

Stour Vale Letter No.198

Services in the Stour Vale – Sunday 28th January

9:15am Parish Communion Stour Provost
10:30am Morning Worship Buckhorn Weston (CW)
11:00am Parish Communion Kington Magna
6:30pm Evensong Fifehead Magdalen (BCP)



Readings for Sunday 28th January 4th Sunday of Epiphany/Presentation of Christ



Malachi 3.1–5

Psalm 24.7–end

Hebrews 2.14–end

Luke 2.22–40

Other Benefice services/events coming up in February:

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

Ash Wednesday (14th Feb) - Morning Service 10:30am Fifehead Magdalen
Evening Service 6pm East Stour

Every Wednesday during Lent – Mid-week Communion

Monday 19th – Knit and Natter 2:30am East Stour Village Hall

Tuesday 20th – Benefice Lunch 12:30pm The Crown East Stour

Thursday 29th – Stour Vale Prayer Group 2pm East Stour Church

Luke 2.22–40 (NIV)

²² When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹ “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel.”

³³ The child’s father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was



eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.

³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

Praying for our communities

This week in the Stour Vale we pray for the community in West Stour, the congregation of St Mary'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 Graham Dyke (BW), 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 for Ukraine: 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.

26th Jan: **St Timothy and St Titus, how local church leaders should be!**

Timothy and Titus are the saints for you if you've been a Christian for some time, and now suspect that God wants you to move into some form of leadership. A daunting prospect!

The books of First and Second Timothy and Titus are what are known as the three pastoral letters, where Paul writes to ministers in charge of important churches, instead of writing to the churches themselves. Paul gives both Timothy and Titus explicit instructions for how to shepherd the sheep in their care. Timothy had been given the responsibility of the church at Ephesus, and Titus the care of the church at Crete. Both Timothy and Titus were young men, and both felt quite daunted at the task ahead of them!



Timothy, half Jewish, had met Paul when he was still a child, living with his mother Eunice at Lystra. Paul had come to their city and preached, and they had both become Christians. Timothy had then accompanied Paul on his second missionary journey – a great training experience. But experience is given to us so that we might in turn become productive – and in due course Paul entrusted the vastly important church of Ephesus into Timothy's care. This church was so vibrant in its faith that within 50 years so many Ephesians became Christians that the city's pagan temples were almost forsaken. A huge responsibility!

Titus was a gentile, almost certainly converted through Paul. Paul had used Titus as a trouble-shooter with the Corinthians, and when Titus was successful in that, gave him a real bit of trouble: the church at Crete. Again, Titus served his Lord faithfully, even in this most difficult of situations.

Timothy became the first bishop of Ephesus and was finally martyred when he opposed pagan festivals (probably in honour of Dionysius). He was killed by stones and clubs, easily to hand during the pagan festival of Katagogia. His supposed relics were translated to Constantinople in 356.

Titus went on to become the first Bishop of Crete, and is believed to have died there, though history does not tell us how. His relics are supposed to be buried in Crete, except for his head, which was allegedly taken to Venice in 823.

Both Timothy and Titus were good and faithful servants, and they could look back on lives well spent.

Parish Pump

God loves the new you.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!
2 Corinthians 5:17

You sparkle. You shine. You've just got that certain air about you. And it's irresistible . . . to God. No, it's not the new "do". It's not even those gorgeous new shoes. It's *you* – the *new you*, completely made over, recreated in Christ.

Yes, you'll still make mistakes sometimes. And no, you're not perfect. But you are *perfectly made new*. And God just loves the way it looks on you.

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's some extra information about an event taking place at
Buckhorn Weston Village Hall on Friday 16th/Saturday 17th February

BATS (Buckhorn Weston Theatrical Society) began in 1994. The first production was Red Riding Hood. The rehearsals and performance were in The Kington Magna Village Hall. This year being the 30th Anniversary of the group sees Red Riding Hood again, with a new script written & Directed by Allison Barfoot. Tickets are on sale on We Got Tickets, type in Red Riding Hood and you'll find it. Adults £5 Children 15 years & under £3. The show is on for 2 nights 16th & 17th February. There will be a licensed bar too!



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

Clare's usual 'Day Off' is Monday

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

