

Stour Vale Letter No. 56

Our Church Services – 18th April

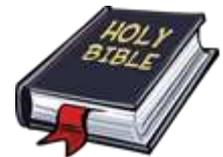
A warm welcome awaits you at our services. The usual safety procedures of sanitizing on entry and exit and the wearing of a face covering will be in place, and please do maintain a social distance from others at all times.

9.15am	West Stour	Parish Communion (CW)
9.30am	Todber	Morning Prayer (BCP)
10.30am	East Stour	Morning Worship (CW)

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

Collect & Readings for 18th April

Acts 3. 12-19 1 John 3. 1-7 Luke 24. 36b-48
Psalm 4



Collect

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

David Duvall's funeral



David's funeral is to be held on Monday 19th April for family only but the service will be live-streamed via Wesley Media at 1.00pm. The link is below and you are most welcome to join online. And if you are not able to use this online facility, maybe just sit and hold Ann and the family in your prayers at that time.

<https://www.wesleymedia.co.uk/webcast-view>

Login / Order ID: 88998

Password: hgtrkama

Quote of the Week

"After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music."

Aldous Huxley



Praying for our communities

In the Stour Vale this week we pray for God's blessing on the community in Stour Provost: for the church of St Michael & All Angels and its congregation, and for all who live and work in the village and its surrounding area.

Please find a few moments in the week to hold them in your prayers.



Poem

At this time of year when many of us are sowing and planting for the summer, I remembered this poem by Muriel Stuart about the potential of seemingly unpromising looking seeds:

The Seed Shop

Here in a quiet and dusty room they lie,
Faded as crumbled stone or shifting sand,
Forlorn as ashes, shrivelled, scentless, dry —
Meadows and gardens running through my hand.

Dead that shall quicken at the call of Spring,
Sleepers to stir beneath June's magic kiss,
Though birds pass over, unremembering,
And no bee seek here roses that were his.

In this brown husk a dale of hawthorn dreams,
A cedar in this narrow cell is thrust
That will drink deeply of a century's streams,
These lilies shall make summer on my dust.

Here in their safe and simple house of death,
Sealed in their shells a million roses leap;
Here I can blow a garden with my breath,
And in my hand a forest lies asleep.

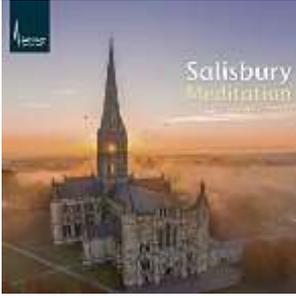


Prayer for the Duke of Edinburgh



God of our lives,
we give thanks for the life of Prince Philip,
for his love of our country
and for his devotion to duty.
We entrust him now to your love and mercy,
through our Redeemer Jesus Christ. Amen.

Salisbury Cathedral CD



The organists of Salisbury Cathedral have been serenading those coming into the building for their Covid vaccinations over the past few months and, to help raise funds for the NHS charities, they have now released a CD called *Salisbury Meditation*.

The album contains soothing organ music used to calm those coming for their vaccine and celebrates the work of the amazing Sarum South Primary Care Network team, who have topped over 25,000 jabs in the Cathedral since January.

More details can be found on the cathedral website at:

<https://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/news/salisbury-cathedral-releases-digital-%E2%80%98vax%E2%80%99-album-raise-funds-nhs>

Pause for Thought

from our friend, Revd Preb Mike Vockins....

“Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try” It seems appropriate, in this week following the death of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, that we should have as our Thought something which relates in some way to him, even if indirectly. The Duke was a great one for encouraging new initiatives, in so many spheres, and perhaps this was nowhere more apparent than with his Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. So many young people have benefited enormously from this, and taking that first step – being willing to try – has indeed led to so many accomplishments and achievements, countless of which have led those young people to even greater achievements and service in their adult lives.



One other attribute so very characteristic of His Royal Highness was a desire to know how things worked, what made people tick, and so he was always ready to enquire – which leads to a second thought for this week: “You may never know the answer if you never ask the question”.



"Easter spells out beauty, the rare beauty of new life."

S.D. Gordon

For your Prayers

We pray for HRH the Duke of Edinburgh and commend him to God's care. We give thanks for his long life of service and we remember HM the Queen and all the Royal family at this time.



We continue to pray for all pupils, students, teachers and helping staff. We pray for their well-being in these difficult times and pray for school chaplains and all who support our young people. We think of the many businesses and those who can now to re-open in some form, especially those within our own Benefice.

We pray for all who remain anxious at this time. We remember all who are struggling in any way; the anxious, the lonely and afraid, the forgotten and the unloved, and those who are low in spirits. We pray for those who have financial worries and those who may lose their jobs. We pray for all who are waiting for delayed hospital procedures. We pray for all who have lost loved ones during the past year. We commend all who have died to God's loving care and ask for comfort and strength for those who miss them.

We give thanks for the roll-out of vaccines and for those who are continuing to work so hard to prepare and administer them. We pray for all in our medical professions, carers and health visitors, counsellors and those who operate helplines for those in need.

Private Prayer

From April, most of our churches will be open throughout the week for private prayer. Please do take advantage of this. While we move forward on the Government roadmap, there is still much that needs our prayers. And if you visit our beautiful churches and feel you can make a donation to their life and upkeep, please do so. In these difficult times it would be very much appreciated.



This Newsletter



We hope you find this newsletter helpful. If you know of anyone who would like to join the mailing list, 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 with "Unsubscribe" in the subject field.

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