

# Stour Vale Letter No.207

## Easter Sunday Services in the Stour Vale Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March



6:30am Sunrise Service at Fifehead Magdalen  
10:30am Benefice Communion at Stour Provost  
11:00am Family Easter Service at Buckhorn Weston

*Full details of these service below*

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



Readings for Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Easter Sunday
Acts 10.34-43	Psalms 118.1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15.1-11	Mark 16.1-8

### Other Benefice services/events coming up in April:

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

**Every Wednesday** – Said Holy Communion 10:30am East Stour Church

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April** – Stour Vale Prayer Group 2pm East Stour

### Mark 16.1-8 (NIV)

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. <sup>2</sup>Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb <sup>3</sup>and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

<sup>4</sup>But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. <sup>5</sup>As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

<sup>6</sup>"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. <sup>7</sup>But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

<sup>8</sup>Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

## Easter Sunday

**Sunrise Service** Fifehead Magdalen 6:30am

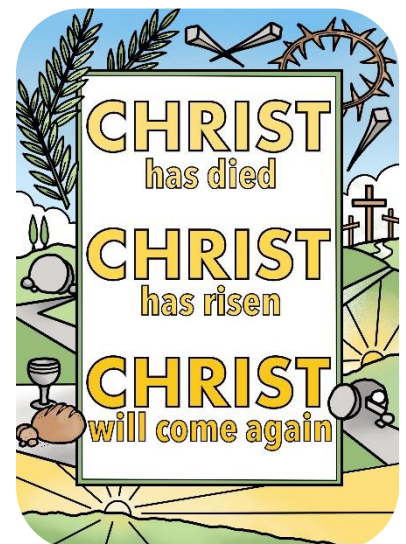
**For Reflection:** Meet at the brazier outside Fifehead Magdalen at 6.30am for a simple act of outdoor worship as the sun rises on Easter Day. Dress for the weather! Feel free to bring your dogs, as well as a lantern to light if you have one. Followed by a simple breakfast of Hot Cross Buns and Coffee.

**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?



## 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"*

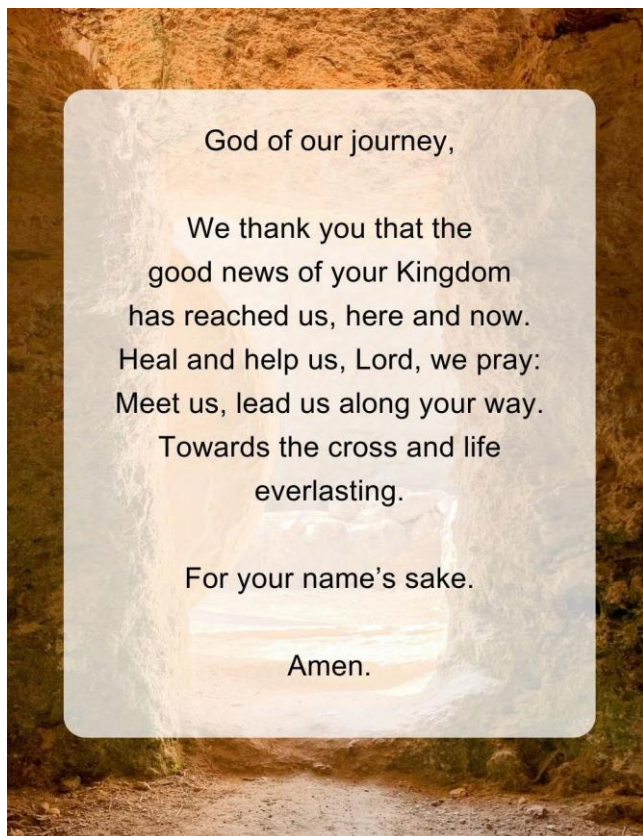
#### CONCLUSION

How are you feeling, having followed Jesus and the disciples through the opening season of his ministry, as portrayed in *Luke chapter 4*? Reading the whole chapter again now, it strikes me as quite breathlessly active: up to the wilderness, back to Nazareth, down to Capernaum, all the time impelled and empowered by the Holy Spirit – the latter being one of Luke's characteristic emphases.

