THE BENEFICE OF STURMINSTER NEWTON, HINTON ST MARY AND LYDLINCH

‘Making Christ's Love Known to All’

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Sunday 15th November 2026 – 2 before Advent

St Mary’s	*St Peter’s*	*St Thomas’*
11:00am Holy Communion	9:30am Morning Prayer with Holy Baptism	4:00pm Evensong

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.

Zephaniah 1.7, 12–end

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, ‘The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm.’ Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord’s wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Psalm 90.1–8 9–11 12

1 Lord, you have been our refuge •
from one generation to another.

2 Before the mountains were brought
forth, or the earth and the world
were formed, • from everlasting to
everlasting you are God.
3 You turn us back to dust and say: •
'Turn back, O children of earth.'
4 For a thousand years in your sight
are but as yesterday, • which
passes like a watch in the night.
5 You sweep them away like a dream;
• they fade away suddenly like the
grass.
6 In the morning it is green and
flourishes; • in the evening it is
dried up and withered.
7 For we consume away in your
displeasure; • we are afraid at your
wrathful indignation.
8 You have set our misdeeds before
you • and our secret sins in the
light of your countenance. [
9 When you are angry, all our days
are gone; • our years come to an
end like a sigh.
10 The days of our life are three
score years and ten, or if our
strength endures, even four score;
• yet the sum of them is but labour
and sorrow, for they soon pass
away and we are gone.
11 Who regards the power of your
wrath • and your indignation like
those who fear you?]
12 So teach us to number our days •
that we may apply our hearts to
wisdom.

1 Thessalonians 5.1–11

5 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Matthew 25.14–30

'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and

dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Post Communion

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.

News and Notices

All events are open to all across the Benefice.

Spring Fair Inaugural Planning Meeting - 10am Friday 20th Nov at School House. A Spring Fair is being planned at St. Mary's for Saturday 10th April 2027, and this Inaugural meeting is to get the project started. If you would like to be involved, and have any good suggestions, or any experience to offer, please do come along and get involved. Please contact Fiona if you have any questions.

Lantern Making, 21st November St. Mary's Church Hall 2:00pm - 4:00pm for the Lantern Parade on 28th November to the Stur Market Place for the light switch on and after to St. Mary's Church for the Tree Festival with refreshments (free) and carols by the Choral Society.

St. Mary's Christmas Tree Festival. This starts on Saturday 28th Nov, and runs through to Wednesday 2nd Dec. Help is needed please!. **We need people** to welcome visitors to the church during the festival, and extra help to serve refreshments on Saturday evening as part of the Make Stur Sparkle Christmas Light Switch on. Please sign the list at the back of church. **We also need donations** of jars of instant hot chocolate drink, wrapped chocolate biscuits, and mince pies. Please ask Fiona or Lucy for more details. Thank you.

Christmas Coffee and Stalls at the Hooper Hall, Lydlinch Saturday 5th December 10:00-12:30. Local Artisan stalls, cakes and homemade produce, raffle, entry £3 includes coffee and mince pie.

Services & Events in the Benefice **Tuesday, 17th November** 9:30am – Tots & Toast – St Mary's Church Hall 6:30pm - St Peter's PCC **Wednesday, 18th November** 10:00am – Holy Communion – St Mary's 14:00pm - Mother's Union **Friday, 20th November** 6:30pm – Choir Practice – St Mary's	**Sunday 22nd November – Christ the King** **Readings:** Ezekiel 34.11–16, 20–24 | Psalm 95.1–7 | Ephesians 1.15–end | Matthew 25.31–end **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 Holy Communion
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 721729 Fiona Norman ☎ 01258 472693 Marilyn Stansfield ☎ 01258 472534 Dawn Tickle ☎ 07549 091110	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)	
Churchwardens: St Mary's Sturminster Newton St Peter's Hinton St Mary	Fiona Norman ☎ 01258 472693 Robin Gibbs ☎ 01258 471493 K Peto-Bostick ☎ 01258 475469
St Thomas a Becket, Lydlinch	John Barrett ☎ 01963 23375 Sarah Frizzle ☎ 07741 652713