare on: 01747 838171
Or by email: vicarsvb@gmail.com



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