

Stour Vale Letter No. 26

In our Churches

Our services for this Sunday, 6th September are:

9:15am	Todber	Communion (CW)
10:30am	West Stour	Morning Worship (CW)
11:00am	East Stour	Communion (CW)



Do join us as we worship together. Please remember that wearing a face covering in church is now required for those over the age of eleven, unless there is a medical reason not to. This is in addition to the other safety measures in place: using sanitizing gel on entry and exit, giving your name and phone number as part of the Test & Trace requirements, and observing social distancing at all times. And, most importantly, if you feel ill or have symptoms of any kind, please do not come to church.

(CW = Common Worship BCP = Book of Common Prayer)

Online Services



Join us for our two midweek online services which continue as part of our worship in the Stour Vale, and you don't even have to leave home! They can be found on our Facebook page and you can join us at the advertised times or watch at a later time:

<https://www.facebook.com/Stour-Vale-CofE-107130680934164/>

Join us on:

Wednesday evenings at 9:00pm

Compline (* see below)

Friday mornings at 9:00am

Morning Prayer

*Barbara is now back to her LLM studies and evening tutorials again and so Compline will be a pre-recorded video, rather than live-streamed. She will appear on Facebook just before 9pm each Wednesday as usual, but you will need to click on the video to set it running. Do still leave your usual messages to let her know you were watching. And you can, of course, watch it at any time afterwards.



Readings and Collect for the 13th Sunday after Trinity



Ezekiel 33.7-11

Romans 13.8-14

Matthew 18.15-20

Psalms 119.33-40

Collect

Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Ride & Stride 2020

Next Saturday, 12th September, is *Ride & Stride* day and many of our churches are taking part.

Dorset Historic Churches Trust (DHCT) say that, as churches re-open after months of lockdown, it is time to support church buildings, and help maintain Dorset's cherished history and heritage. Do support the riders and striders in your communities as they set out to raise funds for our church buildings.



Messy Church Returns – Book your place now!



Our Benefice Messy Church leaps back into action on Sunday 20th September at 3pm in Kington Magna Village Hall with the theme of “Families”. Rigorous efforts are being made to make this activity safe for all involved and we really look forward to welcoming our families, so please spread the word.

You will need to book your place in advance as social distancing means places are limited and we need your details for the “Test & Trace” requirements. We will also ask you to stay in your seat and the craft projects will be brought to you. But the Team will be doing their very best to make the afternoon as fun as possible. Please contact Fiona at stourvalemessychurch@gmail.com or on 07786 166896 to secure your place.

Prayer

from Meister Eckhart, a medieval theologian, philosopher and mystic...

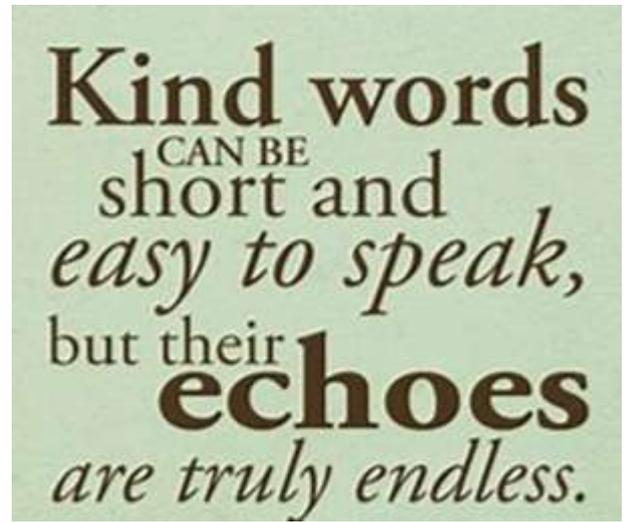
Let me seek you in the darkness of my silence
and find you in the silence of your light
which is love shining like the sun
flowing like the river
and joying like the heart
Amen.



Pause for Thought

from Rev Preb Mike Vockins...

These are words attributed to Mother Teresa. Kind words are indeed often long remembered, and their echoes may well be truly endless. As such they so often provide reassurance and a sense of well-being, as well as encouragement and inspiration, and trigger our warm gratitude and many other good feelings as well.



Those words of kindness that we have shared with others may well be resonating with them still, continuing to give them a lift, to put a spring into their step, and to create happy memories. What is the kindest thing that has been said to you? And why do you remember it?

Poem

There will be many poems written that have been inspired by Covid 19 but, hot off the press, is this one by American poet, Luci Shaw:

Virus

The absurdity of a world on its knees,
behind its doors,
whose fingers, even, may be traitors
and whose breath, created for living,
may breed death.
Its instruction:
Split up. Stay apart.
This is now the ultimate act of friendship.

Like the moon of the light at the bottom
of the well, hope shines small,
but if we stay, head over the edge,
we may watch the deep water shimmer
with supple possibilities.
At noon, a pale sun shines, telling us
we may still live in the light.



Quote of the Week



“There can be no happiness if the things we believe in
are different from the things we do”

Freya Stark

For your Prayers:

We pray for our young people and their teachers returning to school, and particularly those changing school and finding things even more unfamiliar. We give thanks for the hard work our local shops are carrying out in order to make us feel welcome and safe. We pray for our high street businesses struggling to regain lost income and survive in these difficult times and for those who are losing their jobs as online shopping increases. We remember those still working from home and losing the social connections with their colleagues, and we pray for those returning to work and rediscovering their routine amidst the concerns and restrictions. We pray for those who have been shielding, and those nervous of going out into society again.



We pray for those who are working tirelessly in medical research and those who are helping with the testing of vaccines. We remember those who still feel isolated or are suffering from severe loneliness as figures show the effects of depression increasing. We remember those whose home is a place of danger and those who have no home. And we continue to remember all those working in health and social care, those who are ill with other conditions or waiting for delayed operations and procedures, and those who are having those procedures but may be fearful of being vulnerable.

Most of our churches are open for private prayer so if you want to find a quiet place to think or pray, do pop in at the times below:

Buckhorn Weston	Thursdays	10am - 12 noon
East Stour	Thursdays	10am – 12 noon
Kington Magna	Tuesdays	10am – 12 noon
Todber	Saturdays	10am – 12 noon
West Stour	Wednesdays	10am – 12 noon

Fifehead Magdalen and Stour Provost are not able to open their churches during the week but please do remember their communities in your prayers.

This Newsletter



If you know of anyone who doesn't yet receive the newsletter but would like to, let them know about it and tell them to send their email address to richard@allegro.co.uk with the subject "Newsletter Mailing List" But, if you do not wish to continue receiving them, please email him at with "Unsubscribe" in the subject field.

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