

Stour Vale Letter No.208

Services in the Stour Vale – Sunday 7th April

9:15am Parish Communion Todber
10:30am Morning Worship West Stour (CW)
11:00am Parish Communion East Stour



Readings for Sunday 7th April

Exodus 14.10–end; 15.20, 21

2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 4.32–35

John 20.19–end

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 25th April – Stour Vale Prayer Group 2pm East Stour

Tuesday 30th April – APCM 6:30pm Kington Magna Church

Acts 4.32–35 (NIV)

³² All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all ³⁴ that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵ and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

John 20.19–end (NIV)

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.



Prayer for April 2024

based on John 20: 19-end

Almighty Father,

In these weeks after Easter, help us to receive afresh the new life Jesus' resurrection makes possible.

Lord, come to us. Walk through the locked doors of our fears.

Bring us your peace. Fill us with your Holy Spirit.

Send us onto our daily front lines to share your resurrection peace and hope and love with those who are lost and lonely.

Thank you for meeting us in Jesus, our Lord and our God.

We are your Easter people. Hallelujah. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Praying for our communities

This week in the Stour Vale we pray for the community in East Stour, the congregation of Christ Church 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 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.

Canon Paul Hardingham considers what Easter has given us

The Treasure of Easter!

It's amazing what treasure can be unearthed with metal detectors! In this season of Easter, let's rediscover the greatest unburied treasure of the Resurrection.

The Apostle Peter reminds us that God '*has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.*' (1 Peter 1: 3,4). What does he say about this treasure?

On the one hand, it is the *reason for hope*. Peter was writing to Christians in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) who faced persecution under the Emperor Nero. In an uncertain world we know that Jesus suffered, but by His resurrection has secured eternal life for us. This inheritance not only guarantees life now, but also for eternity, as it '*is kept in heaven for you*' (4). Do we share this confidence? D.L. Moody, the 19th Century American evangelist, spoke of the time when people would read his obituary: '*Don't believe a word of it! At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now*'.

On the other hand, this treasure is a *source of joy*. This unburied treasure fills us '*with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*' (8,9). We face all kinds of trials in our lives, but God uses them to refine our faith and character, '*These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.*' (7).

We reflect this treasure by developing the Jesus' character and becoming more holy, obedient and loving.

'Christmas is the promise, and Easter is the proof!'

Parish Pump

Quotes

The probability of life originating by accident is comparable to the probability of the complete Oxford dictionary resulting from an explosion in a printing factory. - *Edwin Conklin*

To create requires infinite power. All the world cannot make a fly. - *Thomas Watson*

God loves the way you dig.

All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
2 Timothy 3:16-17

Dig. It brings to mind things like soil, and seeds, and the tools with which to dig. Now imagine that God's word is the soil and your heart is the seed. *Dig* down into His word. Open up the Bible and drag out your tools: the dictionary, concordance, and the commentaries. Drop on your knees, and plant yourself in Him. Pray and listen.

When you dig into God's Word, it enriches your life, guards your heart, and guides your actions. You don't have to be some great scholar – just dig in and God will bless you for it.

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



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



PLEASE NOTE: Clare is on annual leave from Monday 1st to 15th April

Follow us on Facebook at
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.

Here's an Easter related Mouse Makes for those of you with grandchildren visiting over the holiday.



Mouse Makes

How many times had the risen Jesus revealed himself to the disciples before this?
Read John 21:14

How many disciples were there? Who were they?
Read John 21: 11

Some time after Jesus had risen a few of His disciples met together to go fishing. They fished all night but caught nothing. As the sun rose a man on the shore asked; "Have you caught anything?" "Not a thing" they answered. He said to them "Throw your net out onto the right side of the boat and you will catch some." So they did and they and they caught so many fish they could not pull in the net. Then John recognised the man, "It is the Lord!"

READ the story in **John 21**

How many fish did they catch?
Read John 21: 11



DISCIPLES • TIBERIAS • SEA • SIMON PETER • THOMAS • NATHANAEAL • JOHN • DAY FISHING • BOAT • NIGHT • CAUGHT • NOTHING • WATER • SHORE • FISH • CAST • NET RIGHT • FIND • HAUL • LORD • FULL • LAND • FIRE • BREAD • BREAKFAST • JESUS

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