

OCTAVO



Called

So all may flourish and grow

*“Now you are the body of
Christ”*

Diocese of Salisbury

Making Jesus Known

**The Voice of
The Stour Vale Benefice**

£1 July-August 2025 Vol. 23 Issue 10

Stour Vale Benefice

Mid-Week Services / Benefice events July-August 2025

Every Tuesday

Said Morning Prayer 9:30am West Stour Church

Every Wednesday

Holy Communion 10:30am East Stour Church

Monday 21st July & 18th August

Knit and Natter Group—2:30pm East Stour Village Hall

Tuesday 22nd July & 19th August

Benefice Lunch 12:30pm

(Please book with Revd Clare or Jill Perry—see page 17 for details)

Thursday 31st July & 28th August

Stour Vale Prayer Group 2pm East Stour Church

Stour Vale Benefice

5th Sunday Services

Sunday 31st August

10:30am Lammas Communion Service
at Fifehead Magdalen

3:00pm Outdoor Pet Blessing Service
at Todber



All welcome.



From the Vicar

Dear Friends

It's holiday season and many of us will be planning and preparing for time away. Perhaps if you are not planning to go away during the peak season you are looking forward to spending some quiet time at home, especially in the garden as a break from your regular commitments. Maybe you have a busy Summer ahead looking after children or grandchildren during the long holidays.



Whatever your plans I would encourage you to take some quiet time each day, maybe if it is only for a few minutes, to spend in prayer and or meditation. As you spend time in the outdoors, whether it is in your garden, or whilst somewhere peaceful on holiday or when walking the dog, I would encourage you to quietly take note of what is going on in the natural world around you. It is a time to glory in creation thanking God for his many blessings.

Jesus often went off to somewhere quiet to slow down and pray, spending time with his Father. Frequently, these were places like mountains, gardens, the sea or the wilderness.

When we take the trouble to slow down, we become more conscious of the presence of God in our lives. We don't even need to spend a lot of time doing it. It can be done in a few minutes.

The story about the prophet Elijah can help us understand how God seems to prefer stillness and silence to communicate with us.

"Then Elijah went into a cave and spent the night in it. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 'What are you doing here Elijah?' Then he was told: 'Go out and stand on the mountain before God.' Then God passed by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before God. But God was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But God was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But God was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a still, small voice, or a gentle breeze. When Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then a voice came to him which said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' (1 Kings 19:9, 11 - 14)

If you enjoy reading in a comfortable and quiet spot in your garden or somewhere on holiday where you will be relatively undisturbed, how about spending some time meditating on a Bible Passage and letting the Holy Spirit speak to you through it.

From the Vicar—continued

Gently read through a passage of scripture being aware of the feel of the text. When you are satisfied, let the scripture go as you carry it into your time of silent prayer. Then, in the way you feel most at home with, consciously stay in God's presence; simply breathing in a natural way, keeping a small word or phrase which you have noticed to come back to, even when your mind is filled with thoughts, just wanting to stay in God's presence. After your prayer, just read through the passage of scripture again, this time noticing if your feelings or mood have changed. Gradually, the Holy Spirit may lead you to a deeper understanding of the passage: one which will usually make sense in the context of your own life. This generally happens gently and very subtly.

Spending time with God helps us discern his will for our lives because God calls each one of us by name to serve him in different ways. God wants each one of us to use our gifts to proclaim the Gospel and to "Make Jesus Known". We all have a vocation to something and when clergy are ordained, we promise to nurture people in faith and help to discern and foster the gifts of all people to build up the church.

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ"

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it"

1 Corinthians 12 v12 and v27.

As a Benefice we need to consider how we engage with and encourage more people to explore Christianity and come to faith. There will be an opportunity for those who are baptised to confirm those vows on Saturday 18th October as the Benefice is hosting the Deanery confirmation service. Please contact me if you are interested in being confirmed.

We want to ensure that as a church we serve our communities and support people throughout the "ups and downs" of their lives. As part of this we are beginning a new initiative of "Breakfast Church on 20th July in Buckhorn Weston as way of connecting with families in a more informal setting. During the Summer there are several services and events planned which we hope may draw in the wider community, such as Village Prayer Walks, a celebration of weddings at East Stour (Sunday 17th August), a Lammas Service at Fifehead Magdalen and an outdoor Pet Blessing Service at Todber on Sunday 31st August, and of course we have Harvest Festivals and Harvest Suppers beginning in September.

