

# Stour Vale Letter No.111

## Services in the Stour Vale – 22<sup>nd</sup> May

A warm welcome awaits you at our services this week:

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)

## Readings for 22<sup>nd</sup> May



Acts 16. 9-15  
John 14. 23-29

Revelation 21.10, 22-25  
Psalm 67

## Collect

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; 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.

## Praying for our communities



This week in the Stour Vale we pray for the community in East Stour, the congregation of Christchurch and all who live and work in and around the village.

Please find a few moments in your week to remember this community.

## The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Service – Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May

To celebrate the amazing achievement of Her Majesty's 70 years reign we felt we should come together as a Benefice. So, we are holding a Benefice Service of Thanksgiving on the afternoon of Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May (a fifth Sunday), followed by a celebration bring & share tea. Just bring something with you for the table: a few cupcakes, half a dozen scones, a plate of sandwiches, some nibbles – anything that will go to make up afternoon tea. We have also secured the services of some special musicians to make the hymns go with a swing! So do put the date in your diary now and come along to join in this special occasion to mark a once-in-a-lifetime historic event.



## Regular Benefice Gatherings coming up in May/June:

Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May at 10.30am	West Stour Village Hall	Bible Book Group
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May at 2pm	East Stour Church	Benefice Prayer Group
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> June at 7pm	East Stour Church	Rucksack Stories
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm	East Stour Church	Compline & Company

## Events dates for your Diary

### ***Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May – Lower House, Buckhorn Weston***

Sue Hawksley has kindly offered to host a coffee morning in her garden for church funds from 10.30am



### ***Saturday & Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> May – Stour Provost village***

2pm – 5pm Stour Provost Open Gardens

### ***Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May – East Stour Village Hall***

2pm Benefice Platinum Jubilee Service followed by a bring & share tea (*see above*)

### ***Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June – Kington Magna Church***

The ever-popular Artisan Coffee & Crafts from 10am – 12 noon

*There are lots of other village activities too, especially centred around the Queen's Jubilee, so look in Octavo for full details of events across the summer!*

## Poem

*In the coming week I will be leaving my current job with the Shaftesbury Team ministry and preparing to take up a new post in Bruton. As I move from the familiar and routine, to the unfamiliar and unknown, I found comfort and encouragement in this beautiful poem by Mary Oliver:*

I'm not the river  
that powerful presence.  
And I'm not the black oak tree  
which is patience personified.  
And I'm not redbird  
who is a brief life heartily enjoyed.  
Nor am I mud nor rock nor sand  
which is holding everything together.  
No, I am none of these things.  
Not yet.



## Quote of the Week



*"I think our journey is all about healing ourselves and healing each other in our own special ways."*

Ram Dass

## Pause for Thought

Another of Gideon Heugh's reflections on Tolkein's "The Lord of the Rings":

*'They bore no lights, yet as they walked a shimmer, like the light of the moon above the rim of the hill before it rises, seemed to fall about their feet.'*

Frodo, Sam and Pippin are being hunted by a Ringwraith, but it is frightened off by group of Elves who happen to be wandering through the Shire. This made me think of a quote from the psalms: 'Your word is a lamp for my feet; a light on my path.' The thing about a lamp is that it will only illuminate a few steps in front of you.



We long to see the whole path. But spirit tells us: just take the next step. The path is there, even if all you can see is your feet.

What times have there been in your life where you couldn't see a way ahead, and yet just by moving forward the way was made?

It reminds me of the early days of the pandemic. We had no idea what was ahead. No one did. It was hard. Very hard. For many, it still is. But we're here. We got through – simply by putting one foot in front of the other.

**Blessing:** May the shimmer of the divine fall about your feet. May you know that there is a path, even when you cannot see it. May you have the strength to take the next step – even if the next step means holding still and waiting to see what comes wandering through.

## Prayer

*From Dorothy McRae-McMahon:*

Go into the night in peace,  
and may the God of eternity stretch out  
the heavens above you,  
the God of each earthly moment be closer than breath  
and the Spirit cover you with warm bright wings. Amen.

## For Your Prayers

*The Archbishops' Prayer:* God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen



We pray for all in our world who suffer from the effects of war, hatred and persecution, for those who struggle to live their daily lives amidst danger and fighting, and for those who are forced to flee their homes in search of safety, leaving all they know behind. We give thanks for the many charities who work tirelessly and courageously to bring aid.

We remember those in our communities who are ill or recovering at home, for those in hospital or care, and for those who are waiting for procedures and surgery. And we remember those who have lost loved ones and miss them. We pray for those who find life difficult, particularly the lonely, isolated and afraid, those who feel themselves forgotten or unloved, and those who are low in spirits or find the world a confusing place. May they all know the healing presence of God's love.

## Private Prayer

Many of our churches are open throughout the week for private prayer. Please do take advantage of this, and if you visit our beautiful churches and feel you can make a donation to their life and upkeep, please do so. 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](mailto: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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