

Stour Vale Letter No.189

Services in the Stour Vale – Sunday 19th November

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



CW – Common Worship BCP = Book of Common Prayer



Readings for Sunday 19th November 2nd Sunday before Advent

Zephaniah 1.7, 12–end Psalm 90.1–8
1 Thessalonians 5.1–11 Matthew 25.14–30

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
Thursday 30th – St Andrew’s Day Compline 7pm Todber Church

1 Thessalonians 5.1–11 (NIV)

5 Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, ² for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

⁴ But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. ⁵ You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. ⁶ So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. ⁹ For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Praying for our communities

This week in the Stour Vale we pray for the community in Todber, the congregation of St Andrew’s 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

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.

Paul Hardingham considers the power that each of us has been given - to help others.

Be a Barnabas - encourage one another

'You'll never amount to much' said a Munich schoolteacher to the ten-year-old Albert Einstein. Good thing that he did not listen – and instead went on to prove his teacher wrong!

Just as children need encouragement, so do God's children. St Paul urged the Christians in his young churches to '*encourage one another.*' (1 Thess 5:11). In the Upper Room, Jesus used the same word to describe the Holy Spirit, meaning one '*called alongside to help.*'



When we encourage others, we exercise a ministry like that of the Spirit to each other. In Acts we read of Joseph, a wealthy Levite from Cyprus. We know him better by his nickname Barnabas, which means '*Son of Encouragement*' (Acts 4:36). How did Barnabas encourage others?

He was an example of *generous giving* (Acts 4:36-7), when he sold property and offered the money to the church for those in need. In the midst of a caring and sharing community, he was singled out as a symbol of generosity. Are we prepared to be generous to those in need around us?

He later gave *encouragement to a new Christian* in the person of Paul (Acts 9:27). After Paul's conversion and aware of his reputation, Barnabas came alongside Paul and brought him into the fellowship of the Church. Are we ready to help those who are new to the faith to find a place in our church?

Finally, Barnabas was sent to the church in Antioch and there '*saw the evidence of the grace of God*' (Acts 11:23). Here was a church which brought together Jewish and Gentile believers

together for the first time. Like Barnabas, are we able to rejoice when we see God doing new things? Are we also willing to encourage others to embrace these things and facilitate change? Don't forget, *'In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity.'* (Albert Einstein).

Parish Pump

God loves your "Good Mornings."

In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly. Psalm 5:3

With a yawn and a stretch, your eyes peep over the edge of the blanket just as the morning sun peeps over the horizon. Maybe you're bright and eager and bouncing out of bed. Or maybe you're mumbly and grumbly and pulling the covers back over your head.

Either way, don't forget the very best way to start your day is by saying "Good Morning!" to the One who made it. Because the One who tells the sun to rise just loves to hear your voice . . . first thing in the morning.

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

Please note that for most other events around the Benefice, 'For you Diary' has returned to the back page of Octavo, but here is a reminder of one special event!

Winter Talks at Stour Provost Village Hall

Friday 17th November - 7pm

We will welcome the **Revd Clare Dean** to give the first of our winter talks.

Her talk entitled "When JK Rowling nicked my boyfriend and other stories on my journey of faith" will give us the opportunity to meet our new vicar and find out a bit more about her.

Doors open 6:45pm for a glass of wine before the talk starts at 7pm.

This is a free event. All Welcome!

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:
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