This is a Gospel of Spirit-guided mission and movement, just as will be his sequel, the Acts of the Apostles. It is also strikingly to do with time and place. We hear about these extraordinary episodes happening at specific times – at daybreak, as the sun was setting – and in particular landscapes and locations. We are meant, I think, to be alerted to the extraordinary possibilities that follow whenever Jesus enters an everyday setting, like a household or hilltop: when his kingdom comes, here as in heaven.



**THE RIGHT REVEREND  
ANDREW RUMSEY**  
Bishop of Ramsbury



As Luke continues (and you may well choose to read on and complete the Gospel, having immersed yourself in this one, accelerating chapter), the action doesn't let up in the slightest, carrying the reader through to the Lord's arrival in Jerusalem and the astounding showdown with the forces stacked against him. This journey was only ever leading to the cross: that junction of opposites, where everything is turned upside down and inside out – including us, perhaps, when we are drawn into its meaning.

Like the two disciples, back-and-forth-ing along the Emmaus Road at the end of it all, scratching their heads with puzzlement at what has taken place, Luke invites us to retrace our own footsteps and journeys: our household, or hilltop moments. As if to say: 'Look again at your life in the light of Christ – and are not your hearts burning within you?'

<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 Buckhorn Weston, the congregation of St John the Baptist 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 the way you bloom**

*Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. Luke 12:27*

Every flower starts with a seed, and every beautiful bloom begins in the dirt. So when your heart is hard from the hardships of this world, when you're covered with the muck and mire of mistakes – that's not the time to give up. That's the time to give in, to surrender completely to God and His perfect plan.

Because He is the Master Gardener. Just look at the wildflowers – no king ever wore such splendour. Give God your hardened heart, with all its muck and mire, and let Him help you bloom.

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

*Although this beautiful song by Mark Lowry is usually something we hear around Christmas time, it is also a wonderful reminder of all that Christ is as we celebrate His resurrection this weekend – have a truly blessed Easter.*

### **Mary did you know? By Mark Lowry**

#### *Verse 1*

Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Will one day walk on water  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Will save our sons and daughters  
Did you know that your baby boy  
Has come to make you new  
And this child that you delivered  
Will soon deliver you

#### *Verse 2*

Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Will give sight to a blind man  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Will calm a storm with His hand  
Did you know that your baby boy  
Has walked where angels trod  
And when you kissed your little baby  
You've kissed the face of God

#### *Bridge*

Oh, Mary, did you know  
Ooh, Mary, did you know, ooh...

#### *Chorus*

Ooh, the blind will see  
The deaf will hear  
The dead will live again  
The lame will leap  
The dumb will speak  
The praises of the lamb

#### *Verse 3*

Oh, Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Is Lord of all creation  
Mary did you know that your baby boy  
Will one day rule the nation  
Did you know that your baby boy  
Is Heaven's perfect lamb  
And the sleeping child you're holding  
Is the Great I Am  
Oh, Mary, oh...



*and if you haven't heard this song before,  
here's a link of Mark performing it, enjoy!*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3fbgWa5pH3g>



Please note that for most events around the Benefice, 'For your Diary' has returned to the back page of Octavo, but don't forget the Easter Escape Room events on next week:

Stour Vale Benefice

# Easter Escape Room

or

Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> April  
3pm-4pm  
Stour Row  
Village Hall



Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> April  
3pm-4pm  
Kington Magna  
Village Hall

Can you solve the puzzles  
and work out  
how to escape death?

Free fun for  
all the family!

Options for all  
ages available.

Why not come along and try our Easter Escape Room? Solve the puzzles to get the code for an encrypted message, then decode the message to see if you can work out how to escape death. There will be puzzles suitable for different age ranges, so everyone can enjoy the challenge! Come to take part as a family, or as an individual.

## 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

**PLEASE NOTE:** Clare is on annual leave from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> April

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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