

Stour Vale Letter No. 57

Our Church Services – 25th 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.

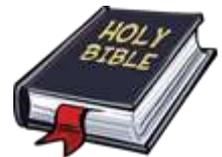
9.15am	Stour Provost	Parish Communion (CW)
10.30am	Buckhorn Weston	Morning Worship (CW)
11.00am	Kington Magna	Parish Communion (CW)
6.30pm	Fifehead Magdalen	Evening Prayer (BCP)

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



Collect & Readings for 25th April

Acts 4. 5-12 1 John 3. 16-end John 10. 11-18
Psalm 23



Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Praying for our communities



In the Stour Vale this week we pray for God's blessing on the community in Stour Row and 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.

The photo shows Mike Newton ringing the Stour Row church bell during last year's "Clap for Carers".

Facebook Page

Don't forget our Benefice Facebook page which is still offering regular thoughts, photos and news. You don't have to hold a Facebook account but if you do, then please "like" us!

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



Saint of the Week: St George – 23rd April



Today there is a wedding anniversary in the Vicarage but, perhaps more notably, it is also St George's Day, the patron saint of England. According to tradition he was of Christian Greek extraction and a soldier in the Roman army. But, other than the legend of George slaying a dragon (and His Reverence probably knows all about that!) very little is known about him.

However, in 494, Pope Gelasius I stated that George was among those saints "*whose names are justly revered among men, but whose actions are known only to God*", and maybe that is his example to us. George didn't shout about his good deeds and achievements to everyone. He just got on with them, knowing that the only person who needed to know about them was God. So let us fly the flag for St George!

Prayer for St George

God of hosts,
who so kindled the flame of love in the heart of your servant George
that he bore witness to the risen Lord by his life and by his death:
give us the same faith and power of love
that we who rejoice in his triumphs
may come to share with him the fullness of the resurrection;
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.
Amen

Quote of the week



*"When we persevere with the help of a gentle discipline,
we slowly come to hear the still, small voice
and to feel the delicate breeze,
and so to come to know the presence of Love."*

Henri Nouwen

Poem

I have recently discovered the poetry of Gideon Heugh and I'm already a big fan! Having a friendly robin in my garden who comes to see what I'm doing, I loved this one:

Mr Robin

What a beautiful song you sing, Mr Robin.
I love how it opens the sky,
leaving room for a thousand kinds of delights.

Why is it you sing, Mr Robin?
Did you receive a promotion at work?
Did you clinch the deal?
Did you buy yourself a little something?

What a notion.
I think you sing because you are alive;
you lack the things to which people cling,
and that is glorious.

Gideon Heugh



Pause for Thought: Looking back....and forward!



As we continue through this season of Eastertide, still emerging from a third lockdown, we look back, with this poignant photo, to April 2020 when our churches were closed. But the Easter message was very much alive and still got through in imaginative ways.

These flowers and colourful chalk declaration was found outside the door of St Mary's, Gillingham, proving that even in difficult times, Christ is with us, always.

We are His Easter people
and "Alleluia" is our song!

For your Prayers

We pray for the many businesses which can now to re-open in some form, especially those within our own Benefice. And we remember those who are nervous of venturing out into society again.



We continue to give thanks for the roll-out of vaccines and for those who are continuing to research new treatments. We pray for all in our medical professions, carers and health visitors, counsellors and those who operate helplines for those in need.

We pray for the many charities which have lost substantial funds during the pandemic, hindering the valuable work they do. We give thanks for all who volunteer to help them.

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 those who are ill, those awaiting delayed hospital procedures, and those 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

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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