

Stour Vale Letter No.187

Services in the Stour Vale – Sunday 5th November

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



Readings for Sunday 5th November *All Saints*

Revelation 7:9–end

Psalm 34:1–10

1 John 3:1–3

Matthew 5:1–12

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.

Praying for our communities

This week in the Stour Vale we pray for the community in Stour Provost, the congregation of St Michael and All Angels 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) and June Hough (FM).

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

Prayer for November 2023

Father God,

November is not many people's favourite month, unless there is a birthday or a delight in bonfires. Short days, sometimes dismal weather can lower our mood. The days of springtime optimism and summer sunshine seem a long way away, whether we look back or forward.

Help us Lord, whatever the month, whatever our circumstances, whatever our mood, to know the reality of Your presence and peace; to treasure each new day and know it is transformed by You into the most precious and beautiful gift. Help us not to waste a single one of them, Lord. Thank You so much for November days.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

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.

Canon Paul Hardingham continues to his year-long series on the Spiritual Disciplines.

Spiritual Disciplines: Generosity

'It is more blessed to give than to receive' (Acts 20:35).

What does generosity look like for us? The practice of generosity is about more than finance, as we recognise that everything we possess belongs to God (Ps 24:1). We are stewards of all our resources, including time, possessions, gifts, as well as our love and compassion for others. God enables us to be generous, because of all that He has given us:

'You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.' (2 Cor 9:11).

Here are some practical ways of practising generosity:

Give consistently: Planning our financial giving ensures that it isn't an afterthought, but carefully considered (2 Cor 9:7). We can offer time to volunteer in church or in the wider community. We might open our home to others for a meal or coffee.

Give spontaneously: God often brings opportunities across our path where we can respond spontaneously. This might be prompted by a text from a friend in crisis or giving a neighbour a helping hand. Acting spontaneously reminds us that God is always working in and through us.

Give sacrificially: Being generous also involves making sacrifices with our time and priorities, as we help others, share our possessions, or use our gifts. How can we simplify our busy lives, in order to free up space to practise more life transforming generosity?

To engage in generosity is an invitation to experience more of God's provision in our lives:

'Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you' (Luke 6:38).

Parish Pump

God loves the way you trust Him

*I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.
John 10:28*

Do you ever skip to the last page? Ever just have to know how it all ends? Did the butler really do it? Did the guy get the girl? But even when you know the end, you still don't know the middle – the how, when and where.

Kind of like life, isn't it? You can know the end because God promises His children a happily ever after. But the middle – the how, when, and where – are part of the mystery of life. Mystery calls for trust. And when you trust your life to God, no one can ever snatch you out of His Hand.

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

Quotes:

Dwight L. Moody is quoted as saying that out of 100 people, one will read the Bible and the other 99 will read the Christian.

We can make up our minds whether our lives in this world shall wound like thorns and nettles, or be beautiful and fragrant like the lilies of the field. - *Fr Andrew SDC*

Parish Pump

**Please note that for most other events around the Benefice,
'For you Diary' has now gone back to the back page of Octavo
But here's an addition event:**

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DEMONSTRATION

Organised by Shaftesbury Flower Arranging Group

20th November 2023 7pm for 7.30pm

Shaftesbury Arts Centre, SP7 8AR

'The Bells Ring Out at Christmas'

by Pam Lewis

Tickets £15 to include a glass of wine

Tickets from Liz Flower 01747 840074 or

elizabeth.newton137@btinternet.com

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.

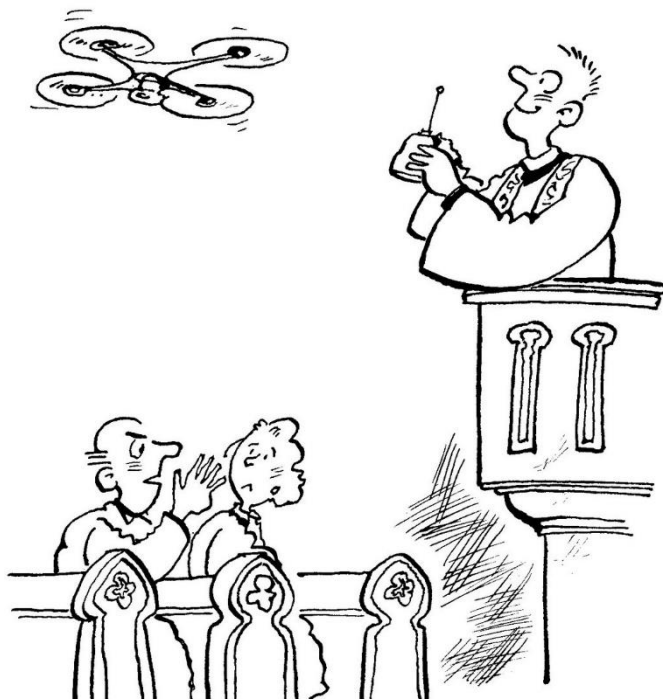
You can contact Revd Clare on: 01747 838171

Please remember Clare's day off is Mondays.



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or follow the link on the Benefice Website.

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



*...his constant droning from the pulpit
is really getting on my nerves!*

