

Stour Vale Letter No.186

Services in the Stour Vale – Sunday 29th October



Stour Vale Benefice

5th Sunday Benefice Service

Sunday 29th October
10:30am
at Stour Provost

An Iona Eucharist
With Revd Clare Dean

All Welcome



Readings for Sunday 22nd October *Last Sunday after Trinity*

Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 8-12

Psalm 119:9-16

Colossians 3:12-17

Matthew 24:30-35

Other Benefice events coming up in November:

Every Tuesday – Said Morning Prayer West Stour Church 9:30am

Monday 20th – Knit and Natter 2:30pm East Stour Village Hall

Thursday 30th – Stour Vale Prayer Group 2pm East Stour Church

Benefice Memorial Service

Fifehead Magdalen Church – Sunday 5th November at 4:00pm

A Service of Thanksgiving for the lives of those who have passed from our sight, and to treasure before God the memories of all who meant much to us. It will be a quiet service of prayer and recollection with a time of silence and music. There will be an opportunity to light a candle and the names of those to be remembered will be read out.

Followed by tea and cake.

*Please pass names of people you would like to be remembered to your Church Warden or to Carol Hibbert **this weekend** – contact details in Octavo*

Don't forget the clocks go back this weekend.



Praying for our communities

This week in the Stour Vale we pray for the community in Kington Magna, the congregation of All Saints and all who live and work in and around the village. Please find a few moments in your week to remember this community.



And we pray for:

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.

In particular we pray for:

Henrietta (KM), Barry (SR) and Margaret (WS) and all known to us, or only to God, who are ill and in need of prayer.

And for the bereaved family and friends of Frances Austin Jones (ES).

If anyone would like to be included in our prayers, please ask your Church Warden to let Jill know, or contact her direct – details at the end of the newsletter.

*Please remember if you asking on behalf of someone else,
check they are happy for their name to be included.*

Other 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



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.

Bible Sunday – 29th October

Canon Paul Hardingham considers why Christians put such a high value on the Bible.

At the recent Coronation the King was given a Bible with the words '*the most valuable thing that this world affords*'. As Bible Sunday is celebrated this month, let's ask why we should read the Bible?



The Bible isn't a single book, but a library of 66 books, composed by some 44 writers over 1500 years in a range of styles including history, poetry, prophecy, letters and apocalyptic (looking at the end times). Despite having a number of different writers, it claims one authority - God Himself! '*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work*' (2 Timothy 3:16). The Bible is inspired ('*the word of God in the words of men*') and equips us to live for God in every aspect of our lives. We

also have the promise of the Holy Spirit to guide us when we read: *'when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth'* (John 16:13).

How should we read the Bible? Let's consider the following guidelines:

Right time: We need a regular routine, which will meet our needs. This will vary according to our circumstances: e.g., a mum at home with young children, somebody with a demanding job or a retired person.

Right Place: We need to find a space where we can be undisturbed (e.g. lounge, bedroom, train or kitchen).

Right Version: We need a version of the Bible which we can readily understand and use. A number of versions are available (e.g. NIV, The Message), as well as Bible apps we can access on our phone.

Right Help: Reading notes also help us to understand a passage and apply it to our lives.

Parish Pump

God loves your giving heart

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

Luke 6:38

It's often easy to give . . . a few pounds here, some old clothes there. Not so much that you really even notice. But when you dig down, when you stretch yourself and give like the widow with her two mites, that's when God really smiles.

It's offering the time you didn't have. The listening ear when you didn't really want to listen. The money set aside to treat yourself. When you give from the heart, God blesses you more richly than you could ever imagine. You simply can't out-give God . . . though He loves to see you try.

From '100 Things God Loves about You' by Tama Fortner

**Please note that for other events around the Benefice,
'For you Diary' has now gone back to the back page of Octavo**

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 name, parish and 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.

You can contact Revd Clare on: 01747 838171

Please remember Clare's day off is Mondays.



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Newsletter produced on behalf of the Stour Vale Benefice:
Buckhorn Weston – East Stour – Fifehead Magdalen – Kington Magna Stour Provost – Todber – West Stour