Continued page 11

From the Vicar—continued

Please encourage friends, family and neighbours to come along to these events.

There are many ways in which we are living and growing together as the body of Christ in this Benefice, and we are being urged as a whole Diocese to consider how we can sustain and develop our mission and ministry so that all might flourish and grow. At this point we are being supported to take stock of where we are and consider ways of encouraging others to become more involved. As part of this exercise, it is suggested that we send out a short tick box survey to enable people to indicate to what they feel drawn or would like to find out more about, a copy of which will be included in every copy of Octavo. This is merely an expression of interest at this stage and does not mean that you are making a commitment to anything. Every little helps!

Please return your form directly to me at the Vicarage by 1st September.

May God bless you with restorative rest and relaxation over the Summer.

With love in Christ

Clare

Prayer for the Summer

Lo, I am with you always

Wide fields of corn along the valleys spread;
The rain and dew mature the swelling vine;
I see the Lord in multiplying bread;
I see Him turning water into wine;
I see Him working all the works divine

He wrought when Salem-ward His steps were led;
The self-same miracles around Him shine;
He feeds the famished; He revives the dead;
He pours the flood of light on darkened eyes;
He chases tears, diseases, fiends away;
His throne is raised upon these orient skies;
His footstool is the pave whereon we pray....



From a poem by John Charles Earle (1749 – 1818)

It's church, but not as you
know it!
Join us for a drink, a chat and
a chance to spend some time
with God.

Friday 18th July

*Stour Vale Benefice
Service
in the
Pub*



Open from 11am for an 11:15 start

Tea and coffee will be provided, and the
licenced bar will be open throughout for
those who would like to buy a drink.



After the service, feel free to leave or stay
for a drink. If anyone would like to stay and
have lunch, we would advise you to reserve
a table in the usual way.

**The Ship Inn,
West Stour, SP8 5RP**

For more details, please contact Fiona Hedges on
01747 838942 or stourvalemessychurch@gmail.com

Stour Vale Benefice Newsletter



Are you receiving our weekly newsletter by email?

It gives details of our church services, news of our events happening across the Stour Vale parishes, plus prayers, reflections, encouragement and much more!

If you would like to receive a copy by email each week, just send your email address to: octavoeditorsvb@googlemail.com with the subject title "Newsletter"

Don't miss out!

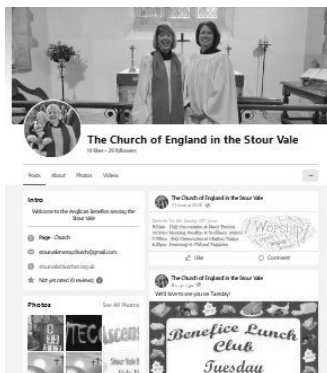
STOUR VALE BENEFICE FACEBOOK PAGE



Please search 'The Church of England in the Stour Vale' in Facebook or use/click on the link below to find us.

Or go via the Benefice Website—there's a link on the home page.

'Follow' us to keep up to date, and please do 'share' the good news!



www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089949903748

Stour Vale Prayer Group

We meet once a month for a short prayer meeting in which we bring our own concerns and the needs of the world in these troubled times.

Please join us on the Last Thursday of the Month—2pm at East Stour Church
All welcome!



Stour Vale Benefice

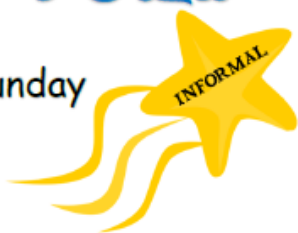
BREAKFAST CHURCH



SUNDAY 20TH JULY



Then on the third Sunday
of every month



Breakfast served from 8.45am

Worship Service 9.00am - 9.30am

Buckhorn Weston Village Hall
(SP8 5HF).



Scan the QR code for more information,

Or contact us on stourvalemessychurch@gmail.com



Knit and Natter

Whether you'd just like some company and to knit some simple squares, or would like to learn how to make anything from beautiful baby clothes to creative jumpers, then come along to Knit and Natter on the 3rd Monday of the month.



