

Stour Vale Letter No.206



Services in the Stour Vale – Sunday 24th March

Palm Sunday 10:30am
Benefice Communion at Kington Magna



Readings for Sunday 24th March

Palm Sunday



Liturgy of the Palms:

Mark 11.1–11

Psalms 118.1–2, 19–end

Liturgy of the Passion:

Isaiah 50.4–9a

Psalms 31.9–16

Philippians 2.5–11

Mark 15.1–39

Other Benefice services/events coming up in March:

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

Thursday 28th March – Stour Vale Prayer Group 2pm East Stour

Mark 11.1–11 (NIV)

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, ² saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³ If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.’”

⁴ They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, ⁵ some people standing there asked, “What are you doing, untying that colt?” ⁶ They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. ⁷ When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. ⁹ Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, “Hosanna!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

¹⁰ “Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!”

“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹¹ Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple courts. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

Holy Week Services

Monday 25th **Taizé** East Stour Village Hall 2:30pm

For Reflection: *A 30-minute service using chants and prayers from the Taizé community, followed by tea.*

Tuesday 26th **Compline** Buckhorn Weston 7:30pm

For Reflection: *A short service of prayer and reflection to end the day.*

Wednesday 27th **Mid-Week Communion** East Stour 10:30am

For Reflection: *Our usual mid-week Holy Communion service, adapted for Holy Week.*

Maundy Thursday: Holy Communion West Stour 7:30pm

For Reflection: *A service to commemorate the Last Supper.*

Good Friday: **Hot Cross Bun Service** Todber 10:30am

For All Ages: *Join us to see what we can learn about Easter from a Hot Cross Bun (and eat them, too!)*

Hour at the Cross Stour Provost 2:00–3:00pm

For Reflection: *A service of hymns, readings and reflections on the sacrifice Jesus made for us on Good Friday, because of his love for us.*

Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service

Fifehead Magdalen 6:30am

For Reflection: Meet at the brazier outside Fifehead Magdalen at 6.30am for a simple act of outdoor worship as the sun rises on Easter Day. Dress for the weather! Feel free to bring your dogs, as well as a lantern to light if you have one. Followed by a simple breakfast of Hot Cross Buns and Coffee.

Benefice Holy Communion

Stour Provost 10:30am

For All Ages: Come along to our joyful celebration of Easter Communion, with children's activities as part of the service.

Family Easter Service

Buckhorn Weston 11:00am

For All Ages: A service with an Easter Egg hunt.... What more is there to say?

Don't forget the clocks go forward over the Easter Weekend

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"

LUKE 4:42-44

After the drama of the previous verses of chapter four, it would be easy to see these three as an anti-climax and to rush past them to get to the next exciting bit. However, lingering with these few verses gives us an important insight into Jesus' ministry. 'The good news of the Kingdom of God' is the phrase that sums up Jesus' actions. When Jesus resists the devil, declares that he brings hope to the hopeless, drives out demons, and heals people he is showing what the Kingdom of God is – God's rule in action, God's will being done on earth as it is in heaven. This is a foretaste of the new creation we can look forward to thanks to Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and ascension.

Understandably the people of Capernaum want to keep him to themselves which means that Jesus must make a choice. He can stay where he is appreciated, surrounded by adoring fans, making Capernaum a little Kingdom of God hub. Or he can continue to move from city to city to reach more people. His experience in Nazareth means he knows the risk of this second option. Nevertheless, he leaves Capernaum because he is obedient to his Father. He knows that he was sent for a special purpose and that God wants the Good News preached far and wide.

This shows us the heart of God. He sends his most precious possession, his son so that we can be free from evil and experience the blessings of the Kingdom of God. Wherever Jesus goes we see this Kingdom breaking in and lives being transformed by God's love and power.

But Jesus' ministry only covered a tiny part of the world for a short time. What happened to the preaching of the good news after his life on earth? The answer is in Matthew's gospel where we find that those who follow Jesus are given a mission that goes beyond cities, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.' (*Matthew 28:18-20*).

Through Jesus, we are made children of God (*Galatians 3:26*) and we are caught up in the family mission – to share the good news of the Kingdom of God. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to be obedient children, resist the devil, bring hope to the hopeless, drive out demons, and heal. We are now



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the sent ones, led by the Spirit to make Jesus known. Like Jesus, we may face scary situations when we step out in faith but we go knowing that he loves us and is with us always.

Questions

- Where do you see the Kingdom of God breaking in, in your life and local community?
- How do you feel called to join in with this kingdom work?
- What challenges do you experience in sharing the good news of Jesus?
- What steps can you take individually and as a church community to overcome these challenges?

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Thank you for giving up the privilege of heaven and then your life, to bring us into your kingdom. Please help us to trust your promise that you are with us always.

Father God,

Thank you for showing us how much you love us by sending your son to preach the good news of the Kingdom. Please help us to love others.

Holy Spirit,

Thank you for giving us everything we need to share the Kingdom of God with others. Please help us to make Jesus known.

Amen

<https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/whoweare/making-jesus-known-/lent-2024/>

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) 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, we pray for all the children of Abraham in Israel and Palestine and in every country of the world.

We pray for Muslims, Jews and Christians that we will draw on the best of our traditions to guide us away from words and acts of division and discrimination so that everyone may be free to live in safety. Protect the vulnerable, strengthen the fearful and comfort the grieving.

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 your persistence

So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. Luke 11:9

When you don't know the answer, keep asking. When you're not sure which way to go, keep searching. When you simply don't know what to do, keep praying.

Because God does listen. He does hear. And He does answer. In His own perfect time and in His own perfect way. Until then, keep knocking. God will open the door because He loves your persistence.

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

