

Stour Vale Letter No. 35

In our Churches:



As you will already know, we are now in a new lockdown from Thursday 5th November until Wednesday 2nd December. The government instruction for places of worship is that they should close for this period except for funerals and private prayer.

Those churches amongst our parishes that open for private prayer will continue to do so (see the list below) but **there will be no public worship in church during this period.**

Online Services resume!

Yes, for the lockdown duration we will be live streaming a service of Morning Worship on Sunday mornings at 11.00am. These will be on:

Sunday 8th November
Sunday 15th November
Sunday 22nd November
Sunday 29th November



Join us live on <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Anglican-Church/Stour-Vale-CofE-107130680934164/> or watch the video afterwards. Remember, you do not have to have a Facebook account to join us. If you see a box asking you to do so, just click "Not Now" and watch as a visitor.

We are obviously disappointed to be in this position again but we need to do everything we can to reduce the spread of Covid-19. Here at the Vicarage, we will once again brave the technology and endeavour to keep us together as a worshipping community.

This Sunday, 8th November, we will be including an Act of Remembrance at the beginning of the service in commemoration of Remembrance Sunday. Do join us online if you can.

Readings and Collect for 8th November

Amos 5. 18-24 1 Thessalonians 4. 13-end Matthew 25. 1-13
Psalm 70



Collect:

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Remembrance 2020



Due to the ongoing challenges of Covid-19 there will be fewer opportunities to donate to the British Legion through poppy sales this year. So please do consider visiting their website and making a donation there. The British Legion carries out important work to support the armed forces and their families and this year they will need our generosity more than ever. To donate, visit their website at:

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/ways-to-give/donate>

Prayer

The famous Gaelic Blessing seems appropriate this weekend....

Deep peace of the running wave to you.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the gentle night to you.
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you.
Deep peace of Christ, the light of the world to you.
Deep peace of Christ to you. Amen.



Poem

Some years ago, Malcolm Guite attended a Remembrance service in Durham Cathedral and, afterwards, he wrote this poem entitled "Remembrance Sunday Afternoon"

November sunlight shimmers on the Wear,
Wide waters slip unhurried by each bank
And soothe Remembrance Sunday afternoon.
After the service, after the parades,
After the poppies, after the last post,
I sit and drink in quietness and peace,
The peace those Durham infantry forsook
To keep it sacred for the likes of me.
Some of them surely fished this very spot
Where Durham fishermen are sitting still
On folded camp stools. May those fallen men
Whom we remembered in the high cathedral
Drink deep now from the river of true life
Where all their wounds are healed, where living light
Flows from the source of every time and tide
And may they know that we remember them.



Pause for Thought - The Crooked Route

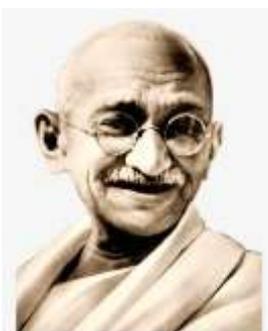
In October 1920 army chaplain, the Reverend David Railton, wrote to the Dean of Westminster Abbey suggesting that the body of an unidentified soldier should be dug up from among the hundreds of thousands of corpses still lying on the battlefields where their bodies had been roughly covered with earth, and brought home to lie in the Abbey to represent the millions of British and Commonwealth servicemen who had died fighting in the Great War. The military authorities asked for six unidentified bodies to be exhumed from under the rough crosses marked “unknown” in the battlefields of Belgium and northern France. Each was placed in a simple coffin and laid in a hut not far away from Ypres. They then blindfolded a young officer, Henry Williams, and led him inside. The first coffin he touched was chosen and sent to Boulogne. It was then placed in a coffin made from a Hampton Court oak and sealed with two great straps under which was placed a ceremonial sword. The ‘funeral’ saw a hundred VCs lining the nave with the King as the chief mourner.



At 11pm the doors finally closed to the thousands of people who had come to pay tribute. Within a week, a million people had visited the grave as a focus for their grief, a sense of release, and official permission to grieve for the loss of those they loved—a public expression which, until that moment, they had lacked.

And so, In Westminster Abbey, there is no direct route from the great West Door to the High Altar. It is interrupted by a grave. Funeral processions, Royal Brides, Statesmen and Monarchs all have to acknowledge this particular grave and take what another former Dean of Westminster, Michael Mayne, called “the crooked route” around this nameless, classless, ageless man who lies beneath a black marble stone surrounded in poppies.

Quote of the Week



“The day the power of love overrules the love of power,
the world will know peace”

Mahatma Gandhi

For your Prayers



We pray for all who are struggling in these challenging times. We remember the ill and the anxious, the lonely and afraid, the forgotten and the unloved, the isolated and the those who are unable to meet with loved ones, those who find the world a confusing place, those who have lost their way, and those who feel alone, even when they are not. We pray for those waiting for medical procedures and those whose treatment has been delayed. We pray for those suffering from Covid-19 and those with other medical conditions. And we pray for all who help those in need: our medical professions, our carers and health visitors, our counsellors and those who operate helplines, and all in our communities who simply keep a kindly eye on their neighbours. May everyone know God's comforting arms around them and feel his love as a cloak of protection and strength.

Private Prayer

Our churches are allowed to remain open for private prayer or just to sit for a while in the peace and quiet of our ancient buildings. Please do take advantage of this.

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

Todber is currently closed due to ceiling damage.

Fifehead Magdalen and Stour Provost are not able to open their churches during the week. But please do remember all these three 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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"We will remember them"