

Stour Vale Letter No.122

Services in the Stour Vale – 7th August

A warm welcome awaits you at our services this week:

- 9:15am Todber Parish Communion
10:30am West Stour Morning Worship (CW)
11:00am East Stour Parish Communion

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 7th August – 8th Sunday After Trinity



Genesis 15:1-6
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Psalms 33:12-end
Luke 12:32-40

Collect

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; 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 Todber, the congregation of St Andrews 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.

Regular Benefice Gatherings coming up in August:

There are no events in August.

Events dates for your Diary

Saturday 27th August Kington Magna/Nyland

Hog roast at Old Manor Farm Nyland – 6-9pm. Live Music. Tickets £15 adults, £7.50 children from Eunice Dale – 01963 371117



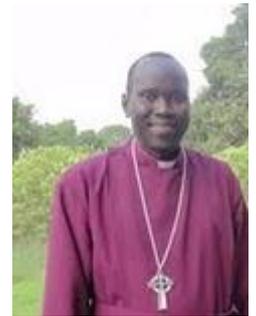
Saturday 10th September DHCT Ride and Stride

A 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!

Deanery Visit by Most Revd Stephen Dokolo Ismail

The Most Revd Stephen Dokolo, Archbishop of Amadi and Bishop of Lui, South Sudan, will be visiting the Blackmore Vale Deanery for a few days after the Lambeth Conference. Anyone who would like to greet the archbishop and welcome him to the deanery is warmly invited to attend a communion service at St Peter's Shaftesbury (in the High Street, top of Gold Hill) at 10:30am on Wednesday 10th August.

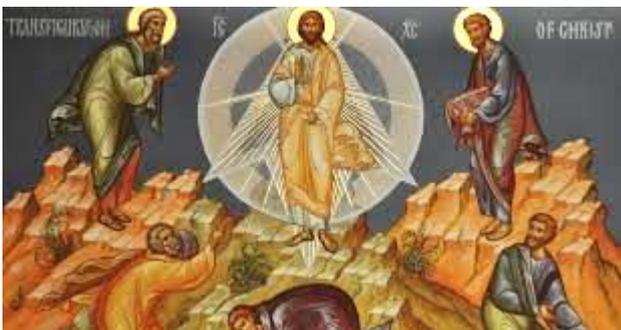


Please pray for Archbishop Stephen and his wife Lillian, for the Diocese of Lui and the Episcopal Church of South Sudan.

Pause for Thought

6th August

The Transfiguration of Jesus



It's an unusual story. One day, Jesus is with three disciples on a high mountain in Galilee, when His appearance dramatically changes. Also, Moses and Elijah suddenly appear, and from a cloud comes the voice of God. What is this all about?

This event was witnessed by James, Peter, and John. They were close friends of Jesus. In the future, they were to become prominent leaders in the Early Church. They needed to see something special that would help them remember Jesus in the difficult years ahead. They had a glimpse of Christ in His divine glory. His face shone like the sun and His clothes turned white as light.

While this was an extraordinary sight for the disciples, it served to encourage Jesus who once had glory and majesty in Heaven. One day He would have it again. But firstly, He had to fulfil His mission: to suffer on the cross and die.

Why were Moses and Elijah standing with Jesus? Moses was the giver of the Law and Elijah represented all the prophets. They had pointed people to the promised Messiah. Jesus was about to complete God's plan of salvation.

God's voice was heard to remind Peter there was no need to build shelters. They were not going to stay on the mountain. God spoke to get the disciples to fix their attention on Jesus. The wonder of the Transfiguration was a short interlude before Jesus had to return to His work and subsequent death on the cross.

This story is a reminder that our times of spiritual blessing have to be followed by down-to-earth commitments and responsibilities. In the same way that Jesus gave His friends a glimpse of His awesome glory, to help them face challenging and traumatic times ahead, our special times in His presence are provided to encourage us and equip us for the trials we may have to face.

Our journey through life may sometimes rise to the peaks but we can't stay on a 'high' all the time – no matter how much we want it! We have to descend to face everyday challenges if we are to fulfil our calling in Christ. From *our* mountain-top experiences we all need to find a balance between times alone with God and serving Him in the company of others.

Morning Prayer

When morning in russet and saffron clad
Is mantling the hills in a dew-soft plaid
To the song of the moorland two-wings glad
Let my heart upraise;

When light creeps in through the chinks of the door
When the mist ascends from the mountain floor,
When the ocean shimmers like burnished ore,
Let me give Thee praise.

O God of the morning, Christ of the hills,
O Spirit who all the firmament fills,
O Trinity blest who all goodness wills,
Keep us all our days.

From Prayers of the Western Highlanders



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. You can pass messages via Jill Perry, 01747 838911, Email: octavoeditorsvb@googlemail.com; or for anything urgent please speak to your church warden.

Newsletter produced on behalf of:
Revd Richard Priest – Vicar of the Stour Vale Benefice

