

Stour Vale Letter No.196

Services in the Stour Vale – Sunday 14th January

9:15am Parish Communion Buckhorn Weston
10:30am Morning Prayer Stour Provost (BCP)
11:00am Parish Communion Fifehead Magdalen
11:00am Morning Worship Kington Magna (CW)



Readings for Sunday 14^h January 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

1 Samuel 3.1–10 Psalm 139.1–5, 12–18
Revelation 5.1–10 John 1.43–end

Other Benefice events coming up in January:

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

Thursday 25th – Stour Vale Prayer Group 2pm East Stour Church

*Stour Vale Benefice
Service
in the
Pub*



Friday 19th January

Open from 11am for an 11:15 start

The Ship Inn, West Stour, SP8 5RP

Full Details below (page 4)

John 1.43–end (NIV)

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.”

⁴⁴ Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

⁴⁶ “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked.

“Come and see,” said Philip.

⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”

⁴⁸ “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.”

⁴⁹ Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.”

⁵⁰ Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.” ⁵¹ He then added, “Very truly I tell you, you will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’ the Son of Man.”

Praying for our communities

This week in the Stour Vale we pray for the community in Stour Row, 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 Graham Dyke (BW), Frances Austin Jones (ES), Barry Score (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

Prayer for the situation in Israel

O God of all hope and peace, we bring to you the needs of our broken and hurting world. Our hearts are breaking with images of lives lost and torn apart by grief in Israel and Palestine.

We pray for an end to violence and warfare so that the challenging work of rebuilding may begin.

Help us, O Lord, to affirm our common humanity so that in our differences we may build together for justice and peace.

In Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.



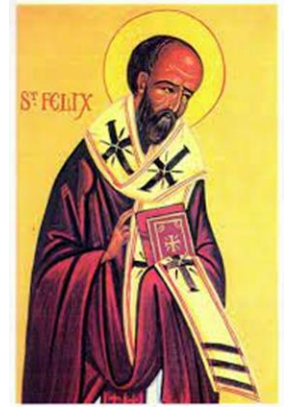
Private Prayer

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.

14th Jan: St Felix of Nola, saved by a spider's web

What do you do when you find a large spider web in your house? If you ever feel some sympathy for the spider who went to all that trouble, then Felix is a good patron saint for you. He was saved by such a spider, spinning such a web.

Felix had been born to a Syrian soldier who had retired to Nola, near Naples in Italy. When his father died, Felix gave his property and money away, and was ordained by St Maximus of Nola. Felix went to work with him, ministering to the people of Nola.



Then Decius, the Roman Emperor, began another persecution of the Christians. Maximus escaped to the mountains, but Felix was arrested and badly beaten. Legend has it that he was rescued – and freed from captivity - by an angel. In any case, Felix followed Maximus and found him sick and in need. Felix hid him in an empty building, and prayed for God's protection. The soldiers were out looking for the two men, but then a spider arrived at the door of the building where they were hiding. The spider spun such a magnificent web across the door that it fooled the imperial soldiers into thinking the building was long abandoned. The spider saved Maximus and Felix that day, and the two men stayed on the run until Decius' death in 251.

After that, the people of Nola wanted Felix as their bishop. But Felix refused, and returned to farming his lands; giving the poor most of the food that he managed to grow. Though Felix went on to die naturally, he was still thought of as a martyr, or 'witness' because he had suffered torture, imprisonment and privations in the persecution. Felix did not mind: he served a King who was not of this world, and he looked forward to a better future life with that King in a new heaven and a new earth.

Parish Pump

God loves the way you lean on Him.

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

Ever-present. Think about that for a moment – how many things in your life are truly ever-present? Friendship may come and go. Jobs can change in an instant. Even family may move away or, worse, turn away.

But God is never optional. He doesn't come and go. He never changes (Hebrews 13:8). And though you may sometimes turn from Him, He doesn't turn from you. He's always there, *ever-present*, waiting to be your refuge and your strength. So lean on Him – He loves it.

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

Quotes

You are today where your thoughts have brought you; you will be tomorrow where your thoughts take you. - *James Allen*

We know not what the future holds, but we do know who holds the future. - *Willis J Ray*

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

– but there's an extra event taking place at **Kington Magna Church** at **4:30pm** on **Saturday 20th January** – Alvira presents '*Echo*' – for full details see the poster below (page 5)

It's church, but not as you
know it!
Join us for a drink, a chat and
a chance to spend some time
with God.

Fri 19th Jan

*Stour Vale Benefice
Service
in the
Pub*



Open from 11am for an 11.15 start

Tea and coffee will be provided, and
the licenced bar will be open
throughout for those who would like to
buy a drink.

After the service, feel free to leave or
stay for a drink and a chat. If anyone
would like to stay for lunch, we would
advise you to reserve a table in the
usual way.



**The Ship Inn,
West Stour, SP8 5RP**

For more details, please contact Fiona Hedges on
01747 838942 or stourvalemessychurch@gmail.com

ALVIRA
PRESENTS

echo

a performance art piece exploring the sounds,
sentiments and movements of the echo
through music, spoken word and dance
(40mins no interval)

PREVIEW SAT. JANUARY 20 4.30PM
ALL SAINTS CHURCH KINGTON MAGNA
NO BOOKING REQUIRED - JUST TURN UP
DONATIONS WELCOME!
HOT DRINKS

MAIN SHOW - SATURDAY JANUARY 27 7.30PM
ST. MARY'S CHURCH BRUTON BA10 0EB
TICKETS £10 ON DOOR OR SCAN HERE:



@ALVIRA.ARTIST

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

Or by email: clare@evzone.co.uk

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or search for 'The Church of England in the Stour Vale' in Facebook,
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