

Stour Vale Letter No.119

Services in the Stour Vale – 17th July

A warm welcome awaits you at our services this week:

10am Todber Morning Prayer (BCP)

**10:30am West Stour Benefice Service
for Anthony Thomas**

5pm East Stour Songs of Praise

CW – Common Worship BCP = Book of Common Prayer



Please note: the parishes will aim to provide cover for Communion services but those services may be subject to change at short notice. There is no mid-week communion service at East Stour at the moment.

Readings for 17th July – 5th Sunday After Trinity



Genesis 18:1-10a

Psalm 15

Colossians 1:15-28

Luke 10:38-end

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Praying for our communities

This week in the Stour Vale we pray for the community in Fifehead Magdalen, the congregation of St Mary Magdalene and all who live and work in and around the village. Please find a few moments in your week to remember this community.



Please Note: Rev Richard is currently unavailable due to illness. Please contact Jill Perry (01747 838911) in the first instance if you have any queries and she will endeavour to assist.

Lammas Service – Sunday 31st July – 10:30am

Our Benefice 5th Sunday service will be at Tanners Farm Kington Magna (SP8 5HB)

Memorial Service for Roger Trevor

There will be a Memorial Service for Roger at 2:30pm on the 26th July at Stalbridge Church. You are welcome to join the family Stalbridge village hall for the wake afterwards.

Regular Benefice Gatherings coming up in July:

Sunday 17th July Messy Church 3pm Kington Magna Village Hall
Monday 18th July **Knit and Natter:** due to the extreme heat forecast for Monday
the meeting is **cancelled**

Receiving the Newsletter:

We've reached a point where **we need to update our mailing list** and ensure that we have GDPR consent from everyone. Thank you to all those who have replied already. If you haven't yet contacted Jill, we would really appreciate it if you would contact her **by Wednesday 20th July** to confirm your consent for us holding your email address for the purpose of receiving the Newsletter (and Octavo if you have both digitally).

Email Jill at: octavoeditorsvb@googlemail.com Please put 'Newsletter Mailing List' in the subject line and then simply write:

I consent to my email address being in a database for the Stour Vale Benefice Newsletter.

Please include your name (*especially if not obvious in your email address*) and which parish you belong to. And please add 'and Octavo' if you also receive it by email. We will be **moving to the new mailing list on Friday 22nd July**, **so please make sure you have emailed Jill to carry on receiving the Newsletter** – thank you.

Events dates for your Diary

Friday 15th July – Todber Talks

Starting at 11:30am with a talk on Compassion given by Jacintha Bowe (Jacintha is an excellent speaker, so not to be missed!). Entry £6 to include tea or coffee, in the church.

Friday, 15th July – Stour Row Pop up Pub: The Stroll Inn

The Stroll Inn will be opening its doors again at 7:00pm on July. Look forward to seeing you there.

Sunday 17th July – East Stour Church

Cream Teas – from 3:30-5pm at Christchurch, £5 on the door followed by Songs of Praise at 5pm.

Sat 23rd / Sun 24th July – Fifehead Magdalen Church

Flower Festival from 3pm – 4:30pm both days, concluding with a Songs of Praise on Sunday at 6:30pm.

Saturday 6th August – Kington Magna Church – Please note new date!

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

Saturday 10th September DHCT Ride and Stride

An number of our churches will be open and/or having people looking for sponsorship as they Ride and Stride around the Benefice.

See Octavo for other village activities over the next few months!



Pause for Thought

Whilst the current forecast is the complete opposite of rain...

15th July St Swithun (or Swithin) saint for a rainy day

St Swithun is apparently the saint you can blame for rainy summers. It is said that if it rains on his special day, 15th July, it will then rain for 40 days after that. It all began when Swithun was made Bishop of Winchester in 852 by King Ethelwulf of Wessex. It was an important posting: Winchester was the capital of Wessex, and during the 10 years Swithun was there, Wessex became the most important kingdom of England.



During his life, instead of washing out people's summer holidays, and damping down their spirits, Swithun seems to have done a lot of good. He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built. When he was dying in 862, he asked that he be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door.

If he had been left there in peace, who knows how many rainy summers the English may have been spared over the last 1000 years. But, no, it was decided to move Swithun. By now, the 960s, Winchester had become the first monastic cathedral chapter in England, and the newly installed monks wanted Swithun in the cathedral with them. So finally, on 15 July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithun was translated into the cathedral.

That same day many people claimed to have had miraculous cures. Certainly everyone got wet, for the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and on the days following, was attributed to the power of St Swithun. Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester cathedral. His shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the middle ages. The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation and restored in 1962. There are 58 ancient dedications to Swithun in England.

(from Parish Pump)



St Swithun's Day, if thou dost rain

St Swithun's day, if thou dost rain,
For forty days it will remain;
St Swithun's day, if thou be fair,
For forty days 'twill rain na mair.

Ancient rhyme

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 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 Jill Perry at octavoeditorsvb@googlemail.com with the subject "Newsletter Mailing List". But, if you do not wish to continue receiving them, please email her with "Unsubscribe" in the subject field.

Please remember Richard is currently unavailable due to illness. Messages can be left on his answerphone, or you can contact Jill Perry, 01747 838911, Email: octavoeditorsvb@googlemail.com ; or speak to your church warden, or one of the LLMs

Newsletter produced on behalf of:
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