The next two are on **Monday 21st July & Monday 18th August**
and they meet between **2:30-4:30pm**
in East Stour village hall.

Stour Vale Benefice Benefice Lunches

Please note: we need to pre-order food, so let us know your choice when you book your place—see their websites for menus.

Tuesday 22nd July—12:30pm

at **Udder Farm East Stour**—do join us for a relaxed chat over a meal in pleasant surroundings. For bookings: please contact Revd Clare or Jill by Tuesday 15th July.

The Udder Farm Shop
Manor Farm, Front Street, East Stour
SP8 5LQ

<https://www.theudderfarmshop.co.uk/restaurant/restaurant-menus/>

Tuesday 19th August—12:30pm

at **Lakeside Kitchen Todber**—do join us for a relaxed chat over a meal in pleasant surroundings. For bookings: please contact Revd Clare or Jill by Tuesday 12th August.

Lakeside Kitchen, Manor Farm, Todber, DT10 1JB

<https://www.lakesidekitchen.co.uk/>

Services for the Stour Vale Benefice July 2025



Sunday	6 th July Trinity 3	13 th July Trinity 4	20 th July Trinity 5	27 th July Trinity 6
Buckhorn Weston		9:15am Parish Communion	8:45am *Breakfast Church In the Village Hall	10:30am Morning Worship CW
East Stour	11:00am Parish Communion		6:00pm Evensong BCP	
Fifehead Magdalen		6:30pm Parish Communion		6:30pm Evensong BCP
Kington Magna		11:00am Morning Worship CW		11:00am Parish Communion
Stour Provost		10:30am Morning Prayer CW		9:15am Parish Communion
Todber	9:15am Parish Communion		10:00am Family Service	
West Stour	10:00am Morning Worship CW		10:00am Parish Communion	

CW – Common Worship

BCP = Book of Common Prayer

Services in July

*Breakfast Church is open to the whole Benefice – more details from Fiona

Services for the Stour Vale Benefice August 2025



Sunday	3 rd August Trinity 7	10 th August Trinity 8	17 th August Trinity 9	24 th August Trinity 10
Buckhorn Weston		9:15am Parish Communion	8:45am *Breakfast Church In the Village Hall	10:30am Morning Worship CW
East Stour	11:00am Parish Communion		5:00pm** Songs of Praise	
Fifehead Magdalen		6:30pm Parish Communion		6:30pm Evensong
Kington Magna		11:00am Morning Worship CW		11:00am Parish Communion
Stour Provost		10:30am Morning Prayer CW		9:15am Parish Communion
Todber	9:15am Parish Communion		10:00am Morning Worship BCP	
West Stour	10:00am Morning Worship CW		10:00am Parish Communion	

