

# Stour Vale Letter No.205

## Services in the Stour Vale – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March

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



(BCP = Book of Common Prayer CW = Common Worship)



## Readings for Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

Passiontide begins  
Jeremiah 31.31–34  
Hebrews 5.5–10

Psalm 51.1–13 or Psalm 119.9–16  
John 12.20–33

### ***Other Benefice services/events coming up in March:***

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

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March** – Benefice Lunch 12:30 The Crown East Stour (details below)

**Every Tuesday during Lent** – Compline via Zoom 7:15pm (details below)

**Every Wednesday during Lent** – Mid-week Communion 10:30am East Stour Church

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March** – Stour Vale Prayer Group 2pm East Stour

## **John 12.20–33 (NIV)**

<sup>20</sup> Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. <sup>21</sup> They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup> Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup> Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. <sup>25</sup> Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup> Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me.

<sup>27</sup> “Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name!”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup> The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

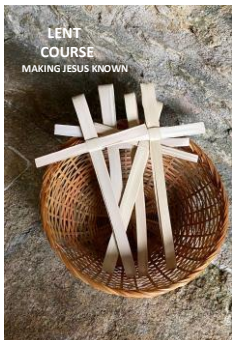
<sup>30</sup> Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine. <sup>31</sup> Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup> He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

## **Lent 2024**

### **Salisbury Diocese Lent Course – *Making Jesus Known***

*"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free"*

This course focuses on the passage which underpins our new [diocesan vision](#), Luke 4. It comprises six written reflections, questions and a prayer to aid weekly groups or individual study.



**LUKE 4:38-41**

For eight years I was “Padre” to an Army Reserve unit. Whenever we were training outside, I would be asked to perform one of two “miracles”. The first was to have a word with “my boss” about the weather, as it was always raining! The other was when a canteen of water was being consumed, I would be asked if I could turn it into wine? All delivered with a smile that turned to a laugh when I replied, “I’m sales, not management, but I’ll see what I can do!”.

I’m 100% certain, that the Soldiers who asked for these “miracles” never expected me to deliver, although my CO told me off, when, after a prayer, the sun came out and it was too hot, and I was asked to order some cloud cover!

The miracles that happened in our passage have been described as a “typical day” for Jesus. Simon brought Jesus into his home and a fever left his mother-in-law, later people brought friends and family to Jesus, for him to heal them from illness and to be released from evil spirits. As a result of encountering Jesus, there was freedom from illness and oppression. We could concentrate on the miracles in our passages, but what about focusing on the people who brought those in need to Jesus?

We can be certain, that Simon Peter had been encountering Jesus around Capernaum and starting his journey of faith before he invited him to his home.

Maybe the people who brought loved ones and friends had also encountered him? Maybe they had heard his teaching, witnessed, or experienced a miracle or even just heard rumours about this new person hanging around Capernaum?

But whatever it was, they had within them a grain of faith to believe, that if their friends and family met Jesus, he could bring freedom to their situation. These people were not “expert” evangelists, they were not ordained and they weren’t “management”. They could not orchestrate the miracles, but they were “sales”. Somewhere, somehow, sometime Jesus had met them, and they knew that an encounter with Jesus would make a difference.

When we think about making Jesus known, do we worry that we aren’t up to the job? Do we think that we should let someone else more qualified do it. Or do we worry that we, or the church or God won’t be able to deliver the answers or the experience or the “miracle” that someone needs?

We have encountered Jesus, and it changed us in some shape or form. Is it through the supportive love of a community? It may be an inherited faith that has always been there, it may be through a loved one telling us their story or even experiencing a miracle, big or small. All or any of these have caused us to encounter Jesus. Can we be bold and dream, that sharing our encounter with Jesus with someone else, prayerfully, and respectfully, could make a difference to them?

### Questions

- I wonder in what different ways you have encountered Jesus in your faith journey. Write them down, or share those that stand out for you?
- If you feel worried about sharing, what do you think would help you feel more confident to share those encounters with others?
- Thinking about what has helped you encounter Jesus, what things could you and your local church do that will help people encounter Jesus?

### Prayer

*Lord, thank you for the ways, big and small, that you have encountered us in our life journey and for the difference that has made to our lives.*

*Thank you for the people who have pointed us towards you or encouraged us to explore our faith.*

*Help us, to see the opportunities to point others towards you and may we in what we do and say make Jesus known amongst our families, friends, and communities.*

*Amen*



**PETE STONE**  
**Pete Stone is the Rector for St Martin le Vieux in Jersey. Married to Anne, a Nurse Practitioner, they love exploring Jersey with their two dogs Tilly & Barney. Pete was Ordained in Salisbury, and was Curate in Charminster and Team Vicar in Bridport.**

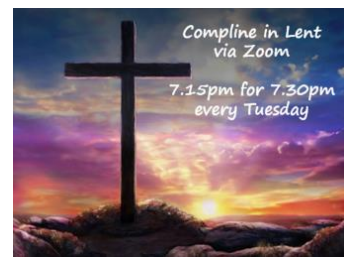
## Lent Compline over Zoom

Do join us for 'Compline over Zoom',  
every Tuesday from 20th February to 19th March, inclusive.  
The link is open from 7.15pm, with the service starting at 7.30pm.

Join Zoom Compline Meeting using this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89904228328?pwd=ajNmak8vS1ovalM0aFRjMDU0TkNoQT09>

Or, from Zoom 'Join Meeting' using: Meeting ID: 899 0422 8328 Passcode: 360725



## Benefice Lunch – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March

Do join us at the Crown – 2 courses for £15, Main only for £11  
and there is the option of the smaller portion senior citizen's lunch too.  
Let Revd Clare or Jill know if you'd like to come along for a relaxed lunch in the  
company of others from the Benefice.

### ***Praying for our communities***

This week in the Stour Vale we pray for the community in Toder, 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:***

Maria (ES), 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) and Shelia Kerby (KM).

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.

### God loves the way you flavour His world

*You are the salt of the earth  
Matthew 5:13*

A dash of salt can make all the difference in the flavour of a dish. And so it is with a dash of faith. It can make all the difference in the flavour of a life.

A hope-filled note can brighten a hopeless day. A forgiving heart can lighten a heavy load of guilt. A kind word, a loving touch could be just the glimpse of Jesus that some lost soul needs.

Wherever you go, whatever you do, whatever words you speak, season them with a dash of faith – because God loves the way you flavour His world.

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

**Please note that for most events around the Benefice, 'For your Diary' has returned 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](mailto: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](mailto:clare@evzone.co.uk)

Clare's usual 'Day Off' is Monday

Follow us on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089949903748](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089949903748)  
or search for 'The Church of England in the Stour Vale' on 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