Services in August

**East Stour's Song of Praise on the 17th August
will follow their 'Cream Teas' at 3:00pm

5th Sunday – Sunday 31st August

10:30am Lammas service at Fifehead Magdalen

3:00pm Outdoor Pet Service at Todber

Readings for July and August 2025

6th July

Isaiah 66.10–14
Galatians 6. 7–16

Trinity 3 (Green)
Psalm 66.1–8
Luke 10.1–11, 16–20

13th July

Deuteronomy 30.9–14
Colossians 1.1–14

Trinity 4 (Green)
Psalm 25.1–10
Luke 10.25–37

20th July

Genesis 18.1–10a
Colossians 1.15–28

Trinity 5 (Green)
Psalm 15
Luke 10.38–end

27th July

Genesis 18.20–32
Colossians 2.6–15

Trinity 6 (Green)
Psalm 138
Luke 11.1–13

3rd August

Ecclesiastes 1.2, 12–14; 2.18–23
Colossians 3.1–11

Trinity 7 (Green)
Psalm 49.1–12
Luke 12.13–21

10th August

Genesis 15.1–6
Hebrews 11.1–3, 8–16

Trinity 8 (Green)
Psalm 33.12–end
Luke 12.32–40

17th August

Jeremiah 23.23–29
Hebrews 11.29–12.2

Trinity 9 (Green)
Psalm 82
Luke 12.49–56

24th August

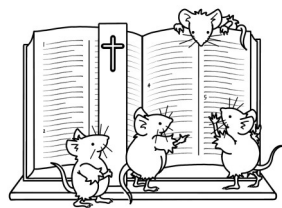
Isaiah 58.9b –end
Hebrews 12.18–end

Trinity 10 (Green)
Psalm 103.1–8
Luke 13.10–17

31st August

Ecclesiasticus 10.12–18
Hebrews 13.1–8, 15–16

Trinity 11 (Green)
Psalm 112
Luke 14.1, 7–14



Divine Beauty

A Seasons of Sanctuary Quiet Day

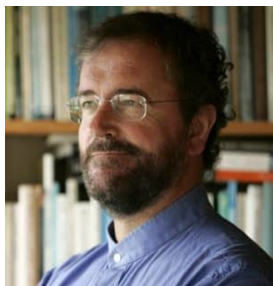
led by **Barbara Priest**

Licensed Lay Minister in Salisbury and Bath & Wells Dioceses, & Oblate of Douai Abbey

Grove Farmhouse, Melbury Abbas SP7 0DE

Saturday 20th September : 10am – 4.00pm

Celtic writer John O'Donohue died in 2008 and is missed by many who find a deep resonance in his writing and poetry.



Using his beautiful language, this day will explore how God is present to us in awe and wonder of the natural world, and in the very personal relationship he offers to have with each of us.

£25.00 per person.

Tea & Coffee provided but please bring a packed lunch.

Numbers are limited to ten people so book early to avoid disappointment.

Contact: barbara@allegro.co.uk or 07717 133899

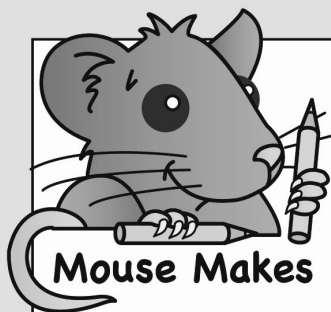
Prayer Walks

This Summer and Autumn I am hoping to continue the prayer walks that we began last year. It is important to show a spiritual presence in all the Benefice villages and help to demonstrate our concern for those who live and work in each village community.

Prayer walking is rooted in centuries old Christian spiritual traditions such as “Beating the Bounds” and the practice of Pilgrimage. It offers an opportunity to bless people, places, businesses and animals, intercede for the concerns of villagers, and affirm the life and unity of the community especially in acknowledging those places which are key to village life.

Prayer walking can be an opportunity for spiritual renewal, providing a time for reflection, meditation, and connection with God in the created world. It is a shared experience as we walk and pray together, telling stories of village life past and present.

Why not join us? Look out for dates ...



Mouse Makes

"Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, 'Lord, teach us to pray...' And He said to them, 'When you pray, say....'"



Our _____
in _____,
hallowed be your
_____, your
_____ come,
your _____ be done,
on _____ as it is in
_____.

Give us today our daily
_____.
_____ us our
S _____ as we forgive
those who sin against us.
Lead us not into

_____ but _____
us from _____.

For the kingdom,
the _____ and
the _____ are
yours now and forever.
Amen



D	T	E	O	P	R	G	O	D
F	E	E	B	R	E	A	D	I
O	M	G	T	O	P	P	G	S
R	P	W	R	T	E	O	L	C
G	T	L	E	E	N	W	O	I
I	A	O	S	C	T	E	R	P
V	T	R	P	T	A	R	Y	L
E	I	D	A	I	N	A	M	E
N	O	S	S	O	C	D	A	S
E	N	P	S	N	E	V	F	W
S	K	P	E	V	I	L	A	I
S	I	R	S	I	N	S	T	L
Y	N	A	E	A	R	T	H	L
G	Y	H	E	A	V	E	N	
I	D	E	L	I	V	E	R	E
F	O	R	G	I	V	E	V	E
A	M	E	N	W	O	R	L	D
I	L	F	L	J	E	S	U	S



Fill in the missing words of the Lord's Prayer then find them and these extra words in the word search:

LORD'S PRAYER
DISCIPLES
JESUS
GOD
WORLD
NEEDS
FORGIVENESS
TRESPASSES
PROTECTION
REPENTANCE



The versions of **The Lord's Prayer** we say today come from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.
Which version do you use in your church?



Read
Matthew 6:9-15
and
Luke 11:1-4

